



# THE VISITOR

## TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

275 Years at the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts

### July & August 2011

Volume 34 No. 7

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### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday - Friday  
9:00am - 12:00pm.

### PASTOR'S SUMMER HOURS:

Tuesday 3-6pm; or by  
appointment

Visit our web page at  
[www.tccucc.org](http://www.tccucc.org)

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
MONDAY, AUGUST 22 - NOON**

### NEW SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS!

As agreed upon at our annual planning meeting on June 12, Sunday worship services will begin at 9 am for the months of July and August. This new schedule will be evaluated and discussed after this summer.



### PASTOR SHAYNA'S SUMMER HOURS!

As of June 20, Pastor Shayna is on half time for the summer. This means that she will be here on Sunday for worship and she will have office hours on Tuesdays from 3 to 6 pm. Of course, she is still available for pastoral emergencies, but please respect her limited hours for all routine matters.

### POST-TORNADO AID

The MACUCC has established the Mass. Tornado Relief Fund. 100% of your gifts will be used to support the recovery efforts of our churches and other organizations in the affected communities. Make your donation at: [macucc.org/tornadoes](http://macucc.org/tornadoes).

MEMA has set up an information website where people and groups with needs can post requests for volunteers and materials and supplies. AND folks who want to offer assistance or resources can post their offer. MEMA will follow up to ensure that the needs and offers are legitimate and guide the connection between them. We have asked our pastors in the impacted area to post their needs on this website. You can find this at: <http://www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/fema>



### COMMUNION SERVICE TRAINING

We have recently been blessed with several new members who are probably seeking new volunteer opportunities. One of those opportunities is to assist in serving Communion. Pastor Shayna and I are planning a class to teach you how to be part of Communion: how to set up, and how to serve – either in the pews or by intinction. The training has been scheduled for after worship on Sunday, September 25, 2011. Sign up sheets will be out all summer and during September. We have set a deadline of September 18 so that we'll be sure to have enough materials.

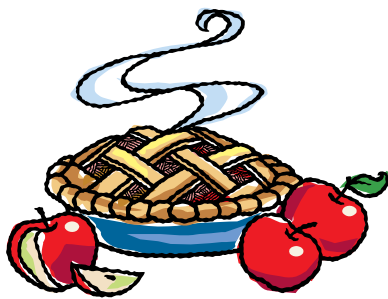
If you've been around for awhile and are out of practice you can also join us – all are welcome.

*Michelle Enright,  
Minister for Worship*



## APPLE PIES!

It is definitely not too early to start helping prepare for the fair in November. Karin Canfield has graciously stepped forward to chair this part of the fair for this year and she will greatly appreciate all the help she can get! It is true that "many hands make light work" - the more people who can follow the simple recipe below and prepare as much pie dough as they have room to store in their freezer, then the more pies we can make to sell at our fair.



I have no baking talent, but by following the recipe exactly last year, I was able to give enough dough for 6 apple pies - it was easy, quick, and the dough was perfect! Please do not choose to not help because you think you're not good enough - you just have to follow the recipe below exactly as it is written.

Please let Karin know what you've prepared for her once you're done.

*Thanks, Cathy Hill*

### Never Fail Pie Crust

3 cups of flour  
1 tsp salt  
1 1/4 cup vegetable shortening  
1 egg, beaten  
1/3 cup cold water  
1 tblspn vinegar

Mix flour and salt, cut in shortening until pea size pieces.

Combine remaining ingredients and stir into shortening mixture. Let stand a few minutes.

If you choose to do this ahead of time, the dough may be divided into 4 pieces, wrapped in plastic wrap and frozen. Thaw before using.



## OUTREACH & MISSION HAPPENINGS

The Outreach team is coordinating the collection of emergency clean-up buckets for disaster relief through Church World Service. Our deadline for collection has been extended until July 17th as we are now able to have them brought to the Massachusetts Conference office in Framingham where Andy works. The request board is in the front of the sanctuary on the pew. Any help you can lend will be appreciated. Please purchase only the item and size that is listed. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please

make checks payable to the church and write "Emergency Buckets" on the memo line.

## RELAY FOR LIFE

The Townsend Crusaders Relay For Life cancer walk team will have already participated in their 12th walk to fight cancer by the time you are reading this. Thank you all for all the support and encouragement you have shown us. We have been blessed with donations and love and as of this writing, we are in 1st place, having raised over \$8,500, with your help and a generous sponsorship from BristolMyers-Squibb. Carrie Davidson and David Wilson are in the top 5 fund raisers having raised over \$2,000 each. On behalf of the team that is tired, but committed to making a difference in the fight against cancer, THANK YOU!

