

The **Finance Committee** is happy to announce that **Bob Masters** accepted the open TCC Treasurer position. Bob will be working with Tina over the next couple of months to transition the work. Please join us in congratulating Bob and thanking Tina for her efforts over the last four years.

- Rich Allen, Chair, Committee

TCC Revenues

2007 through Feb. 25	Actual	YTD Budget
Pledge	\$19,471	\$21,497
Identified	2,744	4,265
Rentals	10,160	7,168
All Other	2,849	2,601
Total Revenues	\$35,223	\$35,529

Members of the Finance Committee thank you for your continued support of TCC and its outreach ministries.

Wanted! Two members of the Congregation to join representatives from Council and Deacons to study how to present information to the congregation about the United Church of Christ. If interested, please speak to Christopher Jenkins or Pastor Jonathan

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Tewksbury Congregational Church

Faith Notes

March 4th 2007



From the Pastor:

Communication is the life blood of a relationship. When I meet with a couple before their wedding, I spend several sessions coaching them on how they communicate their frustrations and hopes to each other. To fall silent is to chill down the relationship and to eventually kill the love that a couple shares.

Like couples, churches thrive when helpful information is shared. We do this in prayer time at morning worship. We do this during informal times over a cup of coffee in Fellowship Hall. We do this by picking up the phone to express concern over news we've heard.

I hope that "Faith Notes" will encourage our communication, especially the things that matter to you. We will make room for humor, inspirational quotes, pictures and personal testimonies. And we will guard the quality of the information that is shared about the work of our church, making sure it is up-to-date and accurate.

Warmly in faith,

In Winter the bare boughs that seem to sleep--work covertly, preparing for their Spring.

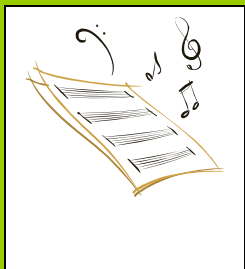
- Rumi

Looking ahead in worship...

The Lent sermon series and the Lenten programs are designed to do one thing... to help us grow in our appreciation for Jesus ... and to listen to the questions that He still asks you and me as we grow in faith.

We begin worship with a simple chorus that the choir helps us sing. We then move into a time of quiet and anchoring prayer. We begin our prayer time, later in the service with a simple call to prayer, sung by the choir and then by the congregation.

God is here as we gather to truly worship!



A prayer

To Bend the Knees

I will bend my knee to You, O God, as long as my knees will bend. Keep my knees supple, I pray, and when my knees will bend no more, may I always bend my heart to You, my loving Creator. Amen.

Rev. Jean Dalby Clift

A A A

Were you aware...

... the colors used in the sanctuary for most of Lent are purple, red violet, or dark violet? This color symbolizes both the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus, as well as, the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. But purple is also the color of royalty, and so anticipates through the suffering and death of Jesus the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated in the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

This week, the second week in Lent, people sometimes choose to 'give up' certain foods for 40 days. However even when we haven't decided to sacrifice foods for Lent, during times of stress, we often are tempted to reach for those kinds of foods that are not healthy for us. Before you grasp those poor choices, try this. Pause and count to 10. During those 10 seconds, reflect on how God graces you with self control and self determination. Thank God for those blessings. Chances are you'll no longer be tempted to make those wrong food choices. If you do give in to temptation, remember, God forgives you.

"New Steps" – Is a contemporary worship service held the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 5:00 pm. Even though we are a small crowd, remember Jesus started with just 12 and changed the world. Along with Christ's presence, our worship team creates a spirited environment to praise and worship God. JoJo Scharmer gave her testimony and outlined her journey of faith last Sunday. Her sermon topic, *"Are We Being Deceived"* was an eye-opener to our worldly culture and daily events. We shared our prayers in a beautiful candle-lit sanctuary. Come and join us next Sunday, March 11th. We look forward to seeing you!

Bulletin board

- There is a limited number of tickets to **Friendship Circle's** annual **Progressive Supper** on Saturday, **March 10th** available from any member of Friendship Circle or the church office. The cost is \$10 each. This is the only fund-raising event sponsored by the Circle and is always a great deal of fun, and a sell-out!
- You will have the opportunity to purchase **Easter flowers** for the sanctuary. Information will be in the church pew racks next week.
- Missions is collecting bagged **jelly beans** for a special project sponsored by the **Lowell Wish Project**. A container for the collection of jelly beans is outside Fellowship Hall.
- **Donations** needed for **Brownie Mission Project**: 5 lb bag of Domino Sugar, 4, 16 oz. cans of cocoa powder, 3 bags of chocolate chips, 2 doz. eggs, three, 3 pounds unsalted butter, 1 bag King Arthur flour, two, 100/pk sandwich baggies and 1 bottle of pure vanilla. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall if you can either bake or supply some of the ingredients or do both!

Board focus...

...starting March 11th, next Sunday, our Board and Committee members will be wearing name tags so you can see who is serving on our committees. Ask them about their work!

