



# THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**June 2007**

Volume 30 No. 6



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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](http://www.tccucc.org)

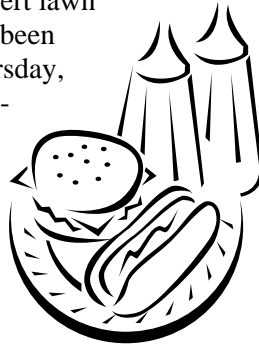
**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
MONDAY, JUNE 18 - NOON**

## BAND CONCERT LAWN PARTY THURS, JUNE 28th - SET-UP 5:30PM

The band concert lawn party for TCC has been scheduled for Thursday, June 28th, with set-up at 5:30pm.

Although we are all busy, this is a major fund-raiser for our church and a wonderful social gathering.

Many hands make less work for all so please offer your assistance. Sign-up sheets will be out at coffee hour after church. If you have any questions, please call the church office and leave a message. Among other things, we will be looking for lots of baked goods and fresh fruit salad (no canned mixes, please). Games for the children is a big need too!



## TCC TRANSITION TEAM/CHURCH MEETING MAY 31, 7:30PM

The TCC Transition Team will be seeking confirmation and blessings from our congregation for those who have answered

God's calling to serve as Ministers, Officers, PPRT members, and Moderators.

Thus far, those who accepted their calling and were announced at our May 17th meeting are:

- Moderator: Jane Jackson
- Minister for Finance: Carrie Davidson
- Minister for Income: Glenda Homoliski
- Minister for Outreach: Walter Spencer
- Minister for Property: Dave Wilson
- Minister for Worship: Nancy Shepherd
- Associate Moderator: Fred Spring

We continue to pray and discern as we lift others to God's calling.

*Information gathered from Fred Spring*

## Our Springtacular Music Sunday

will be held as we worship our God with music on June 10 this year. If you have a musical talent that you would like to share, or if you have any questions, please contact Renée Fossey or any of the Music Committee members (Lyn Bennett, Gloria Vogel, Dick Lee, Pam Snaith)

by May 27. This deadline is important as it gives the music committee time to arrange the service appropriately.

*Cathy Hill*



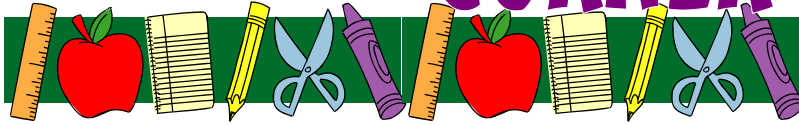
## COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS DUE BY JUNE 30

Committee Chairpersons – Please remember to compile your annual reports. When ready, they may be left at the church office or e-mailed to Cathy Hill at [ce.hill@verizon.net](mailto:ce.hill@verizon.net).

*Thanks to all concerned! Cathy Hill*



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER



Congratulations to all of the Confirmands: Kaylah and Tyler Beauchesne, Michael Cloutier, Colleen Doherty, Shannon Ireland, and Kylie Thompson. They have completed their confirmation process, and were confirmed on May 20, 2007. Our love and warmest welcome to you as you join the church as full members, and continue on your faith journey.

Our Sunday School year is coming to a close, but that doesn't mean that the church closes down. As a matter of fact, the summer month's in worship are wonderful easy going days of relaxed communion with God and each other. I strongly encourage families to come and experience worship together during the summer months as a way for your children to learn more about what you are doing while they are in Sunday School most of the year. This is a great chance to learn hymns, get to know some of the adults in our community, and hear Pastor Mark's funny stories. Our Sunday School classes will resume September 9th with a fun filled day.

## CHILDREN'S DAY JUNE 3RD

Our Sunday School year will be culminating in the Children's Sunday service on June 3rd, 2007. The entire Sunday School has been busy learning songs, making scenery, learning lines, and creating "Warm Fuzzies." We look forward to sharing our creation with you on June 3rd.

**REMINDER: There is a rehearsal on Saturday, June 2nd from 4:00 - 5:00ish PM. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT SINCE WE WILL NOT HAVE SEEN EACH OTHER FOR 2 WEEKS, AND THE NEXT DAY IS OUR PLAY. PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND. ALSO, PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY ON JUNE 3RD,**

## AT 9:30 SO WE CAN FEEL PREPARED.

After the Children's Day Service please join us for an ice cream social in Fellowship Hall.