*Carole Gustafson, Minister for Outreach*



## CELEBRATE WITH OUR SUMMER BIRTHDAY PEOPLE!

**JULY:** 3-Suzanne Boudrot; 5-Sara-Rose Snaith; 6-Wanda Wilson and Glenda Homoliski; 8-Nadine Bellegarde; 9-Laura Gustafson; 10-Hannah Gruber; 11-Kaitlyn Baker and Celia Malette; 13-Hana Valigankas; 18-Violette MacNeil; 21-Jennifer Moseley; 24-Gary Hatch; 26-Kristina Wilson; 27-Sylvia Beldan; 28-Holly Beauchesne; 31- Carole Gustafson. **AUGUST:** 2-Jim Clish; 3-Alan Beauchesne; 4-Charlie Duckett; 8-Bruce Beauchesne; 11-Lyn Bennett and Alice Kay; 12-Shannon Howard; 13-Cheryl Simoneau; 24-John Lucente; 26-Collin Amadon and Catherine Hill; 27-Kaleigh Peterson

## BAND CONCERT

We had a beautiful night to host the lawn party at the band concert this year. Everyone seemed to be having a fun time and we were able to raise just over a thousand dollars toward the life and ministries of our church.

The breakdown is:

Baked Goods	\$171.20
Books	\$ 57.50
Fried Dough	\$252.51
Fruit	\$ 87.50
Games	\$207.75
Grille	\$334.10

Thanks to all who participated in any way!

Also, despite rainy weather, the church yard sale netted us \$182.90.





## Is It Good?

A Sermon Offered to the Townsend  
Congregational Church

June 19, 2011 - Trinity Sunday

The Rev. K. Shayna Appel

### [Genesis 1:1-2:4a]

Does anyone remember where they were on Christmas eve, 1968? Let me refresh your memories. It was humanity's first trip to, and orbit around, the moon. The three Apollo 8 astronauts, Frank Borman, Bill Anders and Jim Lovell, chose to celebrate this event by reading some ancient religious poetry. Even though the poetry was roughly 3,000 years old, it was familiar to almost everyone.

The astronauts read ten verses from the book of Genesis, beginning with the first sentence of the Bible: "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep...". I was eight years old at the time, but I still remember the emotional resonance of those elegant words as people around the world watched the grainy television images and listened to the crackly radio transmissions. Planet earth never looked so beautiful, so mysterious, and so very fragile.

In the beginning the earth was a formless void until God spoke light into existence. And God looked upon the light and saw that it was good. On the second day God created a dome to separate that which was above from that which was below. On day three, dry land was separated from water; earth and sea, and God saw that IT was good. The earth brought forth vegetation and it too was deemed good. God figured this was going so well, why not continue? On the fourth day God created the sun to guide our days and the moon to guide our nights. Day five was spent filling the seas and the skies with all manner of sea monsters and winged things. Seeing that these were good, God blessed them saying, "Be fruitful and multiply." Then, God created human kind and put us in charge of stewarding all that God had created. At that point in time we looked like a pretty good bet so God blessed us too. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

When it was all said and done there was only one thing left for God to do. Step back, let go, and rest. Of this last step, the stepping back, letting go and resting part, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, director of the Shalom Center writes "What a terribly momentous step."

*Unfulfilled, overpowered by chesed-energy  
God breathed out, kissed out, sent it all out,  
every possibility that ever was and would be.*

Waskow writes:

*I imagine God was frightened...*

*...even with overflowing love as catalyst and reference point.*

*What if something went wrong*

*if the universe made its own choices at breakneck speed*

*if there was no breathing any of it back in again.*

*Once it began, this process more powerful than its Creator*

*with beginning middle end all at once, all possible --*

*how could there not have been Divine panic?*

Waskow finishes his thoughts on the creation story with these words. He writes;

*I can only comfort myself with the thought*

*that even God didn't know if the plan would work,*

*but moved forward into the darkness on faith.*

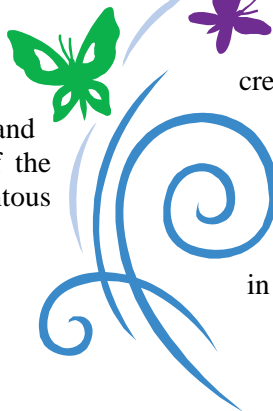
The creative process apparently hasn't changed much in a few billion years! Overpowered by some cosmic *chesed* - energy - we breathe out, kiss out, send it all out, and hope for the best. Four and a half billion years, by some estimates, after the divine ka-boom kicked all of creation into being, it's still pretty much a crap shoot at best. Will humanity continue to live as a cancer upon the earth, consuming and ravaging all it can devour? Or will we finally live into our Jehova inspired job descriptions as stewards of God's creation? Will ever increasing anxiety fuel our days, or is it possible for us to step back, let go and rest? Will we ever evolve into that and experience the deep and abiding peace that is the natural outcome with living in harmony with each other and all of God's holy creation? Who knows? The vote is still out.

