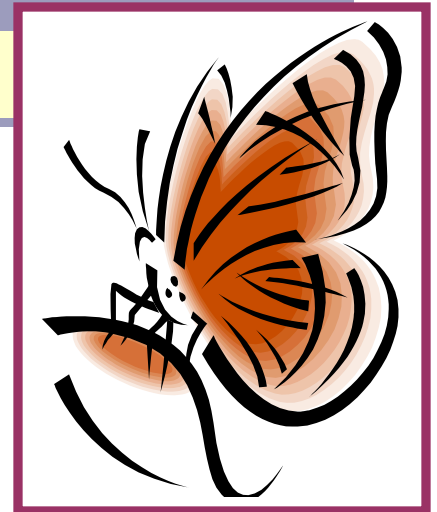


# Faith Notes

May 13, 2007



Dear friends,

*The release of grace is a skill that we practice daily without realizing it. Imagine a ballet dancer moving from the arms of one dancer, across space, to the waiting arms of another dancer. Or consider the release of the trapeze artist, throwing one partner through space to the safety of another trapeze bar!*

*Teamwork has this grace... and parenting offers this spirit at its best moments. When we share our lives, we are constantly receiving another person or releasing that same person to someone or something else..*

*James makes a single point today. Faith without works, lacks grace. Simple belief will not get you or me across the terrifying space between "here" and "there" We need to take the hands of another, swing into space, and use that partner's strength to land us in a new place. Abraham must have felt like he was falling through space, as he took his son Isaac to Mount Moriah. But as he released his grip, he found that God had caught him again...and given him back his son.*

*A graceful mother, much like Abraham, knows how and when to release a son or daughter to the arms of God... and when to receive that beloved child back.*

Pastor Jonathan

*The butterfly counts not months but moments and has time enough.*

*- R. Tagore*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Town-wide VBS registration May 20th

Preschool children to Grade 6<sup>th</sup> are invited to attend **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** this summer from July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am until 12 noon. VBS is held at St. William's School on Main Street. The cost is \$25 for the first child in a family and \$15 for each additional child.

**Avalanche Ranch VBS – a wild ride through God's Word** is this year's theme. Each day every activity from snacks and crafts to Bible adventures will focus on a Bible point. Children will also participate in daily challenges, specific ways to live out their faith each day.

Registration is **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** in classroom #10 in the Educational wing. For more details and if you'd like to volunteer, either see or call **Cathie Seaman, 978-640-0101**.

*Have patience in all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them—every day begin the task anew.*

*- St. Francis de Sales*



**Mother's Day** was the suggestion of Julia Ward Howe in 1872 for the observance of peace. For many years an annual meeting was held in Boston for this purpose. It wasn't until 1912 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that Anna Jarvis was recognized as the founder of Mother's Day and observed the second Sunday in May. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson established Mother's Day as a national holiday.

Trisha Keddie's mom, Kay, is a newcomer to Ladies Aid. She moved from her home in Malden where she lived for over 50 years to live with her daughter and family in Tewksbury. Kay is making new friends. It takes courage and a certain amount of determination to make friends at any age, but especially when you are older.

We applaud Kay for her initiative in meeting new people and making a new life for herself in Tewksbury.

### **Mother's Day Remembrances**

*I remember the first gift I gave my mother. I saw a field of iris flowers and dug up three or four bulbs and placed them in a can that I decorated with crepe paper.*

- Eleanor Corey

*The most significant woman in my life was my Aunt Gladys. She introduced me to the world beyond my neighborhood. She encouraged me to dream and be all that I could be. She was there for me for every occasion in my life. The wisdom that my aunt shared with me continues to guide me today. That is why I am proud to include my middle initial in my signature.*

- Donna G. Haines

*My mother worked very, very hard as a single mom for many years before she met my step-dad. She raised three children, while working and going to school full-time to earn her degree in nursing. Today my mother, Katie Holtz, works as a nurse and resides in Rochester, New York.*

- Sarah SanClemente

Sarah and her husband, Paul, recently joined TCC. She is the mother of two children, Hannah and Adam. Sarah is going to night school to earn her degree in Interior Design, and she also works part-time as a Mary Kay representative.

**What the Bible says about Mothers...** Genesis 3:20, "The man named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all living." Exodus 20:12, "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land of the Lord your God is giving you." Isaiah 66:13, "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem." Luke 2:51, "Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But His mother treasured these things in her heart." John 19:26-27, "When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing beside her, he said to His mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then He said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother'. And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home."