I wish you all a peaceful joy filled summer season! I will, of course, see you on Sunday mornings, when I am not off gallivanting, finding God's presence in the beautiful world around us, in the reconnecting with friends across the country, and in the faces of my family where I find the Holy Spirit shining brightest of all.

Thank you for a wonderful Sunday School Year, and a most grateful Thank you to all of the teachers and volunteers that gave so much of their time to make our Sunday School a success! Cheers!

*Carol Berman*

Christian Education Director  
H- 978-597-8576 or W- 978-597-8925



- 2-Elaine D'Angelillo & Arnie Howard;
- 4-Gail Howard Kendrick;
- 5-Debra Greene & Connor MacNeil;
- 6-Roy Shepherd; 8-Sydney Davidson;
- 10-Joe Sheahan; 13-June Beauchesne;
- 19-Debby Thibeault; 24-Tyler Beauchesne & Lorraine Misner;
- 29-Melinda Ryder

## OUR GRADUATES

Congratulations to our recent college graduates: Sarah Lane, Kelly McTighe and John Gugarty.

Amanda Vogel: graduated on Sunday May 6, 2007 from Keene State College with a BS in Safety (OSHA). She is now doing an internship at Milton Cat, Milford, MA.

Kristopher Klein: graduating from Mount Wachusett Community College with an Associate Degree in Fire Science.

Our High School graduates are: Shawn Doherty, Holly Gustafson, and Andrew Reeves, Andrew is heading to UNH.



## Learning to Live the Christian Way of Life through Discernment

Pastor Mark is planning to lead a study on spiritual discernment Monday evenings beginning the last week of June and going through August. Together we will examine the principles and practices necessary to discern God's will together as a community of faith. Please contact Pastor Mark by June 10 to indicate your interest so that he may order materials for participants. You need not attend all sessions, but will be expected to study materials for sessions missed.

## 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*



## PENTECOST GREETING

from your Interim Pastor,  
The Rev. Mark Seifried

Greeting card companies sell \$7.5 billion worth of cards each year, but there are few, if any cards for Pentecost, the birthday of the church. So here is my Pentecost greeting to you:

### My sisters and brothers in Christ,

#### *May you be led by God's great Spirit to:*

witness more effectively,  
think more clearly,  
meditate more regularly,  
feel more deeply,  
listen more insightfully,  
speak more truthfully,  
love more extravagantly,  
care more soulfully,  
serve more creatively,  
encourage more lovingly.



#### *May you be inspired by God's great Spirit to:*

give more lovingly,  
live more fully,  
teach more eloquently,  
participate more faithfully,  
pray more movingly,  
worship more deeply,  
celebrate more joyfully,  
sing more enthusiastically,  
share more generously.

### I hope you and the whole church gets fired up this Pentecost!

*In Spirit Power,  
Pastor Mark*

On May 20, our church was blessed to have a wonderful group of young people affirm their baptism and they were welcomed into full membership.



They have completed, with the help of their parents and mentors, a long process of study, introspection and spiritual growth which will continue throughout their lives both within the church and in our community. Please welcome and bless our newest members and their mentors:

**Kaylah Beauchesne** and her mentor Sherrie Cloutier

**Tyler Beauchesne** and his mentor Denny Lane

**Michael Cloutier** and his mentor Dick Lee

**Colleen Doherty** and her mentors Melissa Gruber and Heidi Stadler

**Shannon Ireland** and her mentor Lyn Bennett

**Kylie Thompson** and her mentor Jody Burnham

Below is the first of six statements of faith from the confirmation class.

#### *Kaylah's Statement of Faith...*

Without God, my life would be very different. Without God I would feel like there is no one there to protect me, to protect my family. Without God there would be no one there when I'm scared to walk beside me, without God there would be no one to tell me that everything will be ok when I have a bad day. I know when you make a mistake that your parents will forgive you, but you also need that little more forgiveness from God. If there was no God there wouldn't be Mother Nature, the birds wouldn't sing, the crickets wouldn't chirp, and that is why I am very lucky to have God in my life, and to be a Christian.

God is in everybody's life whether you've been to jail, you've stolen something even if your white, black or Hispanic it doesn't matter, God will forgive your sins no matter what. He will be there for you through your toughest times, and it might be hard to tell when God's there or if he is listening to you when you try to talk to Him, but you will know when He is there you get this feeling that tells you - somehow lets you know that God was there at the time you tried talking to him and he was listening to what you had to say.