*Once it began, this process more powerful than its Creator  
with beginning middle end all at once, all possible -- how  
could there not have been Divine panic? (Waskow)*

There is so much about God's creation that remains a mystery. But what emerges in between these lines of poetry that make up the creation story of Genesis is a story about possibility. God's creation is built to go somewhere; the potential of becoming is built into the very structure of every living thing.

The creation we read about in the book of Genesis isn't presented as a finished product, to be preserved as it was originally created. God creates a dynamic world in which the future is open to a number of possibilities and in which creaturely activity is crucial for proper creational developments.

God created a dynamic world and put us in it, not so we could simply sit back and reap the rewards of creation but so that we might be partners in it! God created a dynamic world and put us into it, not to stagnate, but to live into the potential our divinity sets before us like a possibility. The potential of becoming is built into every living thing. Do you believe that? Have you witnessed that? Do you hold in the deepest place of your being an experience of that?



I hope so. For your sake and, quite honestly, for the sake of this church, I hope so. Because, you see, if it is even remotely possible that the process of creation brought forth a moment of divine panic in the Creator Himself, how much more likely is it to do the same in each and every one of us? Life lived in God's creation is life lived between the terror and the beauty, and never is the terror more present than it is in the squeeze of the venturi, in the fire of transition or transformation, in the moments just before a thing comes into being. Those moments can be disturbing and destabilizing for those who forget that we have been blessed with the ability, and called by design, to co-create WITH God. And we have been called to create not based on what is behind us, but rather on what is before us. God created a dynamic world, and while we may often have no say in what is happening, we always have a say in how we respond to what is happening.

Why am I bringing this before you today? Well, I believe there may be some interesting times ahead for us here at TCC. God created a dynamic world and put us in it not so we could simply sit back, but so that we might be partners in creation with God! But, I fear, we are not partnering in God's creation. It seems to me we are in a period of sitting back. Too many of us at the Townsend Congregational Church are sitting back and the body is getting precariously close to stagnation.

Last Sunday, at our church's annual planning meeting, those present blessed a change to the By-Laws that allowed us to divide the position of Minister for Hospitality into two positions; Minister for Congregational Care and Minister for Discipleship. The hope was that we would lessen the load on either of these ministers and increase the likelihood that someone would step forward to fill the slots. The position of Minister for Hospitality, as you should know, has been vacant now for over a year.

Here's the thing ... adding a minister to the Council means we need one more minister in order to have a quorum - in order to be able to conduct official church business around the Council table. The number necessary to meet the quorum is eight. Currently, two of the twelve Council slots are vacant, meaning we only have ten of our twelve ministries covered. If, at any meeting during the year, more than two Council members cannot attend, the Council can not conduct official business.

Concern number two: For the past year, Kathy Duckett has been serving as both the Minister for Gifts and the Church Clerk. Kate's been asking to be relieved of her responsibilities as Church Clerk now for some six months, give or take a month or two. To date, no one has come forward to fill this position. And, to be clear, the position doesn't require a degree in astrophysics. The Church Clerk keeps and distributes minutes from Council and church meetings. All other tasks listed under the Clerk's authority are overseen by the Clerk, but essentially done by the Pastor, the Church

Administrator, or other small task teams on an as needed basis. It's not a small job. It requires some commitment. But it's not rocket science either! And yet, to date, no one has come forward to take the mantle from Kate's shoulders.

