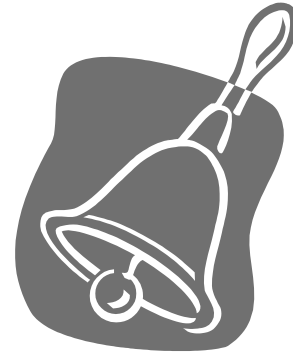


# Faith Notes

March 18<sup>th</sup> 2007



*Dear fellow pilgrims,*

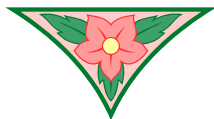
*Jesus used three images to tell Nicodemus, a powerful leader, hungry for God, that he was not in charge of his life. As a sailor, catching the wind of God's Spirit, he needed to be open to changes in his plans. As an infant he needed to open his soul to God's love as if to a mother's milk and care. Throwing himself onto God's mercy he might feel like an Israelite, rescued from venomous snakes and given a new start on life.*

*We are all in search of heaven and its gifts. Lent asks us to focus on humility and the new life that comes directly from God...day by day, person by person. This week try choosing one image and let it guide your thoughts, prayers and actions as you open your life to God.*

*Warmly in faith,*

***The earth is a beehive; we all enter by the same door but we live in different cells.***

*- Bantu proverb*



***Life is a gift,  
given in trust—like a child.***

*- Anne Morrow Lindbergh*

Were you aware...that we have a Palm Sunday tradition at TCC?

For several years, the students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class have been designing and making their own stoles. The first week is spent learning about the different Christian symbols and their meanings. The children also learn why stoles are worn. Stoles are a symbol of being a servant. The following weeks are spent selecting the symbols that will be used on their stoles.

On Palm Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday School students wear their new stoles and distribute palms from the front steps of the church.

*- Rita Masters, DRE*

## Looking at our work...

### The Church Council...

Meets monthly to set the larger direction of the church and to help committees in their work. There is a member from each committee, the Moderator and the Pastor. And there are three seats at large. These 'members at large' listen to the Congregation and provide crucial insights to the whole council. Council meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month and are open meetings. Join us for our meeting this week at 7:30 PM. Consider if you would like to sit in a seat 'at large' in the upcoming year.



Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, eight members of TCC served dinner at the **Lowell Living Transitional Center**. The comments from the servers were very positive; they stated it was a good experience, that they felt the men and women appreciated being served and they enjoyed the pleasant and welcoming atmosphere that our presence added to the room. In addition, they especially liked the personal contact and kind words. Many responded with smiles and "thank you's"! One man simply said "Thanks, brother, for what your group did tonight."

### Message Board

- Alice Golen would like to thank the members and friends of TCC for their cards and expression of sympathy at the passing of her brother, Jim Farrell. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.
- the pew racks. **Orders will be taken until April 1.** Carol will be at Coffee Hour on 3/25 for questions and to take orders.
- study reveals the heart of Jesus' compassion and sense of mission as we discuss John 4, 'the woman at the well'. Come join us and see what inspires you about Jesus' ministry. We meet at 6:30 for a simple meal of soup and hearty bread followed by our Bible study from 7:00 to 8:15pm. All are welcome.

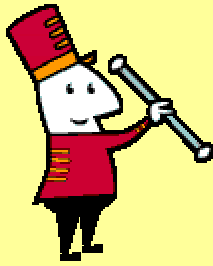
### FINANCE

Gifts each week support paying the electric bill, the cost of elevator and alarm inspections, heat, —the cost of office supplies and salaries, and much, much more.

But did you know that you can give in other ways too? You can help by providing your talents—by volunteering to help in areas such as ushering, serving coffee, helping the Landscape Committee & Trustees clean the property, etc. There are so many ways that your contribution is appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of TCC and its ministries!

#### TCC Revenues

2007 thru 3/11	Actual	YTD Budget
Pledge	\$25,854	\$29,130
Identified	3,360	5,392
Rentals	14,995	11,807
All Others	3,491	3,141
Total Revenues	\$47,700	\$49,470



Thinking about kazoos...

Imagine sitting in church and hearing someone give their testimony. You hear the person saying...“**A kazoo saved my life!**” A broad smile crosses your face because you know what is meant by that statement because YOU were a part of an amazing event.

