

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

50 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US Postage Paid
Attleboro, MA
Permit # 122

February 2018



ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH, 11:15 AM†

† **PLEASE NOTE:** The Annual Financial Meeting may need to be postponed to March 4, 2018, but a decision has not yet been reached.

RETHINKING THE GOOD SAMARITAN STORY – MARCH 4TH, 1:00 PM

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC

Reverend F. Vernon Wright V, Minister ruachwrights@msn.com

William A. MacPherson, PhD., Director of Music

Kara Lehane, Executive Director, Jack & Jill School – 508-222-1149

jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org www.jackandjillattleboro.com

Amie K. McCarthy, Director of Christian Education

Fred Saunders, Administrative Assistant / Curator

BSA Charter Organization Representative, c: 508-918-0123

Jack Baptist, Sexton

Church Office: 508- 222-4677 Fax: 508- 222-2148

office@attleborosecondchurch.org www.attleborosecondchurch.org Find us on Facebook!

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

February, 2018

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Outreach & Missions | Women's Fellowship | One Plus One | Jack & Jill | Prayer Shawl Ministry | Women's Spirituality Group | Admin Committee | Birthdays | Music & Dance | Calendar |
| Page 4 | Page 3 | Page 3 | Page 4 | Page 3 | Page 3 | Page 2 | Page 4 | Page 3 | Page 5 |

MINISTER'S MUSE

Faith is Simplicity

Consider the lilies of the field, they neither toil nor spin, but was any in the court of King Solomon arrayed like them? (Matt. 6:28-30)

We live in an anxious, distracted age. "What did people think of my last Facebook post? I think I better check! Did that e-mail from my new contact go to my in-box or to the trash box? What did the President tweet today and will it spell the end of Western Civilization?" And yet if we are honest, anxiety and distraction are written into our social fabric. Prophets and sages across the millennia have spoken again and again to the folly of the mind.

Speaking of prophets, I have been reading Walden by Henry David Thoreau again. His observations about the folly of his 1840s era are as trenchant today as they were then.

"After a night's sleep the news is as indispensable as the breakfast. 'Pray tell me anything new that has happened to a man anywhere on this globe'—and he reads it over his coffee and rolls, that a man has had his eyes gouged out this morning on the Wachito River; never dreaming the while that he lives in the dark unfathomed mammoth cave of this world, and has but the rudiment of an eye himself."

Can we not relate to this madness of the media dome each day tugging at our consciousness through our social media feeds?

Henry David Thoreau left a large footprint on my life. Inspired by Walden, my parents built a home in the woods using salvaged materials. By choice we lived without electricity. Weeding, building raised beds, x-c skiing, climbing trees, and listening to my father read works like *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Lost in the Barrens of Maine*, or *The Island of the Blue Dolphins*, gave me a vocabulary and spirituality that was more practiced than my peers. And yet I also had to face the irony that, though we only had the support of my father's public school teacher salary we owned everything outright by the thrift of our principles, and therefore the state considered us rich, and higher education was unaffordable. At this point my parents mortgaged everything so that we could be eligible for financial aid. Soon we had electricity, were watching TV, and were as normal as could be. I also realized that high moral principles can place a big burden on innocent children who still must go to school and endeavor to have conversations about sporting events and the latest episode of *The Dukes of Hazard*.

And so I came to Church. In this place I found a simplicity greater than Thoreau. I gave up all my delusions of grandeur to become a simple church pastor. My kids are pretty normal appearing and behaving, but they are no less special than my siblings or me, raised in the extraordinary principles of Walden's simplicity. And yes, I carry great debts and sometimes am consumed with worldly worry. But I would not trade it for a greater utopian vision. I learned a long time ago that faith is about being with the Holy so that the holy pervades my being. All else is unimportant.

To be honest, sometimes the Church, Mosque, Temple or Synagogue built to remind folk of the Ultimate's simple, joyous grace, is not so simple. Very often it becomes mired in committee work or dogma, or political principles, tribal thinking, or concerns about how popular or unpopular the Church has become. Those of you who know me know that my own leadership has, at times, been mired in such trifles. But beyond all of this, is the simplicity of sitting with the grandness of all things and knowing that you are okay.

You faithful person devoted to your religious institution, do you take time to experience God directly each day? Or is your faith really most governed by your anxiety? If we would consider ourselves faithful, we must consider ourselves also simple - even as the lilies. Faith leads to simplicity. Sometimes we need to relax in order to not just do good but be the good we were seeking to provide.

Yours in Christ, *Reverend Vern Wright*

LITURGICAL THEMES

FEBRUARY 4TH

Communion Sunday

Scripture: Mark 1:29-39

“Source of Strength”

In the midst of Jesus' busy, transformative ministry he goes to a solitary place to pray. Afterward he takes his ministry in a new direction. Has your life ever taken a new direction? What was “the solitary place to pray” in your own life?

FEBRUARY 10TH

Confirmation Class: 6:00 pm

Praise Worship 7:00 pm

FEBRUARY 11TH

Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture: Mark 9:2-9

“Beyond Idol Faith”

The apostles are dazzled and terrified by the manifestation of Christ's ultimacy present in the transfiguration. In their fear they want to mark their faith by creating a shrine. How often do we enshrine or idolize our experience of the Holy? What would happen if we let that idolatrous tendency go?