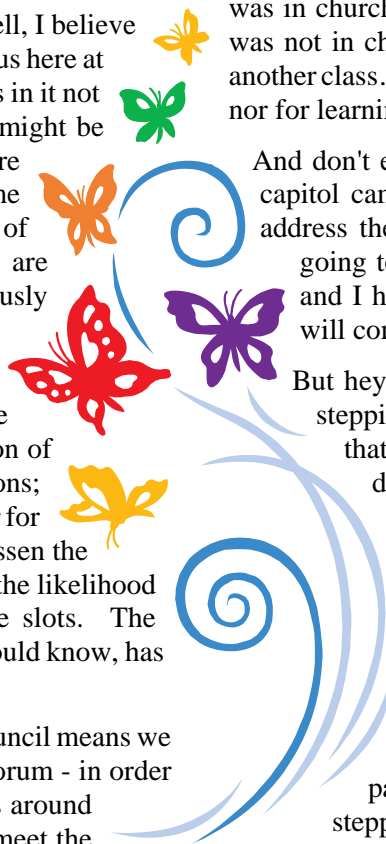
Now, here's the thing with this position. Kate isn't obligated to hold this office until someone else steps forward. But, if she steps down, the council of the Townsend Congregational Church will no longer meet the legal structural requirements set forth by the State of Massachusetts for non-profit organizations. In other words, without a Church Clerk, we could lose our 501C-3, non-profit status as a church.

Concern number three: Our church Sunday school is sorely lacking volunteers to both teach and shepherd our children. Meg Genoter was the only teacher signed up this year for our 1-2 grade class. This meant, for the past year, whenever Meg was in church she was downstairs teaching, and when Meg was not in church? Her class needed to be combined with another class...a situation that is conducive neither to teaching nor for learning.

And don't even get me started on the church's need for a capitol campaign, or some means to raise the capitol to address the current needs of our physical plant! That's going to take a good deal of volunteer effort as well, and I have no idea right now where those volunteers will come from! Do you?

But hey...I'm not telling you all this to guilt you into stepping up and I mean that. You and I both know that guilt is a lousy reason to do anything, much less do anything in the name of God. I am not telling you all of this to guilt you into stepping up. I AM telling you this because it MAY come to pass that there are some interesting times before us. It MAY come to pass that the church Council is unable to meet or to conduct official church business. It MAY come to pass that certain Sunday school classes will only meet once every three weeks. It MAY come to pass that, one day you will find yourselves stepping OVER the steeple to get into church. It MAY come to pass that there are some interesting days in our future together.

But, despite what may sound like a pretty bleak picture now, I find myself deeply filled with hope for our future. I am hopeful for the future of the Townsend Congregational Church because I know that everything we seem to lack today is, in fact, already here. I know that we have people here with enough financial knowledge to be able to offer some assistance to our exhausted Minister for Finance in the preparation of next year's Mission Spending Plan, or 'Budget'. I trust that we have people here who can take minutes and forward them to the church administrator for distribution. I believe that there are many in this church whom God is calling to teach or to shepherd our children...you just haven't heard the call yet...you will...I believe that. But until those who are



being called are able to discern that call...there may be some interesting days in our future together.

God created a dynamic world and put us in it, not so we could simply sit back and reap the rewards of creation but so that we might be partners in it! God created a dynamic world and put us into it not to stagnate, but to live into the potential our divinity sets before us like a possibility. The potential of becoming that is built into every living thing. Remember that. Hold onto that because, as I said, if we continue on our current course it MAY come to pass that there will be some interesting, and challenging days ahead of us. We may find ourselves bogged down in a few areas of our church life together, but we were not created to stay bogged down.

So, should it come to pass that we find ourselves at a still point, do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. Remember all that the creation story has to teach us about who we are, and what we are capable of becoming. Then, simply ask yourselves; who is it that God is calling me to be? What is it God is calling me to do. Then, have faith and see that it is good.

Let us take a moment in the stillness to hear the still small voice within each of us, as we listen to an adaptation of some powerful words of the Psalms and Mary Ann Williamson:

Beloved God, what are human beings that You are mindful of us? You have created us in the divine image and crowned us with glory and honor. And yet, we are fearful. Not that we are inadequate, Creator God. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful...powerful beyond all measure. Crazy as it may sound, it's our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, "Who are we to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous," even as we hear You ask us, "Actually, who are you *not* to be?" It's not that we don't hear You telling us, "You are my beloveds, and with You I am well pleased." We know that our playing small does not serve the world. We know that there is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around us. We know, beloved God, that You meant for us to shine. We were born to make manifest the glory of You that is within us. And, not just in some of us, but in everyone.

Created in Your awesome image O LORD our God, may we be inspired to let our own lights shine, and by so doing give other people permission to do the same. For we know God of glory, as we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others... in the name of Your Son Jesus  
... it's the least we can do. Amen.