ALL BOARDS (ABC's) (the 2nd Tuesday evening, when all our Boards meet) is having a pot luck supper on Tuesday, March 13th at 6:30. It is open to any member who might like to eat with the Boards and attend the opening of a Board meeting.

Week of March 4th

Sunday – 9:00am – Jr. Choir Rehearsal; 9:30am Communion Worship, Sunday School; 10:30am, Coffee Hour; 10:45am – Cherub Choir Rehearsal; 5:00pm – Admin Staff Meeting; 6:30pm – Jr. Youth Fellowship and 7:30pm Interfaith Choir Rehearsal.

Event	Date	Time	Notes
Jubellation Ringers Rehearsal	Monday	6:30 pm	Under the direction of Jen Brazeau.
Building Committee	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Classroom 8
Prayer Circle	Wednesday	12:30pm	Church Parlor
Lent program	Wednesday	6:30 pm Meal 7:00 pm Program	Meal and Bible study Deacons and Pastor
SS Teacher's Meeting	Wednesday	7:30 pm	Beth McFadyen Guest speaker. Rm. 8
Friendship Circle	Thursday	9:00 am	Celebrating our Birthdays! Cake & Ice cream, Fun, Fellowship and Games
Mission service	Thursday	5:00 pm	Serve a meal at the Lowell Transitional Living Center
Mission Baking Project	Thursday	6:30 pm	Making brownies at the church for the Lazarus House Soup Truck
Sr. Choir Rehearsal	Thursday	7:30 pm	Under the direction of Craig Seaman
Progressive Supper	Saturday	6:00 pm	Tickets \$10 – Lots of fun & fellowship!
Sunday Worship	Sunday, 3/11	9:30 am	Worship Service & Sunday School
'New Steps' Worship		5:00 pm	Contemporary worship

Reminder of **Sunday School Teachers' Meeting** on **Wednesday, March 7th** from **7:30 to 9:00 pm** in classroom 8. Beth McFadyen will share some new and exciting ideas from the Sunday school Youth/Children's Day. *Bring your teacher's guide from the winter semester.* **RSVP Rita at 978-452-4934 or mastersmbe@aol.com.**

Missions News

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done.”
- Proverbs 19:17

On the second Thursday of each month, Missions is looking for 6-8 caring people to serve a meal to the men and women who receive services at the *Lowell Transitional Living Center* (formally the Middlesex Shelter).

- Dinner is served at 5:45pm, so we need to be there at 5:00 – 5:15pm to set up. We leave TCC at 4:45pm or you could meet us there.
- We are excited about this opportunity to serve God’s family on such a local level.
- We hope that you will commit to one (or more evenings); it is a fantastic way to show the world that TCC is alive, active and is comprised of dedicated and compassionate people.
- Sign up sheets can be found on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Our first serving was Thursday, 2/8. There were four of us who participated and we came home gratified and filled with God’s spirit. When we first arrived, we were told we could not do a sit-down dinner due to our small number, but we really wanted.....(continued next column)

News about our church

Members of **Friendship Circle** are planning a birthday party next Thursday, March 8th at 9:00am in the Vestry for all members and friends of the Circle. Bring a baby picture of yourself, a gaily wrapped Yankee Swap birthday gift (no need to buy, bring something you have that you don’t need or want), and any other pictures or memorabilia of unique birthdays and their stories to tell.

Although it is not necessary, it will be helpful if you let Kathy Jenkins know if you plan to come. She’ll need an idea of the number of guests. Call her at 978-459-1640.

Members of **Ladies Aid** have donated a new stainless steel teapot to the church kitchen.

Members also gave \$25 in memory of Esther French to TCC’s *Memorial Fund*.

Missions..continued

to serve God’s people, so we insisted we could do it. Well, we did it, and with plenty of energy and time to spare! As the men and women entered the room, I overheard comments such as, “Wow, we are sitting down tonight”, and “How wonderful that we can relax and enjoy dinner”. It felt great to meet their needs and lift their spirits by such a small service. If there is no one available to serve, diners must stand in line and serve themselves from the counter.

Another great giving opportunity is this Thursday in the church kitchen. Under the leadership of Sue Trudeau and Beth McFadyen, 200 brownies are being baked and bagged for the homeless in Lawrence. This will be added to the “Soup Truck” which stops at designated areas of the city on cold winter nights when *Bread and Roses* does not serve meals. We are glad to join forces with other caring believers who will donate the soup and sandwiches. This is truly being the “Hands of Christ”. Amen!

- Submitted by JoJo Scharmer

Join us **Wednesday evening, March 7th** for a hearty soup supper at 6:30 and a time of personal reflection on the questions Jesus asked His followers. As He challenged and stimulated His followers to grow in faith, we will also find His words feeding and challenging our hearts. Meal from 6:30 to 7:00pm. Study from 7:00 to 8:15pm in the church Vestry every Wednesday during Lent. There is no cost for this. Everyone is welcome.