

TEWKSBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
JUNE 2006

Dear members and friends,

I am fascinated by this challenge: **‘how do I make invisible things visible for others’?**

There are two kinds of invisible things in our lives... and they are invisible for quite different reasons. The first of these is the human heart, the second, the realm of the spirit, God’s existence.

What makes the human heart invisible? So often you may look at a friend’s life, his motivations and concerns, and feel that you can ‘read’ him quite well. But the irony is that his heart is invisible to him, just as yours is (to a large degree) to you. If you and I are committed to the self examined life, we are committed to bringing the invisible in our hearts to light for us. Without each other, and especially without the reality of God’s love, we are probably doomed to failure in this adventure of self discovery. There are too many twists and turns on the path of life for each of us, too many places where we have chosen already to hide! But the good news is that by beginning this path of disclosure (in our tradition associated with the discipline of confession) we discover the path of truth telling unfolds meaningfully and helpfully. God wants to bring truth to light in us as well!

There is another kind of invisible concern for us. This is naturally invisible. It is God’s presence in life. When Nicodemus came to Jesus at night to talk about salvation, Jesus used image after image to bring the invisible to light for him. ‘God’ is like the wind, ‘finding God’ is like being born, changing is like death and new life... these were Jesus’ concerns for Nicodemus. Jesus’ poetry and stories were his best way of bringing the invisible to light for others. When we listen to a story or a proverb we must wrestle with its unseen meaning, making it visible in our hearts and lives. In doing this we wrestle with ourselves to find God. Thank goodness God’s kindness supports us on this important journey!

Our summer sermon series will take this fascinating challenge, making ‘the invisible’ visible, and bring it to life through the proverbs and parables of the Bible. I hope you will join us for worship over these next months!

Warmly in faith,



Pastor Jonathan

Pastor's Corner



Summer Months for the Pastor

I will be taking the month of July for rest and refreshment. This will be half vacation and half study time. At the study end I will be reflecting on the challenge of growing closer as a faith community. I hope to come back with a clear vision for how this might unfold for us in the fall. I will also have the opportunity to attend a week long conference on the relationship of Christians and Muslims. Given my own background and interest in mission this will be a fascinating conversation and a chance to give and receive on a crucial topic for our day and time. Two weeks of vacation will also be what the doctor ordered after an important and challenging year for our church. I will be away from the office and pulpit from July 3rd to August 1st.

Pastor Jonathan

Bravo, Craig

A “wow” moment in the church sanctuary on Sunday, May 7th when our Choirmaster and Organist, Craig Seaman, played “*Toccata Fugue in D Minor*” by J. S. Bach. This was a favorite of Cindy Antonuk, our seminary intern whose last day was May 7th. Craig is extremely talented and his ability to play this difficult music was an inspiration.



Junior Youth Fellowship

What a yummy night! The **Junior Youth Fellowship** was launched May 7th with sandwich making at the beginning and sundae making at the end. In between these times of filling our bellies with food was nourishment filling our souls! Leaders, parents and youth came to know each other by participating in an information gathering “ice-breaker”. Then parents were introduced to the new “safe policy” of the church and the accompanying paperwork while the youth worked on a project that celebrated that we are all individuals, but together we make **One Great Group**.

Plans are in the works for some more fun, food and worship at future meetings, including two summer outings. All 7th and 8th grades students are invited to come and join us. We will be meeting weekly at 6:30 unless otherwise notified.

We welcome Junior Youth Advisers who include: JoJo Scharmer, leader; Steve Trudeau, Cricket Foss and Don and Lisa Mader.

Upcoming Events

Sr. High Youth Fellowship

The end of the season, Sr. High Youth Fellowship's **annual overnight camping trip** will take place on **Friday, June 2nd and Saturday, June 3rd** at Harold Parker State Forest. Sr. High youth will meet in the church parking lot at 6:00 PM on Friday evening. Bring a sleeping bag, wear appropriate clothing, bring mosquito spray and some snacks. More information will be provided by the youth counselors, Paul Manning and Tina Ramsdell, prior to the overnight adventure.