*Since the day this sermon was delivered, one person has stepped forward to take on the Church Clerks position, one person has stepped up to offer assistance on the Mission Spending Plan Task Team, one person has offered to be on the Sunday School rotation for shepherding, two people have asked to be part of the visitation team. Where might God be calling you to serve?*



## STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

### Christmas ... in July???

**"How can this be?" Luke 1:34**

In our congregation we often celebrate "Christmas in July," this year on the date five months away from Christmas Eve! We have fun singing carols in the summer and remembering that the birth of Jesus is about more than that one night and the secular celebrations that clutter December. We also encourage people to bring boxes of diapers for our local Diaper Bank to support those, like Mary and Joseph, who have babies and need some help.

Christmas in July is also a good opportunity to reflect on the meaning of this story apart from the Christmas crazies of December. When Gabriel told Mary she would bear this holy child, her first response was "How can this be?" On so many levels, this event seemed impossible. I love Mary's honesty, because we often have that same response, even in the church, to what we are sure God cannot do, or what we are sure we cannot do. Yet, as Mary discovered, if she was a willing partner with God, together they could change the world. That's still true. This July, whether or not your congregation celebrates Christmas, consider all that your church might be and do for its members and in its community. Don't ask Mary's question with disbelief or sarcasm, but with renewed commitment and energy. "How can this be? Let's find out!"

*Note from the Editor: Many churches celebrate "Christmas in July" by giving to The Christmas Fund, the UCC special offering that helps meet needs of low-income retired church workers and clergy family emergencies, as administered by the Pension Boards. For more information, go to [www.christmasfund.org](http://www.christmasfund.org) and follow the 2010 Christmas Fund links or call 1-800-642-6543, Ext. 2716.*

*Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.*

July 2011

God is still speaking,

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

# Your Church Needs You

This is your chance to help your church and support your fellow church members with your talents.

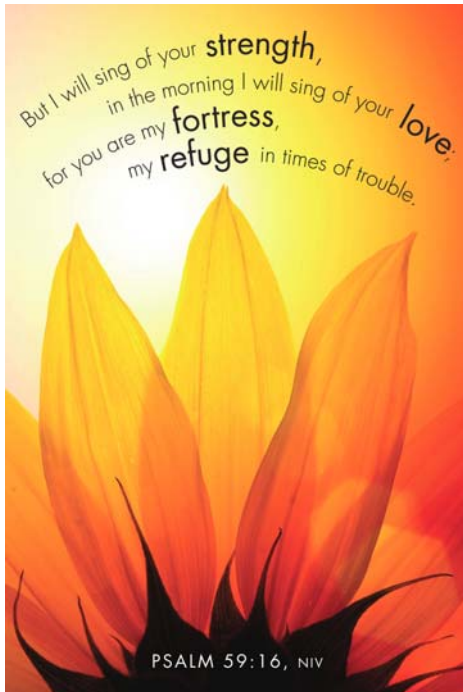
**GET INVOLVED!!**

## Mission Spending Plan (MSP) Task Team Chair

Are you up for making God's love real and alive for everyone through your gift of finance?

The Chair of the MSP is responsible for gathering information, analyzing information, forming and meeting with your task team, establishing a timeline, presenting to Council, presenting to the Congregation, etc. The proposed MSP for 2012 needs to be presented to the Congregation in early February 2012. The Chair will be able to use the Minister for Finance as a resource during the process.

Please give it some thought and prayer. Contact the Minister for Finance (Carrie Davidson [carrie@davidsonanddavidson.com](mailto:carrie@ davidsonanddavidson.com) (978) 758-1961) for more information.



## VACANCIES

### Minister for Discipleship

The Minister for Discipleship will oversee (with the Pastor) all matters pertaining to the Church's greeting and welcoming of visitors and new families, and the training and mentoring of new members. Please see Pastor Shayna or Kathy Duckett for more information.

### Minister for Congregational Care

The Minister for Congregational Care will oversee (with the Pastor) the ministries of fellowship, visitation, and the care and support of the congregation. *Please see Pastor Shayna or Kathy Duckett for more information.*

### Human Resources Task Team

*Please see Jim Clish for more information*

The Human Resources Task Team will assist with hiring open staff positions at TCC, develop written personnel policies & procedures for TCC and assist in the annual review process of paid staff.

### Music Team

*Please see Renee Fossey for more information.*

Due to a recent vacancy, the Music Team is in need of someone to join them in assisting the Music Director in overseeing many aspects of the music program at TCC. The Music Director would be interested in

someone without any particular musical talents to add a unique perspective to the team.



