

Notes From Your Missions Committee

Blankets+ Sunday ~ For more years than anyone can seem to remember, our Congregation has offered a special collection to purchase \$5 blankets through Church World Service for people in need here in the US and abroad. If you wish to make an offering, please use the special Blankets+ envelopes found today in the pews. This year's goal is to purchase 175 blankets by collecting \$700. (But wouldn't it be great if we collected enough to buy 275 in honor of TCC's 275th Anniversary!)

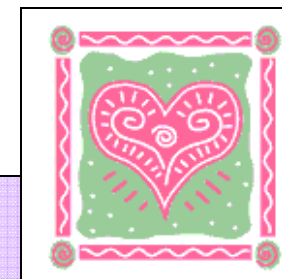
Brownie Ingredients ~ We're still in need of some key ingredients to bake 150 brownies for LTLC this Wednesday night. If you would like to contribute to this project, please add your name to the list on the Helping Hands bulletin board and drop off your ingredient in the kitchen before 7:00pm on Wednesday night. Contact Carol Sturtevant for more info.

LTLC ~ If you would like to serve dinner **today** or next **Thursday** evening (2/12), please meet in the TCC parking lot at 4:45 to carpool to the **Lowell Transitional Living Center**. Contact Cathie Seaman today if you would like more information or Jean Metcalf for Thursday's meal serve.

Prayer Partners ~ What's the next best thing to going to Mexico with the Mission Team? Becoming a **Prayer Partner!** We're seeking 24 people who would like to be matched with a Mexico Mission Team member in "prayer partnership." Prayer Partners will be invited to attend the **Team's Potluck** dinner on 4/2 where they will be given a devotions book so that they can pray for their Team Member while s/he is in Mexico from 4/18-25. If you are interested, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the Helping Hands bulletin board.

Zero Waste Day Info Session ~ Come one, come all... to the ZWD info session at Beth McFadyen's house on 2/23 from 7:30-8:30. We'll be brainstorming promotion ideas for the May 16th ZWD, co-sponsored by TCC and the Recycling Committee and held in the Tewksbury High School Parking Lot.

Faith notes!



Notes on worship (from the pastor)

'Waiting on God' is a deep way to nourish faith. It is often the only command that makes sense. We rush because we are afraid and because it makes more sense than doing 'nothing'. But to wait on God is to wait for the deeper knowledge, the better perspective, the warm assurance, the 'grounding' that lets you and me soar in flight, in spirit. "Waiting on God" is a way of finding the thermals, the warm up drafts, that power the eagles' flight.

So waiting puts us back in touch with spiritual basics. Not going 'solo' before we have tested our thoughts with those who are part of our spiritual community is one basic. Keeping short accounts whenever possible with those we love... being know-able to those we care about...this is another basic. Remembering gratitude and the constant presence of God: this is a third.

These three 'thermals' can make all the difference in flight. Thermals connect ground with sky and open up real movement, real change, real growth. Those who 'wait on the Lord' shall renew their strength, shall be lifted to new heights, shall move with God.



*We have only this moment,
sparkling like a star in our hand...
and melting like a snowflake. Let us
use it before it is too late.*

- Marie Beynon Ray

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The new spring Sunday School curriculum has arrived! Students will learn about *Easter and the First Christians*. Just a reminder, there is no Sunday School on February 15th, but regular classes will resume on Sunday, February 22nd. The week of February 15th is school vacation week!

LADIES AID – Don't forget to bring two dozen cookies when you come to Wednesday's meeting. Cookies will be boxed and delivered to some of our shut-ins.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE – Bring something to the meeting that is soothing to you; such as, a poem, music, whatever feeds your soul. A demonstration by Yvonne Hall on Tai chi is planned. (Tai chi is a self-paced system of gentle physical exercise and stretching.)

Today

Jr. Choir Rehearsal

9:00am

Worship & Sunday School

9:30am

Coffee Hour

10:30am, Fellowship Hall

Cherub Choir

10:45am, Room 9

Open Door Bible Study

10:55am, Room 10

Jubellation Ringers

11:00am, Fairgrieve Room
New Member Class

11:00am, Church Parlor

LTLC Meal Serve

4:45pm, Meet in Parking lot
to carpool to Lowell

Annual Reports

Just a quick reminder that **Annual Reports** are due **Saturday, February 14th**. Even though Christopher Jenkins has moved to Washington, DC., he is coordinating the annual reports via email. Once you have your report completed, please send it to him at Jenkins@gwu.edu.

Monday

7:30 PM

Carillon
Ringers

Tuesday

6:00 PM

Deacon's
Meeting

7:15 PM

ABC's

Wednesday

11:00 AM Prayer
Circle

12:00 Noon

Ladies Aid

6:30 PM

Mexico Devotions
Team Meeting

7:00 PM

Building Com.

7:00 PM

Brownie Baking

The Lenten Series in March and April will be on the **Parables of Jesus**. Since the word, parable is sometimes not understood, it also means 'likeness', a comparison of two objects for the purpose of teaching. While Jesus did not invent the parable, it is significant to know that He is the only one who used them in the New Testament. At one time it was the only method He used to teach to the masses as read in Matthew 13:10, *Then the disciples came and asked Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"*

Some parables you may be familiar with are: *The Mustard Seed* (Matthew 13:31-32), *The Good Samaritan* (Luke 10:30-37) and *The Lost Coin* (Luke 15:8-10).

Our Lenten series begins on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30pm with a light meal of soup and hearty bread followed by our study at 7:00pm.

Thursday

9:00 AM

Friendship Circle

4:45 PM

Meal Serve at LTLC

6:30 PM

Novice Ringers

Rehearsal

7:30 PM

Sr. Choir Rehearsal

Ash Wednesday

A solemn service to mark the beginning of Lent will be held in our sanctuary on February 25th at 7:00pm.

Prayer, scripture, meditation, and hymns will introduce us to the disciplines of preparation for God's presence.

You may receive ashes during this service if you wish.

Sabbath Devotions Saturday, February 14th from **5:00 to 5:30pm**. Come if you can. We meet in the church parlor.

BOOK GROUP

JoJo Scharmer has read an interesting book, *The Shack* by William P. Young. She would like to get together with TCC fellow-book readers at her home to discuss the book. If you are interested, please contact JoJo at 978-851-5298