



# THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**July & August 2007**

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

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

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Wednesday throughout the  
day, by appointment.

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

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 20 - NOON**

**DON'T FORGET THE  
BAND CONCERT  
LAWN PARTY  
THURS, JUNE 28th -  
SET-UP 5:30PM**



**Budget  
Requests**

Please submit all budget  
requests by July 31st.

As this is the first year  
under the new by-laws  
and we are all trying to  
discern the right course of  
action (e.g. if you are  
unsure whose ministry the  
request falls under), please put your request  
in my box in the church office or call me at  
978-649-3294.

*Peace, Carrie (Minister for Finance)*

**Please join us in worship on  
September 16. Our special guest  
preacher will be Jim Antal,  
MACUCC Minister and President.**



**Summer  
Giving**

*by Carrie I. Davidson*

Summer is sun, fun and  
vacations. We hit the road for adventures,  
school is OUT and everyone seems a little  
happier.

As a result, it's also a time when our attendance  
drops at church. Unfortunately, so does our  
giving to the church's ministries.

It goes without saying we are an active church. In  
addition to our faith and fellowship, we have a  
strong outreach ministry, incredible  
members/friends/employees, and a top-notch  
childcare program.

Your giving throughout the year is crucial to our  
ministries and especially important during the  
summer. Your weekly giving is just one way to  
support TCC.

There are many other fun ways you can give  
throughout the summer such as attending the  
band concert on Thursday, June 28th or  
requesting a flock of pink flamingos to celebrate  
a special occasion or liven up a cookout.

Please remember TCC during the summer. We  
need your time, talent and treasure.

**SUMMER BOOK STUDY**

Please join the new  
Church Council and  
other interested  
members/friends of the  
church for a study and  
discussion group on  
spiritual discernment. We'll  
begin Monday, July 2 at 7:15 PM in Fellowship  
Hall. The next session will be July 9. Dates may  
be sporadic to allow members and the pastor  
some time away. If you plan to attend future  
sessions, please check with Pastor Mark or  
Sharlene in the church office for other dates. The  
2 primary texts for our study will be "Discerning  
God's Will Together: A Spiritual Practice for the  
Church" and "Listening Hearts: Discerning Call  
in Community."



*Pastor Mark*



## *I Believe. Help My Unbelief.*

*Reflections from your Interim Pastor, The Rev. Mark Seifried*

Being raised in the Show Me State of Missouri makes me a natural-born skeptic. For a man

who is called to lead people into the life of faith, skepticism presents challenges. When I hear people talk about having greater faith than others, my inclination is to say, "Show me. Don't tell me." As a pastor, though, I usually keep my mouth shut, try not to judge and just listen. I've had to unlearn skepticism. That takes work.

A while back I heard an interview with a paraplegic man, who also happens to be a psychotherapist and a radio talk show host. He said that he lives a fulfilling life because even though he is paralyzed, he has a lot to give and receive. The best gift that he gives to others is listening with his ears and his heart. Both of those body parts are alive and well. When we listen and respond from our mouths, he said, we take away the power of the other's experience. He went on to say that unsolicited advice is always self-serving. He is fulfilled in life primarily because he can listen to the joys and concerns of his family, clients, friends and colleagues. As a pastor, I can say, "Amen!" to that. It is most fulfilling to be allowed into the lives of my sisters and brothers in Christ.

Nonetheless, I sometimes find myself getting into trouble when I am tired or annoyed. It is then that my voice of skepticism is loudest and the Still Small Voice of God becomes mute. There is a parallel between human relationships and our interaction with God. When we do all the talking, even giving advice to God ("Do this. Do that."), we take away God's power. If it is true of human-to-human interaction, then it is true of God-to-human interaction: the best gift God gives to us is listening to us ... and the best gift we can give to God is listening for the Still Small Voice.

A couple of months ago, I found myself voicing skepticism during a confirmation class. We were near the end of the year-long journey. I was very comfortable with the students and mentors. I was also tired and annoyed with a certain situation in the church. We were talking about issues around death and dying. I told the group that I had doubts about scripture's claim of a bodily resurrection. It didn't jive with my understanding of science.

I end my day with prayer before I fall asleep each night. If there is something that is bothering me, I usually ask Jesus to help take it from me. I confess my sins and ask forgiveness. That night, after I voiced my skepticism about bodily resurrection, I asked Jesus' forgiveness. Since that night, I have pored over scripture to find out if I was missing

something about resurrection. I stopped talking so much about my doubt and have instead read, prayed, confessed, and listened.

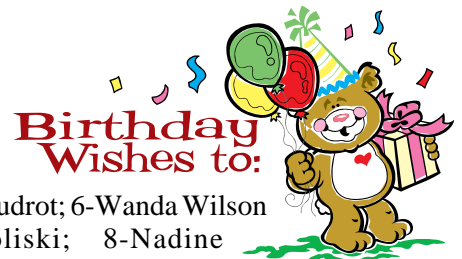
Whoosh! The following excerpt appeared in the May 29th edition of The Christian Century.