## **Youth Ministries Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Senior High Youth Fellowship**

This June Paul Manning and Tina Ramsdell will be leaving their leadership role with the Senior High fellowship program. The RE board is looking for new leadership for this program. Anyone interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity to work with and share their faith with the Senior High youth please feel free to talk to either Christopher Jenkins, RE chairperson (978-459-1640) or Rita Masters, DRE (978-452-4934).

The Board thanks Paul and Tina for their willingness to share their faith and their time to the TCC Senior High youth. They will be missed but we know God is leading them in new directions.

### **Sunday School**

At the present time there are a few teaching needs for the 2007-2008 Sunday School year. Teachers are needed in the Kindergarten and Grade 2 to complete these teaching teams. Sherry Fulton will be staying with the Kindergarten and one or possibly two teachers are needed for Grade 2.

### **Nursery Coordinator**

Sue Hansford has announced that she will be retiring from the role as Nursery coordinator at the end of the summer. Sue has been a dedicated worker sharing her love with the TCC youngest for over 20 years! Anyone who is interested in learning more about this way to serve TCC's youngest please feel free to talk with Christopher Jenkins, or Rita Masters.

### **Summer Mini-Sunday School**

This summer program will run from **June 24-August 26**. This Sunday morning program is opened to three year olds through grade 3. The program themes are "*The Fruits of the Spirit*" and "*Teach Us to Pray*", and explores prayers found in the Bible. If you would be interested in teaching one or more of the Sundays please speak to Rita Masters.

## **Reminder !!**

Ingathering of scholarship donations (letter mailed to each household at the end of April) is Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. That is also the date that all scholarship application forms should be completed and placed in the Religious Education mailbox outside the church office.

Don't forget to call the church office with the names of any graduating senior either high school or college.

## **MISSIONS**

Submitted by JOJO

As this year of mission obligations draw to a close, we would like to bid a fond farewell to our fearless leader, **Jean Carr**. Last night was her last night on missions and as she left the hall, I had such an empty feeling. She has given her "all" to the program as we steered it from mostly giving to mostly doing. I thought, how sad! So many people are leaving committees tonight. I know they are tired and ready for a rest, but they will certainly be missed, especially if they have not transferred to a new committee. So to Jean and **everyone else**, we say good bye and **THANK YOU!** If you know of someone else please thank them in person. They have given a lot to this church!

**Calendar of Events for the Week of May 13<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Today</b>	9:00 AM - Jr. Choir Rehearsal <b>9:30 AM – Worship Service &amp; Sunday School</b> 10:30 AM – Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall) 10:45 AM – Cherub Choir Rehearsal (Rm. 10) 11:00 AM – Kazoo Rehearsal <b>5:00 PM – ‘New Steps’ Worship</b> 7:30 PM – Interfaith Choir Rehearsal
<b>Monday</b>	6:00 PM – Jubellation Ringers Rehearsal
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30 PM – Church Council Meeting at the home of the Metcalf’s.
<b>Wednesday</b>	12:30 PM – Prayer Circle (Parlor) 1:00 PM – Bible Study “ <i>Praying the Psalms</i> ”
<b>Thursday</b>	4:45 – Lowell Transitional Living Center Meal Serving 7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Rehearsal (Fairgrieve Rm.)

*All ages welcome to..*

*New Steps  
 Contemporary  
 Worship at 5:00 PM.*

Tonight’s topic is from the Book of Colossians

**Jesus, God in the Flesh**

New Steps Staff:  
 Rev. Jonathan Goodell  
 Bob Mulvey  
 Paul Costanzo, Music

**Reminder:** There’s no Sunday School on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Children are encouraged to worship with their families. Nursery care will be available for babies to toddlers, age 3.

**FINANCIAL NEWS**

<b>2007 thru May 6</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Year-to-Date Budget</b>
<b>Pledge</b>	<b>\$48,301</b>	<b>\$48,819</b>
<b>Identified</b>	<b>\$7,333</b>	<b>\$8,362</b>
<b>Rentals</b>	<b>\$24,780</b>	<b>\$16,793</b>
<b>All Other</b>	<b>\$5,649</b>	<b>\$5,590</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$86,063</b>	<b>\$79,565</b>

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