



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*

Leaders

As we start February we will have meetings of new committees. With the addition of new people, the committees will change. People will bring new concerns or gifts to bear on the issues and responsibilities of the committees. Early in the life of the church the disciples called on help from the brethren. About these helpers they said,

“It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” Acts 6:2b-4

The seven picked included Stephen. Stephen did more than wait tables. He had spiritual power as well. He could talk to people and convert them to the faith.

This, I think, is a form of leadership we neglect. Our church leaders are not called to a limited ministry. Trustees are not called to only care for the building; Stewardship is not only supposed to get pledges for the next year. We are called to ministry. That ministry might be to spread the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ. That spread of the Good News Gospel could be through music, charity work, or a conversation over a cup of coffee.

We might be called to be prayer warriors. There are many people in need of prayer in our church; plus, all the leaders in our community, state, nation and the world. There is always need of prayer. I hope our committees can see a spiritual part to the tasks they are set.

Pastor Brian

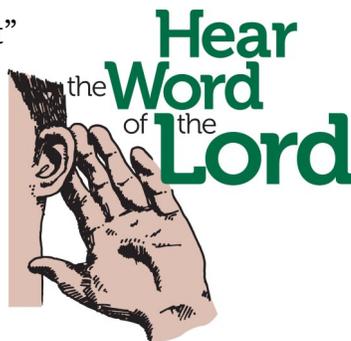
February Sermon Topics:

Feb. 2 “What Is Required Is in the Heart”

Feb. 9 “We Hid from our Kin”

Feb. 16 “New Life”

Feb. 23 “The Story of Arn”



Children’s Sermons:

“Jesus Loves Me”

“This Little Light”

“Them Bones”

“Staying in the Middle”

We hope you’ll join us on Wednesday nights during Lent (3/12-4/9) when we will meet over soup and sandwiches beginning at 6 p.m. and concluding at 7 p.m. Our time will include a brief video on the parables of Jesus.

Committees/Boards were asked to sign-up at the All Committee meeting on Jan. 27 to provide the soup/sandwiches for the Lenten series. At this time, we still need a group to provide supper on March 26th.

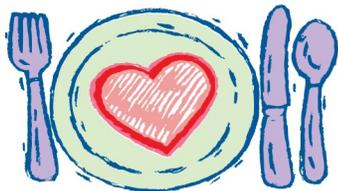
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

~ February 2014 ~

Youth News - Happy Valentine's Day! I would like to thank Tracee Skog and Rufus Guilford for volunteering to chaperone the Monadnock Bible Conference weekend with Youth On a Mission and missing Valentine's weekend with their families. We have 8 teens and 3 chaperones going and we are all very excited. Please pray that we each find something meaningful during the weekend to bring us closer to our understanding of God's love and to grow closer as a group.

Sunday School News - Last month we learned about the 10 Commandments. This month our unit will be *How the Bible Came To Be*. We would love to have new faces downstairs with the children, so feel free to come down anytime. Pat Bukoski shared with me that she was nervous about the "unknown," but after assisting in class she feels more comfortable with the idea of teaching in the future. Please let me know if you would like to come down and observe a class. The children like to see new faces.

D.U.C.K.S. are coming! We are starting to plan this year's Relay for Life. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone that would like to help in anyway. We will be having fundraisers in the upcoming months. If you have any ideas to help us reach our goal, please share your information with me. You do not need to attend the Relay to be part of our team. We will have meetings coming up soon and will let you know through announcements in future bulletins.



COMMUNITY DINNER

COMMUNITY ROAST PORK SUPPER

Saturday, February 15th at 5 pm

\$10.00 - adults \$5.00 - children

Please join us for a delicious roast pork supper including mashed potatoes, green beans, apple sauce and scrumptious red velvet cake completing the meal.

Servers/Kitchen Help: Board of Deacons
Additional Volunteers are Always Needed and Appreciated.

