



THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

September 2011

Volume 34 No. 8

Pastor: Rev. Shayna Appel
Pastor's Line: 978-597-0157
cell # 802-579-6066

TCC Administrative Asst.:
John Mims
Office Line: 978-597-8925

**Village Common Children's
Center Line:** 978-597-0834

Editor: Catherine Hill

TOWNSEND
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UCC
PO BOX 487
TOWNSEND MA 01469

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Pastor:
kshaynaappel@gmail.com

Church Secretary:
secretary@tccucc.org

Newsletter:
newsletter@tccucc.org

**Village Common Children's
Center:** vccc@tccucc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

Wed. 10am-noon; Thurs.
4-6pm; or by appointment

**Visit our web page at
www.tccucc.org**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
MONDAY, SEPT. 26 - NOON**



**Join us and invite your friends,
neighbors and family to do likewise
on September 11, 2011 as we gather
together for a special time of
worship, reflecting back on the ten
years since September 11, 2001,
and praying ourselves forward.**

So much was lost on that fateful day in September of 2001 and so much has changed since. Fear and incivility dominate our nations landscape where "spacious skies and amber waves of grain" used to stand tall. How can communities and communities of faith come together and draw upon the deepest ties that bind them to get our once great nation back on track? Join us for a special worship service on September 11th as we 'Reflecting Back, Praying It Forward'. (9:50am, Townsend Congregational Church. A united and uniting church of Christ!)



**Sunday
School.**

TCC Sunday School will begin on Rally Sunday,

September 11, a 10 year anniversary service of 9-11. Registrations have been mailed out, so please return forms prior to the first day. If you have not registered, please see John Mims, TCC Administrative Assistant. We will be

holding a one room classroom with a special activity planned. Look forward to seeing and working with everyone again.

Blessings, Donna Capone, Superintendent of Sunday School.

**There's something different about
the Blood Drive on September 2. Go
to page 5 to see what it's all about.**

SCRAPBOOKING FOR CROP WALK

Join in the fun October 1, 2011 scrapbooking or card making in Fellowship Hall to benefit "Crop Walk for the Hungry". The event starts at 9:00am and runs until 7pm for \$25.00 (pledge to the CROP WALK) with plenty of well lit space to scrapbook/crop. This is a fundraiser so please pack your own lunch or there are places close by to purchase sandwiches. For an additional \$5.00 people can sign up to share in pizza for supper. There will be 1 door prize drawn at 5pm and possibly classes to make cards or a page layout for a small fee. This is a great way to relax with friends, scrapbook pictures or make cards and at the same time help end hunger. Prepaid Reservations required to plan for space availability, so call Melanie Ouellette at (978) 597-5527 today and join in the fun! Checks are made out to CWS/CROP and given to me or mailed to 70 Meadow Rd, Townsend, MA 01469.





THE BEAT GOES ON ... by Pastor Shayna

Is there anyone out there who remembers the Sonny and Cher Show? Well, if you know the show then you definitely knew the song, "The Beat Goes On".

*Charleston was once the rage,
History has turned the page,
The mini skirts the current thing,
Teenybopper is our newborn king ...*

The point of the song was, I guess, that everything changes all the time ... so get used to it! And, for the most part, I suspect that we all know this is true even if we don't like it very much. What makes all of that change easier for me to live with is that, just below it, certain patterns and rhythms exist; cycles that transcend some of the chaos endemic to change.

As it happens, we are on the cusp of starting one of those patterns again as we begin a new church/school year. (Yes, yes, I know the official start of the church year is Advent, but work with me here!) Many folks travel and are away during the summer months. In September, we begin again to see old friends around the church we haven't seen in awhile. Since we have no Sunday school during the summer months, the presence of children on Sunday mornings is scant. Rally Sunday (September 11th) marks the start of the 2011-12 Sunday school year and we look forward to having the children back with us in worship. The Church Council has continued to meet over the summer months, but has not been able to gather a quorum at those meetings so no official church business has been able to take place. Now that we are beginning again, we all hope that issue resolves itself!

So, yes. Things constantly change. But just below all of the change lie some predictable patterns and those patterns can evolve into a sort of rhythm that holds us fast, even as the change sets us free!

*The grocery store's the super mart,
Little girls still break their hearts,
And men still keep on marching off to war
Electrically they keep a baseball score*

The beat goes on!

Looking forward to beginning anew with all of you!