Holiday Friends

Holiday Friends has scheduled summer opportunities for both men and women who enjoy making crafts to get together and make items for the annual church fair. Dates scheduled are **July 13th and 27th and August 10th and 24th** at 9:00 AM in the church vestry. If you have any ideas for crafts that you feel might enhance Holiday Friends' fair table, please advise either Jean (978-640-9220) or Marilyn (978-458-0729). Last year's fair did extremely well and most everything sold. As a result, Holiday Friends is offering summer crafting sessions to get a jump-start on their regularly scheduled meetings beginning September 7th. They will meet most Thursday mornings at 9:00 until the December fair. All dates are posted on the web.

Outdoor Flea Market!

Doing any spring cleaning? TCC will hold an outdoor flea market on Saturday, **June 24th** from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Turn those unused items into some extra cash! Rent space for \$15 (supply your own table) or rent a table for \$20. Dealers welcome. We will also have a TCC table. Donated items can be left in the church Vestry immediately following worship on Sunday, June 18th. No furniture, TV's or computer monitors please. Proceeds to benefit TCC's general fund. If interested, please contact Eleanor Corey at 978-851-2773.

Strawberry Festival

TCC will be hosting a Strawberry Festival; stay tuned for the date of the event, expected to be in July! Traditionally this has been held during a Summer Wednesday evening 'Concert on the Common' with Strawberry Shortcake being served!



Volunteers are needed to pick strawberries and/or hull the picked berries. Depending on when the berries are ripe, this is expected to be a Saturday in mid-June. We will also need volunteers when the date is chosen for the festival, to help serve and clean up. Proceeds to benefit TCC's general fund. If interested in picking, hulling or serving/cleanup, please contact Linda Dunn at 978-640-6907 or at linda.dunn@comcast.net

TCC Missions In Action

- Jean Carr (Chair)
(Members: JoJo Scharmer, Emir Galevi, Karen Powers, and Leanne Keddie)



“In Joppa there was a woman named Tabitha, who was a believer (Her name in Greek is Dorcas, meaning deer). She spent all her time doing good and helping the poor.”
Acts 9:36 (The Good News Bible)

Your Coffee Money in Action

In wonderfully childish handwriting, communication has been taking place between Steve Trudeau’s Sunday School class and Peterson Tanis, our **New Missions School** child. Take a moment and ask Steve and his students about this marvelous project. Copies of the letters are posted on the Missions Bulletin Board in the Vestry.



This year **New Missions** was blessed to have medical personnel from the United States and Canada provide healthcare for the children. Each child was given a full examination and evaluation. Peterson was administered medication for a cough and some ointment for a rash; other than that he is growing and in good health. What was especially moving about this exam was that at the end of each exam, there was a prayer group that laid hands on each child and said a special prayer. How wonderful!

YOUR coffee money donations allow our ministry to reach out across the waters to Haiti and sponsor Peterson. The motto of **New Missions** is *“When you touch a life, you touch the heart of God.”* Truly, the members of Tewksbury Congregational Church have touched the life of Peterson Tanis. And... we all say “AMEN!”

Reaching out to people with the powerful word of the Gospel

As we enter this season of Spring and new beginnings, I am reminded of the little Hispanic church some of us visited in the early winter. Just a year ago, under the leadership of Cesar and Lisa DePaz, our new sister church, **The Hispanic Community Church** of Lowell, emerged. At the time of our visit, what had started out as a small worship gathering had quickly grown to more than 80 participants along with the formation of music and youth leadership teams. On that cold snowy evening, our visit was warmly met with enthusiasm and with great appreciation. The worship service was filled with excitement, joy, a great message and uplifting music.

Support for that little fledgling church can come in many ways. Perhaps you will feel called to become involved; here are a few suggestions:

- Give financial support
- Serve as a greeter for a month
- Loan your musical skill
- Include the church in your daily prayer
- Loan or give office materials
- Pay for a flyer or ad in a local paper
- Visit the church
- Bring a youth group or other organization to a worship service

Above all, take a moment and recite this prayer to help sustain them:

“We come before you, O God, much like the early church that was called to spread the Good News of Jesus to an unchurched world. We know that today, many do not know You nor the costs or joys of discipleship. We pray for this new church as it remains in our midst, in the name and power of Jesus. Amen.”

Missions

-continued

Guide us and send us where You would have us go! These wonderful words found a home in the hearts of eight TCC caring and devoted parishioners who have just returned from Mexico where they accomplished much through the love of God. Thank you all, may you truly be blessed.

