



## Faith notes!

### Notes From Your Missions Committee

**Baby Baskets** ~ Although this Sunday is the last official collection day for diapers, bottles, and onesies, Cathie Seaman will continue to collect baby blankets for *The Wish Project* of Lowell throughout the month of February. If you have blankets (or supplies that you forgot to bring this week), please contact Cathie at 978-640-0101.

**Dorcas' Kitchen** ~ Jean Metcalf and her cooking staff reunite this Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, to prepare delicious meals for our members in need of some TCC TLC. If you become aware of a TCC friend who is ill, homebound, or in need of a pick-me-up, please contact Louise Gearty (978-851-2590) or Roberta Kane (978-667-4923). They are our Delivery Coordinators and they will arrange for a meal to be delivered with love from TCC.

**Brownie Ingredients** ~ Our next baking date of February 11<sup>th</sup> is quickly approaching and our cupboards are bare. If you'd like to lend a helping hand to our brownie ministry to LTLC, then perhaps you'd like to donate a baking ingredient. Still needed are 4 dozen large eggs, 6 lbs. of unsalted butter, 3 cans of cocoa powder, 2 5lb. bags of sugar, 2 5lb. bags of flour, 3 bags of semi-sweet chocolate chips. If you'd like to donate an ingredient, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the Helping Hands bulletin board.

**Did you know?** TCC is co-sponsoring (with the Tewksbury Recycling Committee) a town-wide Mission Project! It's called **Zero Waste Day** and it will be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be inviting 7-10 charities to Tewksbury to collect *Used But Usable* items from our residents. It's a One Stop Reverse Shopping kind of day and is sure to provide TCC with wonderful visibility in the community. (Get those red shirts ready!) Short-term volunteer opportunities abound with this project. A brief info session, explaining all of the volunteer options, will be held at Beth McFadyen's house on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30-8:30pm. If you hope to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the Helping Hands bulletin board.

### *Notes on worship (from the pastor)*

*Upsetting expectations is the regular work of God's Spirit!  
The disconnect between how we see the world and how God sees it...  
this is what gives our Hebrew scripture such power this morning. God  
expresses a compassion for the proud and terrible city of Nineveh. God's  
mercy frustrates Jonah the prophet. He runs in the other direction and God  
follows hard after him seeking his attention. After all, if Jonah wants to be a  
prophet he needs to have the heart of God.*

*The will of God is a mysterious thing. But at its heart is the five letter  
word "grace". As a church we must live that grace filled vision. How do you  
spell "grace"... do you picture it as a hand of mercy at a soup kitchen, the  
instruction of a confirmand or young child, the building of an orphanage, the  
'open door' of faith questions and personal growth? It is many things. But  
the ministry of bringing the love of God to others is not optional to your heart  
and mine. Whenever we lose our focus God wants to bring us back, getting  
our attention in any way possible.*

*"Sing a New Song" is a strong theme in the psalms, especially the  
psalms just before Psalm 100. Today's opening hymn takes strong images  
from the psalms and marries them to a new melody full of energy and joy!*

The President tonight has a dream:--He was in a party of plain people, and, as it became known who he was, they began to comment on his appearance. One of them said: -- 'He is a very common looking man,' The President replied:-- 'The Lord prefers common-looking people. That is the reason He makes so many of them.'

- John Hay *Letters of John Hay and Extracts from Diary, Vol. 1, December 23, 1863.*

This is an exciting year for the **Town of Tewksbury** and the **Tewksbury Congregational Church** as both celebrate their **275<sup>th</sup> birthdays!** TCC will host some of the town-wide events. A sampling of what is happening is as follows:

- April 24<sup>th</sup> – Historical Exhibit at TCC. Parishioners are invited to submit any old photos or artifacts. Reception from 6:00 to 8:30pm. April 25<sup>th</sup>, exhibit continues.
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – Luncheon at TCC from 12:00 to 1:30pm . History hunt sponsored by the Historical Society departs from TCC. Will wrap up following the Hunt with refreshments at TCC.
- Zero Waste Day, May 16, cosponsored by our church
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Breakfast – Sponsored by TCC

If you can help, please call Mary Lou Adams at 978-851-5207. Volunteers needed to sit at the exhibits, provide baked goods and assist at the luncheon. A committee chair is needed for the July 4<sup>th</sup> breakfast at the Recreation Center.

As we plan a special worship service and luncheon for November we are forming a planning team for this important event. Please speak to the Pastor if you are interested.

**Today**

**Junior Choir**

9am, Fairgrieve Room

**Coffee Hour**

10:30am, Fellowship Hall

**Cherub Choir**

10:45am, Room 9

**Annual Church Meeting**

11:00am, Vestry

**Jubellation Ringers**

**Rehearsal**

11:00am, Fairgrieve Room

**Jr. Youth Group**

6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

**Interfaith Choir Rehearsal**

7:30pm, Fairgrieve Room

*Nest Sunday the Open Door Study begins again at 10:55, after worship.*

**DEACON'S CHICKEN PIE SUPPER**

**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall**

Purchase your tickets today for this annual event—home made biscuits, chicken and gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables and coleslaw followed by a delicious dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$8 for an individual, \$6 for seniors, and \$30 for a family of five (two adults and three or more children). Tickets can be purchased from any Deacon or from the church office.

**Monday**

**7:30 PM**

Carillon Ringers

**Wednesday**

**11:00 AM**

Prayer Circle

**Thursday**

**9:00 AM**

Dorcas Kitchen Cooking Day

**5:30 PM**

Admin Staff

**7:30 PM**

Sr. Choir Rehearsal



**TCC's Annual Church Meeting**

**Today at 11:00 AM**

**Vestry**

**(Quorum required.)**

The following will be discussed and voted upon:

- Minutes from previous meetings.
- Allocation of MetroPCS money
- Approval of the 2009 budget.

**In addition, there will be a report from Council regarding visioning and discernment. The Building Committee will provide us with a progress report.**

**Friday**

**7:00 PM – Men's**

**Group** at the home of Steve and Sue Trudeau, Tewksbury.

Come for refreshments and a chance to socialize.

*Were you aware...*

*...that our new confirmation class has been launched this month. Eight of our young people, each of them ninth graders, will meet with mentors and attend seven two-hour classes with pastor Jonathan and Bob Masters. They will do a mission project in the summer and go away on retreat early in the fall. Their work concludes with a special worship service and their confirmation of faith on Thanksgiving Sunday.*



**Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**

**6:30 PM**

**M&E Potluck Dinner**

This supper is for everyone to get to know our newer members and friends. Bring the children, bring yourself, and plan for a fun evening of games, good food, and fun!

*If it has snowed check WBZ or WHDH for a late opening of church or a closing.*