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**Tewksbury
Congregational
Church**

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*April/May
Newsletter
Time-Sensitive Material*

Our 275th Anniversary...



Join in the Celebration Events

A Caring Community...

Pastor Jonathan

Receiving care from our church

My goal with pastoral care is to let you guide me about when you need support.

If you are aware of an upset in someone's life... or someone who is 'away from church'... encourage that person to take the right steps to be in touch with the church. The opportunity for your friend to hear of your care is the first step of helping us be a caring church. Sue Howard passes on to me everything she is becomes aware of. Talking to Sue is one easy step to reaching me.

From my side, I have a couple of deacons who are chosen to be a confidential sounding board for me on a monthly basis. They listen to my visitation patterns and ask me questions so that I can reflect on all the needs of the congregation. They also share what they know of needs and concerns in the church. I rely on this team to keep me on track in an area of my work that takes persistence and energy.

I also have a couple of 'norms'... one of these is that when I hear of surgery I will contact you to see what kind of support you would like, both before and after surgery. When you are hospitalized I have to be contacted because of the HIPPA laws around confidentiality. No one will contact me automatically.

A second norm is that I do not set myself up in an ongoing 'counseling' relationship with parishioners. I encourage parishioners with deeper needs to seek out trained professionals. But spiritual care is a key part of what I can offer... listening to your deeper concerns and offering observations and care that help you seek God's help in your life.

We are a caring church and we expect care to happen in many ways... friend to friend, with the board of deacons, in our caring work groups (like choir, men's group, Ladies Aid and so on). But there are times when you need pastoral care. For me to reach you, call the church office and Sue Howard, our secretary, will contact me quickly to be in touch with you. Please call me directly too, especially if it is an emergency. **My cell phone is my work phone (781-389-8247)**. Please place a back up call to my home phone if you need me to reach you within the hour (781-721-0290).

I am grateful for our caring church. Many many needs are met by our members. But please be in touch directly with me as you need pastoral support. I really look forward to hearing from you.

Tewksbury Congregational Church

April/May 2009

A Message from the Pastor

It has been a long, hard winter... but spring is now here!

We have seen some lovely miracles in our midst. When Bruce Panilaitis came back to church we were aware that God's healing can touch a life and see it through a long patch in intensive care.

On Sunday, March 22nd, we received work that our Council, Pastor Parish Committee and Board of Deacons had done. Our church chose the most constructive route possible to resolve some potentially divisive issue around pastoral leadership and that itself was again a miracle, a sign of God's presence among us.

The great miracle of this season is the return of Jesus from the jaws of death. This miracle belongs to all of us, even if we are struggling with an illness that is not resolving or a hurt that doesn't seem to go away. This miracle can give meaning to all of our victories and to all of our upsets and defeats.

Last night we started our Lenten study with a conversation about the "if only's" in our lives. We talked over the easy to share "if only's" and remembered that in this economy it is only too easy to lead an "if only" style of life... "if only I had seen this coming" "if only I could retire now" "if only my kids' education was paid for" "if only... if only..."

The resurrection of Jesus is a conviction that truly changes our lives. It takes the forces of death and says "no" to their power. Jesus was the ultimate 'victim' of the forces of ill will and hatred. There is no pain that we have experienced that he did not undergo. If you feel 'done to'... then Jesus was 'done to' in a degree that overwhelms the mind. His suffering challenges me and changes my life as I reflect on its power... and the love that gave him the strength to suffer death for me.

The resurrection is the great "no" of God's to anything that kills... to economic forces that are unfair, to social forces that focus on fear and prejudice, to the idols that we create of success and earthly power. Anything that says "you are not good enough... you are not beloved by God" is completely unraveled by God's incredible power in the resurrection.

So come to church not only on Easter Sunday but throughout this powerful Easter season. We are privileged to be people of promise, people filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit. To be filled with God's Spirit is to reflect on the wonder of the resurrection for us!

