

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

50 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

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THE VOICE

*We seek to be a church of the open mind, the warm heart,
the aspiring soul and a vision for God's world.*

A monthly newsletter

January, 2018

Outreach & Missions	Women's Fellowship	One Plus One	Jack & Jill	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Women's Spirituality Group	Admin Committee	Birthdays	Music & Dance	Calendar
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MINISTER'S MUSE

January is the season of Epiphany; the Magi follow the star to the birth place of greatness. On the way they are nearly co-opted by Herod's tyrannical schemes. Finally they find what they were looking for at a place no one would have expected any greatness at all- an infant born of a peasant family. No wonder when someone says they have had a breakthrough insight they say that they have had an epiphany.

We in the North know all about this on an instinctive level. January is a cold, dark month with little in the way of festive light. We each have to look for our own light in a way that requires imagination, insight and action.

My friend and contemplative prayer teacher Ethel Fraga writes,

Out of
December darkness ...
Starlight!



This haiku is a reminder to me that sometimes we are called to look at the world from a different perspective.

Think of church this month as a fresh perspective on things. Instead of succumbing to the darkness and cold out there, open yourself to the starlight of the Holy Spirit as we together open ourselves to the light of God.

Yours in Christ, *Reverend Vern Wright*

LITURGICAL THEMES

JANUARY 7TH

Communion Sunday
Baptism of Christ

Scripture: Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: "Seeking Higher Ground"

This Sunday we will be learning about Christ's baptism. We will also be renewing our own baptismal vows as we

invoke the higher ground upon which we stand.

JANUARY 14TH

Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:11-20

Sermon: "What Does God See in You?"

Nathanael was merely hanging out under a fig tree. Samuel was just lying

on the temple floor. Only God sees what greater things will come with these servants. Indeed, God searches us and knows us better than we know ourselves. Each of us has the opportunity, like Martin Luther King Jr. to be nudged into our true greatness.

JANUARY 21ST

Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5

Sermon: "How to Find Your Way When Feeling Lost"

Jonah is the reluctant prophet. We are all reluctant prophets. How do we open ourselves even further to God's still speaking Grace?

JANUARY 28TH

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

Sermon: "In Search of the 'Wholy'"

In the midst of struggle, disease and affliction, we learn that we are made in God's image and God sees us whole and good. Let's celebrate God in our midst through opportunities of wholeness and justice.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Contact any Deacon if you are interested in being a liturgist or usher Sunday. We'd love to have your help. Call Ralph Giannetti at 508-226-4618 and let him know if you need a lift.

Behavioral Covenant

*Adopted by Second Church in 2003
Under the Walking in the Way project*

We will treat each other with **love of Christ**.

We will **listen carefully** to another person, without interrupting.

We will recognize and **respect opinions different than our own**, listening to understand, but not necessarily agreeing.

We will **be truthful and direct** in our communications, speaking respectfully with candor about **our own feelings and thoughts, not those of another**.

We will **intentionally affirm the positive** in communicating with one another.

We will agree on a process and, in covenant, we will all work together as the Body of Christ to use the process to work toward an outcome, implementing our conclusions with action.

We will have the courage to bring up the concerns we have directly or with the help of another person, so that the issues can be dealt with swiftly.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Stewardship drive is still short of our goal, which is an essential part of our budget for the coming year. If you have not yet done so, please send your pledge to the church office by mail or email as soon as you can.

Glenn Weidner, Stewardship Chairman

2017 PLEDGE RECEIPTS

Pledge receipts are below budget projections for 2017. Along with the untimely loss of some of our dear members and friends, some of us have fallen behind on our pledges. We encourage you to please look at your pledge giving this year and get back on track if you are behind.

We would also encourage everyone to consider using online banking resources that almost all banks now provide their customers so you can make automatic contributions to the Church. By so doing, you can schedule the sending of a check to the Church office and ensure an even flow of donations during the year. In most cases, the only information you will need is the amount to be sent, the frequency of payments (monthly or weekly), and the Church's address.

Finally, we will also be providing additional ways to give monies online to support our ministries in the near future.

2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have generously pledged your support to our Church for 2018. We are currently short of our goal of \$165,000 set to allow us to maintain our current level of ministry, outreach, and missions. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please do so by returning the pledge card previously sent to you or obtain one in the Church office and mail it to the address below or place it in the collection plate in the coming weeks:

Second Congregational Church
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

ATTN: Assistant Treasurer

Additionally, you can submit your pledge by email to Glenn Weidner, chairperson of the Stewardship Campaign, at grweid@cs.com. Thanks for your continued support of our wonderful ministries and Second Church's place in our community.

DID YOU KNOW?