*In 1998, a rainbow appeared above the cabin of a devout Tibetan, a Buddhist lama. As he lay on his bed, chanting a Tibetan mantra, he died, even though he hadn't been sick. Shortly afterward, his students noticed that the monk's skin began to turn soft and pinkish. They were advised by another lama to cover his body and continue to pray. As the days progressed the dead monk's body shrank, and by the end of the week all that remained were a few hairs on a pillow. This phenomenon, known in Tibetan Buddhism as a rainbow body has been subsequently studied by an associate director of the secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. David Steindl-Rast concludes: "If we can establish as an anthropological fact that what is described in the resurrection of Jesus has not only happened to others but is happening today, it would put our view of human potential in a completely different light."*

This article is deep and meaningful for my life of faith. I pray it might be for yours as well. Beyond the implication of a bodily resurrection, though, something more profound has transpired for me personally. I gave voice to my skepticism. I asked forgiveness. I repented and I prayed. It wasn't until I repented of my old ways that God responded in a new way. That's a lesson I've never preached on before, but it's something I'll be pondering for a while.

Let us give thanks for the church: a blessed community with whom we can voice our doubts and our faith. A place where the Word comes alive. A place where lives are transformed. A place where listening unlocks the mysteries of the universe. A place where temporal merges with the Eternal. All praise and glory be unto the Almighty Creator, Savior and Spirit!

## **July & August**



**JULY:** 3-Suzanne Boudrot; 6-Wanda Wilson & Glenda Homoliski; 8-Nadine Bellegarde; 9-Laura Gustafson; 11-Celia Malette; 13-Hana Valigankas; 18-Violette MacNeil; 21-Jennifer Moseley; 24-Gary Hatch & Michelle Livingston; Kristina Wilson; 27-Sylvia Beldan; 28-Holly Beauchesne; 31- Carole Gustafson.

**AUGUST:** 2-Jim Clish; 3-Alan Beauchesne; 4-Dot Barber; 8-Bruce Beauchesne; 11-Lyn Bennett; 12-Shannon Howard; 13-Cheryl Simoneau; 24-John Lucente, Jr.; 26-Collin Amadon & Cathy Hill; 27-Kaleigh Peterson



## **A note from the minister for Income . . .**

I am pleased to become your minister for income and delighted with the response from everyone about the different sign up sheets I have presented!

### **FINANCE**

We are a congregation of varied talents and time to give the church to help raise money in God's name. This job doesn't happen magically. The Holy Spirit that moves through us all inspires us to participate. It takes the dedication of everyone and the contributions that they freely give that allows the church to continue to thrive and grow.

With that said, I invite you to help anywhere that God calls you on the following projects...

1) The Pledge Drive: We invite everyone interested in Townsend Congregational Church to make a pledge to the church of their gifts that God has given to them. This will occur in September and October where a group of us will visit every member and friend in an all church pledge campaign.

*Andy Gustafson has volunteered to lead this task team and will conduct a training session in August. We need 3 more people to make the team complete.*

2) The Holiday Craft And Greens Sale: Things are moving along quite smoothly except at this point there is nobody to lead or work on the "Deacon's Diner" (WE HAVE NO DEACONS). I am looking for someone to head up this area and rally forces for this Hearty Kitchen. Also, nobody has signed up to head the pie table. (I'm Sure that Lisa Hunt would love to share her years of experience to guide anyone willing to take on this project.)

3. Church Suppers: There is only one more date of October 27th for Someone to lead a church supper. The other suppers are on Sept. 29, Jan 26, Feb. 23, March 29, and April 26. You can mark your calendars now to save those dates before everyone else tries to fill up your time.

In conclusion, Thank You to all who have committed to help on the different fund raisers. Your commitment is a sign of your love and devotion to our church and is what makes TCC such a wonderful place in which to worship God.

If you can help in any fashion feel free to call Glenda Homoliski at 978-597-6281. God Bless you all!

*Glenda*

**Isn't it strange how a 20 dollar bill seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping?**

## **Breakfast anyone??**

We are in the planning phase for opening wide our doors to the community with one or more breakfasts.

Our current team includes Meg and Don...a very good start but more help is needed.



If you are interested in helping in any way (planning, cooking, cleaning, setting up, etc), please call me at 978-649-3294 or check out the sign up sheet at coffee hour.

*Peace, Carrie (Breakfast Task Team Chair)*



## **Sign up for Camp Fidgets**

Little people who might not enjoy summer worship services with Pastor Mark are invited to join Camp Fidgets, located in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings in July and August.

We'll need two adults or teens to oversee the activities -- quiet play time which can be stories, videos, coloring. Play-doh or playground. Your choice, your activity. We'll provide materials and supplies.

Camp leaders will have the most enjoyment if volunteers consider one Sunday only, not the entire summer. We'll need feedback of "go or no" sooner than later, so as to post a schedule to let parents know there is a kid-zone.

Contact Jane Jackson, 978-597-8813 to signup or for more information.

You may also attend a Council meeting to learn more -- check the church calendar or call the office 978-597-8925 for the schedule.