It feels good to be a Christian and to be accepted in the Townsend Congregational Church. I learned being a Christian isn't just about going to church on Sundays. It's also about the way you act, choices you make, and how you live your daily life. God wouldn't want us to only act like Christians when we go to church, but show our Christianity to others and spread God's love to all.

Dearly beloved,  
You are hereby invited to attend a service to  
renew your wedding vows.

June 17th at 10:00 am  
on the town common,  
Townsend, Massachusetts

all couples who are legally wed are invited  
for the renewal.

Friends and families of the couples will be  
encouraged to witness this celebration.

The service is open to all residents  
of Townsend and the nearby communities

**If you, or 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.**



## OUTREACH CORNER

David and I had an interesting experience when we were in Florida. We attended an Elderhostel in White Springs which has a population of about 600 people. Since one of the objectives was to get to know the local culture, we had dinner one night in a very small black Baptist Church. We had a wonderful home cooked dinner of Southern fried chicken, collard greens and all the fixings. We then had a presentation by one of the members. This woman's sister usually gave the presentation but she was at a "goat conference". She talked about what it was like to grow up in this small town and how she and her 7 brothers and sisters had all graduated from college because her parents, who had not finished high school, had put such a high priority on education. She then answered questions. Someone asked about the goats. She said she had nothing to do with them as they were her sister's project. Someone else asked where her sister got the goats. She then

said that they were a Heifer International Project and that Heifer was trying to get some diversified farming started in that area. Her sister had taken classes the fall before in goat husbandry and had gotten 7 or 8 goats as a start and since they were all pregnant except for the "billy" she soon had 15. She was at this conference to learn how to train others as she was obligated to give some of her goats to another person. We were amazed, interested, and very proud to hear first hand and very unexpectedly about a project the Townsend Congregational Church has supported all these years. God works in mysterious ways.

Melinda Ryder



**LOOKING FOR  
THE PERFECT  
GIFT?**

Go to [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)  
today and give the  
gift that really makes  
a difference!



## DON'T FORGET TEO!

Keep those families who are struggling in your hearts each time you are visiting the grocery store and slip one or two tasty and nutritious, non-perishable items into your cart - there is a TEO receptacle in the sanctuary throughout the year. God bless you all for your kindness and generosity.

## RELAY FOR LIFE COMING SOON!

★ June 22~23 6:00pm Friday  
until Noon Saturday



The Townsend Crusaders Relay for Life team is finishing preparations to walk in the American Cancer Society's (ACS) Relay For Life cancer walk at the Ayer High School track. This will be our 8th year participating in this fun-filled event which raises money to support the programs and services of the American Cancer Society.

You can support our team and the Kids Connect team which is made up of members of our congregation by:

- ★ purchasing and decorating a luminaria bag for a \$5 donation
- ★ purchasing a torch for \$50 which will line the fencing around the track
- ★ giving one of us a monetary donation
- ★ purchasing a purple bow for a \$5 donation and displaying it throughout the month of June
- ★ volunteering the day of the event
- ★ visiting and cheering for us as we rotate walking the track for the 20 hour event (we're on site 25 - Ayer High School is located on Washington St., Ayer. Go past Nashoba Valley Medical Center and stay straight at the bottom of the hill. The high school is just up the street on the left)
- ★ praying for nice weather - we walk in the rain, snow and heat!
- ★ continuing to pray for our church members and their friends, families and acquaintances who are battling this disease
- ★ offering to volunteer for the American Cancer Society programs such as *Road to Recovery* which gives rides to cancer patients for their treatment.

The event is the culmination of fundraising efforts by the registered teams. It is both exhilarating and sobering. We have lots of fun (despite the weather), make new friends, honor cancer survivors and cheer them on, and pay tribute to all those affected by cancer when we light the torches and luminaria bags. The luminaria ceremony begins at 9:00pm Friday and is the highlight of relay. You need to experience this ceremony as words cannot do it justice -- you won't leave the event without being affected.

