

Faith Notes



Walking in the Way
Tuesday, May 1 from 7:00 to 9:30pm
Vestry

This is an invitation to attend a very special meeting. The purpose is to recognize where we are at a time of some change, challenge and growth as a church. Our meeting is convened by the Church Council and will be facilitated by the Rev. Karen Nell Smith of *Walking in the Way* a ministry of congregational discernment and transformation. Karen is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program at Hartford Seminary focusing on interfaith dialogue. She is ordained in the United Church of Christ presently serving the Congregational Church of Christ – UCC in North Leominster, MA.

Karen is working directly with a planning group from the Council to shape an evening that allows us to hear where we are as a church...and to listen deeply to our concerns and hope for the future.

This is a single event that is designed to meet some of our concerns in the moment, to listen to our needs appreciatively, and to give the Council more information as it evaluates and plans for the new year.

Please sign up during coffee hour Sunday or call the church office at 978-851-9411 to let us know that you can join us on May 1st.

***Faith goes up the stairs that love
has built and looks out the window
which hope has opened.***

- Charles Spurgeon

***What lies behind us and what
lies before us are tiny matters
compared to what lies within
us.***

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Someone once asked me, “Why do you carry your Bible to church?” I said that it’s a habit with me. I grew up attending the Park Street Baptist Church in Framingham and we carried our Bibles to church and to the Baptist Youth Fellowship meetings as our minister always began with a short worship service where we were asked to read scripture.

Carrying my Bible is second nature to me. Before worship, I put bookmarks in the pages so that I’ll be able to quickly find the day’s readings. Sometimes I’ll fan through the pages to look at what I’ve highlighted in previous readings or re-read a note that I’ve tucked between the pages.

A couple of years ago, Donna Haines, donated the *NRSV pew Bibles. Each week in the bulletin, page numbers are listed along with scripture. You are encouraged to read the day’s scripture using the pew Bibles. I’m sure this was the intention of Donna when she purchased the Bibles for us—to use as we gather for worship.

Sue Howard, Church Secretary

**New Revised Standard Version*



Thank you to the *Landscape Committee* for the beautiful spring bulbs that bloom alongside the church's foundation to remind us of the changing seasons!

TCC Scholarship Fund Applications Available!

It's that time of year and **TCC Scholarship Fund Application** forms are available and should be completed and turned into the **Scholarship Committee** by **May 20th**. **Eligibility--** *Applicant or applicant's family shall be an active participant in TCC. A written application form must be submitted. Scholarships will be given on the basis of need and will be awarded yearly to coincide with graduation.*

Message Board

- **Nominated for church membership:** Scott Allen Imhoff, Sheryl Hulburt Imhoff, William Clark Imhoff, and Margaret Jean Mello.
- **Jean Metcalf** will be downstairs in Fellowship Hall today with a sign-up sheet for the **Fellowship Potluck Supper on May 5th**.
- **Heifer Ingathering is Sunday, April 29th** – at that time, all Heifer banks will be collected. Hasn't this been fun filling our banks with change depending on how many eggs, carrots, milk, or ketchup we have in the refrigerator and paying 25 cents for every pillow we own!
- Reminder that the **Annual Church Review Procedure Questionnaire** (All church evaluation) forms should be returned next Sunday, April 29th.

TCC Fellowship Update

On **Thursday, April 12**, a group of **28 TCC** members and friends enjoyed a wonderful performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. This was an intergenerational mix of families including a group of 10 from youth fellowship. A large group took advantage of the night out, taking in a leisurely meal at *Cobblestones* prior to the show. Check out pictures of the event at the TCC Fellowship web site, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ccfellowship/> (You must have a yahoo ID and join the fellowship group to view them - both free and easy to get!). A great time was had by all!

- *Bruce and Sue Panilaitis*

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.*) This week's focus is on the **Membership & Enlistment Committee** chaired by **Jean Metcalf** with members **Heather Leary, Loretta Miggos and Suzanne Spezzano**. Committee members welcome visitors and help them feel comfortable in our church; plan new member and honored member receptions during coffee hour; maintain friendship pad information, arrange for greeters, and maintain membership status of our church family. This is a great committee to work on if you enjoy meeting people. M&E's latest publication is a 'Welcome' brochure with copies in the lower Narthex.