FEBRUARY 14TH

Ash Wednesday: 7:00 pm

Come embrace a life unburdened by the confines of the mortal coil.

FEBRUARY 18TH

First Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 25:1-10

“Love is What We Need”

The psalmist understands something about our passionate, sometimes desperate, angry hearts. What we are really crying for is to be loved. How might this perspective have been helpful to us in the past? How might it be helpful today? How could it be helpful in the future?

FEBRUARY 10TH

Confirmation Class: 6:00 pm

Praise Worship 7:00 pm

FEBRUARY 25TH

Second Sunday in Lent

Mark 8:31-38

“Always Close”

In this text we are bidden to take up our cross and loose our lives to find them. The meaning may be difficult to our ears, but we also know that sacrifice is sometimes the finest love. Kindness and compassion can make us fall from the “in crowd” and yet the faith this brings to us is so important.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Lead Deacon this month is Pam Raskin. Contact any Deacon if you are interested in being a liturgist or usher on a Sunday or sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We'd love to have your help. Call Ralph Giannetti at 508-226-4618 and let him know if you need a lift.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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*

The Deacons are looking for your help!

Are you tired of sitting around the house this winter because it is too cold or wet to go outside? Well...the Deacons can give you a reason to get started on your spring cleaning!

We are working with the Savers store in North Attleboro on a fundraiser which generates funds by paying us a per pound amount for the clothes that are taking up space in your closets and drawers. They may no longer fit, be out of style, or you may just want to simplify your life. They do not need to be in the best condition! We can also help with your linen closet since Savers accepts towels and sheets.

So gather your unwanted items in trash bags, bring them to church (we can arrange for pickup), and we will take it from there. Friends and neighbors are invited to join. Since we are paid by the pound, more is definitely better! We are looking at running this fundraiser through March so as the seasons change you might want to go through your closet a second time – not a problem!

Any questions, call Karen Slawson at
(508)643-0718

RETHINKING THE GOOD SAMARITAN STORY

Has your life been touched in some way by mental illness? Knowing that for me, the answer was “yes”, a friend of mine invited me to her church to hear a speaker, Nancy Kehoe. Then I read Nancy's autobiographical book, “Wrestling with Our Inner Angels”, in which she writes very movingly about faith, mental illness, and the journey to wholeness.

In the spirit of bringing some new ideas to our church community, I asked for the Church Council's approval to bring

Nancy to speak here at Second Church on Sunday, March 4th at 1:00 pm. Her subject is: "Rethinking the Good Samaritan Story: Who is my neighbor? Who are those left by the wayside today?"

Nancy Kehoe RSCJ, PhD is a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart and a part time Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School. For thirty-five years she has led groups on spirituality with men and women who live with serious mental illness. In her presentation she will discuss mental illness as The Great Robber and talk about how we need to become Good Samaritans, reaching out to those who have been left by the wayside, offering a model of how a parish community can create a group for family members and those who live with mental illness.

I hope many of you will be able to come, and I hope you will take a moment to think about others in the area who might be interested in hearing this presentation. Who knows what good might come of it?

If you'd like to know more, just give me a call or talk with me at church.

Paula Foresman

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship will meet on February 18th 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.

As you start your spring cleaning, keep the Yard Sale in mind. Speak with Sandy or Fred Saunders if you have questions about a donation.

ONE PLUS ONE

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

On Saturday, February 17th at 8:00 pm (snow date March 3rd), we will meet at the Attleboro Community Theatre located in the Ezekiel Bates Masonic Lodge, 71 North Main St., Attleboro, for a fun-filled comedy pitting American folk heroes vs. Greek gods at a Texas bachelorette party.

If you would like to join in the fun, contact the church office or me so that we can add you to our call list. Currently, we are planning for another play in the spring, a cookout in June, and are exploring other possibilities to gather in fellowship. So get out of the house and celebrate with us!

Colin Blair, colincb@aol.com

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

In February we will be watching a talk by Sheila Walsh about "Insecurity to Confidence". Sheila Walsh survived a hard past and now has successfully taken a job of encouraging people struggling with anxiety and depression. She is a well known author of the books "In The Middle of a Mess" and "The Storm Within". We will be listening to Shelia as she looks at the lives of Ruth and Naomi to discover the security God has provided for His people through the ages. If you have time, read the Book of Ruth in the Bible before our next meeting and be ready for an interesting meeting with a great discussion. We look forward to seeing you next meeting, February 12th. If you need a ride call Marcia Weidner or Debbie Parziale

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The PSM will meet on Monday, February 12th 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

CHOIR SCHEDULES

This is a great time to join both the Adult and Hand Bell Choirs. The Adult Choir will sing on all the Sundays in February. The next performance date for the Hand Bell Choir (to be determined at an upcoming rehearsal) will be in late February or early March. The Bell Choir will also be playing on Easter Sunday, April 1st.

The Bell Choir and Adult Choir will **not** rehearse on Thursday, February 22nd due to the public school vacation.