There is fun for all ages: themed lap walks, drawings, relay store, DJ and two bands, Pumpnickel Puppets, food, special visitors for the kids, trucks, candy bar bingo, belly dancing, movies, more food, karate demonstrations, fire twirling majorettes, Santa, jazzercise, speakers, a special survivor's dinner reception sponsored by Nashoba Valley Medical Center, and the closing ceremony at 11:30am Saturday which will feature the Native Trail Walkers for the Cure team (in full Native American regalia) drum ceremony. Come spend some time with us -- you will be impressed. Gardner Relay for Life is June 8 at Mount Wachusett College.

#### **Team Members:**

Carole Gustafson - Michelle Enright - Shannon and Linda Ireland - David Wilson - Kristina Wilson - Lyn Bennett - Linda Hatch - Lorraine Misner - Elaine and John D'Angelillo - Heidi Delaney (Elaine and John's daughter) - Katie Bonczar (Marcia Foote's daughter) - Lisa Girard - Michelle Mastriani

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Our church was recently contacted by Arlene Howard who is the activities director at *Seven Hills at Groton*. This is a pediatric nursing facility with residents between the ages of 6 and 44-years old. These residents have severe developmental and physical challenges. Arlene is looking for volunteers who would spend time with the residents early evening and weekends - there are a wide variety of activities to choose from. Volunteers need to be 15 years or older and may contact Arlene at 978-448-3388 ext. 207.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUNE 2007**

**June 22 MACUCC annual meeting** in Cromwell, CT.



**June 22 to 24 UCC's General Synod 26** - in Hartford, CT. A special 5-day 50th anniversary celebration. Those who have attended Synods before will find some changes as part of our time together will be devoted to celebration activities as we both look forward to who we are as the United Church of Christ and explore who God is calling us to be and to become in the next 50 years. So come prepared to worship, to study, to fellowship, to celebrate and to Let It Shine!! Advance registration required. Go to [www.ucc.org/synod](http://www.ucc.org/synod)

**June 25-28 Circle Training** – will provide participants with an opportunity to engage in a restorative justice circle over a four-day period. Cost: \$200 (sliding scale available if needed) Training session will take place on the 5th floor conference room in our building, the Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk University, Boston, Massachusetts.

For more information and to register for any of this program, contact the Center for Restorative Justice [crj@suffolk.edu](mailto:crj@suffolk.edu) 617-300-1991



## JULY 2007

**ADULT MUSIC CAMP 2007: Save the date!!!** Join other musically minded Christian adults for the opportunity to spend a long weekend making beautiful music together. We will worship, rehearse, relax and enjoy fellowship with one another. On Sunday afternoon we will share our talents in a concert. All participants are expected to sing in the choir. And all of this takes place at the beautiful setting of Craigville with access to the beach, walking trails and peaceful environment. Come alone or bring a friend. Register Early!!! Space is Limited – July 26-29 at Craigville Conference Center. Extra night (7/29) available, breakfast included on 7/30. \$325 per person for 3 nights lodging, 10 meals and linens. \$75.00 for additional night and breakfast on 7/30

# BEYOND OUR WALLS

## MESSAGES FROM LAMONTVILLE:

**05/06/07:** Flo has just returned from a women's conference about a 1½ hour drive from Lamontville. The delegates come from 68 churches in the area. They are trying to get a conference center, because right now the conferences are held at local churches and they put up a tent to hold 2000 people. The local church is responsible for opening their homes to lodge and provide meals for the delegates. Ruthann and Jan have colds and flu-like symptoms. We pray that they will get over them, because they have a very busy schedule in the whole area. *Ungasingenisi ekulingweni / And lead us not into temptation*

**05/13/07:** Flo has received a lot of goodies this week. Ruthann and Jan delivered all of the materials from our Sunday School as well as the cards from the church. She also has the packet of Healing Prayer materials she requested and some mail for the pen-pals. She will deliver these the next time she visits them. Ruthann and Jan have recovered from their flu-like symptoms and have visited the Day Care Center. They were very pleased and excited. The weather is still good there. Winter has not yet settled in. Everything is going well in Lamontville. Praise God. *Ungasingenisi ekulingweni / And lead us not into temptation.*

**05/20/07:** Flo has been very busy between the Day Care Center and numerous late night meetings. Her Mother's Day was wonderful -- full of surprise gifts and many telephone calls from her four children and eight grandchildren. What a joy to find that mother's are celebrated on both sides of the equator and both sides of the "pond". *kodwa usikhulule kokubi / but deliver us from evil*