Watch for the **Heifer** results! Coming June 11th!

Help! Help! Help! We are looking for volunteers to make coffee or put out a cold drink after worship during the summer months. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. The burden will be lightened by many helping hands. Please choose your Sunday now.

Membership and Enlistment

-submitted by Jean Metcalf and Joanne Myers, Co-Chairs

Members of the Membership & Enlistment Committee (M&E) had a busy two months! A reception for the 2006 confirmation class was held after the April 30th worship service. Cake, punch and coffee were served after pictures were taken of the eight confirmands and Pastor Jonathan.

The potluck supper held on Saturday, May 6th was fun for all who attended. Good food, games and conversation made for a great ‘old fashioned’ church supper. It was so much fun that we decided to do it again in the fall and next spring. So, watch for news of these events in the newsletter so you will not miss the next one! Thanks to all who came.

Letters of welcome were sent to those visiting our church in April. **Cathie Seaman** was in charge of May’s ‘name tag Sunday’ and will get greeters for June. **Jean Metcalf** will arrange for greeters during the months of July and August.

Suggestions were made for a smoother transition from worship to coffee hour when a reception was planned. It was agreed that all photos should be taken before worship to avoid any delays. The reception table would be set up prior to worship.

Again, thank you for keeping the visitor and handicapped spaces open on Sunday mornings as your help is greatly appreciated.

In closing we continue to look forward to the future as we continue to make TCC a welcoming church. Please do not hesitate to call with your suggestions.



Altar Flowers



May 7: **Jack and Yvonne Hall** in memory of their parents.

May 14: **Herb Hertel, Leslie Jacobs, and Linda Hertel** to honor “Mom” and in memory of **Robert Hertel**.

May 21: **Donna Haines** in memory of the **Haines** and **Peterson** family, and in memory of **Mary Lou** and **Frank Canty** from her family.

May 28: **Gil and Shirley Smith** in loving memory of their son, **Christopher**, and niece, **Janice**.

Ladies Aid and Friendship Circle



All ladies of the church are invited to attend. For more information, please call 978-851-2773.

Ladies Aid
Lunch
June 14th at
Garrison's

Guest Speaker Recounts Tewksbury History



Members of the Ladies Aid enjoyed an informative meeting on May 10th when invited guest, **Bunky Holden** spoke about “*Growing Up in the Center of Town*”. He recalled many stories about the neighborhood and the people who lived here. TCC played an important part in Bunky’s life as he attended Sunday school and participated in many church-sponsored activities. Today, he is an active member of St. William’s but fondly remembered his years here.

It was definitely a day of nostalgia as Bunky recalled some of our parishioners whom he knew personally. He also recalled what the center looked like before stop lights were installed, and the island built to move traffic through the town’s common. Bunky had so much information to share, that his time with us was much too short! Hopefully he will return at a later date to continue his discussion.

Happy Birthday To

Members celebrating birthdays this summer are: **Evelyn Fraser**, 6/17; **Pauline Cote**, 7/29; **Barbara Gendall**, 8/2; and **Esther French**, 9/12.

Dining Out

In June, members of the Ladies’ Aid will carpool to Billerica where they will enjoy a meal at *Garrison’s* on Rt. 3A. This will be their final meeting until September 13th. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions about programs you would like featured, please make your requests known to **Eleanor Corey**, **Millie Patterson**, **Jean Leighton**, **Evelyn Fraser** or **Natalie Thistle**.

Gladys Collins celebrated her 95th birthday with lunch at *Good Thymes Family* restaurant in Lowell. Pictured right; first row from left to right is **Doris Joncas**, **Louise Gearty** and **Gladys Collins**. Back row, **Judy Yarbrough** and **Roberta Kane**.



Sunday School Program

-Submitted by Director of Religious Education, Rita Masters



Mini-Sunday School will begin Sunday, June 25

Teachings Staff Needs

Teaching staff for the 2006-07 year is being formed. Right now, there are two major teaching needs: two teachers are needed for Grade Two and an additional teacher is needed to complete the teaching team for the Four year olds class (Sue Paniliatis is the other teacher). If you are interested in becoming part of the teaching staff for next year, please speak to me. Teaching is such a wonderful way to share your faith. If you are thinking about teaching and wish to “test the waters” try teaching during the summer mini-Sunday School. This program uses the same curriculum that is used during the regular Sunday School program year. The summer program is opened from children in pre-school through Grade 3. There is a preschool class and a class for early elementary.