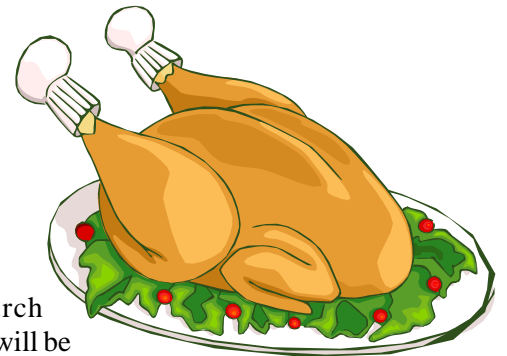
God bless and may peace be with us all.

Pastor Shayna

What more can you do?

- I will do more than belong – I will participate.
- I will do more than care – I will help.
- I will do more than believe – I will trust.
- I will do more than dream – I will work.
- I will do more than teach – I will inspire.
- I will do more than earn – I will enrich.
- I will do more than give – I will serve.
- I will do more than live – I will grow.
- I will do more than be friendly –
I will be a friend.
- I will do more than talk – I will listen.
- I will do more.

– author unknown



Turkey Dinner!

Our first Church Dinner of the year will be held on September 24. It will be a Turkey Dinner with all the fixings, including a wide variety of homemade desserts. Our dinners are wonderful events which not only raise funds for our ministries, but provide hospitality and build community among all who come. Please look out for the sign-up sheets to contribute time and food. Thanks to Wanda Wilson who has stepped forward to coordinate this supper. We still need volunteers to coordinate the January, October, February, March and April Dinners. It is easy! As a bonus, if you volunteer to coordinate the dinner, you get to choose the main course! Just ask and we can provide you with all the information you need.

Quote: *"You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving."* — Amy Carmichael (1867-1951), missionary to India

Andy Gustafson, Minister for Income



Fall! Cooler Weather! Beautiful Leaves! A New Season of Singing!!



After a few months of singing cool summer songs (Summer in the city, Surfin' USA, etc.) and re-energizing vocal chords, our choir will begin rehearsing a more spiritual repertoire on September 7. We gladly welcome new voices, so please join us if you love to sing. An ability to read music is not necessary. Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 in Room 3. More questions? Call Renée Fossey 978-597-8321.

Renée Fossey, Music Director

Make a Joyful Noise!

Calling All Musicians!

We are always happy to welcome new members to the Agapé Handbell Choir! We need people with some musical experience and a wish to make the bell music come to life. There are parts available from easy spots at the ends of the choir, to the more difficult spots in the middle of the choir.

The Agapé Handbell Choir, those musicians who are in the ninth grade to age 101, rehearse every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, beginning in October. We play during the fall and holiday season, take January and some of February off, then start again at the end of February for the Spring. We end in May.

If you are interested in playing in the Handbell Choir call Wanda Wilson (597-6803) soon. Thanks for considering us!



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

**In
September:**

1-Donald Ball; 2-Chris Guba; 10-Cynthia Curley; 12-Christopher Bennett; 15-Eric Gruber; 21-Kim Brackett; 23-Vera Bennett; 25-Pamela Kelsea; 30-Walter Spencer.



OUTREACH & MISSION HAPPENINGS

By Carole Gustafson, Minister For Outreach

Much has been happening over the Summer as we all tried to relax from a very busy year.

Let me share some highlights of what has happened since the June *Visitor* and exciting things that will be happening this Fall.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE WRAP-UP

The latest tally of money raised for the Ayer Relay is: \$89,786 with some money still coming in through the end of August.

The Townsend Crusaders team from TCC raised: \$11,654. This is our best fundraising year in the 12 years of participating. Our previous best was \$7,500. The team finished in 1st place thanks to all the team's fundraising efforts and your support. Knowing we are making a difference in the fight against cancer is reward enough. The monies raised will continue the research into new treatments and drug therapy. Inroads have been made into understanding how some cancers mutate and how best to begin treatment.

Thank you to all the walkers and everyone who supported our team's effort to fight back against cancer. A very big thank you to Jodi Robinson for offering to co-chair this year's team with me – thanks for sharing the load, Jodi!

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS) DISASTER BUCKETS



Once again the members and friends of TCC stepped up to help out with yet another disaster.

With your donations of money and supplies we:

- * Assembled 12 emergency clean-up buckets
- * Sent money to CWS to assemble 4 additional buckets and to pay the \$3 per bucket processing fee for the 16 buckets.