Warmly in Christian love, your pastor,

Jonathan

Update: Petitioners Concerns

- Pat Baldwin, Council Chair -

As you know, a group of petitioners has recently voiced their concerns about the quality of Pastor Jonathan's ministry as it impacts the growth and vitality of our congregation. The Board of Deacons, Church Council, and the Pastor Parish Relations committee (PPRC) have worked very hard during the past month to explore the nature of these concerns. These leadership groups have held separate meetings with the petitioners and Pastor Jonathan. Council and Deacons have begun to develop a working document that addresses the nature of the concern and provides a reasonable plan for achieving resolution. This article will address some of the highlights of our recent meetings.

The concerns raised are grouped in five categories: Visitation and Pastoral Care, Worship, Leadership, Interpersonal Communication and Dedication. Many of the concerns brought forth center around personal preferences in terms of sermon style that one prefers and enjoys, the type and amount of music during worship and the length and frequency of visitation. Some personal interactions between the Pastor and individuals have occurred in the past that were upsetting and have led to deep rooted anger on the part of the petitioner. Council, Deacons and Pastor Jonathan understand that these issues can only be resolved through in person one-on-one discussion seeking reconciliation by all involved parties. We have offered the presence of a member of PPRC or an outside mediator to facilitate these critically important conversations.

The Council and Board of Deacons have offered the following thoughts in conversation with the petitioning group and the pastor. This is a work in progress and will be worked on by Council and the Board of Deacons over these next weeks.

*In terms of **visitation**, concerns were voiced that visitation was not seen as a priority by Pastor Jonathan. The petitioners were also concerned that a selection of persons to visit is selective rather than inclusive. Deacons and Council think that a major underlying cause of these concerns is that individual church members are unsure of how to request a visitation. Members who would appreciate a pastoral visit need to contact either the church office at 978-851-9411 or contact Pastor Jonathan directly via his cell phone at 781-389-8247. Please note that Monday and Tuesday are the Pastor's days off. Do not hesitate to contact him on these days for emergencies.*

*Many of the concerns around **Worship** are matters for personal preference. How a sermon affects an individual on any given day is based on individual needs of the moment, personal experiences, interests, etc. The Pastor needs more personal feedback from the congregation concerning his preaching. Please let him know when you like or dislike a particular sermon. Pastor Jonathan needs our feedback in order to continue to improve his preaching. Deacons will continue to work with Pastor Jonathan on themes and approaches to preaching.*

***Leadership** is a shared responsibility of the Pastor, the committee and board members and the Congregation as a whole. The Pastor recognizes that growth is the #1 issue for TCC at this time and so he has become a member of the UCC's Church Vitality Commission. Church Council will explore trends in declining membership over the past five years.*

*In order to improve **Interpersonal Communication**, Pastor Jonathan's general office hours will be posted on the first floor near Fellowship Hall. Please call ahead to make an appointment. It's important to note that although Pastor Jonathan may not be physically present at coffee hour each Sunday, he is usually connecting with members either in the narthex, sanctuary or other parts of the building each Sunday morning.*

*In terms of **Dedication** to the job, a review of data for the past year shows that Pastor Jonathan has worked no fewer than 44 hours per week. The Deacons review and approve all of the Pastor's time off and his time off is congruent with his current covenant/contract. (Please turn to Pg. 5.)*

Helping God's People

--submitted by JOJO Scharmer--

Interfaith Forum on Homelessness

Last month, when Pastor Jonathan and I attended the Interfaith Forum on homelessness in Lowell, I could not help but be proud of the connections TCC already has with this social issue. I imagine there were people there who had never come in contact with homeless problems and/or solutions. At one point, when questions were being asked of an astute and knowledgeable panel, I wanted to jump up with the answers! My many years of experience in the field has created in me a continuing need and desire to help work on the solution, both short term and long term!

Rev. Liz Walker, the keynote speaker, related the social actions of elephants to us. When an elephant becomes injured and falls to the ground, other elephants come to its rescue and lift it and hold it up until it is able to stand on its own. This is what we are called, as God's people, to do with our sisters and brothers. What beauty and comfort and love are seen in the action of help, especially help when respect and dignity are employed!

Ask any member who has served at LTLC (Lowell's shelter for individuals) or any youth who has helped at Wish Project or boxed items for our military men and women serving our country how much they receive by giving!

Two months ago, each member of the Junior Youth Group was challenged to take \$10.00 (collected with donations to the pumpkin contest in October) and "grow it". At first, they suggested some exciting "self-centered" and fun-filled ideas; that is, until one small voice stated, "But, we are not helping anyone!" So, with re-newed conversation, the objective of the project evolved into growing the money to help God's people.