## ATTENTION MUSIC LOVERS -

Thank you for your continued donations for the organ repair fund! Since this flier's inception, we have raised over \$1,300 for the organ repair. Please keep them coming!

Please contribute whatever you can to this restricted fund. Simply write "organ repair" on your check payable to TCC and your donation will be designated to this repair exclusively.

## Member Dues

Thank you for your continued donations! Since this flier's inception, we have raised over \$1,500 for dues reimbursements. Please keep them coming!

TCC must pay \$20 per member per year to our Conference. At our recent annual meeting, it was suggested we ask our members to reimburse TCC for this cost.

If you are able, please write a check payable to TCC for \$20 per member in your household (children are considered members if confirmed) and write "Dues" in the memo field of the check. Checks can be placed in the offering plate or given directly to Jody Burnham.

**THANK YOU!!!**



## VILLAGE COMMON CHILDREN'S CENTER

### NEWS

May and June have been extremely busy months here at VCCC. In May, we became zoologists and learned all about a variety of animals and their special habitats. Our classroom walls exploded into the VCCC Zoo, complete with child-created elephants, monkeys, tigers, and giraffes! Our class then took a tour of the underwater world, and our hands became very busy creating seahorses, jellyfish, and other marine life. We also celebrated Memorial Day in the classroom, and the children were very excited to learn patriotic songs and create their very own Statute of Liberty crowns.

June began with an exploration of transportation and construction. Dramatic play was transformed into a construction zone, complete with bulldozers, dump trucks, and building blocks. The children were very busy each day building their own towns (and then happily joining in the demolition of their buildings). Through books and creative art activities, we learned about a variety of vehicles, including planes, trains, boats, helicopters, and buses. As June came to a close, our attention focused on preparing our preschool graduates for their transition to Kindergarten in the fall. We had a visit from the school bus driver, and all children were excited to explore the school bus and learn about safe bus riding. We also closed out our school year with a special spirit week in which we celebrated how much our children have grown and the fun we have had together. The week's activities included: Favorite Sports Team Day, face painting, pajama day, Wacky Wednesday (wear your craziest outfit!) and Fancy Friday. Our year will culminate with our End of the Year Celebration (EOYC) in which the children will be singing songs they have learned here at VCCC, including a very special performance of "Lean on Me" in which the children will also incorporate American Sign Language. Our EOYC is always a special celebration where our families come together to celebrate the children and come together as a larger VCCC family.

As we prepare for the summer program here at VCCC, we are excited to announce our very special summer activities. We look forward to visiting the Townsend Police Station for a behind-the-scenes tour. There will also be ice cream and pizza parties at local vendors, weekly trips to the Townsend library, and hiking in the surrounding woods. In the classroom, we will produce our very own play, go on an outer space journey, and have a camping adventure. These are just a few of the activities planned for our summer program! Summer is always a blast here at VCCC!



### Highlights of our Annual Planning Meeting

First of all, huge **thanks** to Michele Merenda for organizing the pot-luck lunch, and to everyone who contributed to that delicious feast!

David Wilson has stepped forward to take on the position of TCC Treasurer. We give profound thanks to Art Vartanian for all the years of service he has given to the finance ministry of this church.

We were informed that John Mims, who has been acting as our interim church secretary, has been officially hired as the TCC Administrative Assistant.

The minister reports were presented and unanimously accepted by the membership.

After some discussion, and looking at the pros and cons, it was agreed that Sunday worship services will begin at 9am during the months of July and August. It was also agreed that this schedule change will be reviewed before next summer to determine if it will be repeated.

The church calendar was then considered. The Council will meet the first Thursday of every month. The calendar items agreed upon are: **September:** 7-Choir starts, 11-Rally Sunday, 24-Supper, tbd-Lucas Davidson baptism.

**October:** Reeves Road Race, tbd-Grant Bruns baptism, *Blessing Chest Sundays* Stewardship campaign will run for 4 weeks and culminate on the 30th, 29-Supper.

**November:** All Saints Sunday, 1-11-Mission 1 Food Drive, 19-Holiday Fair, 27-Advent workshop. **December:** 4- Tree Lighting - we are hosting, tbd-caroling, Christmas pageant will be incorporated into Christmas Eve services.