Thank you for all the donations! The Massachusetts Conference served as one drop-off location which eliminated shipping costs. There were 461 buckets picked up by CWS at this one location alone. There is still a critical need for emergency clean-up buckets and the height of the hurricane season has just begun. Inventory is low in the warehouses as a result of all the worldwide disasters this year.

MISSION 1 IS COMING!

From November 1 through November 11, 2011 the United Church of Christ will be on a shared mission to feed the hungry locally, nationally and worldwide, and confront food-related issues. During those 11 days the churches in the UCC will:

- * Collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD
- * Gather online contributions of more than \$111,111 FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED to help hunger causes nationwide
- * Offer more than **11,111 LETTERS TO CONGRESS** asking for our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide

YOUR CREATIVE IDEAS ARE NEEDED as to ways we can do this at TCC!!! How can we challenge our church and our community to be pro-active about hunger related issues, to fill our local food bank at TEO and to inform and reach out to our wider community? Please give this some thought and share your ideas with me. I would like to involve all of us here at TCC, to include the children and youth, in this endeavor.

During those 11 days in November an online tote board at ucc.org will tally the collective count of foodstuffs, donations and letters to keep churches informed with real-time numbers so we can celebrate our work together.

A national celebration will be held November 13 to celebrate this collective campaign's success.

As Matthew wrote ". . . For I was hungry and you gave me food . . .". The UCC motto and Jesus' prayer of "that they all may be 1" will become a focused, concentrated mission emphasis across the UCC to educate ourselves and one another about food-related policy issues through sermons, seminars, and conversations; to advocate on behalf of hungry people at home and around the world; to raise money for hunger-action purposes; and to share bread with our neighbors in need.

See me after church, call me at 597-6364 or email me at carolegus@gmail.org.

To learn more about Mission 1 go to the national UCC website: ucc.org/mission1

FAIR WAGES FOR FARMWORKERS

While Andy and I were at the national UCC General Synod in Tampa we were able to participate in a peaceful protest in support of the Immokalee farm workers in Florida who pick 90% of the country's tomatoes from November to May. They are asking to receive a penny more a pound for picking tomatoes ten hours a day



in the blazing sun with few breaks and limited shade. Their wages haven't changed significantly in 30 years. The workers are paid between 45-50 cents for every 32 pound bucket of tomatoes picked. In order to make a minimum wage for a typical 10 hour day, they have to fill a bucket every 40 minutes.

They are asking for humane treatment and fair working conditions by the farmers who contract with the large food companies, yet there have been nine federally prosecuted cases of forced labor since 1997 where workers were chained inside box trucks with no food, water or bathroom facilities. There were injustices such as these in the farm worker community when I went to school in Florida in the 1960's. The UCC Justice and Witness ministries have been working with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to bring their concerns to the major food suppliers who purchase tomatoes from contracted farms. Taco Bell, Subway, McDonald's and Whole Foods are some of the corporations who have signed agreements in support of fair wages and humane working conditions. Trader Joe's and the parent company of Stop'nShop (Ahold USA) are refusing to sign the agreement. Trader Joe's did **8 BILLION DOLLARS** in sales last year and is owned by a multi billionaire German family, yet they don't support a small pay increase for the farmworkers. I shop at Trader Joe's periodically, but I am now boycotting them until they do the just and right action of signing the agreement. I have postcards you can send to these two companies to show your support. Will you join me in helping to correct this injustice?

CROP WALK

Submitted by Melanie Ouellette

Communities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty is a walk sponsored by Church World Service, a humanitarian agency and cooperative ministry of several denominations. The "CROP HUNGER WALK" is held at First Parish in Concord

on Sunday, October 16, beginning at 1:30 for registration and music and then the walk begins at 2:15. The local food pantry, Townsend Ecumenical Outreach, will receive 25% of the money raised by Townsend walkers. The other 75% of the funds raised goes to Church World Service for worldwide emergency relief of disaster-floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes; and for fighting the root causes of hunger throughout development programs in 80 underdeveloped countries. **There are several ways you can get involved:** join in the walk and obtain sponsors, help support a walker, or help with a fundraiser event planned Oct 1st



(see details under Scrapbook and Crop for Hunger). **Please call Melanie Ouellette at (978) 597-5527** to get involved and help provide for the many hungry people. **This Outreach project is part of TCC, UCC Outreach Mission 1 plan.** Thank you in advance for your support in **ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME .**



SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 - A TIME TO LOOK BACK, A TIME TO PRAY IT FORWARD

by Pastor Shayna

To whom it may Concern

This is to inform you that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (AMC) has launched a nation-wide campaign called Muslims for Life in honor of the victims of 9/11. Under this campaign AMC will hold blood drives across the U.S. in all our mosques and prayer centers, as well as in collaboration with community organizations at their locations. Our goal is to collect 10,000 units of blood on or around September 11, 2011.

