

2016



# Herald of Good TIDINGS

*“Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’”*  
Isaiah 40:9

## Fear of the Past

Do you remember February 2015? Do you remember the shoveling? The snow? As I write this, another Nor'easter is predicted. All the anchor people on TV are bringing up February of last year. They say, “Here it is, the start of snow, it will be just like last year. Oh, woe is me, we are doomed let us all fall down on our face and wail in lamentation.”

Well, maybe they do not SAY the last part, but from their tone of voice it is strongly implied. Winter is very annoying to a modern American. Winter makes us plan based on weather. If it snows, we might have to cancel plans. If it snows, school will be cancelled. We will have to make plans to care for the kids. I planned to stay up north for three days in January, but the first night it fell to -13°F and I ran out of propane at 4 a.m. So I decided being home was better than freezing in a trailer or buying a ton of propane.

It is good from time to time for weather, a good fill in for God, to change our schedule. When the weather is too bad it is good to ask, “Do we really need to do this?” That is a good question to ask often. Do we really need to do this? Is it necessary? Is it feeding our soul? Is it caring for another who needs care?

Our life can get filled with stuff. Stuff that needs to be pruned or resized to fit into a good life. February is not a month we expect to arrive with a lot of joy. We just plan to get through it. But February has plenty of wonderful times. Do you remember Butler's interception in the end zone? Wasn't that a wonderful game? Good things come in February. One thing that I enjoy are our Lenten get-togethers. They have good food and comradery.

February will be the start of Lent with the Ash Wednesday service on February 10th at 7 p.m. This year we will be watching VeggieTales videos for our Lenten soup and sandwich nights. I think the VeggieTales Esther and Job movies are the best and most faithful to scripture movies I can think of. We will be watching the shorter 30 minute videos. I think programming for children is often smarter and more honest than programs aimed at adults. So these videos, I hope you will find, have interesting lessons on Scripture and God.

February 17 - Are You My Neighbor?

February 24 - God Wants Me to Forgive Them?

March 2 - Josh and the Big Wall

March 9 - King George and the Ducky

March 16 - Larry Boy and the Rumor Weed

Pastor Brian

### **February Sermon Topics:**

Feb. 7 “Moses Did Not Know, Do You?”

Feb. 14 “What You Say Before You Celebrate”

Feb. 21 “What About Poor Eliezer of Damascus?”

Feb. 28 “The People Moses Led Were Idiots”

### **Confirmation Class**

We will be looking to hold an informational meeting in June for parents and their teens who are interested in attending our next Confirmation Class series which will begin in September. These classes are for 8th and 9th grade students and are designed to prepare our youth for their confirmation in 2017. So, please discuss the classes with your teen and look for more information to come.



February is Low Vision Awareness Month, American Heart Month, National Cancer Prevention Month, National Children's Dental Health Month, and Wise Health Consumer Month.

February 3 is National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

February 5 is National Wear Red Day

February 14-20 is National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week

February 14-20 is also Random Acts of Kindness Week

There will be cardiac information on the table in Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself, if you find something that can help. I have an automatic blood pressure cuff that you can borrow if you are on a medication and your doctor wants you to monitor your pressure. A few people have borrowed it in the past.

Also, the Widows/Widowers group will meet Friday, February 5th at 9:30 a.m., in the green room. Coffee and.... will be served. Anyone is welcome to come and share.

If you know of a member that is hospitalized, and they would like a pastoral visit, please call the church. Also, sometimes we lose track of members as they transition to a skilled nursing facility (nursing home). Have someone call the church so we can include them in our prayers and also visit.

Stay healthy and warm! God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse



Happy  
Birthday to  
May Stone!

May celebrates her big day  
on February 14th.

Happy Birthday, May!

## **COMMUNITY SUPPER**

Saturday, February 20th at 5 pm

\$10.00 - adults  
children 10 & under are free

Please join us for a delicious supper.  
(Look for menu info to come.)

**Servers: the Outreach Committee**  
Additional volunteers are appreciated.

## **LOOK WHAT'S NEW!**

Congratulations to the Murray Family on the latest addition to their family. Audrey Marie Gautreau was born on Jan. 12th.

She weighed 8 lbs., 12 oz. and was 21¼ inches long at birth.

