

Faith Notes

April 1, 2007



Dear Pilgrim Friends,

Palm Sunday is a very emotional event. As we carry palms we, for a moment, can allow ourselves to be swept up in the pride, joy and hope of the Jerusalem crowd. Jesus knew the crowd was unpredictable and we too may sense the problem of our palms and praises... How faithful are we to the mission of Jesus? Are we interested in the heart of what He was all about?

Jesus received the support of the crowd all the same. He receives your 'alleluias' with warmth and joy this morning. He loves you just as you are.

But here are the questions for you as a disciple this morning...

- *Do you know the difference between Jesus' kingdom and the kingdom of this world?*
- *Are you aware that there is a cost to following.. and a reward that is beyond measure?*

Let's follow Jesus together!

Warmly,

Pastor Jonathan

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

- 1 John 4:11



If God is love rather than power, it follows that God gains victories by pain rather than by force.

- Reinhold Neibuhr



We are pleased the children in the third-grade Sunday school class are giving us our palms today. They are Lindsay Bearce, Heather Doyle, Brian Foss, Amanda Hogg, Hannah Lonergan, Shannon Parker, Olivia Raso and Emily Sepzzano. Students are wearing the beautiful stoles they designed and hand-made.

Members of this year's confirmation class are helping as they provide an archway for the Sunday school children as they enter the sanctuary. Confirmands are: Jonathan Foss, Jennifer Hogan, Stephanie Kelly, Andy Lafortune, Abigail Pinard and Sam Stanley.

The **Andover Association** will hold its **Annual Meeting** on **Saturday morning, April 21st** at Christ Church United in Dracut. The theme of the meeting is “*Holy Conversations*”. See the flyer posted in the Vestry for details. Please see Christopher Jenkins if you want to be one of our official delegates.

Rooms are going quickly at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT where the Massachusetts delegation will be staying for **General Synod**. We also need to elect delegates to the Massachusetts Conference, which will hold its **Annual Meeting** in two parts: first on **Friday, June 22, 2007** at the hotel prior to the Synod, and second on **Saturday, September 29, 2007** in Worcester. More information can be found at <http://www.macucc.org/annualmeeting/index.htm>.

Please see Christopher Jenkins if you want to be one of our official delegates. All members are welcome to attend.

Message Board

- Today is the last day to order **Easter** flowers from Carol Sturtevant (978-851-4451). She will be downstairs in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour. Order forms are in the pew racks or can be obtained from Carol.
- Just a reminder there are two **Easter** worship services next Sunday. There is no Sunday school, but nursery care is available for babies and toddlers to age 3. The following week, April 15th, there is no Sunday School. Children are encouraged to worship with their families.
- Please check the **bulletin board** in Fellowship Hall to see if you can assist with any of the numerous **Mission** projects.

Last Sunday we recognized our church members who celebrated their 40th, 50th and 80th year of membership. In talking to Judy Ode, Mary Garland’s daughter, she said that her mother remembers well the fire that destroyed the church as she was a small girl at the time. After the ashes had burned, Mary found pieces of the stained glass windows and saved a few pieces of glass.

She also said her mother remembers well a Sunday school teacher she had, Mrs. Evelyn Tingley who taught Mary the first four books of the New Testament by asking the Sunday school children to recite the following:

*Matthew
Mark
Luke and
John*

Hold the horse until I get on!

At age 97, Mary has never forgotten the words of her TCC Sunday school teacher!

Looking at our work...(We are looking for members on Boards and Committees for 2007-2008. Members on this year’s Nominating Committee are Christopher Jenkins, Paul Manning and Sue Trudeau.) Each week we’ll highlight a Board or Committee. This week, we are highlighting the **Music Committee** responsible for providing music at worship services; fills any vacancies of organist or choir director(s), guides, supports and evaluates the music staff; administers the Jackson Fund and provides for the care and maintenance of any and all musical instruments belonging to TCC. Stephanie Muse is the Chair of the Music Committee.

Holy Week Services

April 1 – Palm Sunday

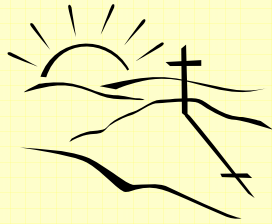
The children in the third-grade Sunday School class will be handing out palms and wearing their Easter stoles.

Thursday, April 5 – Maundy Thursday

Worship, prayer, dramatic readings and communion in our sanctuary at 7:30pm.

Friday, April 6 – Good Friday

The sanctuary will be open from 12 noon to 3:00pm for meditation and prayer.



Sunday, April 8 – Easter Morning

6:30am – Sunrise Ecumenical Easter sunrise service at First Baptist Church, 1500 Andover Street, Tewksbury. Join Pastor Jonathan, Pastor Debbie of the Baptist Church and Pastor Dave of the Methodist Church in worship and prayer at the annual community sunrise service.

7:00am – Breakfast following the service at First Baptist.

9:00am and 11:00am – Worship Services at TCC

(No Sunday School on Easter Sunday, but nursery care will be available at both services.)

To advise you...

The lock in the church nursery has been changed. The nursery is available to our members and guests, providing a safe and pleasant place for infants and toddlers to nap and play. School age children may only use the Nursery under adult supervision. The key is available through the church office where a sign-out sheet will be used to track usage. Thank you for your understanding.

- Board of Trustees

Holy Week is the last week of Lent when we follow Jesus from Palm Sunday to His death on Good Friday in preparation for His rising from the dead on Easter Sunday.

On **Palm Sunday** accompanied by His disciples, Jesus road into Jerusalem on a colt while crowds of people covered the streets ahead of him with palm branches.

Early in the week, Jesus chased the money-changes out of His father's Temple. He then preached and taught in Jerusalem.

Thursday, known as **Maundy Thursday**, after washing the feet of His disciples, Jesus celebrated Passover, instituting the **Sacrament of Holy Communion**. Later He went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray where he was arrested by the Temple guard and taken to court.

Good Friday, Jesus was taken into Roman courts before Pontius Pilate and Herod Antipas. Later He was taken to Golgotha, the place of the skull, where Jesus was crucified.

Saturday, Jesus rested in the tomb while His disciples observed the Sabbath.

Easter Sunday, an angel met Mary Magdalene and 'the other Mary' at the tomb to tell them that Jesus was risen from the dead. *Alleluia!*

Date	Event
Today	9:00 AM - Jr. Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM – Worship Service 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
Tuesday	7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Rehearsal (Fairgrieve Rm.)
Wednesday	12:30 PM – Prayer Circle (Parlor)
Thursday	7:30 PM – Maundy Thursday Worship Service <i>Dramatic Biblical Readings, Communion and Prayer. (Sanctuary)</i>
Good Friday	Sanctuary open from noon until 3:00 PM for meditation and prayer. Sr. Youth Fellowship Lock-In

Note...

Sunday, May 20th at **11:00 AM** is the date for our **Semi-Annual TCC church meeting**. The agenda will include the adoption of the *2006 Annual Report* and the **election of officers and committees for 2007-2008**. Petitions for additional articles are due to the Clerk (Christopher Jenkins) no later than All Boards and Committees (ABCs) meeting on *Tuesday, May 8th*.

2007 thru March 25	Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Pledge	\$31,323	\$33,696
Identified	\$ 4,225	\$5,833
Rentals	\$15,205	\$11,868
All Other	\$3,670	\$3,291
Total Revenues	\$54,423	\$54,688

Tewksbury Congregational Church,
10 East Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876 – 978-851-9411
tewksburycc@verizon.net
<http://www.tewksburycc.org/>