Here is a quick summary of what they accomplished!

- Names were removed from the Giving tree and gifts bought (over and above the requested amount)
- Food was purchased for the pantry (over 10 boxes!)
- Toiletries were purchased and bagged for SEVERAL residents in a homeless shelter
- \$235 was collected for the food pantry
- Winter Protocol items were purchased for LTLC (hats, scarves, gloves, toothbrushes, chap sticks, etc.)
- Cash was raised and given to The Wish Project
- \$145 was raised and donated to Kelly's Angels

It is a good thing to care as much for our neighbor as we do for ourselves. (Paraphrased from Luke 10) Amen!

(Continued from Pg. 4.) *Council and Deacons consider the Mexico Trip to be "work hours" as he represents TCC as our Pastor during this time.*

Council, Deacons, Pastor Jonathan and the petitioners are committed to working through this process in a way that feels fair and just to all. We are proud that we have all been and will continue to be respectful of each other during this process. It is our heartfelt hope that our efforts will result in a stronger and more vital church community.

If you would like to see a complete summary of the actions of the Council and BOD, please call the church office at 978-851-9411 and the church secretary will send out the materials that were shared at the all-church meeting on Sunday, March 22nd.

Junior Youth Group

By JOJO Scharmer



Junior Youth Group gives service...

Exuberant, enthusiastic, lively, high-spirited and eager to help others! Enjoying life, cheerfully participating with their community of peers, excitedly learning about their faith and willingly reaching out to others! Microsoft Word won't take these fragments, but I am using them to describe this year's JYG! Each group which passes through our youth program has a personality of its own! This year, I cannot help but think that this very special group is "getting it"! By getting it, I mean what God would like from us as helpers here on earth. We have and continue to do so, kept the poor, the lonely and the hungry as a focus this year.

Our fall project this year was to organize a church-wide collection of kitchen utensils. We delivered 12 complete sets of utensils (as well as many loose items) to The Wish Project in January. We also served as volunteers there as well as volunteered at the Chicken Pie supper.

We created Reindeer pins to donate to the church fair and to the residents of Blair House.

But I have to tell you about the most exciting project. The youth had a "pumpkin" carving contest (perhaps you generously donated to it) and from that sprang a greater idea on helping others. Each youth was given \$10 from the proceeds and has been challenged to "grow" that money and choose a charity as a recipient. Creativity and a loving heart was all that was needed for this project!! See the results on page 5.

Future plans will include making something joyful for our homebound friends, a pantry scavenger hunt (for our local food pantry), helping serve a meal to the homeless and making a dessert for a UMass/Lowell Campus Ministry service.

Working for Christ Jesus, here on earth
JOJO

Junior Youth Group has fun!...

What an exciting year this has been! We've been on a great spook walk, we had a taco dinner and gift exchange at Christmas time, and our meetings at the church have been great, too. However, even though we've already had lots of fun, there are some things coming up that you should know about.

We are going to the wish project in Lowell to help out, sorting and stocking the shelves. We helped with the chicken pie dinner. Also, we saw the play Godspell, and had an evening breakfast with a Biblical character. We are going to have a birthday party for all of us, and a spring retreat.

Blessings to all,
Joshua Kenney
Jr. Youth Fellowship

Senior Youth Group

-Submitted by Stephen Trudeau and Annmarie Baldwin, SYG Advisors-

Military Friends Care Package Drive

During the month of February, the Senior High Youth Group (SYG) at TCC sponsored a 'Care Package Drive' whereby all the soldiers listed on our *Prayer Page* received a care package. At a recent youth group meeting, we had the pleasure of sorting all the items that were so graciously donated by members and friends of TCC. Once sorted, each member of the SYG selected a specific soldier and filled a box for him/her. A personal note was included to let the soldier know who was shipping the box and letting them know they were being thought of.

The Care Packages were shipped, and it didn't matter where the soldier was stationed, here in the United States or deployed elsewhere in the world. Thanks to all who donated items for this drive!