## **Spiritual Growth Gathering**

Listen carefully for an announcement regarding our next meeting location, date and time. Come share your faith journey and be with others who wish to build a closer connection with God.

*Lisa Hunt*



## News from the Transition Team

At the Spring Planning meeting held on May 31 the church unanimously voiced support to proceed with a revised form of governance for Townsend Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, adopting new by-laws to be in place for one year. On Sunday, June 10, the called Ministers and new officers were confirmed and blessed during worship service.

Under the new by-laws, we now have eight Ministers - Education, Finance, Gifts, Hospitality, Income, Outreach, Property and Worship. All of those Ministries and the duties and responsibilities were previously assigned to one or more boards or committees. Now each Minister will oversee Task Teams for short and long-term projects and needs of the church. The Ministers will meet once a month at a Council Meeting (formerly the Cabinet) with the Moderator, Associate Moderator and the Pastor.

The callings for the Ministers did not come without thoughtful and prayerful deliberation. We have not yet called a Minister for Education or Hospitality.

We ask for prayers and patience of our church as this process continues. Your voice -- inner and spoken -- is very important to us. Please contact any Transition Team member if you would like to know more about the Ministries. Team members are Jane Jackson, 978-597-8813; Nancy Lee, 978-597-8866; Ken Reed, 978-582-9630; Cheryl Simoneau, 978-597-6589; Fred Spring 978-597-8837; David Wilson, 978-597-6803.



### THANKS TO OUR SCOUTS!!

On Saturday May 19 our scout troop Troop 10 did a major cleanup of their and our storage areas. We filled a 15 yard dumpster and some parents with trucks took some wood away and some metal was taken to MJS Metals. Pack 11 paid for the dumpster. The storage in the vestry and the barn were cleaned out and a lot of junk was thrown out.

***JOB WELL DONE SCOUTS, IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.***

If you take a tour of the place you'll find that we can get into our storage areas and find what we want without a shovel. There is room to keep some new things, but if you put something new in, find the old thing you're replacing and throw it away. We don't need duplicates of everything. We need to keep the areas clean because what we were storing and the amount can be a fire and safety hazard.

*Michelle Enright*

Dear Church family,

I have enjoyed the past year as the Christian Education Director more than I could ever put into words. It has been a year of renewed friendships, great fellowship with the children, and heart warming moments.

I have been wrestling with the decision that I now find myself in the position of having to make. In the other segment of my life, I was lucky enough, recently, to walk into a job position that is in my field of design, and has more hours than my previous position as a substitute teacher. It is a great opportunity to provide for my family, two of whom are teenagers with college bills looming on the horizon. I thought, originally, that I would be able to juggle both this position, and the position as Christian Education Director, but that is quickly becoming impossible as the hours and work load of my other job are increasing.

It is hard for me to face the fact that it is now time for me to pass the torch of Christian Education Director on to someone else who can give it the time and energy it deserves. It is a job that comes strongly recommended. I think it is the best job you will ever love if you feel you are called to this position. I hope that someone will quickly be able to pick up that torch and run with it so that our strong Sunday school program can continue smoothly for the amazing group of young people that we have attending our church. Their faces etched in my heart make it very hard to face this decision.

With thanks and gratitude for all of your support throughout the year, and prayers that we can work out a smooth transition, and with love,

*Carol Berman*

***It was a great joy to all when, on May 27, the following wonderful kids were baptized:***

RYAN MICHAEL BAILEY, son of Michael and Julie Bailey. Sponsors are Nancy Bailey and Matthew Nesbit.

DEANNA JEANNE CAPONE, daughter of Donna Capone. Sponsors are Nicole and Thomas Mahoney.

DOMINIC JAMES CAPONE, son of Donna Capone. Sponsors are Nicole and Thomas Mahoney.

JULIANNE MARIE CAPONE, daughter of Donna Capone. Sponsors are Nicole and Thomas Mahoney.

BENJAMIN TY HERSEY, daughter of Charles and Rebecca Hersey. Sponsors are the congregation of TCC-UCC.

JILLIAN LOUISE HERSEY, daughter of Charles and Rebecca Hersey. Sponsors are the congregation of TCC-UCC.

The Rev. Dorothy Dubreuil, ordained UCC pastor, baptized Jillian and Ben. She is a member of TCC and the children's grandmother.

## Confirmation, continued . . .

As a continuation of the celebration of our newest members confirmed in May, the following is Kylie Thompson's statement of faith:

I was baptized into the Townsend Congregational Church in June of 1992. This was a choice made by my parents because I was too young to do so myself. They made this decision for me so that as I grew up, I would have something to rely on. As it turns out, there have been times in my life when I have needed something to believe in. Sunday school taught me to believe that heaven is a place where our family and friends go when their life here on earth is over. Getting through rough situations is much easier when you believe that God will take care of you and your loved ones. Now that I am fifteen years old, it is time for me to confirm the decision that my parents made for me. The question that I have been working towards answering for the past year sounds simple, but has required a lot of effort. Do I want to become a member of the Townsend Congregational Church? I have now visited multiple churches and learned about many different types of faith. I have also talked with a lot of people about their faith, and listened to everything that my mentor, Jodi Burnham, had to say. I have finally learned enough about our church to reach a conclusion. The answer is yes...today I will become a member of the Townsend Congregational Church.

