

Faith Notes

May 27, 2007

Found on our web site ... <http://www.tewksburycc.org>



The good book is always a book of travel; it is about a life's journey.
- H. M. Tomlinson

Dear Fellow Pilgrim,

The path of self respect grows out of our treatment of the poor.

Shame destroys self respect. The path of recovery and personal growth opens up when we face old shame and make room for love in our own hearts.

To serve the poor is to recognize this same challenge in the face of another... someone else also struggles as I do. I will not be a source of shame for that person either, we say!

So James sends us to the school of self respect by asking us to respect the poor in our midst. Don't show favoritism. Open your heart to the one who is least and last. Don't single out the high and mighty but ask all to renew their vision of God as the God of every soul, no matter their social position.

The ethical move of inclusion feels good to our soul and helps us feel that we are making progress in our own growth toward God's love.

Pastor Jonathan

The unfailing love of the Lord never ends. By His mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day.

- Lamentations 3:22-23

Notes from the Semi-Annual Meeting

Last Sunday the Church met for our **Semi-Annual Meeting**. We adopted the Annual Report in amended form to include the financial reports not previously submitted to the Clerk. Pastor Jonathan reported on the special Council meeting held on May 15th and asked attendees to share their joys and thoughts on church growth. We ratified the slate of nominees for committees, but there are still vacancies. If you feel called to serve, contact one of the current members of a committee that interests you and come to the All Boards & Committee Meetings (ABCs) on June 12th.

The Annual Report and officer slate will be posted on the website soon. A proposed bylaw amendment which would prohibit concurrent service as an elected Deacon and on Pastor-Parish Relations was referred jointly to those two committees for further study. The meeting concluded with a Building Committee presentation from Ed Henderson regarding the current status of projects and finances.

- Christopher Jenkins, Church Clerk

MISSION NEWS

Ask anyone who has served at **LTL**C recently and they will tell you how meaningful the evening was. We are hoping to continue the serving through the summer; hunger does not go away just because the weather is warm! So please see the bulletin board for sign ups. If you cannot be a server, perhaps you can donate some **ingredients** for the Brownie Bakers or contribute one of the 5 gallons of whole **milk** we bring with us. Maybe you could join the bakers as they combine the ingredients (including love which according to Colossians 3:14 “binds all things together”) and bake brownies that travel with us! Our next serving date is June 14th.

- JoJo Scharmer



Upcoming Mexico Mission Fund-Raising Event

Breakfast, Sunday, June 3rd after the worship service. Come and enjoy **breakfast burritos** and **pancakes** as the Mexico Mission Team cooks up a delicious breakfast for us. A free-will offering will be gladly accepted as the Mexico Mission Team rallies forth to earn money for their trip **October 6th through October 13th**. Their hope is to earn enough money to help defray their expenses and purchase rice, beans and oil to give to the residents from TCC members and friends.



How pretty do our church grounds look?

Heather Richtsmeier would like to thank the volunteers who helped mulch the church grounds on Monday evening.

Gardening needs this summer will include volunteers who may want to help remove spent blossoms from the daylilies, weeding and watering. Let Heather know if you can help. Thank you!

Junior Youth Group News

Submitted by JOJO Scharmer

Even though we went through a week of rain, sunshine was abundant Sunday evening as the Junior Youth Group decorated spring hats. **Yvonne Hall** and **Marilyn San Clemente** were on hand as instructors and helpers and the resulting works of art were beautiful to behold. We thank you both for spending the evening with us. Our youth are getting to know more of the congregation as volunteers offer their time participating in an activity or chaperoning an event with us. Do you have something fun that you would love to do one evening with us? We have only one more meeting left this year, but the summer break will offer you an opportunity to ponder this invitation. We would love to hear from you.

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 2nd and return to the pulpit on August 26th. 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).

Please join the **Andover Association** for a reception honoring the **Rev. Dr. Mike Penn-Strah** on **Monday, June 18th** at **6:30pm** at **West Parish Church in Andover**. Mike has served for the past five years as Associate Conference Minister for the Northeast Area, but recently announced his resignation to accept a similar call in CT where his wife Sarah is already a Pastor.

We want to thank Mike for his ministry to the UCC members and churches here and wish him well as he embarks on his new position. - *Christopher Jenkins, Andover Associate Scribe.*

June 10th is **Youth Celebration Sunday**. Following the worship service there is an **all-church picnic in Fellowship Hall**. We'd love to have as many people come as possible. **Hot dogs, chips and drinks** will be provided by members of the RE Board. We are looking for salads and finger-type desserts.

E-mail the church office if you are planning to come and let us know what you are bringing either a salad or dessert. Send your email to: secretary.tewskburycc@verizon.net

Happy Birthday!

This year we have the perfect opportunity to join fellow members of the United Church of Christ in a great birthday bash for our denomination. It was fifty years ago that the **Congregational-Christian Churches** and the **Evangelical-Reformed Churches** merged to form the UCC and the **biennial General Synod** will be the setting for this event. Even better for us, it is in Hartford, which being just a two-hour drive away is the closest General Synod will probably come to us for a long time. For just \$50.00 non-delegates can come to Hartford on Saturday, June 23rd, for a day-long celebration of the UCC's past, present, and future. There will be multiple simultaneous events throughout the day, such as workshops, speakers, worship, and family entertainment all over downtown Hartford. **'Synod in the City'** promises to be a fun and fulfilling day for all ages. To register and for more information, go to www.ucc.org. It would be great to have a large group from TCC!

- *Christopher Jenkins, Church Clerk*

Vacation Bible School registration will be held again on June 3rd in classroom #10 in the Educational Wing at **11:00am**. 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 30th through August 3rd 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 27th

Date	Event
Today	9:00 AM - Jr. Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM – Worship Service (<i>No Sunday School today. Childcare is available to babies and toddlers to age 3.</i>) 10:30 AM – Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall) 10:45 AM – Cherub Choir Rehearsal (Rm. 10) 11:00 AM – Confirmation Class Pancake Breakfast fund-raising event (Free-will offering.) 5:00 PM – ‘New Steps’ Contemporary Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Monday	<i>Office Closed – Memorial Day</i>
Wednesday	12:30 PM – Prayer Circle (Parlor)
Thursday	6:00 PM – ‘New Steps’ Planning Meeting 7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Rehearsal (Fairgrieve Rm.)

**‘New Steps’ Worship
 Sunday evening at
 5:00 PM – May 27th**

Sermon from the
Prophet Nehemiah.

Praise and worship
 music by Paul
 Costanzo

Leadership

Pastor Jonathan
 Paul Costanzo
 Bob Mulvey
 JOJO Scharmer
 Sue Trudeau
 Tricia Ronningen

FINANCIAL NEWS

2007 thru May 20	Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Pledge	\$52,850	\$54,495
Identified	\$8,098	\$9,418
Rentals	\$25,050	\$21,544
All Other	\$5,797	\$5,765
Total Revenues	\$91,794	\$91,223

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

Please mail newsletter information to secretary.tewksburycc@verizon.net