Mini-Sunday School will begin Sunday, June 25 and end Sunday, September 3. There are several places to signup; there is form at the end of the newsletter, *TCC In Action*, and in the office, for volunteer teaching staff to select their week/weeks for teaching. **Your help** is needed to make this special summer program happen. (See next page.)

Heifer’s Gulf Coast Relief Fund -- TCC’s Goal is \$3000.00

The All Church Mission project for this year is to support Heifer’s Gulf Coast relief fund. Hurricanes Katrina, and Rita severely damaged over 16 Heifer projects in Mississippi and Louisiana. To assist in immediate relief efforts, as well as to plan for long-term development, Heifer has issued a \$1 million emergency appeal for funds to help Heifer project partners, staff and their families, and other low-income families in the affected areas recover and rebuild. One Sunday in May, the students, -- along with others interested -- received a Heifer ark bank to collect money for these special Heifer projects in Mississippi and Louisiana. **Banks are to be returned on or before Sunday, June 11** for a special In-gathering celebration.

The RE board, along with the Missions committee, have made plans for special events during coffee hour in May. Keep your eyes and your ears opened Special Heifer offering envelopes will be available in the pew pockets. Donations will be accepted from now through Sunday, June 11.

AWESOME Heifer Mother’s Day Cards

Mother’s Day Cards were a great success. Over 90 cards were mailed and over \$1200.00 was raised from the free-will offering. THANK YOU for your support and a special thank you to Jim Kenney for the beautiful printing of the cards. Special note: the card was designed “in house”. This wasn’t something from the Heifer resources. Job well done –all around!!!!!!!

EVEN MORE AWESOME – Junior Fellowship

Thanks to wonderful adult volunteers the Junior Fellowship is back in operation. JoJo Scharmer, Don and Lisa Mader, Cricket Foss and Steve Trudeau will provide the leadership. The first meeting of the year was held Sunday, April 30 with 20 youth and parents attending. All enjoyed a lot of fun and fellowship. There will be meetings on May 30 and June 4. On June 4, all incoming seventh graders are invited to attend and learn more about Junior Fellowship. The scheduled meeting time is from 6:30 to 8:00 each Sunday.

**All church Picnic sign-up
Sunday June 11 right after church in fellowship hall.**

Name _____ # Adults _____ #Children _____
I will bring _____ salad (what type _____) or _____ dessert

Completed forms can be placed in the offering plate or left off in the office

Summer mini-Sunday School sign-up:

Your name: _____

Contact info:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Send to or drop off at the TCC office.

Pre-school

__ June 25

__ July 2

__ July 9

__ July 16

__ July 23

__ July 30

__ August 6

__ August 13

__ August 20

__ August 27

__ Sept 3

Early Elementary

__ June 25

__ July 2

__ July 9

__ July 16

__ July 23

__ July 30

__ August 6

__ August 13

__ August 20

__ August 27

__ Sept 3

From the Secretary's Desk

-by Sue Howard



Father's Day 2006

My father would have loved the frozen pudding ice cream sold at Meadowlands in North Tewksbury. I think he was the only one in our family who liked that flavor. Frozen pudding is made of rum flavored raisins and chopped candied fruit mixed in a vanilla base. If you like fruitcake, you'll love frozen pudding!

When I was about 10 years old, my dad and his friend, Stucchi, (back then, everyone was called by their last name) decided to take us to Wayland where there was a small ice cream stand on Rt. 20. All of us were in Stucchi's old pickup truck that he used in his job as a mason. There was my father, Stucchi, and six children including me. Dad and Stucchi sat in the truck's cab—the children sat in the truck's open bed. We could sit in the back of a pickup truck then without any worries about safety. When we got to the ice cream stand, Stucchi hopped out from behind the driver's seat, came around back and asked us what flavor ice cream did we want? We all gave him an order for a different kind—my favorite was maple walnut. Since we were hot and thirsty too, we were overjoyed when Stucchi, returned carrying our cones. Our pleasure soon turned to disappointment when we realized that he didn't remember any of our requests and every cone was frozen pudding!