- Stephen Trudeau and Annmarie Baldwin

Ladies Aid

Members of the **Ladies Aid** will meet for lunch on **Wednesday, April 8th** at noon.. **Mavis Willegal** a local artist who has worked in oils, watercolor and acrylic mediums will demonstrate painting on candles. Mavis has been a professional artist since 1983 and has been chairperson of the Tewksbury Community of Artists for the past eight years. She has also organized the annual Art Festival in Tewksbury for the past 13 years. Mavis studied art at the Miami Dade Community College, and she teaches in the Tewksbury area.

Marilyn SanClemente is the guest speaker at the **May 12th** meeting of the Ladies Aid. Marilyn is a talented designer of greeting cards, invitations and announcements. She is actively involved at TCC sometimes filling in as a substitute Sunday School teacher, and along with **Jean Metcalf**, coordinates crafting projects for Holiday Friends.

Members of the Ladies Aid meet the second Wednesday of the month in the Vestry. If you would like more information about the April or May meetings, please call **Eleanor Corey** at 978-851-2773.

Friendship Circle

Members of Friendship Circle are having a busy year. A successful 'Progressive Supper' was held in March with lots of great-tasting food and an evening of fun and fellowship. Opening their homes for this event were the Hall's where appetizers were served; next a short drive to the home of the Metcalf's where soup and salad were served and then onto the home of Dave and Marilyn SanClemente for an array of desserts (mostly chocolate, Marilyn said!). Upcoming events will include delivery of Easter baskets to our shut-ins, an outing on May 14th and finally a trip to the unique *Tower Hill Botanic Garden*, Boylston, MA on June 11th at which time, the roses should be in bloom.

Friendship Circle is open to all women at TCC. Meetings are scheduled the second Thursday of the month at 9:00am in the church Vestry. If trips are planned, meeting times may vary but often members meet in the church parking lot to carpool to various events. For more information, please contact Sarah SanClemente at 978-667-9771.

Membership and Enlistment

-Submitted by Ed Spezzano-

Membership & Enlistment

Membership & Enlistment (M&E) is looking for folks to become members of this committee. We have set goals and objectives that will make this an exciting team to join.

Our Mission Statement: To grow our active membership and enhance the visibility of TCC within the area, to celebrate our current members, identify their needs and to foster our community of caring and commitment.

If you are interested in becoming a member of M&E for the coming year, please contact **Jim Carr** at 978-851-0174.

Long-Time Members

On Sunday, March 29th, during the worship service, we recognized the following 40+ more years of membership:

- **Charles Whittemore**, 45 years.
- **Patricia Whittemore**, 45 years.
- **Margaret (Peggy) Booth**, 51 years.
- **Barbara Cook**, 51 years.
- **Natalie Thistle**, 60 years.
- **Muriel McGowan**, 61 years.
- **Ella Thomas**, 71 years.
- **Gladys Collins**, 71 years.
- **Elizabeth (Grace) Patterson**, 75 years.

What a wonderful opportunity to say thank you for your dedication and prayerful support of this church.

M&E Reminders

We need greeters! Sign-up sheets are available during coffee hour. Only requirement is that you come to church 15 minutes early to welcome TCC's members and friends as they enter the sanctuary. If you have not greeted in a while or have never greeted, please think about signing up for this volunteer opportunity. You don't have to do it every Sunday, choose a Sunday of your choice. This is a great way to meet people and to renew acquaintances.

Don't forget to sign the *Friendship Pads* on Sunday mornings.

Please keep the members of the **Mexico Mission Team** in your prayers. They leave for their trip on Saturday, April 18th and will return on Saturday, April 25th. Fifteen adults and 10 youth are planning to work with Harvest Hands Ministries continuing construction of an orphanage in Juarez, Mexico. In addition, they will conduct Vacation Bible School to over 100 children. Enough money was earned from the *Silvertones* event to purchase a large quantity of rice and beans that will be distributed within the community.

Notes from the Church Office ...

-Submitted by Sue Howard-

This year's winter has been one for the books. A record snowfall, 70", I believe, and driving on snow and icy roads was often difficult. Melting ice backed up under the shingles over my picture window and water leaked into my home and onto the living room floor. I didn't see the puddle until my dog, Chelsea, began to lick the floor. As I write, the calendar reads that spring began on March 20th. When I look outside from my office window at the *Friendship Garden*, I see signs that spring has arrived but winter continues to have a firm grip.