Missions

Submitted by JOJO Scharmer

There are two wonderful women from TCC, **Pam B.** and **Diana O.**, who have continued to supply **baby kits** to the **Lowell Wish** project. This past week they brought 9 more completed baskets over, bringing their total this year to 35! They are requesting hand-made infant blankets and possibly sweaters from the congregation as they cannot keep up with the knitting. When your donation is completed, please contact a mission member. How grateful are the new moms as they receive these beautiful **baskets of love!**

Next date for **serving at Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC)** will be **May 10**. Please be sure to sign up for this rewarding and worthwhile project. **Brownie baking** will be held on **Wed. May 9th**. See bulletin boards for ways to be involved.

Heifer *Mother's Day, Father's Day* and "*Just Because*" card orders will continue to be available through May 29th and final pick-up of ordered cards will be May 6th.

The **Postal Carrier Food Drive** is scheduled for **Saturday, May 12th** and the **Missions Committee** is looking for 8 volunteers to work the 2:00-4:00 shift at the Community Pantry, unloading food from mail trucks and sorting it on shelves. So that the Pantry can best coordinate its volunteers for this very important day, we need a commitment no later than Sunday, May 6th. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board, or you may contact Beth McFadyen (978-851-4867) for more information.

You have put me here with a purpose, O Lord, and it is to learn to serve You. I can best serve You by meeting the needs of those I see in need around me. Grant that I might never turn away from someone in need. Amen!

TCC Junior Youth Group News

May 11-13th is the date the Jr. Youth Group plans to attend a retreat at the Craigville Conference Center. The goal is to nurture spiritual growth through the use of worship, nature, scripture, and fun.

Craigville is located in the midst of a unique Cape Cod village, includes a private beach, our own cottage and meeting room, a chapel and three healthy meals.

Anticipation is mounting as the date draws closer and we are looking forward to a faith-filled, fun-filled weekend. Please hold up our youth and leaders with your love and support through prayer.

You have been asked to complete an *Annual Church Questionnaire*. Copies of this form are outside the church office, in the lower Narthex and on the table outside Fellowship Hall.

Members of the Church Council would like to receive as many completed forms as possible. This is very helpful in their planning and results will be announced at the semi-annual meeting in May. On this form you have a 'voice' to provide information on strengths and growth areas in the church as a whole. You are urged to complete the questionnaire.

If you forget to bring a questionnaire home, please call the church office and one will be mailed to you. Completed forms should be placed in the Church Council mailbox outside the church office. Thank you!

**- Valerie Mackenzie
Church Council Chair**

Calendar of Events for the Week of April 22nd.

Date	Event
Today	9:00 AM - Jr. Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM – Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 AM – Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall) 10:45 AM – Cherub Choir Rehearsal (Rm. 10) 5:00 PM – ‘New Steps’ Worship 6:30 PM – Jr. Youth Fellowship 7:30 PM – Interfaith Choir Rehearsal
Monday	6:00 PM – Jubellation Ringers Rehearsal
Wednesday	12:30 PM – Prayer Circle (Parlor) 7:00 PM – Worship Planning Meeting
Thursday	7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Rehearsal

**‘New Steps’
Contemporary
Worship** service
tonight at 5:00pm...
*“Are We Conforming
to the World?”*.
 Personal testimony,
 prayer, uplifting music
 and scripture. All
 welcome!



Coming soon! **Scholarship Breakfast** to support the **Scholarship Fund** after worship on **Sunday, April 29th**. A free-will offering will be taken. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a hot breakfast and fellowship with members and friends.

Coming soon...**Fellowship Potluck Supper, May 5th** in Fellowship Hall from **5:00 to 7:00pm**. **Games, Food and Fun!** Sign-up today during Coffee Hour to go to this exciting event in May.

FINANCIAL NEWS

2007 thru April 15	Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Pledge	\$39,883	\$42,799
Identified	\$5,937	\$7,364
Rentals	\$19,880	\$16,793
All Other	\$5,039	\$4,847
Total Revenues	\$70,739	\$71,802

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