

# Faith Notes

May 20, 2007

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*Dear fellow travelers,*

*One of the powerful themes in the book of James is the theme of “gossip”. James talks about the tongue as if it were a wild animal. All of his images describe not the power of the tongue alone but the crazy power that is unleashed in a group when we speak inappropriately.*

*Why does the tongue unleash so much power in our lives? After all, it’s just the voicing of an opinion or two, often in private. But it is not the simple opinion alone, but the way in which speaking inappropriately creates uncomfortable choices for the listener.*

*When a listener hears angry or complaining words, they are often being invited in to a kind of quiet agreement. And when they disagree, it is often a choice... “it’s him or me... make your choice if you wish”.*

*Division is the net result of gossip... and the intended outcome so often! If that’s the case, then what are we to do? The speaker needs to choose to resolve anger. And the listener needs to speak her discomfort with the message... especially with the unspoken message of division.*

*God is great and has the power to make our words come out right. We pray that hope together.*

*Pastor Jonathan*



*Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within the reach of every hand.*

*~ by Mother Teresa ~*

## **Semi-Annual Church Meeting Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Fellowship Hall at 11:00am**

This Sunday as we gather for our semi-annual meeting, we will adopt the *Annual Report* and elect our officers and committees. There are still several committee vacancies for which you can volunteer at the meeting if you feel called to serve.

There is also a bylaw amendment being proposed to prohibit any member from simultaneously serve as an elected Deacon and on Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC).

Finally, the Building Committee will make a presentation regarding the status of our current projects and finances.

*- Christopher Jenkins, Clerk*

*Roaming through the jungle of ‘oohs’ and ‘ahs’, searching for a more agreeable noise, I live a life of primitivity with the mind of a child and an unquenchable thirst for sharps and flats.*

*- Duke Ellington (1899-1975)*



*Pictured from front to back: Taylor Eloi, Jessica Kenney, Crickett Foss (Youth Advisor), JoJo Scharmer (Youth Advisor), Jaclyn Fulton, Jenna Stanley, Steve Trudeau (Youth Advisor) and Caitlin Dunn.*

Last weekend the **Junior Youth Group** went on retreat to Craigville and what a time we had! The remarks of our youth are as follows:

- *The trip was so much fun! I had a great time.*
- *It was an amazing trip and I had a lot of fun!*
- *Our trip was very fun and we all had a great time!*
- *Can we do this again next year?*
- *I want to stay all week!*
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And we did have an awesome time! The weekend was filled with activity, worship, devotions, eating, games, crafts, and did I say eating? Photos will be uploaded to our website soon—please take time to view them. They tell the whole story. Special thanks go to all our planners and leaders: Rita Masters, Cricket Foss, Steve Trudeau, Linda Dunn and JoJo Scharmer.

*- Submitted by JoJo Scharmer*

**TCC's celebration of *Youth Ministries Sunday* is just a few short weeks away on *Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>*. Teachers and students have been working very hard on their participation in the worship service. As always, there will be an all-church picnic in Fellowship Hall right after the service. Sign up forms will be included in the Sunday bulletin. By signing up ahead of time, you can help us in our planning process!**

#### ***A message from the Board of Deacons***

As summer approaches with the hint of warmer weather and smells of cut grass mixing with fragrant flowers, we start making our summer plans.

Want something to brag about to your friends on what you did over the summer? How about leading a worship service?

Pastor Jonathan will take his sabbatical leave starting July 2<sup>nd</sup> and return to the pulpit on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Deacons is in the process of requesting pulpit supply from TCC Lay Leaders and guest preachers. If you are spiritually moved through prayer to preach on a Sunday, contact either Julie Marotte (603-791-5801) or Bob Jenkins (978-459-1640).



### *A Possible Warming!*

We have about a quarter cord of perfectly seasoned black walnut logs, 3” to 8” in diameter, ready to be cut into firewood. It is just right for the *chiminea* on your porch or deck. The logs are free to the first one who requests them.

A donation to the yard sale for the Mexico Mission will be accepted. The yard sale proceeds buy beans, rice and oil for ‘dispensia’ bags and are given away. We want to distribute 50% more dispensia bags than we did during the last Mexico mission trip. The bags are not simply given away. We meet with each family, talk for a few minutes and share a prayer in both Spanish and English. It is a wonderful challenge for the mission team.

The yard sale is on-going at the home of the Carr’s during weekends.

The first to request the firewood receives it. Anyone can make a donation to the yard sale. They will both warm the spirit and the soul.

- Bob & Rita Masters, 978-452-4934



### **MULCHING**

Monday, May 21 at 6:30 PM

Last year we had a great turnout of volunteers to mulch the church grounds. This year I hope for the same! If you would like to help, please come to the church Monday evening and bring your gloves, shovels, etc. If you have any questions, contact Heather Richtsmeier at 978-988-9065.

### *An invitation...*

**Confirmation Breakfast Fund-Raiser  
Next Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> after worship.**

**The Confirmation class has invited the congregation to join them for breakfast after worship next Sunday. This is their annual fund-raising event to help pay for their retreat at Grotonwood.**

**Assisting the confirmands are their parents and mentors.**

**The students and their families will be cooking some great-tasting pancakes served with hot sausages, juice and a hot beverage.**

**Breakfast will take place in Fellowship Hall and a free-will offering will be taken.**

**Your support of this event will be greatly appreciated!**

**Vacation Bible School** registration is today in classroom #10 in the Educational Wing at 10:30am. The cost is \$25 for the first child and \$15 for each additional child. This year’s theme is *Avalanche Ranch – a wild ride through God’s World*. VBS will be held from July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am until noon at St. William’s School. Volunteers are needed. See Cathie Seaman today for registration information.

**Calendar of Events for the Week of May 20<sup>th</sup>**

Date	Event
<b>Today</b>	9:00 AM - Jr. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM – Hymn Sing <b>9:30 AM – Worship Service &amp; Sunday School</b> 10:30 AM – Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall) 10:30 AM – VBS Registration (Rm. 10) 10:45 AM – Cherub Choir Rehearsal (Rm. 10) <b>11:00 AM – Semi-Annual Meeting</b> 6:00 PM – Sr. High Youth Fellowship 6:30 PM – Jr. Youth Fellowship  <i>Scholarship applications due today!</i>
<b>Monday</b>	6:00 PM – Jubellation Ringer’s Rehearsal
<b>Wednesday</b>	12:30 PM – Prayer Circle (Parlor) 7:00 PM – Building Committee Meeting
<b>Thursday</b>	7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Rehearsal (Fairgrieve Rm.)

**Interfaith Choir  
Spring Concert  
tonight at 7:00 PM at  
St. William’s Church**

The Interfaith Choir meets during the year to rehearse at TCC and twice a year invites us to hear them sing.

At the end of the concert the audience is invited to participate with the choir on stage to all sing, *Let Their Be Peace on Earth*—a wonderful blend of voices in support of this hymn.

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



**Fairgrieve College Loan** – The church has a money available for a student loan through the Fairgrieve Trust. If you would like an application for a Fairgreve College loan, please call the church office (978-851-9411) and one will be mailed to you.

**FINANCIAL NEWS**

2007 thru May 13	Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
<b>Pledge</b>	<b>\$50,143</b>	<b>\$51,712</b>
<b>Identified</b>	<b>\$7,653</b>	<b>\$8,899</b>
<b>Rentals</b>	<b>\$24,840</b>	<b>\$21,335</b>
<b>All Other</b>	<b>\$5,762</b>	<b>\$5,687</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$88,397</b>	<b>\$87,633</b>

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