**If someone in your family is heading off to college, please pass on their new address so they can receive their own copy of our church newsletter.**



### **THE TCC OPEN & AFFIRMING (ONA) DISCERNMENT TEAM**

*Offering the church the opportunity to participate in an Open and Affirming discernment process.*

The Open and Affirming (ONA) Discernment Team is working on a statement that incorporates the variety of concerns and celebrations for including people of diverse relationships and sexual orientations into fullness of life in the church. As part of our ongoing discernment, we will present

a draft of the statement at the Annual Meeting in September for the purpose of eliciting feedback from the congregation. Based upon that discussion, the ONA team will continue to discern how it would best serve God and TCC-UCC so that the congregation can come to consensus. Please keep us in your prayers as we work throughout the summer. We serve the church on your behalf.

We have placed a suggestion box in Fellowship Hall for ONA. Your questions and comments are welcome.

*Your sister and brothers in Christ,*

*The ONA Discernment Team*

The UCC  
Coalition  
for LGBT  
Concerns



If you have questions and

would like to visit the web site of "The UCC Coalition for LGBT concerns, their address is [www.uccoalition.org](http://www.uccoalition.org)

You will find a statement of their vision, news of upcoming events and programs, as well as access to discussion boards.

*"This Coalition ministry is rooted in our particular place as Christians working for peace and justice, inspired by the Good News of God's extravagant welcome."*

**Keep our ONA Discernment Team and all of TCC, UCC in your daily prayers.**

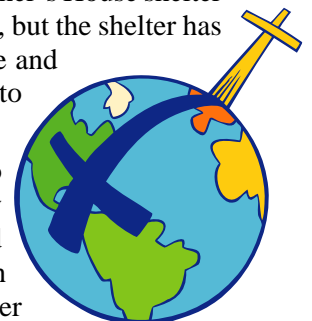
## OUTREACH CORNER

Ever wonder what happens to the funds we send to Church World Service? I've begun posting Church World Service (CWS) Hotline reports on the Outreach bulletin board in the hallway outside of Fellowship Hall. These are weekly digests of some of the missions that CWS is working on around the world.

Another option is to go the CWS website at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) and get more details on CWS programs or subscribe to the hotline reports.

Closer to home, we could use a few more people to help prepare and serve a meal at Our Father's House shelter in Fitchburg. The kitchen is small, but the shelter has a gas grill and simple cookout fare and fellowship might be a great way to share hope on a Saturday evening.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this project or have any other ideas or desires for Townsend Congregational Church outreach tasks, please contact Walter Spencer at [walwor1@verizon.net](mailto:walwor1@verizon.net), or call 978-582-0933.



# PROJECT CLASSROOM

At the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year New Orleans will be opening 20 new schools (some in old schools that have been renovated from the storm and others in newly manufactured buildings to be used as temporary classrooms.)

The teachers and students will be starting from scratch. Last year it took 2 to 4 months to get supplies, furniture and textbooks to these classrooms. This year we hope for better circumstances and our project is designed to help jumpstart the new schools and say Welcome Back! You can help and walk with the teachers and kids through your donations to the classrooms.

This project directly affects the teachers and students in the classroom. If you decide to participate in this program you and Sheila Allred will select a grade level from Pre-kindergarten-12th grade or you could prepare boxes for subject areas such as a Math box, Science box, etc. for high school.

In each box you will collect items that can be used by teachers and students in that one classroom. (Example: 1st grade classroom- in that box will go things used by a first grade teacher in her classroom - supplies and/or teaching resources and student supplies – see suggestions below.) By doing it this way we can easily pass on these supplies/resources to teachers and the teacher can open the box just for his/her classroom and it is ready for use.

## GUIDELINES:

1. To participate you must sign up with Sheila Allred either by email or phone: Sheila will help you choose an available grade and in many instances can tell you to which school they will go so you can label them for delivery. Please check before you start collecting! Thanks!

sheallred@gmail.com or 504-838-9214 (home)  
504-250-1052 (cell)

2. Please recruit a coordinator to check all of the donations and be sure they fit the list and are packed and marked appropriately. (It would be a great idea for a teacher or retired teacher because of their knowledge of what is needed.)

3. Box size is 24" x 18". Please tape each box carefully. On the outside of each box clearly mark on each side what grade level and which school the box is packed for.

4. On one side of the box clearly list exactly what is in the box. Put clear tape over this list of items completely covering the list so it cannot come off.

5. Prepare for 35 children in a class.

6. You will find a list of suggested items at the end of this flyer – and feel free to use a local teacher as a resource for the items to put in the box.

7. Once you have your boxes packed please contact Sheila Allred and confirm with her the number of boxes you have actually packed.