Audrey is the daughter of Andrea and Matthew Gautreau.

Proud grandparents are Karen and Stephen Chirsky.

Great-grandparents are Carole and Bob Murray.



## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Look for applications soon in Fellowship Hall, and in the church office for anyone interested in applying for a scholarship.

**Applications are due by April 15th.**



Please remember in your thoughts and prayers the Cariglio Family due to the recent passing of Larry Cariglio. Also be in prayer for the Thornton Family due to the passing of Priscilla Thornton.

**Lawrence M. "Larry" Cariglio**, 75, longtime Auburn resident, died January 6, 2016 surrounded by his loving family. He leaves his beloved wife of 52 years Cheryl J. (McLaughlin) Cariglio; his loving children - Steven Cariglio and his wife, Cindy of Auburn, Christine Orbon and her husband, David of Oxford, and a son, David Cariglio of Auburn; six grandchildren, Matthew, Amy, Alyssa, Steven Jr, Marissa, and Lorenzo; one cherished great-grandson, Dominic; a sister, Lorraine Monfette and her husband, Joseph of Worcester; several nieces, nephews and wonderful friends.

Larry was born and raised in Worcester, son of the late Michael and Helen (Simitis) Cariglio. He graduated from Commerce High School and later from Worcester Junior College with a degree in tool engineering. Larry served his country proudly, first with the Massachusetts National Guard and then later enlisting in the United States Navy. Larry was active in the Auburn community, serving on the School Committee, the Finance Committee, the Trash Study Committee, and was also a Town Meeting member. He was instrumental in the starting of the Auburn Project now known as Auburn Youth and Family Services. He also coached youth hockey and basketball for several years.

Larry was very proud to be self-employed, having owned several different types of businesses throughout his lifetime. Larry was also very instrumental in helping his son, Steven, open his business PC-PLUS Technologies in 1988; since then the company has grown and is now known as AKUITY Technologies in Auburn.

Larry loved living the "good life" at the family beach house in Wells, Maine. He was an avid Boston Bruins, Red Sox, Patriots, and Celtics fan. Larry also enjoyed being a Holy Cross Basketball season ticket holder for many years. He had a passion for gardening, cooking and birdwatching. He also loved driving his BMW Roadster with Cheryl up and down the coast of Maine.

A funeral service was held here on Friday, January 15, 2016. Burial with military honors was in Notre Dame Cemetery, Worcester. Donations can be made to our church — First Congregational Church, 128 Central St, Auburn, MA 01501.

**Priscilla M. (Beams) Thornton** passed away on January 2, 2016 at the age of 93. She was born in Worcester, MA, the only daughter of George and Mabel (Halvorsen) Beams. She met and married her husband, John Maxwell "Max" Hamilton Thornton, and moved to Auburn shortly thereafter.

Priscilla worked for the Town of Auburn as a cafeteria worker for almost thirty years and retired as a baker at Julia Bancroft School in 1988. Priscilla was also a Sunday school teacher at our church for over 20 years. She then served on the Music Committee for another 10 years. She loved camping throughout New England with Max and her two sons. After her husband passed away in 1975, she enjoyed long walks, gardening, and spending time with her family.

Priscilla loved to read books, work on crossword puzzles, and enjoyed watching and listening to "big band" shows. She was also an avid Red Sox fan and loved to watch the games on television.

She leaves two sons; Jeffrey and his wife, Hebin of San Marcos, Texas and Craig and his wife, Karen of Sutton, Massachusetts; three grandchildren in Wisconsin; Victoria Nichols, Christian Thornton, and Elizabeth Thornton, one grandchild in Massachusetts; Caitlin Thornton; one grandchild in Thrapston, England; Amanda Bailey and four great-grandchildren in Wisconsin.

At Priscilla's request, funeral and burial services were held privately. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to remember her may donate in her memory to our church, the First Congregational Church of Auburn, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501.

*"I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."*  
John 11:25

Laura Koopman wishes to express her appreciation to the congregation for their support and continuing kindness.



### **Here We Grow** Preschool

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, love and happy feelings are in the air. As I sit here writing for *Tidings*, it is only 21° outside. We shouldn't complain, though; the weather has been cold, but not too bad so far. We haven't seen too much snow yet. We will continue to wait patiently for spring and all the fresh newness that comes with it.