Amazon.com shoppers can help raise funds for Second Church by using Amazon Smile and designating Second Congregational Church of Attleboro as your charity to receive donations. By so doing, The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to the Church. A direct link to the Church's page can be found below where you can log on using your Amazon sign-in information. At that page, you can also learn more about the Amazon Smile program by selecting the link "Learn more about Amazon Smile."

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-2137237>

Colin Blair

on behalf of the Administration Committee

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship will meet on January 14th at 11:15 in the Ladies' Parlor. It's time to start planning the May Breakfast and the Indoor Yard Sale. All women of the church are invited.

ONE PLUS ONE

One Plus One is a group of adults who meet to share Christian fellowship. It is open to all members and friends of the congregation and is a great way to get to know new people and catch up with old friends.

On Saturday, January 20th at 6 pm, we will meet at Sandy and Fred Saunders home at 392 Elmwood Street, North Attleborough, for our post-Holiday party where we kick back, relax and tell tall tales after a year of doing good deeds. Please let us know when we call if you would like to bring appetizer, salad, dessert or what have you.

If you would like to join with us next month or any month, contact me or the church office so we can add you to our call list. Currently we are planning for a play in late February/early March, another play in the spring, a cook-out in June, and other possibilities to gather in fellowship. So get out of the house on a Saturday night and come celebrate with us!

Colin Blair, colincb@aol.com

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The Women's Spirituality Group will meet on January 15th at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room.

The topic will be determined based on what the group decides to do but it will be focused around learning the Bible.

For those of you that are wondering what the group is all about let me tell you..... We are a diverse group of women of all ages. We are the person that you say good morning to at church but have never actually taken the time to sit down and talk to. We are a group of women that like to laugh and share our hopes and prayers. We have had some very good times together but we have also had some very sad times together. We all stood together for support and guidance. We consider each other family now not just friends. What is said in the meetings stays in the meetings!

We would love all the women of the church to visit at least once to see how much fun we are having.

Please contact Debbie Parziale at 508-813-6688 or dparziale10@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like a ride.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The PSM will meet on Monday, January 11th at 12:30 in the Ladies' Parlor. Shawls continue to be of tremendous comfort to individuals experiencing a loss, illness or other traumatic event in their lives. New members are always welcome. We will teach you the ropes. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Roberta Ferguson

MUSIC NOTES

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the musicians and dancers who were part of our annual Christmas Music Sunday: The Hand Bell Choir, the Adult Choir, the Children's Choir and their director Cathy Gianetti, and the Intergenerational Liturgical Dance group and their director Diane Osborne. There were weeks and months of time, energy, effort, and commitment that went into the preparation for the service on December 17th, and many people were multi-tasking. I'm exceedingly grateful!

CHOIR SCHEDULES

The Adult Choir and Bell Choir will rehearse on January 4th and 25th. There will be no rehearsals on January 11th and 18th.

The Adult Choir will sing on December 31st, and January 7th, 21st, and 28th. The Choir will not sing on January 14th.

Bill MacPherson

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE



Many thanks to all who participated in the Hanging of the Greens and Long Ago, Prophets Knew. It was really special to be able to contribute these pieces to our Advent worship. We will take a break from Saturday rehearsals in January but if you would like to join us in February please let me know. All are welcome!

Diane Osborne

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The Food Pantry distributed bags of food to 19 families on December 18th. As always, please remember the food pantry when you shop for groceries. The next distribution is January 22nd (fourth Monday of the month) 4-6 p.m. Spaghetti sauce, canned Ravioli and Beef-A-Roni, dry cereals (especially children's), rice, real fruit juices, tuna, peanut butter, hearty soups, toiletries, detergent, and bathroom tissue are always welcome. The drop-off site is in the Ladies Parlor with the Deacons each Sunday. Contact: Betsey Pray, rlpbpp@verizon.net.

Outreach & Missions made a number of donations last month. Thanks to your generosity, we sent \$1,500 to Global Giving for hurricane relief. They distribute these resources to carefully vetted local agencies in the affected areas, including Puerto Rico. In addition, we donated \$500 to an active food pantry in the Florida Keys. Lest you think we forgot Texas, that area received the

hygiene and school kits we prepared in the spring. We also assembled ten Emergency Cleanup kits for Church World Services, whose warehouse was practically bare after sending their inventory to Texas. We paid out about \$4,500 to worthy charities, mostly local, to close out our spending for the year.

The Holiday Mitten Tree is in the Narthex until January 28th. We have a need for adult gloves, mittens, scarves and hats. In addition, beside the Mitten Tree is a collection box for Senior Shut-In Kits. The following items are requested: #10 easy close envelopes, a book of "forever" postage stamps, mints such as Altoids, crossword puzzle or Sudoku books and jigsaw puzzles. Please deliver your kits in large zip-lock bags. Shopping lists are available beside the collection box. Contact Janet Blair at janbblair@aol.com with any questions. Thank you!