8. There will be a truck in Hartford, CT. the weekend of June 23rd and 24th. We must have an accounting of every box that is being prepared to ship this way so we have the correct size truck. You will be able to bring your boxes to a designated area and they will be shrink-wrapped and loaded on pallets by school destination and brought down to New Orleans. [Further information about the truck will be forth coming. Ask Sheila about other options for shipping to New Orleans directly.]

**IMPORTANT NOTES:** Please no large amounts of paper in the classroom box. (If you would like to donate paper, put it in a separate box labeled as to what kind of paper it is - construction paper, notebooks, file folders, etc.)

If you would like to send books for youngsters from preschool through high school – please check with Sheila Allred and then box them as directed (– for now supplies are needed most.) The age they're intended for and the number of books enclosed must be marked on all 4 sides of book boxes or they cannot be shipped.

## SUGGESTIONS:

### *For Teachers, as is grade appropriate:*

assorted sizes of post its, red pens, black and blue pens, scotch tape, scotch tape dispenser, masking tape, tacky material for putting art work on the walls, chalk, erasers, markers, sharpie markers, liquid white out, large scissors, white board markers and erasers, boxes of colored stars, paper clips, stapler and staples, a small tool kit (especially screw drivers), file labels, decorative classroom borders, letters for bulletin boards, glass slides for telescopes, Gift cards to Wal-Mart, Staples and Visa Gift Cards to use at The Educator in New Orleans (teacher supply store) and help support the economy.

### *Specific items for a technology teacher- elementary-*

flash drives for student use, mouse pads, wireless headphones, educational software programs

### *For students, as is age appropriate:*

pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers (pencil top and the square kind), crayons, blunt end scissors, rulers, protractors, compasses, colored pencils, highlighters, reinforcing circles for notebook paper, medium size sharp scissors, pocket folders

### *Incentives for students:*

bookmarks (non-religious), fancy erasers, various stickers, cute stamps and stamp pads for the teachers to use, bookmarks, map placemats – USA or World maps

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR  
KINDNESS AND CONSIDERATION!**

*Good Shepherd UCC Educational and Book Project, 5122 West Esplanade Avenue - Metairie, LA 70006 In Partnership with Lisa Mains Saley Foundation for Kids*





# RAFFLE BASKETS FOR THE CRAFT & GREENS FAIR

By Beth Klein

I have signed up to coordinate the raffle baskets for our fair in November. In the past, we have had a Chinese Auction and have asked local businesses for

donations. This year, we will be having themed raffle baskets instead.

The way it works is I am asking each family/families to pick a theme and fill a basket with items related to that theme. These baskets will be raffled off in a traditional "Chinese Auction" way. Tickets will be purchased and placed in a container that goes with the basket you want to win and a winner will be picked at random.

I have listed below 60 suggested themes but you may come up with your own. If we have 2 baskets of each theme, we could possibly have 120 baskets!!!

If you would like to participate, look for the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall after church. Tear off the paper of the theme you pick and add your name to the sign up sheet. You may also call me at 978-597-8517 or email me at donald.klein2@verizon.net. As of today (June 10th), I already have 11 families signed up for 14 baskets.

November may seem a long way away, but some of the themes are seasonal, so I am starting to plan early so people can use the summer, if needed, to purchase the items. More information about when to have them completed will be at a later date. Have fun with this and please let me know if you have any questions or need any other information.

## SUGGESTED THEMES FOR THE RAFFLE BASKETS FOR THE TCC-UCC FAIR THIS NOVEMBER:

... but feel free to come up with your own creative theme !!!

Baby Basket \* Birthday Basket \* Beach Basket \* Beanie Baby's Basket (taken) \* Bread Basket \* Basket of Baskets

Camping Basket \* Crafting Basket \* Children's Basket \* Chocolate Basket \* Candle Basket \* Car Washing Basket \* Christmas Basket \* Cooking Basket \* Coffee Basket \* Chinese Food Basket \* Cookie Basket

Day of Beauty Basket

European Vacation (plane ticket not included) Basket \* Embroidery Basket

Food Basket \* Fingernail Basket (taken) \* Feed the Birds Basket \* Gift Wrapping Basket \* Games Basket \* Gardening Basket \* Ginger Bread Basket

Handyman Basket

Italian Basket \* Ice Cream Basket

Knitting Basket \* Kitchen Basket \* Kids Basket \* Kids Cooking Basket

Lottery Basket \* Lobster Basket

Movie Basket \* Massage Basket \* Music Basket

Picnic Basket \* Party Basket \* Pampering Basket \* Poker Basket \* Pet Basket \* Popcorn Basket \* Pie Basket \* Photo Basket \* Phone Basket

Romantic Evening Basket

Sports Basket \* Scrapbooking Basket \* Stationery Basket \* Sewing Basket \* Stamping Basket

Tea Basket \* Travel Basket \* Thanksgiving Basket \* Tools Basket

Over the Hill Basket \* Ugly Basket



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### "CATCH THE BEAT" AT THE TOWNSEND PUBLIC LIBRARY

There's something for everyone this summer at the Townsend Public Library. The new Children's Librarian Stacy Schuttler and Library Director Heidi Fowler have both worked hard to provide a wide assortment of fun activities for children of all ages in coordination with the statewide summer reading program "Catch the Beat". In addition to this, Heidi is kicking off a brand new adult reading program in July that includes weekly raffle drawings for those

who enter. Lots of fun and lots of prizes for all. Come and see what's happening at your library this summer!