At TCC we are forming a **Kazoo Band** for the **Memorial Day Parade**. Young and mature...if you can sing a hymn, you can play a Kazoo! If you are unable to walk two miles, don't worry, we'll gladly find a wheel chair for you.

Many have asked how I came up with the idea of a **Kazoo Band!** Well, I had a dream and in this dream, God gave me the idea. People love parades and they go to them. They will hear us playing our odd sounding hymns on a kazoo and they'll see a banner that reads, *Tewksbury Congregational Church*.

First people will laugh, then they will smile, then they will listen. They'll see a congregation that is willing to come out of their comfort zone to say, “*I am a member of a church, and yes, I believe in Jesus*”.

People will go home and think to themselves, “Hmmm, that's a fun church and they will smile”. What starts as a smile, may have people coming to TCC for our church service as many of you did.

We have done our part, God takes over from there. People will see and hear what Jesus has done for us. Wow! In a very different way, you have participated in giving the greatest gift imaginable...Eternal Life. That's how I see our mission. Please sign up at the table in Fellowship Hall. Take a kazoo. Look for future practice dates that will be posted. Yes, we need to practice, we must sound professional for God.

– Paul Manning

Outcomes Team...

This group meets twice a month to work on the large questions of leadership and vision in our church. We currently have two open seats and hope to recruit several new members. Please speak to Pastor Jonathan or to Valerie MacKenzie as Council Chair if you would like to explore joining up with this team.

### Junior Youth Fellowship

Seventh and eighth graders are particularly susceptible to **peer pressure** because they need to be accepted and belong. Recognizing this, last week our **Junior Youth Group** meeting was centered on this subject. We began the evening with a *Pictionary* game, which used peer pressure related words. We demonstrated the build up of this pressure with a balloon game.

Peer pressure is nothing new. People in the Bible had to deal with it all the time, so we read some scriptures aloud and with the assistance of Pastor Jonathan we discussed what kinds of peer pressure were involved in each situation. And finally, a paper bag game demonstrated that one of the best ways to fight peer pressure is to recognize how special and unique God has made us.

- JoJo Scharmer, Jr. Youth Fellowship

Date	Event
Today	9:00 AM - Jr. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM – Hymn Sing (Sanctuary) 9:30 AM – Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 AM – Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall) 10:45 AM – Cherub Choir Rehearsal (Rm. 10) 7:30 PM – Interfaith Choir Rehearsal
Monday	6:00 PM – Jubellation Ringers Rehearsal 7:30 PM – Carillon Ringers Rehearsal (Easter)
Tuesday	7:30 PM – Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	12:30 PM – Prayer Circle (Parlor) 6:30 PM – Light Meal prior to Lenten Bible Study (Vestry) 7:00 PM – Lenten Bible Study ‘Transformed by Christ’ (Vestry)
Thursday	7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Rehearsal (Fairgrieve Rm.)

notes

Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> we have our rescheduled new member class, 9-11:30

Next Sunday we honor a 40 year and a 50 year member in worship!

### REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup></b> @ 7:00pm	<i>Massachusetts Spring Ring</i> – More than 20 handbell choirs perform in a Free Public Concert at TMHS.
<b>Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup></b> at 7:30pm	<i>Maundy Thursday Worship Service</i> in the Sanctuary
<b>Good Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup></b> – Noon to 3:00 PM	The sanctuary will be open for a time of prayer and meditation.

#### **Seven (7) great and exciting ways to get involved in the ministry of TCC.**

**(1)** Come to one of the Lenten programs on Wednesday evening. **(2)** Come to the Maundy Thursday service on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**(3)** Volunteer to serve coffee during Coffee Hour. (Contact Beth McFadyen 978-851-4867.)

**(4)** Volunteer to join a committee or Board. (Contact Valerie MacKenzie 978-658-3861.)

**(5)** Volunteer to help serve food at Lowell Transitional Housing. **(6)** Donate gently worn professional clothing to women who are going out on job interviews. (Contact JoJo at 978-851-5298.)

**(7)** Help support a fund-raising event or provide a great idea to support 18 willing volunteers to Mexico in October. (Contact Jean Carr at 978-851-0174.)

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