I hope you will participate in this campaign by scheduling a blood drive at your location in the month of September. If you already have a blood drive scheduled for the fall, please consider joining hands in the campaign by dedicating the drive to Muslims for Life.

Thus began the email I received three weeks ago while I was on leave. "Wow," I thought ... "there's an organized Muslim community in Fitchburg? Who knew?"

I was excited! I remember well the fruits born out by the relationship my last church (The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College) had with the Muslim student group at Dartmouth (Al-Nur). Working, worshipping, praying with and for the students of Al-Nur and their advisors not only deepened my understanding of Islam, but it gave me a deep appreciation for this beautiful and ancient tradition as well. I came to see clearly what I had once only sensed but could not articulate; that terrorism was as foreign a concept to Islam as it is to Christianity - that Al Qaeda is to Islam essentially what the KKK is to Christianity.

I immediately emailed Furqan Mehmud, the author of my email, back and told him I was away from the office but that I would be returning shortly and would take the matter up with my council ASAP. This I did last week and the Council members present gave their blessing to Furqan's request. So, the blood drive already scheduled at the Townsend

Congregational Church for the first week in September will now officially go towards supporting the Muslims for Life national blood drive.

Here's a bit more information about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (AMC) that you may find useful:

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (AMC) is at the forefront of efforts since 2001 to uphold the sanctity of human life as emphasized in Islam. The Holy Quran teaches that life is sacred and reaffirms Biblical teachings that whosoever unjustly kills a single person, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind; and whosoever saves the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all humanity (5:33). Further, in his Farewell Pilgrimage address, the Prophet Muhammad said, "Even as this month, land, and day of Pilgrimage are holy, so has God made the blood, property and honor of every human being sacred."

In 2010 a Muslims for Peace campaign was initiated by AMC to spread the peaceful message of Islam in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. That campaign included bus advertisements, interfaith dialogue events and door-to-door flyer distribution. This year AMC has commenced a new campaign called Muslims for Life, to collect enough blood to save 30,000 lives in honor of those who lost theirs on 9/11. (For more information about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community please visit www.ahmadiyya.us/index.php/about-ahmadiyya-muslim-community.)

Let us be in prayer together that our small contribution will help dismantle some of the misinformation and fear that so often is put upon the Islamic faith and our Muslim brothers and sisters because, as Furqan pointed out in his original e-mail to me, "Terrorists not only caused death and destruction on 9/11 but they also hijacked the Islamic faith. By representing an untrue militant, violent picture of Islam, they created suspicion of all Muslims in the American mind. The truth is that terrorists do not represent Islam or Muslims."



Terrorists do not represent Islam or Muslims. Neither do they represent Christianity or Christians. Yet, both religions share the sad history of being hijacked by a small minority who believed that violence perpetuated against innocents was justified by their faith. Please mark your calendars for the blood drives, invite your friends to participate and tell them why their participation is so important.

Together we can turn swords into plowshares.

May the deep and abiding peace of shalom grace us all.

A Salaam Alaikum,

Pastor Shayna

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Submitted by Andy Gustafson, Minister for Income

Taking the Long View

“And remember, I am with you always” Matthew 28:20

These last words of Matthew’s gospel have encouraged and comforted millions of Christians over two millennia. In times of challenge and pain, of doubt and despair, we are called to remember, and we remember that Jesus promised to be with us. We celebrate that presence in Holy Communion and whenever two or three are gathered in Christ’s name. The church is the living reminder to us of Jesus’ words; the community holds the memory when we struggle; the community holds us when we need holding, vicariously being Jesus for each other.