**05/27/07:** There were exciting times in Lamontville this past Friday. There was the official opening of the Day Care Center. The mayor was in attendance as well as Ruthann and Jan and a woman minister from the Boston area who is visiting. Flo made a speech and one of the patients testified about how much the Center had helped him. Flo says that

Ruthann will bring back pictures and the program when they return. The Center is now doing home visits and some of the staff put on a musical program at the opening. We celebrate the joy in Lamontville. *kodwa usikhulele kokubi / but deliver us from evil*

## MESSAGES TO LAMONTVILLE



Gertrude and Gladys, Emmy and Eric, and Dora and Beatrice would very much appreciate and enjoy letters from you and you and you and you!!! Jan and Ruthann would also appreciate your writing to them. Their pictures are on the bulletin

board outside of Fellowship Hall and you can get information about them and their address from Sharlene Gugarty at the church office, Rev. Mark, and Lorraine Quesada. Flo says she will see to it that they respond to your letters. Enjoy recapturing the art of Letter writing. *Lorraine Quesada*



To recap a bit, on March 28, 1837, the "mutual council" convened and drafted an agreement releasing Reverend Shumway from his contract as pastor.

A meeting on May 30, 1837 unanimously voted to extend a call to Reverend David Stowell which was accepted and on June 28, 1837, Reverend Stowell was installed as pastor of the church.



At this time, Joel Adams was serving as church clerk. Mr. Adams had been the congregation's clerk for several years prior to Rev. Stowell's arrival and had seldom been cryptic in his reports. Our 19th century reports are in no way like the "tell all" tabloids, but in their own polite terms they accurately inform the reader of the church's conditions. It is through the eye of a reader of that time with the moral sensibilities and expectations of the era that we must read the reports of Rev. Stowell's pastorate.

*"In consequence of the ill health of Rev. Stowell for a considerable time there were no regular church meetings held, and though said Stowell was not able to preach for a considerable time onward, yet he supplied the desk so that there was no destitution."*

Joel Adams, Clerk - August, 1837

Mr. Adams was very detailed in his recordkeeping, so we have an accurate account of the many meetings held during his service. He was also a frequent member of committees sent to deal with community and membership issues, so his notes provide a more subjective account than we might have if the reports had come from a disinterested party. There are instances in our archives of several meetings being held each month to deal with specific issues and Mr. Adams faithfully detailed the attendees and the discussions. It seems unusual, in this light, that Mr. Adams's correspondence during the

period from August, 1837 until September, 1839 slowed to a trifling trickle of information.

*“April 18, 1838 a prayer meeting held in the vestry.”*

*“June 14, 1838 a prayer meeting held in the vestry, no business of importance transacted.”*

*“September 15, 1838 A prayer meeting was held in the vestry and a vote passed to this effect: viz (sic) that when any person offers to unite with the Church, by letter from another Church of which we have no particular knowledge or acquaintance, that person so offering himself or herself is subject to examination as though they had never united with any church.”*

*[undated 1838] “Several Church prayer meetings have been appointed and attended of which no particular notice is here taken; there being no other business done worthy of note.”*

*“February 28, 1839 This day being the day that for some years past has been regarded as a day of prayer for colleges, a Church prayer meeting was held for that purpose likewise as a substitute for a preparatory lecture. A vote was passed to have a prayer meeting once a month at least including a preparatory lecture, that counting for one of those meetings, in accordance to an arrangement made sometime past. And when Church meetings are held for prayer only, no record of such meetings are made.”*

All sounds pretty mundane and boring, doesn't it? The church goes on, meetings are held, but nothing is really stirring other than the day-to-day operations, it would seem. Until, that is, September 27, 1839 when Mr. Adams writes:

*“At a Church meeting in the vestry the Throne of Grace was addressed by Rev. Mr. Stowell. The moderator, Deacon Daniel Giles then stated to the Church that Brother Zacharias Richardson had committed (sic) several offences, and that the first of 2 scriptural steps had been taken with said brother, but to no good affect; and that said Giles was now constrained to take the 3rd, consequently presented 6 specific charges against said brother as follows:*

*First: of accusing our Pastor of heresy . . .”*

to be continued  
Sharlene Gugarty



## **Rev. Nancy Hayes-Kilgore**

While poring over a list of pastors that have served our church since its inception I noticed that it took 256 years before the Townsend Congregational Church was served by a woman pastor. Rev. Nancy Hayes-Kilgore was our 36th pastor and served TCC from 1990 to 1992 as an interim minister.