**January:** 28-Supper. **February:** 9-Winter Business Meeting at 7pm, 22-Ash Wednesday, 25-Supper, tbd-Scouting Sunday. **March:** 31-Supper. **April:** 1-Palm Sunday, Holy Week, 8-Easter Sunday, 28-Supper. **May:** 5-Auction - we will need a new chairperson, tbd-Annual Planning Meeting. **June:** tbd-children's Sunday, tbd-Band

Concert. **July:** All church picnic? Paul Martineau will chair task team.

The By-Laws task team presented a proposal to divide the Minister for Hospitality position into two positions: Minister for Discipleship and Minister for Congregational Care. Our By-Laws will now read: *The Minister for Discipleship will oversee (with the Pastor) all matters pertaining to the Church's greeting and welcoming of visitors and new families, and the training and mentoring of new members. The Minister for Congregational Care will oversee (with the Pastor) the ministries of fellowship, visitation, and the care and support of the congregation.* The By-Laws have been revised in all the places that reflect this reorganization of the ministries. Many thanks to the By-Laws Task Team for the hours of work they put in to make these necessary changes.

The possibility of a Capital Campaign was a big discussion item. Some of the situations that require additional capital are: repairs to the organ, the steeple, the columns in front of the church that are filled with dry-rot, and the clocks, we are also carrying debt from heating system overhaul. Since it has been ten years since our last capital campaign, we should also look forward to see what other physical things our church might need in the next ten years. After a great deal of discussion, it was decided that the next step is to form a task team to look into hiring a feasibility consultant. The findings of this task team will be brought back to the Council and the church for us to determine the next step in this process.

We covered a lot of ground in this meeting, and are excited about the possibilities for this coming year. God's love is real and alive in this church. I hope to see more of our members and friends actively participating in the months to come!

Cathy Hill

of her lungs 6 years ago. We also give thanks that Glenda was not injured when she fell through her shed roof at the end of May. Marcia & Bob Foote welcome their newest grandchild, James Charles Roy, born on May 27, son of daughter Christie and her husband Nate. Prayers of Thanks for Dan Bohnyak, Julie Zielenkiewicz's nephew, who graduated from the Vermont Police Academy; for Kathy Zielenkiewicz's successful surgery; for Kelly McTighe getting a job; that more congregations are opening their churches to people of all sexual orientations; and to God for answering our prayers. Thanks be to God for our children and all those at TCC who guide and teach them. Glenda has discovered recently that her daughter Beth has not been taking medication for her OCD for at least 18 months, she has found a therapist who is really helping! We join with Melanie and Don Ouellette as they celebrate 29 years of marriage. Thanksgiving for all those who participate in walking fund raisers to help others. Prayers of thanksgiving that Jean Sobol was not seriously injured in a recent car accident. Prayers of thanksgiving also that Chris Clish's heart stent surgery went very well and Chris is feeling better than she has in a long time.

Message from Gail Kendrick 6/19/11:

*Dear Praying Friends,*

*I write with good news about answered prayer. Today is my 63rd birthday and I received an early birthday present yesterday: an a.m. PETScan revealed no sign of the cancer! This means only one more chemo treatment. I also met with a radiologist and will start radiation in July for 3 1/2 weeks: this is fewer treatments than I expected. And on top of all that, no bone marrow transplant is being recommended! Emotionally I am on top of the world. Physically, I tire easily, but a nap generally revives me.*

*Thank you for all your prayers, cards, and well wishes. Your love and support mean the world to me. Love, Gail*

**Remember to save baskets to be used for the Greens table at our Craft Fair in November! Bring them to church in the fall. Thanks so much**  
- Wanda Wilson



### **OUR BLESSINGS:**

5/29/11: Cathy Parson's test results came back all clear. She gives thanks for the fine practitioners at Emerson Hospital, she also gives thanks for this church and the lifting of burdens. Prayers of gratitude

from Glenda Homoliski who continues to do well after being diagnosed with an inoperable cancerous tumor in one

### **CONCERNS:**

5/29/11: Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Kevin who lost his life in a fire in Scituate. Prayers for all

those who put themselves in harm's way to protect our liberty and freedom, including those who have lost their lives for this cause. Continued prayers for Olivia that she might walk again after being struck by a car. Continued prayers also for Richard Lee Collette who is still in rehab after being seriously injured in a fall just before Easter this year. We join with Antonio in praying that his Aunt Betty,



who passed away recently, is having a happy time in Heaven. We pray for all the people in Lybia; for all those affected by the natural disasters around the world and in our own country. Prayers for the safety of the firefighters in Arizona, and for all those impacted by these fires. Prayers for the Wheeler family as they struggle with Bill's cancer. Prayers for Lee Mctighe and Jenny Keefe as they go through medical testing. Prayers of peace for Isaac's grandmother. Prayers for Robert who has severe scoliosis. Prayers for Sarah who may have to have an operation to repair an old injury that did not heal properly. Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Julie Zielenkiewicz's cousin, Martin Steiner, who passed away recently.