I'm not bemoaning winter, trust me, I love it at times when I see the first snowflakes and hear the anticipation of Christmas in the voices of children attending Green Meadows School. Our church is decorated for the holidays by volunteers and is very festive. Working in the church office, I have the opportunity to find pleasure in the sacred days as no one in industry can. There is so much beauty in the sanctuary during the four seasons as I look out the windows at the trees and see—bare branches in winter, a slight tinge of green in early spring and a riot of color in autumn. Donna Haines took a photograph this past fall that framed the large maple tree in the parking lot within the circular window at the top of the stairs. It is a photograph filled with light, color and nature's beauty.

Constantly I am reminded of God's spirit in this church—when I hear happy voices from the ladies preparing meals for Dorcas's Kitchen, when I see a member drop off a homemade blanket for one of the collections sponsored by the Missions Committee or see a Sunday School teacher come into the office to sit with Rita and review a Sunday School lesson.

Not wanting to push the calendar ahead, but in anticipation, I am looking forward to the second Sunday in June where I will enjoy two and a half days with many church secretaries from Massachusetts. Susan Dickerman, Associate Conference Minister for Leadership Development, is our keynote speaker. It is because of this congregation that I am able to attend this event, and it is a wonderful opportunity for me to be in the presence of so many dedicated secretaries. So, I am glad that winter is over, that spring has officially started as I look forward to my participation at the 41st annual Church Secretaries Conference—five days before the start of summer. Thank you!

Incoming Mail...

From Pam and Harold Bussey

We would like to thank the members and friends of our church family for the care and concern shown to us after the death of our daughter, Holly. The many cards, gifts of food, and telephone calls helped as we work to overcome our sorrow after Holly's untimely death. Words cannot express how grateful we are for your love and support during this time.

From Gordon Bryant

"To our church family:

I am writing to thank you for all that you have done for me. I wish I could thank you all personally. I hope to come to church for Easter and hope to get a chance to thank you then.

- Sincerely, Gordon Bryant"

From Pat Baldwin

Thank you for the cards, visits, wonderful meals that we provided to me and my family at the loss of my mother. We appreciate the many acts of kindness shown to us by our TCC family and friends.

Sunday School Happenings

- Rita Masters, DRE -



Missions

Students in the Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School classes filled over 90 bags with donated toiletries for distribution by the Missions Committee. They also made Valentines for the volunteers to deliver along with brownies to those in need in Lowell.

Students in the combined Grades 2 and 3 each made a Valentine for Florinda, their TCC sponsored student in Guatemala. The students are putting together Easter bags filled with candy and these will be given to the people who participate in the Easter Sunday meal at the Lowell Transitional Living Center.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday stoles, a tradition with the third-grade Sunday School class, will be designed by the students and worn by them when they hand out palms to parishioners as they enter the sanctuary for worship on Palm Sunday, April 5th.

Students in Grade 5 designed and made a large felt banner as part of their Sunday School lesson on baptism. It is hanging in the hallway by their classroom. When you get a chance, walk through the Education Wing to see the many colorful banners and decorative bulletin board.

There is still time to donate to **TCC's Scholarship Fund**. A church family is willing to match 50-cents for every dollar raised. Students don't forget to complete a scholarship application. Deadline for applications is May 17th. Applications are located outside the church office

Children's Choir Festival



Missions



We need your help...
Zero Waste Day (ZWD)
Saturday, May 16th 9am-1pm

As we prepare for our biggest community service project EVER, opportunities to volunteer are springing up all around us. If you can assist on Zero Waste Day – in any capacity – please contact Beth McFadyen and you can determine the job that is best for you.

In the meantime, please help us to SPREAD THE WORD. Our web pages are up and running on www.tewksburycc.org and you are invited to send email messages to all of your Tewksbury friends, family, and neighbors. This event will only be publicized in Tewksbury, but non-Tewksbury residents are welcome to participate.