# BEYOND OUR WALLS

## E-mail From Ibandla lami linge lakho / My church is your church

Hello to Townsend!

The attached photo is myself with Emmy, one of the women that Gail Kendrick and I visited last year. Emmy is soon to turn 89 and seems to be doing well. However, her son, Eric, is dependent on her care. Fortunately, Flo has arranged for one of the home-based caregivers associated with the Lamontville Thembaletu Care Centre to visit Emmy several times a month, and help Emmy to get Eric out of bed and into his wheelchair.

One of Emmy's issues last year was that Eric would not sleep through the night and woke her. Gail, you will be glad to know that after about 8 months of that, it has mitigated so Emmy can get more sleep.

This photo was taken on Friday, the day the Care Centre was officially opened. It was a great day for Lamontville and for Flo Madlala and, therefore, a very happy one for me as a friend.

Jan and I will be worshipping with the Lamontville Congregational Church on July 22. Carol, your gifts for the Sunday school have already been given (through Flo) to Audrey. Flo particularly appreciated the "rocks" – she thought that the children would enjoy rubbing them due to the pleasant feel to them.

Ruthann



## MESSAGES FROM LAMONTVILLE:

**06/03/07:** Flo is glowing. The opening of the Day Care Center went very well. There was a lot of support from the community, the palliative doctors of the patients who had trained some of the caregivers, representatives from the mayor's office, and Ruthann and Jan and their minister guest from the Boston area. Many donations were given of not only money, but the painting of the building and even a stove. The support was on a higher level than she could have hoped for. A video of the whole ceremony was taken and we shall be

able to see it when Ruthann and Jan return. Also Flo will send us a copy of the speech she made at the ceremony. The Lord is good, God's timing perfect and Flo is relieved to have it all behind her. She is reminded of the hymn they sang at the ceremony, *It is Well With My Soul*. ***kodwa usikhulule kokubi / For Thine is the Kingdom.***

**06/10/07:** The Lamontville church was blessed this week with the gift of communion. They have communion only quarterly because there are only five "out-stations" which serve several churches each and only one minister. They also had children baptized while the minister was there. In additions to the many "hats" Flo already wears for the Lamontville church, she is also the church secretary. Since they are coming into the winter months, there are some people already coming down with the flu. ***Ngokuba umbuso ungowakho / For thine is the kingdom***

**06/24/07:** Prayers for Flo this week. She is not feeling well. She has the flu and a cough so bad that conversation was not feasible. She will rest and recover and hopefully be back with us soon. ***Ngokuba umbuso ungowakho / For thine is the kingdom***



continued from last month . . .

## The Accusation

At a church meeting in the vestry September 29, 1839 the Throne of Grace was addressed by the Rev. Mr. Stowell, the moderator, Deacon Daniel Giles then stated to the Church that Brother Zacharius Richardson had committed several offences, and that the first and second scriptural steps had been taken with said brother, but to no good affect; and that said Giles was now constrained to take the third consequently presented six specific charges against said brothers as follows, viz -

1st of accusing our Pastor of heresy in a public meeting, whereas if he were guilty, that was not the time nor place to bring the accusation,

2nd of unchristian treatment of our Pastor in your private interviews with him and in your general conduct towards him,

3rd of charging our Pastor of repeated instances of falsehood; without the least shadow of proof, which is contrary to the express command of scripture,

4th of endeavouring (sic) to spread scandalous accusations on [unreadable] our minister, amongst the members of the Church and those out of the Church, in town and out of town,

5th of neglecting to attend regularly on the means of grace,

6th of speaking and acting in an unchristian manner towards



the Church as a body, accusing them of sustaining a minister, who had forfeited his ministerial and Christian character, and whose preaching the Lord would never own and bless.

To the above charges said Richardson in the main acknowledged his guilt and a committee was chosen to meet with said Richardson, to draw up a confession that might be presented before the Church. Chosen for said committee: Deacon Bouttell, Eliah Going, Joel Adams. The council adjourned to the 1st day of October next.