I am happy to report that our enrollment for next year has already started. With January almost over, I am glad to say that the phone calls and e-mails have started and we are setting up one-on-one tours of the school. Some new families will be joining us this upcoming school year with some past families returning. Our Open House will be on March 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00-11:00. At this time, we do have openings in most sessions; our 3-day extended classes are filling up fast. That could change, but I hope they stay filled. If you know of a friend, neighbor, or relative who is looking for a preschool, please send them our way.

Continuing into the month of February, **Here We Grow** will be busy with Valentine parties on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The children will have the opportunity to share cards and a special snack with their classmates.

**Here We Grow** will be selling "Calendar Giveaways" this year. The sale part of this fundraiser will run the month of February. The give-away part will be done each day in March. If you would like to purchase a calendar they are \$10.00 and have some wonderful prizes, each with at least a \$20.00 or more value. Thank you for your support. All monies earned go towards field trips, special programs, equipment for the classrooms, and enrichment classes offered to the children ("move & groove," music, and karate).

The school will be closed for winter break from 2/15-2/19. It will be a time to catch up on rest and all those little projects that accumulate around the house.

Until next month, stay warm and be healthy —

Gina Basili, Director, **Here We Grow** Preschool

Below are the latest pictures from Orphanage Home Nepal. On the left you can see the beginning stages of framing a room addition. On the right you can see a partial picture of the completed room at the top.



**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone. We are blessed in the knowledge that we are all loved by God and will never be alone.

Sunday School News: Thank you to all who stepped in to help out while I was away with YOM on January 10. I am blessed to have people step in when I really need them. As for Cradle Roll, I have had a few people approach me and are willing to spend a Sunday or two down with the babies. I would love to have a few more so that you would only need to stay down once every few MONTHS. If you would like to have a "trial run" please speak to me and we will put you in and see how it goes. Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered.

Middle School: We are looking toward getting a middle school class going. We are in the very beginning stages and welcome any and all ideas. Please speak to me if you are interested in helping out with the middle school group. This is a great match for those of you who do not like to get your hands dirty with crafts.

YOM: We made it!! (see picture below) We arrived close to being on time; the girls decided we would "roam" the area before we met up with the boys at Berea. I need to thank Jen Bohn and Pastor Brian again for coming with me and helping to make this an awesome weekend for all. Pastor Brian shortened his vacation and came in at the last minute when we were one man down. The theme for the weekend was Psalm 139:13-16. Our over-all chant for the weekend was "YOU WERE MADE WITH A PURPOSE FOR A PURPOSE." I believe we can all learn from that Psalm. Thank you also to the Board of Ed. for helping out with the cost. We will be having a few fundraisers to help offset their contribution (more information to follow).

I pray you all remember that you are LOVED. Have a wonderful month.

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education



Pictured above: Pastor Brian, Zach Lazerick, Haydn McPherson, Eric Rockwood, Rebecca McPherson, Paris Esposito, Jean McPherson, Jennifer Bohn, Lisa Rockwood, Reanna Largesse and Cassie Stockhaus.

**Potluck & Movie/Book Discussions**

Our monthly potluck supper get-togethers continue. On February 16th at 5:30 p.m. we'll view the movie, *Seven Deadly Words*. Two student filmmakers come to Egypt Valley Community Church to complete a documentary on a small congregation adapting to a new pastor. What they don't realize is that they will soon be caught in the middle of a power struggle that will test the faith and push the limits of all parties involved. On March 15th at 6 p.m. we'll discuss the book *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon. All are invited!

**YARD SALE to be held JUNE 18TH**

Please save the date. We will be needing your help for a short time on Friday the 17th at 6pm and again on Saturday the 18th at 1:30 to carry tables out and back into the church. At this time, it looks like we will not be having a church table, but spaces are available to rent for only \$15.00 (\$20 for non-Church members). If you have questions, or to rent a space call me, Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646.

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS**

- 1/31, 2/7 Stewardship Committee
- 2/14, 2/21 Outreach Committee
- 2/28, 3/6 Personnel Committee



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doing Christ's work in the world.*

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**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**