At this time, eleven charities have confirmed their participation in ZWD. They will be bringing vehicles that range in size from minivans to tractor trailers (but mostly box trucks) to accept “Used But Usable” donations including clothing, shoes, furniture, household goods, baby supplies, decorative items, building materials, and even pet supplies. We are also fortunate to have the Big Brother Big Sister Foundation accepting recycled electronics for a nominal fee (much less than the standard disposal fees) with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Tewksbury 4th of July Fireworks Fund. Average-sized televisions will cost \$10, appliances will cost \$5, and all other items (including computer monitors) will cost \$3.

Please join our brigade of red t-shirt wearing members as we offer this wonderful service to Tewksbury residents AND we help to share these life-changing donations with our neighbors in need.



May we borrow your Quik Shade Canopy?

Zero Waste Day is a rain or shine event, so we’re hoping to be prepared for a downpour or for bright sunshine with as many portable Quik Shades as possible. If you have one that you are willing to loan for the day, please contact Beth at 978-851-4867.

Mission Project Results (February and March)

- \$636.70 disbursed to retired clergy through the Veterans of the Cross Christmas Eve collection
- \$1080 disbursed to Place of Promise, a Christian non-profit residential program in Lowell, as a result of our Advent offering
- 90 Toiletry Kits created in February and delivered to LTLC in March
- \$645 raised for Church World Service’s Blanket+ Program, resulting in 129 blankets purchased on behalf of TCC
- 10 Baby Kits created in Jan/Feb and delivered to The Wish Project in March
- 18 Care Packages created and ready to be shipped to TCC soldiers in time for the Easter holiday (Thank You Sr. High Youth Fellowship!)
- Lots of meals delivered to TCC members through the Dorcas’ Kitchen program
- Many bags of food collected and delivered to the Tewksbury Community Pantry
- Dinner served and brownies baked for LTLC in February and March

More Missions →

Missions

-continued-

Upcoming Projects and Events

Heifer Project ~ April 5th thru May 10th

This year's Heifer campaign begins on Sunday April 5th with a letter and coin bank being distributed to our church school children. (You may also notice something special on the front lawn that day.) We will continue our tradition of offering Mother's Day cards with a free will offering to Heifer. Unlike previous years, we will not be taking orders, but we will instead have cards in-stock and ready for you to take on the two Sundays before Mother's Day ~ 4/26 and 5/3. The Missions Committee warmly thanks Jim Kenney who prints these cards for us each year. The program will conclude on Mother's Day, with a special worship offering being made to Heifer, although you are welcome to contribute at any time during the 5 week program. Our goal this year is to purchase four heifers at a cost of \$500 each. With your help, the story of *Faith the Cow* will live on for years to come.



Church World Service Depot ~ Saturday, May 9

TCC has volunteered to be a Kit Depot, which means that more than a dozen local churches and civic organizations are expected to deliver their school, clean-up, hygiene (and more) kits to Fellowship Hall on 5/9 with anticipated pick-up by the CWS truck during the week of 5/10. **Jean Carr** needs assistance from 10-12 and 12-2 on 5/9, accepting kits and completing paperwork. Additionally, she would love help loading the CWS truck one morning during the week of 5/10 (TBD), so if you are generally free and able to lift boxes, please contact Jean at 978-851-0174.

Postal Carrier Food Drive ~ Saturday, May 9th

We're becoming regulars at the Pantry two times each year as we help to sort and stack donations left in mailboxes and brought to the pantry by Tewksbury Postal Carriers. If you would like to offer your assistance, please join us from 2-4 or 4-6 on 5/9 at the Pantry on Whipple Road. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Helping Hands bulletin board.



Pentecost Sunday

On Sunday, May 31st, wear your red Mission/Outreach t-shirt in honor of Pentecost Sunday and in celebration of service.

Get on those walking shoes

Walk for Hunger - Sunday, May 2nd

Hike for Humanity - Saturday, May 30th



Join **Jessica Kenney** and her TCC team as they walk 20 miles in the 41st annual **Walk for Hunger** to support **Project Bread**. The walk starts and stops on Boston Common. If 20 miles may be too much for you, perhaps you'd consider sponsoring the team (name: TCC) at www.projectbread.org.