Church Clerk,

Joel Adams

## *The Confession*

October 1st, 1840. The Church assembled at the vestry according to the adjournment. Prayer being offered by the Rev. Mr. Stowell; a confession alluded to previously was presented to the Church, signed by Brother Zacherius Richardson, and accepted by said Church. The confession:

*To the Pastor, Brethren and sisters of this Church,*

*In respect to the difficulties existing between you and myself, I wish to make the following communication. I have endeavoured to review my past conduct, and I perceive that I have verily been in the wrong; I wish to confess it and, if possible, heale (sic) the wound I have inflicted on the cause of our Redeemer. The charges, preferred against me, are true. I did wrong in accusing Rev. Mr. Stowell of heresy in a public meeting; I have no reason to suppose him unsound in doctrine. I have indulged wrong feelings towards him. I have, unjustly and without occasion, assailed his moral, Christian and ministerial character. My language to him has been unchristian, and sometimes harsh and insulting; especially on the Saturday previous to last communion. I have charged him with respected instances of lying, these charges are groundless. I have wronged him and the family of Rev. Mr. Palmer by my insinuation, in respect to his (Mr. Stowell) conduct; whereas I know not of his doing or saying anything, calculated at all to impeach his character, and that of the Palmer family. I have done wrong in endeavouring to influence others against him by throwing out insinuations against his character and sentiments; this I have done to individuals both in and out of the church. My conduct in relation to the recent revival of religion, my cold indifference, my remarks in respect to it, have been wrong and calculated to wound your feelings, as also to offend the Great Head of the Church.*

*I have give you and your Pastor occasion to be grieved by my irregular attendance on the means of grace, and of accusing you of sustaining a minister, who has forfeited his christian and ministerial characters, and whose preaching the Lord could never bless, whereas I know nothing against his character, either as a Christian or minister. He has always treated me in a kind and Christian manner. I confess that in my attempts to defend my charges and insinuations against Mr. Stowell, his character and preaching, I have resorted to misrepresentations and equivocations, I have not delt (sic) fairly and openly. Now in all these particulars I have sinned. I confess it with shame. I would humble myself before God and implore pardon.*

*I ask the fogiveness of the Pastor, brethren and sisters. I ask your prayers for me that I may be enabled henceforth so to time as not to wound the saviour in the house of his friends nor give the word occasion to speak reproachfully of religion. Now Brethren will you forgive me? Will you continue to me your Christian fellowship and communion, and give me an opportunity to evince by my future conduct that this confession flows from a penitent heart? Before I close this communication, I would say that the brethren who have labored with me to convince me of my sin, have treated me in a manner at once [unreadable] and Christian.*

Townsend October 1st 1839 Zacherius Richardson

Note the foregoing is an exact copy of a confession of Brother Zacherius Richardson made to the Church in Townsend; and was accepted by said Church, it being satisfactory to them.

October 1st 1839 Joel Adams, Clerk

So it would seem that Brother Richardson had “seen the light” and all would go smoothly for our church ancestors from here on, right? Oh, not so fast.....

## *The Aftermath*

December 9th 1840

A meeting of the Church was held in the vestry agreeable to previous notice. A prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Stowell, singing and the business of the meeting was as follows viz -

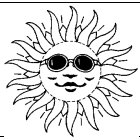
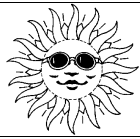
Brother Zacherius Richardson having expressed himself to some individuals, the present season, in an unkind, unchristian, and somewhat insulting manner; and plainly alluding to his old difficulties, and those individuals, being present, communicated to the Church, in substance, what Brother Richardson said to them, whereupon said Brothers’ confession made to the Church dated October 1st 1839 being made to the Church and in the hearing of Brother Richardson his remarks thereon went to show that he signed said confession at the time rather by constraint than otherwise, and he somewhat implicated the committee chosen on that occasion, and the appearance of Brother Richardson at the time, in conjunction with the fact mentioned above induced the Church to pass the following vote viz -The Brother Zacherius Richardson be suspended from Church priviledges (sic) for the space of two months, or thereabouts, that he may have an opportunity of making satisfaction to the Church, at which time the action of the Church may be expected thereon; and that a copy of this vote be passed to said Brother. And a copy thereof has been forwarded to said Brother.

Joel Adams, Clerk

And so, the saga continues . . .

Sharlene Gugarty

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<h1>JULY 2007</h1>		
<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER EDITOR, CATHY HILL: ce.hill@verizon.net Questions? Home # 978-597-5864</b>						
1 <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b>	2 7:15 Discernment study group	3	4 7:15pm Fin/Inv. Task Team	5	6	7
8 Worship	9 7:15 Discernment study group	10	11	12	13	14 11am Malcolm/Marshall wedding
15 Worship	16	17	18	19	20	21
Pastor Mark at <i>Conflict Resolution</i> seminar						
22 Worship	23	24	25	26	27	28 4pm Belair/Godin wedding
29 Worship	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<h1>AUGUST 2007</h1>		
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship	13	14	15	16	17	18
Waxing preschool floors & entryway Aug 17 - 20						
19 Worship	20 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOON -</b>	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship	27	28	29	30	31	



### **OUR BLESSINGS:**

Praise be to God for love incarnate as we witnessed so many couples reaffirm their wedding vows on June 17 - members and visitors - during our service on the Town Common. Dot Barber was well enough to enjoy BINGO at the Senior Center recently!