Bill MacPherson

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE



All are welcome to join our Intergenerational Dance group as we resume practices February 24th at 9am in the Sanctuary. We look forward to a wonderful spring of fellowship and prayer through movement.

Peace, Diane Osborne

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who participated in acting out the reading of the Nativity Story from the Jesus Storybook Bible during the December Advent Music Sunday. We are sorry that we missed the VOICE deadline in January to express our deep thanks.

Believe it or not February is upon us. As we enter into February we also enter into the season of Lent. Lent is an invitation, an invitation for 40 days to give up our selfishness and to take on compassion, to confess our brokenness so that Christ may rise up and use us to bring life and justice into the world. Lent is an invitation for us to witness the life that can come out of death.

Throughout lent our children and youth will be exploring scripture as we discuss the stories of the Last Super, the Garden of Gethsemane, and Jesus' Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension. As usual the first Sunday, February 4th, will be a Gathering Sunday. The Nursery will be open for children 4 and younger. On February 11th we will be exploring the continuous theme of Love throughout the bible as we prepare ourselves for Valentine's Day. February 18th and the 25th we will begin our exploration of the Lenten story.

All of the volunteers and everyone on the Christian Education Committee are excited to begin the 2018 Lenten season. We can't wait to see everyone in worship and Sunday school this season of lament and new birth.

*Peace to you, Amie K. McCarthy
and the Christian Education Committee*

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The Food Pantry distributed bags of food to 16 families on January 22nd. As always, please remember the food pantry when you shop for groceries. Next distribution is February 26th, 4-6 pm. 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.

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 ziplock bags. Shopping lists are available beside the collection box. Contact Janet Blair at janbblair@aol.com with any questions. Thank you!

The next Family Café will be **Wednesday, February 14th** 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 and 6 pm.

The next Outreach & Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 4th** at 11:15 am 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.



Our open house in January was a big success! We accepted ten registrations that morning and welcomed 15-20 new families! We have limited openings in all of our 4 year old programs and room to grow in the 3's. We are currently working on preparing to open a second Pre-K classroom for the 2018-2019 academic year.

This is a very exciting time for the teachers, as we begin to see the children blossom. The teachers and children spend the fall months learning the routine and structure of a classroom and getting to know each other. This is the time of the year that we really see their minds begin to grow! They come back after the holiday break physically bigger and ready to roll! It's a very exciting time to be a teacher. ☺

For those of you with children who will be entering Kindergarten in the fall please note that Attleboro Public School's Kindergarten Open House is Wednesday, March 7th, from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the five elementary schools. Parents are asked to attend the open house at the school their child will be attending.

Please mark your calendars for our annual Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on Saturday, March 24th. We would love to have our church community join us for this event. **Donations for our opportunity baskets are already flowing in!** As always attendees will be served a delicious dinner and have the opportunity to win some amazing prizes! Come one, come all! Look for us during Coffee Hour the week before in March to purchase your tickets!

Our plans for the 70th Anniversary Celebration are in FULL swing. We were awarded a grant by the Attleboro Cultural Council to host Tony Vacca, a percussionist, to perform that day. Our next planning meeting is Monday,

January 29th, at 6:30 pm in the Jack and Jill Office. We would love to see you there! We are also looking for photographs and mementos from the last 70 years to add to a display! If you have anything you might like to lend us, or allow us to copy, please call or email Kara at 508-222-1149 or jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org

Warmly, Kara Lehane



February Birthdays

- 1 Aidan Lancaster
- 2 Audrey Libby
Elliot Withers
- 3 Ron Koback
- 4 Hannah Melker
- 8 Liz Hunt
- 9 Prudie Bliss
Ruth Alice Ottmar
- 13 Deb Goulding
- 15 Tara Tetreault
- 16 Samantha Cassidy
- 18 Sue Janson
- 19 Katie Simmons
- 20 Julie Cotsalas
- 22 Will Saunders
- 23 Emily Saunders
- 25 Suzie Bourdeau
- 26 Karen Slawson
- 27 Ryan Johnston
- 28 Anita Chilson
- 29 Keith Priesing
- .

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 8

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--------|--|
| | | | | 1 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal | 2 | 3 11:00 AM Cub Scout Pinewood Derby |
| 4 Scout Sunday 10:00 AM Worship / Communion 11:15 AM Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting Music Committee Meeting | 5 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Deacons' Meeting | 6 | 7 6:30 PM Cub Scouts | 8 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal | 9 | 10 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 11 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Annual Financial Meeting † Christian Education Committee Meeting | 12 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Group | 13 7:00 PM Marketing Committee Meeting | 14 Ash Wednesday 5:30 PM Family Café 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service | 15 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal | 16 | 17 |
| 18 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Women's Fellowship Meeting | 19 Presidents Day, Office is Closed 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting | 20 March Voice Deadline 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting | 21 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting | 22 | 23 | 24 9:00 AM Sacred Dance Rehearsal 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 25 10:00 AM Worship 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting | 26 4:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting | 27 | 28 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack Meeting | | | |

† PLEASE NOTE: The Annual Financial Meeting may need to be postponed to March 4, 2018, but a decision has not yet been reached.