While loving one another and embodying Jesus’ love for one another often involves very specific times and people, we also need to take the long view. If we hope that our role in helping Jesus keep his promise will continue long after we die, then we need to think about how we can help our local church sustain itself for the long haul. There are many ways to do this: endow your pledge, include your church in your will, contribute to your church’s endowment or help start one. Our congregation is able to do more than we might have imagined because several far sighted women and men started a small endowment back in the early 20th century. That endowment has grown and helps us reach out as Jesus’ presence both inside and outside our walls. Jesus will be with us always; will your church continue to be Jesus’ hands, feet and voice in your community in the long term?

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

September 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.



Being A Generous Church ~ Together!

Coming to your neighborhood ... to change your world

The Stewardship and Mission and Justice teams invite you to their next free regional breakfast on Saturday, September 17, to discuss best practices for being a generous church - within and beyond the local congregation. This light breakfast and discussion will take place at Eliot Church in Newton from 9 to 11 a.m.

Pastors and lay leaders: bring a team from your church to meet others who are involved in a common mission. Discussion leaders for the regional breakfasts may include MACUCC staff, associate conference ministers, board and commission members, and national UCC staff.

Please sign up with Karen Methot at methotk@macucc.org, and let us know how many to expect from your church (so we have enough coffee and materials ready).

Regional breakfasts are also planned for

Oct. 22 - Mittineague Congregational Church in West Springfield

Nov. 12 - Tewksbury Congregational Church

A huge THANK YOU to all who contributed to Our Church's Wider Mission in 2010! Together, with God's help, we can change people's lives for the better, locally and around the world.



Endorsed by the Commission for Mission & Justice and the Commission for Stewardship of the Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ 1 Badger Rd, Framingham MA



It’s that time of year again...

That’s right, it’s time to start thinking fall foliage, craft fairs, decorative greens baskets, apple pies and **CHRISTMAS!!!**

Our church “**Holiday Craft and Greens Fair**” will be held on November 19 (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) from 10am-4pm. There will be a sign-up sheet going around for people to take charge of our standard “tables”. Wanda Wilson will once again be in charge of the greens, Gretchen Churchill is again taking care of the Bistro, Beth Klein will be overseeing the gift baskets raffle (*what theme will your basket be this year?*), Karin Canfield has stepped up to take charge of the apple pies, Karen Baer will be overseeing baked goods, and Cathy Hill is again organizing the crafters. *What will you be doing the day of the fair?*

It’s going to be a lot of fun, as always. There is always room for a new pair of hands and a fresh perspective on this old tradition – don’t be shy! Tradition is important in our church, but new ideas keep us energized! You can bring your ideas to Andy Gustafson gustafsona@macucc.org or myself, Cathy Hill ce.hill@verizon.net.

Cathy Hill

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 format for sharing prayers will now be a little different as we have come to realize that not everyone wants to have their full names published on the Internet. We are going to try a first name with last name initial format, and we hope that you will include these people and situations in your prayers.



BLESSINGS:

Heartfelt thanks to all our layleaders this summer who took on many different aspects of our worship services, from the smaller routine tasks, right up to delivering the sermon. Prayers of hope for Robin L

and the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists - for the first time this group was allowed to be part of a national Baptist convention. Prayers of joy that New York State has made the decision to allow same-sex marriage, they refer to it as "equality in marriage". We all celebrate with Robin L - on September 18 this year, she will be ordained at the First Baptist Church in Ithaca, NY - Praise be to God! Karin, who won the bid for a motorcycle ride with Shayna, had a great time riding to Maine. Michele M was very moved by the experience she had at the Ayer Relay for Life this year, and she asks for prayers for all the cancer survivors. It was a joy to have Fred S back with us for worship. Fred is filled with joy that his daughter Robin is moving back to this area (Leominster) with her two children. Prayers of thanks for the opportunity our Boy Scout Troop 10 had in going to Monson to help rebuild a dugout that was originally created as an Eagle Scout project. Prayers of joy that Nicolette is home after 80 days in the hospital. Praise God for the safe return of friends and family. Prayers of joy (and some concern) for Jodi R who's youngest child is about to apply for their learner's permit - may they both be safe on the roads. Also prayers of joy (and some concern) for friends of Emily B who are soon to deliver their babies. Prayers of thanksgiving for Alice K who finally has the cast off her

foot, a long journey of healing is almost over. The Lorraine M has a new great, great niece, Lillie May. Beth K shared a mixed prayer with us in that her brother-in-law has found love again and will be marrying soon, although he and his family