Christmas meal bags were assembled on December 17th for distribution during the following week.

A new project for O&M is the knitting of Swaddle Cozy Cocoon for the World Vision Knit for Kids. A pattern is available from Janet at the email address above or by contacting the church office.

The next Family Café will be **Wednesday, January 10th** in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers to set-up, prepare food, serve beverages, greet, work with children, clear tables, break down tables & chairs, or wash pots & pans are needed anytime between 4-6 p.m.

As the calendar year draws to a close, I want to thank my very hard-working committee for a heroic job this year. Derek Hall, Janet Blair, Keith Priesing, Ben Macomber and Kat Wright really deserve our appreciation.

The next Outreach & Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for

Sunday, January 7th at 11:15 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor.

Charlie Oliver, for the committee

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes are ready for pickup at Coffee Hour or in the office. Be advised that those who had envelope numbers above 150 in 2017 will be getting a new number for 2018. As fewer people are using envelopes we must reduce the range of numbers to minimize waste. The number of your envelope does not affect the proper accounting of your contributions which is tied to your name, not the number. If you have questions please speak with Susan Brown or Fred Saunders in the office. Also let us know if you would like a set of envelopes for the new year and you don't find a set when you look.



Happy New Year! The winter holidays gave us some time for rest and relaxation. We are re-energized and gearing up for a fun and educational year at Jack and Jill Pre-School!

Saturday, January 20th is the date for this year's open house. We are expecting many new families between 9:30 and 11:30 who will tour our school and register for the 2018-2019 academic year. The teachers will be available to speak with incoming families, and members of our Board of Directors will be on hand to keep the children entertained and assist with the traffic flow!

Registration for current families and church members begins on Monday, January 8th. If you would like a tour of the program, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

I want to extend an invitation to the congregation to come and visit our program. I would love to show you the amazing things we are doing here. The

space you provide for us opens up a world of possibilities for the young children and families of the Attleboro area. We are very grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of the early years of these children's education.

In the New Year, our 4/5 year old classes will begin working more in depth on pre-kindergarten skills such as writing lower case letters, attending for longer periods of time, and being required to complete specific projects that we call "have to's." The children and parents will be attending their open houses and Kindergarten screenings. A very exciting time for our friends!

Our 70 Acts of Kindness initiative is going strong. Our community has made homemade cards to be delivered to patients at Sturdy over Thanksgiving, run a clothing drive and book drive over the months of November and December. Not to mention all of the other little acts we are working on, on a weekly basis.

We are seeking names and addresses of individuals who may wish to participate in our 70th Anniversary planning and celebration! The celebration will be held on Saturday, June 23rd but we are in the planning stages now!

As always, if you know of anyone looking for a pre-school please encourage them to call me, 508-222-1149, or email me at jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org.

Thank you for your continued support!.

Warmly, Kara Lehane



January Birthdays

- | | |
|----|--|
| 4 | Katie Cormier
Ralph Howard |
| 8 | Marty Beck |
| 9 | Cathy Giannetti
Rosemary Kukla
William Small |
| 10 | Ashlyn Salisbury |
| 11 | Anna Beck |
| 19 | Chloe Iocco
Alan Smith
Jeffrey West |
| 20 | Amanda Lindley
Susan Trisoline |
| 21 | Ed McCarthy
Charlie Oliver |
| 22 | Don Haskel
Ruthie Withers |
| 25 | Therese LaPorte |
| 26 | Adam Hauerwas
Angie Vecchioli |
| 29 | Colin Blair |

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 8

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>New Years Day - Office is Closed</i>	2	3 6:00 PM Cub Scouts w/ Derby Car Cutting	4 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	5	6 <i>Epiphany</i>
7 10:00 AM Worship / Communion 11:15 AM Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting Music Committee Meeting	8 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Deacons' Meeting 7:00 PM In-Care Committee Meeting	9 7:00 PM Marketing Committee Meeting	10 5:30 PM Food & Friends Family Café 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	11 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 12:00 PM Advent Study Group	12	13
14 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Women's Fellowship Meeting Christian Education Committee Meeting	15 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Group Potluck Facilities Committee Meeting	16 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	17 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	18	19	20 9:30 AM Jack & Jill Open House and Registration 6:00 PM One Plus One Post Holiday Party – Saunders'
21 10:00 AM Worship	22 February Voice Deadline 4:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting	23	24 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack Meeting	25 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 10:00 AM Worship 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting	29 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	30	31 6:30 PM Cub Scouts			