I've been thinking a lot about my father as I am sure everyone does when those special days occur on the calendar. My brother, Peter, reminds me a lot of my dad; he has the same mannerisms, the same way of speaking and sometimes he will respond to a question with my father's same sense of dry humor.

Today's world is so different from what it was years ago, and I applaud fathers today whose workdays are long. Some are longer still as they accompany their children to sports events, as some fathers volunteer to coach, or others may work with their children on scouting or other activities. I don't recall when it changed, but fathers today have become more and more involved in the lives of their children. I see young men pushing an infant in a baby stroller—something that was unheard of years ago when there was 'women's work' and 'men's work'—a clearly defined role for each. I am happy to see the changes over the past years as both parents assume a greater role in raising their children. So, Happy Father's Day, dads—keep up the good work!

Photo



**Confirmation
Reception**

**Best wishes to Student Intern Cindy
Antonuk**



Here is a summary of the All Boards & Committee Meetings (ABCs) held Tuesday evening, May 9th..

Music

- Approached the option of a further study of moving the choir and organ to the front of the sanctuary.
- Will post a sign-up sheet for summer music
- Will put together a flow chart of each ensemble for the Pastor to use when planning special Sunday services

Religious Education

- Jr. High Youth Fellowship kick-off meeting went well. Seven youths attended the blast off meeting
- Youth Ministry Sunday is June 11th followed by a picnic
- Need volunteers for mini-church school
- Need a second-grade teaching team and an additional teacher for the four-year olds

Board of Trustees

- Discussed budget relative to work done on door locks, furnace repair and possible installation of rugs in the office
- Attorney's fees discussed relative to negotiations with T-Mobile
- Will address concerns with Diet Workshop renter in writing
- The flagpole in the Friendship Garden needs to be lit at night. Discussed ways to do this.

Finance

- Need to review intern's contract. Not sure if she is owed additional money.
- Financial statements will go only to those who are falling behind on their pledge
- Will add two pages of 'Restricted/Unrestricted' funds to the 2005 Annual Report

Missions

- Baby blanket project went very well
- Will request help from ABC's and Council re summer coffee hour
- Will discuss with RE about possible new procedures for school bags
- Will put off until fall, *Common Ground*

M&E

- Would like to do additional 'old-fashioned' parties like the recent potluck supper on 5/6
- The entryway décor will be changed in June
- Cathie Seaman will obtain greeters for June; she sent out three welcoming cards
- Name tag Sunday May 21
- Greeters will pick up the *Friendship Pads* on Sunday; latest Monday. Bonnie volunteered to help if needed
- Suggested that we take any photos of events be taken prior to the worship service

Deacons

- Discussed confirmation curriculum
- Confirmed ONA upcoming May 17th meeting time
- Discussed Pastor's sabbatical
- Began summer and early fall planning

JUNE 2006

June Calendar - TCC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Rehearsal	2 6:00 PM – Sr. High Youth Fellowship leave for overnight camping to Harold Parker State Forest	3 Sr. High Youth Fellowship will return from overnight camping.
4 Communion Service 10:45 - Cherub & Jr. Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM – Jubellation Quartet Rehearsal 6:30 - Jr. High Youth Fellowship	5 6:00 PM – Jubellation Ringers - Rehearsal 7:30 PM – Carillon Ringers Rehearsal	6 7:00 PM – Administrative Staff Meeting	7 7:30 PM – Prayer Circle	8 9:00 AM – Friendship Circle – Will carpool to Weston Nurseries, Hopkinton.	9	10
11 Celebrating Youth Ministries Sunday Heifer Ingathering Picnic in Fellowship Hall following worship	12	13	14 11:30 – Ladies Aid - Will carpool to Billerica for lunch at Garrison's. 7:30 PM – Prayer Circle	15	16	17
18 9:30 AM – Worship Service (No Sunday School) Nursery Care Available Local Food Pantry collection	19	20	21 1:00 PM – Bible Study 7:30 PM – Prayer Circle	22 6:00 PM – P.P.R.C.	23	24 9:00 AM – Flea Market
25 9:30 AM – Worship Service and Mini-Church School.	26	27	28 7:30 PM – Prayer Circle	29	30 7:00 PM – Men's Group	

Calendar

On-going Sunday Activities:

9:30 a.m. – Worship Service

10:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour

Office hours during the summer months: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.