Several weeks ago, I succeeded in contacting Nancy and asked her to share some of the highlights, memories or recollections from the time she served our church. She graciously honored my request, and I incorporated them in the

following. Her acceptance to serve TCC truly established a historical precedence.

Seventeen years ago, I clearly recall driving out to Weston with some members of the diaconate to attend a Sunday worship service and to hear the sermon of our soon-to-be interim pastor. The deacons met with Nancy after the service and were pleased by her welcoming and easeful manner.

Recently I spoke to Chris Clish, who was one of the deacons involved in the process of appointing Nancy as our interim pastor. Chris recalled, musing, “Townsend always had men pastors.” “How would the congregation respond?” Nancy’s “quiet strength”, “knowledge and faith”, and “gentleness” decidedly won the deacon’s vote to have Nancy as our interim pastor.

Nancy came to us from the Weston Congregational Church. She had graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and was enrolled in the doctoral program at Boston University School of Theology. Nancy came to TCC at a time when our church was experiencing a great amount of emotional stress, conflict, and pain. Our church had most recently dismissed our previous pastor after much controversy. The sadness and anguish of the heinous crime that had befallen one of church’s families was still being experienced by our congregation. Moreover, the present Stevens organ, a gift from the Medford Congregational Church, was to be installed in the balcony. The sanctuary was undergoing renovations. Staging and equipment for repairs and painting cluttered the sanctuary and made it impossible to hold services there.

For at least a year our meetings and worship services were held in the old vestry. Nancy mentioned that using the vestry “was actually kind of fun for a lot of us” and provided “a less formal atmosphere with a cosiness and a sense of being a grass roots worshipping community.”

Looking back...our deacons made a wise and sound decision to bring Nancy to our church family. She was a true pioneer as our first woman pastor. Many of our church members were not aware that Nancy had been the first woman pastor at three previous churches before coming to Townsend. Perhaps the designation “veteran pioneer” would have described her best.

Nancy stated in her communication that “While continuing the worship life of the church, Christian education, and committee work...an important focus of her ministry was pastoral care and support of the conflict management process.” Befittingly the Pastor Parish Relations Committee had been recently established as a standing committee. Rev. Richard Sparrow, who was the Central Association Conference Minister at the time, had conducted conflict and management workshops which I had attended. Consequently I was instrumental in having the PPRC brought to our church. Most of the early PPRC meetings were held at Pearl Russell’s home. Nancy’s presence and participation in the PPRC contributed to making the meetings successful and productive.

During her pastoral service at our church, an important event in Nancy’s personal life occurred. She remarried in 1991. This occasion provided our congregation the

opportunity to celebrate with Nancy and Jess. This year they will be celebrating their 16th anniversary..

Since leaving Townsend, Nancy has served a number of other churches as an interim pastor. The most recent was in 1995 to 1997 at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College. Since then she has been working as a pastoral counselor. She also completed the doctoral program at Boston University and earned her Doctor of Ministry degree. Her daughter, Shanti who was 14 when Nancy was at Townsend is now 31 and working as a guidance counselor in Burlington, Vermont. Jess has continued working as an architect. Her two stepchildren, Andrew and Rebecca are both married and have two children each. Rebecca has twins that are five months old. Nancy a grandmother!!?? Where has the time gone!!?? From her comments, I just know that Nancy is enjoying every moment of being a grandmother.

In her memories of Townsend, Nancy mentioned that, "her most important memories of Townsend were the people, the church leaders, the organist, and so much more...the births, the deaths, and the weddings." "The intense events of life bring you so close to people,... to have to move leaves one with a great sense of loss."

Over the years Nancy has frequently thought of TCC, the many people she met and became acquainted with. She has wondered and given thought to our welfare, and prayed the best for us. Her prayers continue for all of us and our church community.

Nancy's pastoral service and leadership aided TCC's transition from an interim to a settled pastor. Moreover she left a legacy captured in the following recollections expressed by Chris Clish.. "Nancy was a joy to work with." She "had touched my life deeply as well as many others." Nancy, "was a gentle spirit...a good listener...patient...kind...had a quiet strength...wasn't pushy or overbearing." "Nancy gave us time and space when we needed it most."