are mourning the recent loss of his mother. Cathy P gives thanks for her medical care and for the insurance that is covering these costs. Michele M gives thanks for her son who recently moved from Florida to Colorado to find better employment and will have started a new job in August. The joy and peace of mind for a grandson who has returned from Afghanistan. We give thanks that private funds are still invested in constructive research projects to help around the world. It was a joy to have Esme B with us in worship in July. Heartfelt thanks to Michele M for organizing a new visitation group. Lorraine M is very excited about her time at the Craigville Center's Music Camp, she had a great time and made a lot of new friends. The Baer family is happy to announce the engagement of their son Michael to his girlfriend Julia Rafal. Michael proposed in July and they are planning an August 2012 wedding. Thanks be to God for the joy of gathering with extended family. Thanks be to God also for answered prayers, Ruthann is fine. Kathy D's friend Alex has a job after 2 years of searching, and her friend Lorraina has taken a leap of faith and started her own cake decorating business. Pastor Shayna is very happy to be back with us in a full time capacity.

CONCERNS:

Prayers for the 15-year-old niece of Jen D, who just discovered that she is pregnant and is facing harsh judgement from her family. Prayers of comfort for Melanie O and her family as they mourn the passing of her mother. Prayers of love and support for the Davidson family. Prayers of faith and hope for a friend who's mother is struggling with breast cancer. Prayers for all those who are struggling with the aftermath of natural disasters; for all those who stand up for our nation; for good counsel and care for those who need it; and for all who have to endure war in their "backyard". We pray and hope that our Federal government, who once turned our Department of War into the Department of Defense, will find a way to turn this into the Department of Peace - Amen! Prayers of comfort and peace to Becky and Nick who are mourning the loss their husband/father to cancer. Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Frank Moore who passed away on 7/22/11. Prayers of peace for the Woodward family - their daughter had a near drowning incident and, although she seems to be recovered, the parents are very shook up. Prayers for all those who will be impacted by the lay-off of 1,000 people at State Street. Prayers of comfort, peace and healing for the people of Norway as they deal with the after effects of the mass violence committed there recently. Prayers for all those who are victims of mass violence.

Prayers for Ginny B. Prayers for Valerie B's sister Sharon, who will be out of work for about 6 months due to an injury, she will not receive any income during this period. We hold in prayer Lt. Tim Oliveira's family and members of the Salisbury

Fire Dept. and the MA Corp of Fire Chaplains, as they mourn his death. Prayers for the people of Africa who are caught between war and famine, and for all those struggling with the repercussions of drought in our own country. Prayers for the men and women in service who are struggling to make the world a better place. Our prayers go out to all those who are in need of aid, and for the innocent people in Somalia. Prayers for Lorraina who is being tested to try to resolve medical issues. Prayers of comfort for a friend who just lost their first child. Prayers for all those who are elderly and are alone and seeking companionship. May our country's governing body find balance and resolution. Prayers of comfort for Michael and Shannon who lost a child in childbirth recently; for Andy G's cousin's wife who lost her father recently; and for Lee M's extended family who are mourning the loss of her brother-in-law's sister, Marg. Prayers for all those impacted by warfare around the world; and for all those who are unemployed and underemployed.

Prayers of healing for Jim C; for a cousin who broke his leg, he and his wife have 6 children in their care; for Connie G's 65-year-old son who is back in the hospital, this time for a deep-seated inner-ear infection; for Kathy who has a painful nerve disorder; for Sarah who is recovering from surgery on her ankle; for Robin L's oldest sister who is experiencing difficult times right now; for the Alverado family, whose daughter was hit by a car recently, she lost her teeth and will be in care for her injuries for a while, but incurred no life-threatening injuries, thanks be to God; for Peg M who is experiencing ever-greater difficulties with mobility; for Pam's neighbor, Heidi, who experienced a very bad fall while climbing - she is anticipating a long healing process; for Cathy P; for June C's friend who is recovering from cancer surgery; for Diane E who is in the Highlands after multiple medical incidents; for Cathy's co-worker, Theresa S, who is recovering from heart surgery; for Linda I's sister Terry, who is recovering from back surgery; for Laura R who broke her hip recently; for a friend whose asthma is getting worse; for Craig's grandmother who has multiple medical issues and is recovering from surgery; and for all those in the world who are suffering.



Thank You!

A Special Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, love and support during the passing of my mother June 27th. I am truly blessed with so

many friends and brothers and sisters in Christ's name. My mom was a Christian and she helped lead me to the Lord. A

part of her will always be in my heart as she rests at peace in heaven. Thanks again and may God bless you.