Join **Steve Trudeau** and his TCC team as they hike 3 miles to the top of Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey, NH. Or, if you are not a hiker but would like to support Habitat for Humanity, please consider making a pledge to our TCC Team at www.takeahikeforhumanity.org. For more info, contact Jess directly:

Email: seveneightn9ne@gmail.com

Phone: 978-851-5001 For more info, contact Steve directly:

Email: trudeaufamily3@verizon.net

Phone: 978-640-9716

More Missions →

Missions

-continued-

Missions Committee Ongoing Project Updates:

LTLC Meal Serving Dates: Thursday, April 9th, Sunday, April 12th (**EASTER SUNDAY**), Sunday, May 10th (**MOTHER'S DAY**) and Thursday, May 14th. Meet in the TCC parking lot at 4:45 to carpool. Contact **Cathie Seaman** (Sunday) or **Jean Metcalf** (Thursday) for info.

Brownie Baking for LTLC: Wednesday, April 8th, and Wednesday, May 13th in the TCC Kitchen from 7:00-9:00. If you cannot bake, perhaps you'd like to donate ingredients? Sign-up sheets are located on the Helping Hands Bulletin Board.

Dorcas' Kitchen ~ Do you know a member who needs a bit of TLC from TCC? Contact **Roberta Kane** at 978-667-4923 or **Louise Gearty** at 978-851-2590 and they will coordinate the delivery of a tasty meal with love from our church family. Thank you to **Jean Metcalf** and her cooking crew who will prepare more meals in May!

Psalm 91 Bandana Project ~ TCC is spreading God's Word to our service men and women through distribution of bandanas inscribed with Psalm 91 (the soldiers prayer). If you wish to have a bandana sent to a loved one on behalf of our Congregation, please contact **JoJo Scharmer** at jojo19@comcast.net.

Toiletry Collection ~ Thank you for your continued donations of travel-sized toiletries (from your business and vacation travel). **Ben and Laura Holmes** hope to assemble more toiletry kits in June, with the assistance of our Sunday School kids.

Food Pantry Collection ~ April's theme is "springtime food that feels yummy" and May's theme is "Mom's favorite foods" but you are welcome to donate any kind of non-perishable food item at any time. Please remember: No glass bottles, no expired foods (as it is illegal for the Pantry to distribute expired products and then they must pay for disposal), and no items in cellophane bags (like pastas) as they damage easily.

A Message to our Mexico Mission Team

The Missions Committee, your 24 Prayer Partners, and the entire Congregation offer our love and support as you travel to Mexico on April 18-25 to spread God's word and minister to God's people. We are proud of you and honored that you will be representing our church family from across the miles. Blessings to all for safe travel and for an experience that will live inside of you for all your days to come. **Vaya Con Dios (Go with God!)**

Correspondence from Peterson Tanis, our Sponsored Student from Haiti

This thank you note from Peterson was received in response to the holiday gift that TCC sent through New Missions' Shoebox Program. Warm thanks to **Taylor Eloi** for gathering the gifts to include in that small package.



Translated from French into English:

"Hello. I'm always happy to write you this letter. How are you doing? Thank you for the gift you sent. Thank you for the calculator, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, t-shirt, pens, candies, markers, marbles, and many things else. I'm very excited to receive all the gifts that you sent. I like all and my favorite thing is the toothpaste. Thank you for all and I pray for God to keep you safe. Your son, Peterson Tanis."

275th Anniversary Celebration Events

Coordinators from TCC are **Mary Lou Adams** and **Gail Bliss**.

If you can help in any way, such as baking, serving, cleaning, please contact either Mary Lou or Gail.

Tewksbury History Exhibit - April 24th, 25th, and 26th

Our church will host a **Tewksbury History Exhibit** from April 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2009.

Exhibit hours:

April 24: 6:30- 8:30pm

April 25: Noon – 3:00pm

April 26: Noon – 3:00pm

Social

The exhibit will open with a social from 6:30-8:30 pm on Friday, April 24th.

Luncheon

Our church will have a luncheon from 12:noon to 1:30pm on April 26th, which is open to the community.

History Hunt

A 275th **History Hunt** will launch from TCC on April 26th at 1:30pm. Teams will take a zone in Tewksbury to see if they can find examples from the 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st Centuries of Tewksbury's history.

4th of July Breakfast

TCC is sponsoring a **4th of July** breakfast and is involved in planning

Tewksbury's Charter Day - December 23rd

TCC is is involved in planning Tewksbury's Charter Day events on December 23rd.