Thanks to the Boy Scouts for doing such a fabulous job cleaning out the old vestry and the barn. Congratulations to Chris Klein who recently graduated. It was a joy to have Fred and Judy Hancewicz visiting with us, as well as seeing Carol and Bob Stone. The Beldans have been married for 50 years. On July 12, Nancy & Roy Shepherd will have been married for 50 years as well - congratulations to both couples! Prayers of thanksgiving for the Spirit Who blew through the church on Music Sunday with power and might, enlivening our worship with beautiful music. Thanks as well for the ministers who have answered God's call to serve on the newly formed TCC Church Council, and for an excellent first meeting. We celebrate Glenda's continued good health. Good luck to Kim and Mike Wojcuilewicz who were married at TCC on June 16. Baby Abrielle made her first appearance in church on June 10. Karen's nephew Sean is making steady progress in rehab following his accident and should be released June 27th. Praise God for His healing touch.

**CONCERNS:** Prayers of comfort for the family of Pat Wallace, especially her son Dwight, whose wife Mary Boutwell died last week. Healing for Nancy Rogers recovering from a fall that fractured both elbows. Comfort for the family of Nathan Marti who was the victim of a crash with a drunk driver. Prayers for compassionate healing to be with those caring for Gretchen's mother. Healing for Roger Ireland who has been hospitalized. Prayers of comfort for the families and friends of Sam Briguglio (the elder) and Robert Hamilton who died recently. Continued prayers for Karen's nephew Sean who is now in rehab following his recent accident. Sterling - 9-year-old with chronic kidney disease. Linda Modica's mother, recovering (slowly) from a stroke. Betty Nelson. Dorothy DuBriel. Erving Marshall, brother of Nancy Morse. Continued support for the Pastoral Search Committee.

**CANCER FIGHTERS:** Ann Kelleway. Palma Coccia. Lisa Collins. Donna Howard's cousin, Marie. Jennine Borandi, a 28-year-old relative of Laurie and Holly Gustafson, recently diagnosed with liver and lung cancer. Ken Lowe's cousin, James Ayotte. Caroline Tolman, breast cancer. Sally Waite. Max, a four-year-old Downs Syndrome child with liver cancer. Cathy Hill's sister Morag in Australia. Sarah Rogers. Marron Ryan, Cheryl Simoneau's friend and co-worker. Arlene Connolly. Jim O'Shea's daughter. Georgia Vogel. Chris Johnson's friend, Sam. Judy Manson Hackett. Roger

Ireland. Glenda Homoliski. Lisa Collins. Alan Williamson. Stephanie Herman. Kim Decker, Lyn Bennett's cousin. Carroll Jones, Lyn Bennett's brother-in-law. Judy Russell's cousin, Cynthia Blood. Cheryl, friend of Linda Hatch. Jeffrey Lothrop. Ned Robertson, cousin of Nancy Morse and Judy Russell. Betty Lou Brown. Dottie Grant. Bette Matters, friend of June Cloutier. Phil, Carole Gustafson's brother-in-law.

**GROUP CONCERNS:** Courage for those in broken relationships, especially those being abused, to get the help they need. Those struggling financially. Those in need of food, clothing, housing, and health care. Those struggling with addictions. All those dealing with ill/aging parents. Members and friends dealing with mental illness. Those dealing with AIDS. All those living in fear and anger. All those who have returned or are returning from Iraq. Victims of terrorism. Those assisting the elderly to continue living independently.

**STATE AND NATIONAL CONCERNS:** World peace. Christian Peacemaker Teams. Guidance for state and national leaders, for church leaders, and for the Church. The soul of our nation. Wisdom for the nations as they assist in ending the genocide in the Sudan.

**THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:** Adam Thibault. Daniel O'Gorman. Christine. Shaun Jokinen. D. J. Canon. Joe Calore. Jon Staib. Eduardo and Amanda Zaragosa. Michael Cannava. Matt LeBreton. Dawn Newman MacGregor and Ian MacGregor. Debbie Kravitz. Eric Jancaitis. Andrew Langone. Jared Rourk. Cassie Ayott. Travis Dery. Steve Ritter. Christopher Sherritt. Church Dunn. Christopher Dunn. James Low. Shelagh Dunbar. A. J. Kalil. Bill Taylor. Charles Millard. Andrew Nelson. Tim Fortin. John Wales. Trevor Moore.



Special prayers to Elaine and Garrett Cavanaugh. They have agreed to serve as *Partners in Service* volunteers with the South Central Conference disaster recovery program in New Orleans during the coming year. They have made a commitment for a long-term placement and will begin this July, 2007 for a year-long placement. They will be offering leadership in this program that helps the wider church provide encouragement to people in New Orleans as they recover and continue to seek hope for their communities.

More information on *Partners in Service*, can be found online at [www.ucc.org/ministries/volunteer](http://www.ucc.org/ministries/volunteer).

Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, 866-822-8224 ext. 3214, e-mail [blaufusm@ucc.org](mailto:blaufusm@ucc.org)





## **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 Sharlene, our church secretary, at 978-597-8925. This use of our building helps support the maintenance of our facility.*



## **VISION STATEMENT**

**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)

**WE AT TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ARE COMMITTED TO  
MINISTERING THROUGH THE USE OF OUR GIFTS,  
LEARNING TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE,  
AND BEING TOGETHER IN CHRIST.**