Melanie Ouellette

Amen!

COMMUNITY NEWS

7th Annual Gregory E. Reeves Memorial Scholarship Run - October 8, 2011 -

Dear Church Friends and Families,

It's that time again! Beautiful day, great run, pleasant walk, good friends, kiddy race, abundance of food, fun for all! Please come and share the joy of this special event.

Please find below the link to the **7th Annual Gregory E. Reeves Memorial Scholarship Run**. The run will take place this year on Saturday, **October 8, 2011**. Start time is 10:30 A.M. rain or shine. Lunch will be provided to all entrants.

Last year's race raised approximately \$10,000 which was awarded to North Middlesex seniors in May. Congratulations to the three recipients who were Michelle Mulkern of Townsend-5,000.00, Ashley Tocci of Townsend -\$2,500.00 and Kaitlyn Silva of Townsend-\$2,500.00.

For those of you who do not run, it is great family walk. The **4.6 Mile Run/Walk** is a very picturesque route through town. It begins in front of our church and will end there as well. The foliage will be beautiful! All proceeds will benefit the Gregory E. Reeves Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Again this year we have a **Kiddy Race** which will be held after the 4.6 Mile Run/Walk. The Kiddy Race will be held inside the Townsend Common, open to children ages three to seven.

If you would like to join us for this special event on this beautiful fall day, applications are available in the church office or online at www.coolrunning.com. The link to the web page is:
<http://www.coolrunning.com/major/11/gregoryreeves/>

We would love to see you there to share the joy for this very special day. If you are unable to participate, please come and enjoy the event. Please call or email us with any questions at 978-597-5859 or debillr@comcast.net. Thank you again for your continued support.

God Bless You!

Deb and Bill Reeves and Family

More Community News:

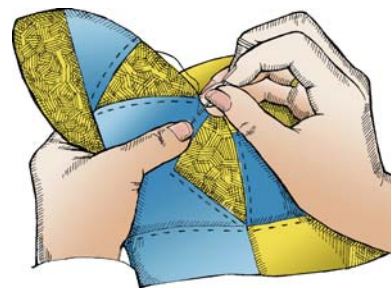
Look what's happening at your local library!

Parent Support Groups: Nancy Amante, a registered nurse with a Master's Degree in Education and a Graduate Certificate in Parent Education and Support, will be leading two free 12 week parent support groups at the Townsend Public Library. **"Best Beginnings"** 12:00pm-1:15pm is for parents of infants, and **"Time for Me"** 1:30pm-2:45pm is for parents of toddlers. Sessions begin Wednesday September 21. Questions and registration please email Nancy at namante@comcast.net

Scrapbooking: Do you like to scrapbook and never have the time? Join Stacy Schuttler and Kim King for a full night of scrapbooking! We have a cricut machine that can be used. Come for a few hours or stay the entire evening! Teens-Adult. Please bring your own supplies, paper and pictures. Next date: Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011 in the Townsend Meeting Hall.

Knitting: Theresa Sawyer and Ellen Duval welcome students ages 10 and up, as well as adults, to a beginners knitting class. The class will be held on the second Tuesday of each month from 6 - 8 pm in the new library. Participants will need to bring size 10 or 11 short, straight knitting needles and 1 skein of worsted weight yarn. This program is free and open to the public. Located in Townsend Meeting Hall B.

Quilting: This new group meets the second Tuesday of each month and welcomes anyone who wishes to get together for an evening of quilting activities with others who share your interest. Join us at 6:30 pm in Townsend Meeting Hall A.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER 2011				1 7pm Council rm 4	2 11am-7:30pm blood drive in F.H.	3 7am Saturday at 7 team
4 Worship/SS COMMUNION	5	6	7 7:30pm Snr Choir	8	9	10
11 Worship/SS Rally Day	12 6:30pm Open Sew	13	14 7:30pm Snr Choir	15	16	17
18 Worship/SS	19	20	21 7:30pm Snr Choir	22	23	24 TURKEY SUPPER 5-6:30 pm
25 Worship/SS Baptism: Lucas Davidson 11:30 Communion serving class	26 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOON -	27	28 7:30pm Snr Choir	29	30	
			GOD IS STILL SPEAKING		TO CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR, CATHY HILL: email: newsletter@tccucc.org or call 978-337-0638	

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)