Prayers of healing for Cathy Hill's sister who continues to battle lymphoma, and her brother-in-law who has a rare kidney disorder; for Benjamin H., Dylan S., Brian D., Dorothy D.; for Alex and Irene and their families; for Steve St. Jean; for Peg Matthews; for Sister Pat; for Paul Nixon who is recovering from a serious illness, and for his step-father, Ernie; for Ben Mulrenan; for Priscilla Munroe who is facing more surgery; for Pearl Selfridge who has fallen again and sustained new injuries; for all the children in South Africa who are dealing with illness; for Alice Kay who will find out soon if her broken bone has fully healed.

*Thank You from the St. Jeans:*

*As many of you know, Steven and I got married October 10, 2010 at our beautiful little church on the common. It was a sunny fall day, the colors where brilliant. Our families and a few friends joined us for our new beginning.*

*Our new beginning has been a bit bumpy; Steve was in a severe head-on collision February 3, 2011. The reason I am writing this is because I want to thank everyone for the food, get well cards, computer games, and most of all, the visits. I cannot personally imagine being off my feet for three months or leaving the house except for doctor appointments. So, thank you, thank you, thank you, visitation is very important to people that cannot get out as often as they would like.*

*Steve is back on his feet, with the help of a cane, and is looking forward to going back to work soon.*

*Thank you,*

*Steven & Christine St. Jean.*



## UPCOMING UCC EVENT

### What are the Things that Make for Peace?

Building Peace in the Midst of the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict - A public address by Archbishop Elias Chacour

July 27 at 10:00 AM in Pilgrim Church sanctuary, with luncheon to follow. 25 South Main Street (Route 27), Sherborn, MA Phone: 508-655-1667

Archbishop Elias Chacour is the leader of the Melkite Catholic Church of Akko, Haifa, Nazareth, and all Galilee. An Arab Palestinian Christian who is a citizen of Israel, Archbishop Chacour grew up walking the hillsides where Jesus lived and taught "Blessed are the Peacemakers." He has worked tirelessly for reconciliation and peace in the Middle East, especially by building high-quality schools - preschool through college - in the Galileean village of Ibillin, where the students and faculty include Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Druze. More than 50% of the students are girls.

Archbishop Chacour is a three-time nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, and winner of the World Methodist Peace Award, the Niwano Peace Prize, and was Rotary's Man of the Year in Israel in 2000. He has written two books available in English, Blood Brothers and We Belong to the Land: the Story of a Palestinian Israeli who Lives for Peace and Reconciliation. Both will be available for signing.

A free-will offering will be received to support the peace-building work of Archbishop Chacour. For more information about this event or about Archbishop Chacour, you may contact Bob Sawyer at (336) 499-5310 or pilgrims@triad.rr.com, or see the website at [www.pilgrimsofibilin.org](http://www.pilgrimsofibilin.org).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**There will be a Red Cross blood drive in Fellowship Hall on August 5, 11am - 7pm.**

**Don't forget to come visit the Townsend Public Library and join in with the state-wide summer reading program.** The theme this year is "Novel Destinations" and there are all kinds of programs scheduled throughout the summer. They have prizes for children, teens and adults – **JUST FOR READING!**

The library hours are: Tues. & Wed. 10am-9pm; Thurs. 2-9pm; Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat. 10am-2pm.



Townsend Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
3 Brookline St., PO Box 487  
Townsend MA 01469-0487

Worship, Sunday School & Nursery at 9:50am



**SHARING OUR SPACE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS**

Weddings, Child Dedications, Holiday Parties, Baby and Wedding Showers, Family Reunions, Organization Meetings



We are blessed with a beautiful sanctuary and great space within our building for use that we are able to share with others. If you or someone you know is looking for a location for an event, contact our church secretary at 978-597-8925. This use of our building helps support the maintenance of our facility.



## OUR OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT

Townsend Congregational Church, UCC is an Open And Affirming congregation. God loves you. Christ invites you. We embrace you. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities are unconditionally welcomed into the full life and ministry of our congregation.

We are committed to ministering through the use of our gifts, learning to live the Christian way of life, and being together in Christ by seeking to fulfill these three commandments of Christ:

To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30)

To love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31)

To love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34)