Personally I unequivocally concur with Chris', impressions of Nancy. Since I joined TCC 45 years ago, there have been 14 different pastors. Nancy was one of the best. I thank God for providing the diaconate the wisdom and vision to bring Rev. Nancy Hayes-Kilgore to Townsend. Her pastoral service and contribution to our church family will always be cherished and remembered.

Acknowledgments: Special Thanks to: Rev. Dr. Nancy Hayes-Kilgore and Chris Clish for your contribution to this article.

*Raul Quesada, Historian*



## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

### **Easter Bunny Spotted in Afghanistan Military Outpost; North Adams Church Sends Easter Basket Care Packages to Afghanistan**

Submitted by Ann Clark-Killam, member of the First Congregational Church UCC of North Adams

"An idea born in the darkness of Lent, blossomed at Easter, and continues to shine forth in the First Congregational Church UCC of North Adams -- as well as in a small American military outpost near Kandahar, Afghanistan," explained Ann Clark-Killam, a member of the First Congregational Church UCC in North Adams. "And we were all blessed!"

Thirty-three care boxes --weighing well over three hundred pounds -- were packed, prayed over, sent, and received by an American soldier with ties to the North Adams church. The seed was planted at Christmas time when Chief Raymond Griffith, Clark- Killam's son-in-law, joined his family for worship during military leave. Chief Griffith is a Navy Reservist presently serving in a remote compound near the border of Pakistan.

"The work is difficult, dangerous and lonely. Family and friends are far away," said Clark-Killam. Most members of the First Congregational had previously known Griffith only by way of name on the prayer list. Now they could see the person behind the print; and Ray and his family came to know the community that was praying for them.

"In the spirit of love, concern, and connection as well as a desire to support our troops in their difficult mission, our pastor, the Reverend Jill Graham, dreamed of sending Easter Baskets through Ray to all 50 plus troops living on that small post," said Clark-Killam.

"We wanted to respond in a positive way to the war and the needs of the troops," said Graham. "So we decided to send them some necessary items -- things which we often take for granted."

"The dream shared became a dream embraced by the whole church and Operation Easter Basket was formed," said Clark-Killam. The church Mission Action Coordinating Committee oversaw the organizational aspects of the project and parish members gathered the needed personal items and snacks from a list of desired items generated with the help of the USO web site ( [www.operationusocarepackage.org](http://www.operationusocarepackage.org)) and other search engine sites. The larger community of North Adams was invited into this project through personal invitation of church members.

At the evening worship on Palm Sunday the gifts were dedicated and blessed. Notes of encouragement written by young and old were tucked into each box. Pictures of the community gathered around the gifts were also included in the boxes. One parish member was heard saying: "This is good work! Hands-on mission work through someone we know, to others we don't know, feels like the work of Jesus."

Six people worked six hours sorting, packing, addressing, and delivering the thirty-three boxes to the post office. Griffith, in Qalat, Afghanistan received, opened, sorted, and made available to sailors, airmen, and soldiers all that was sent, including the congregation's Easter greetings. In his thank-you e-mail to them he wrote: "I feel blessed that so many wonderful people would do such a kind thing for total strangers."

Griffith also told the troops the story of the church's Community of Faith and how they are praying for them. He added in his e-mail, "These connections mean a great deal when living in such an isolated, dangerous place."

When contacted for permission to use his name in this article, Chief Griffith responded enthusiastically about publishing the story: "yes, anything that raises awareness to help the service members serving over here and in Iraq [is good], the more the better."

Graham commented: "We often say 'we support our troops' while opposing the war, but this helped us do it in a real and valuable way."



## UCC Young Adult (18-40 yrs) Survey

*Greetings sisters and brothers,*

The Mass. Conference of the UCC is seeking to serve the needs of young adults (18-40 years of age) more deeply and is designing programs as such. They are asking for input from this age group. When you get the time, could you take a few minutes and follow the link below to fill out survey for those programs? If you are not in that age group, please pass along to others you might know who are. It doesn't matter your level of involvement in the church.

The survey can be found here:

[www.macucc.org/youngadults/youngadult-survey.cfm](http://www.macucc.org/youngadults/youngadult-survey.cfm)

Survey is open until July 15, 2007

*Thanks and blessings to you, Pastor Mark*

**GOD IS STILL SPEAKING**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>JUNE 2007</b>					1	2
3 <b>Worship/SS COMMUNION &amp; CHILDREN'S SUNDAY</b> 11:15 Healing Prayer, rm 4	4 7pm Christian Ed.	5 6pm ONA 7pm Outreach rm 4 7pm Music, qt rm	6 10am Bible Study 7pm Search, rm 4 7:30pm Snr Choir	7	8	9
10 <b>Worship MUSIC SUNDAY</b>	11 7pm Outreach	12	13 10am Bible Study 7pm Search, rm 4 7:30pm Snr Choir	14	15	16
17 <b>Worship MARRIAGE VOW RENEWAL SERV.</b> 1pm Star Island pres. in F. H.	18 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOON -</b>	19 7pm Cabinet Rm4	20 10am Bible Study 7pm Search, rm 4	21	22	23
24 <b>Worship UCC 50th ANNIV. CELEBRATION</b>	25 7pm Deacons Rm4	26	27 10am Bible Study 7pm Search, rm 4	28	29 11am VCCC Graduation in Fellowship Hall	30 Stacy Coccia wedding

**RELAY FOR LIFE  
from 6pm Friday to Noon Saturday**



**OUR BLESSINGS:** We welcome and congratulate our confirmands who are beginning a new stage in their faith journey. Cathy Hill's brother-in-law, Russell, doing well after kidney transplant. Rev. Adam

Tierney-Eliot says we have a wonderful, helpful congregation and that we should be grateful. He is grateful for the experience of being a guest preacher here. We're grateful he was here, but welcome Pastor Mark's return as well. We have a church where each voice makes a difference. Deb Reeves and Nancy Shepherd are now pen pals with our sisters and brothers in Lamontville. Thanks to the Holy Spirit who blew through the Appreciative Inquiry event in April, and to all the faithful who made it such a blessed gathering. Walter Spencer is a grandfather. The Red Cross drive in April was a wonderful success – they report having 69 donors and collecting 59 usable units (each of which can be used to help 3 hospital patients) – Special thanks to Art Vartanian for all his help with this event.

**CONCERNS:** Healing for Linda Modica, recovering from knee surgery. Nancy Clough, recovering from pneumonia. Sterling - 9-year-old with chronic kidney disease. Linda Modica's mother, recovering (slowly) from a stroke. Dot Barber. Pearl Russell. Lee McTighe's aunt Doris. Betty Nelson. Dorothy DuBriel. Erving Marshall, brother of Nancy Morse. Don Ouellette's mother, Jean. Gwen Shank. Phyllis Senecal. Dick Collette. David Wright. Ruth Colburn. Alicia. Jen Long. Continued healing for Jaclene Coit. Sarah Ouellette. Continued support for the Pastoral Search Committee. Wisdom for the TCC,UCC ONA Discernment Group. God's grace for the TCC, UCC Transition Team. People here and throughout the world recovering from natural disasters. Time of transition for TCC, UCC.

**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. Sonnie Johnstone, friend of

Melinda and Dave Ryder. 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.



*Thank you all for your prayers, flowers and all the kindness I have received the last few weeks from TCC. It is great to be a part of this church family. I miss you all.*

*God Bless,  
Nancy Clough*



**2nd Annual**

**Townsend Congregational Church**

**"Flock" a Friend Fundraiser**

**May 1 – August 31st is Flamingo season at TCC**

**INSURANCE or FLU SHOT PROTECTION**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION:**      \$25 (insurance)      \$10 (flu shot)

**Insurance covers entire season – GUARANTEED**

**Flu shot may or may not protect you...however 'exposure' will be less than without the shot**

**Please drop off at church office or mail to TCC (Attn Flamingos)**

**HAVE QUESTIONS??**

**Call the Flamingo Hot Line at 978-597-8925**



**Townsend Congregational Church**

**"Flock" a Friend Fundraiser**

**May 1 - August 31st is Flamingo season at TCC**

**Help support our church by "flocking" your friend, neighbor, business, fellow member of TCC or what have you...please drop off at church office or mail to TCC (Attn Flamingos)**

**Please send a flock of flamingos to:**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOWN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION:**    \$25 (within 15 miles)    \$50 (over 15 miles)

**Flocker (that is you)**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HAVE QUESTIONS??**

**Call the Flamingo Hot Line at 978-597-8925 or 978-649-3294**



## **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.**