Happy 70th Wedding Anniversary!!!

Donald & Carolyn Slongwhite will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on February 27th.

Congratulations!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Maybelle Stone who celebrates her big day on February 14th.

Happy Birthday, May!

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.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

2/2, 2/9	Library Committee
2/16, 2/23	Stewardship Committee
3/2, 3/9	Outreach Committee



Here We Grow Preschool

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, happy feelings are in the air. Speaking about the air, as I sit and write for the *Tidings* it is only 17° outside and we are expecting a snowstorm later today. We shouldn't complain, though, the weather hasn't been too bad so far. We will continue to wait patiently for spring and all the fresh newness that comes with it.

With January almost over I am happy to say that the phone calls are starting to come in 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 5th, from 12:30-2:00.** At this time we do have openings in all sessions. 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 "Family Movie Night" on February 7th, and Valentine parties on February 13th & 14th. The children will have the opportunity to share cards and goodies with their classmates.

Here We Grow will be selling Hebert candy bars again this year. This fundraiser will run the month of February. If you need or want a candy bar, there will be a box with Denise in the church office. Thank you for your support. All monies earned go toward field trips, special programs, equipment for the classrooms, and enrichment classes offered to the children (zumba, music, and karate).

The school will be closed for winter break from 2/17-2/21. 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.

Dawn Murphy, Director
Here We Grow Preschool



February is American Heart Month, National Cancer Prevention Month, National Children's Dental Health Month, National Senior Independence Month, and Wise Health Consumer Month. February 7th is National Wear Red Day and Give Kids a Smile Day. The 9th-15th is National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week, and the 23rd-March 1st is National Eating Disorders Week.

There are cases of Glucerna (a nutritional supplement) in the closet at the entrance of the educational wing. If you know of anyone that uses this, please help yourself. I'm also asking people in the community about this because they do have an expiration date. It would be a shame if we can't find someone that could use these. There is also medical equipment in the closet, please take what you need.

Please stay healthy and warm, and remember to wash your hands to prevent spreading germs!

God Bless!
Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

JOYFUL NOYSE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

2/2, 2/9, 2/16 11:15 a.m. rehearsal

2/23 9:30 a.m. rehearsal

"Keeping My Eyes on You" during 10 a.m. service

Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

A welcome series of 7 books gifted a while ago by Gloria Beauregard, and under the title of stories by Hope-Haven, have finally been given a circulating spot in the Adult Library. The people connected with Hope Haven Hospital have provided the base for the amazing challenges and healing power of God's grace.

Also, another gift, this one from the Woodcock's daughter, Dorothy, is some more large print books. Temporarily in storage with Christmas books are *A Christmas Promise* by Thomas Kinkade and Katherine Spencer, as well as *A Christmas Star* and *A New Leaf!* (same authors) There is only one reason that they disappear – SPACE. Never let that keep you from requesting “out of season.” Two more LARGE PRINT books are Jan Keron's *These High Green Hills* and *Mitford Bedside Companion* – many thanks for all.

If the door is open at the Children's Library it's more than likely open to you or the children. The method of borrowing and returning books to that library are on the cork bulletin board within the room. A sign-out sheet is on top of the shelf in front of the bulletin board - come and browse. The shelves are marked for ages and categories. Use your critical eye to survey and evaluate and then evaluate to the committee individuals.

We're a great source for entertainment when your grandchildren are coming to stay overnight. Here are a couple of reviews of books for 3 and 4 to 6 and 7 years old youngsters.

No Matter What by Debi Gliori (large book) - “I'm grim and I'm grumpy,” says Small to Large, “and I don't think you love me at all.” But, that isn't so. Large knows how to reassure Small in a tender and convincing way about a loving relationship between a parent and a child.

What Grandpas Do Best by Laura Numeroff and illustrated by Lynn Munsinger - NOW TURN THE BOOK UPSIDE DOWN to read *What Grandma's Do Best*, same author and illustrator. In short order the answer is made perfectly clear in what each does.

Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site by Sherbi Durkey and Tom Lightenheld - Comments: “Delightful” – N.Y. Times; Parents will see and shout, “At last!”; Truck lovers are enthusiastic

Courtney by John Burningham - The opening line, “We would really like to have a dog,” the children said. “Our house would be much better with a dog. The dog could play with us.” And thus begins a wonderful adventure of a wonderfully illustrated cartoon-like family of mother, father, the two kids, baby and Courtney. (large book)



FUTURE CHURCH FUNDRAISERS INCLUDE:
COMMUNITY YARD SALE & CHIX BBQ ON JUNE 21ST
FALL FAIR PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 11TH



Do you have an accumulation of things that are just too good to throw away, but you no longer need? Don't have enough to hold your own yard sale? Store those items and plan to join us on the Church lot for our **COMMUNITY YARD SALE on June 21st!** As we've done in the past, we will rent spaces and tables, plus we'll do all the advertising, and remember, our prime location can't be beat! So, mark your calendars for **June 21st** and turn that “trash” into “treasure.” Look for more info to come or call Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646.

We are looking to resurrect the **FALL FAIR!** With the foot traffic that is generated by the annual pumpkin patch, we anticipate that a **FALL FAIR on October 11th** has the potential to be a huge fundraiser for the church! All we need is YOU and your ideas! In the past we had various themed tables such as crafts, jellies/jams (food items), Christmas and Halloween sections, etc. To ensure its success, the planning must begin NOW! Consider what a great opportunity this is to get to know the rest of your church family and you'll be amazed at the sense of camaraderie that results! (This is also a fun way for our youth to fulfill community service hours.)

Please contact Cindy Ryan at 508-832-3416 and let her know you're interested.



Deaths in Our Church Family

Please be in prayer for the following families during this time of loss.

George H. DuHamel, 92

George Henry DuHamel, 92, of Florida, formerly of Auburn, died Sunday, January 5, 2014 in Florida after an illness. He leaves behind his wife, Laura (Stevens) DuHamel, and two children: a son, Steven DuHamel, and his wife, Norma, and a daughter, Paula, and husband, Leonard Lubin, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by a brother, Arthur, and survived by his sister, Annette O'Halloran, and a brother, Robert DuHamel. George was born in Tiverton, RI (Four Corners) on October 27, 1921. He was the son of Henry and Edith (Almy) DuHamel. He moved to Auburn in 1929, graduating from Auburn High School in 1940.

George was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army. He served in the South Pacific as a Technical Sergeant and was discharged February 28, 1946. He worked 30 years for the Wyman-Gordon Company of Grafton as an Industrial Engineer. George was an active member of the First Congregational Church of Auburn where he served as a deacon and church historian. He was a lifetime member of the Joel H. Prouty Masonic Lodge for over 50 years and a lifetime member of the Auburn Historical Society. There are no calling hours. Burial was held privately.

A memorial service will be held by the family in the spring. Donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of Auburn, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501 or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Helen Gonyea, 96

Helen M. (Brandt) Gonyea, 96, of Overlook Masonic Home Community in Charlton died Thursday, January 16, 2014 after an illness. Her husband, Dennis E. Gonyea, died in 2006. She leaves two daughters, Lois M. Totolos and her husband, Nikolaos, and Joyce M. Levitre and her husband, Giles; a sister, Virginia Decataldi of Southbridge, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She was predeceased by two brothers, Warren and Peter. Helen was a member of the First Congregational Church of Auburn; the Eastern Star and the Emblem Club. Funeral services and burial for Helen were held privately.

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



D.U.C.K.S. (Dedicated United Christian Kindred Spirits) RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISERS

SWEETS FOR YOUR SWEETHEART — CANDY SALE ON FEB. 9TH

Help the D.U.C.K.S. raise \$ for Relay for Life while feeding your sweetheart's sweet tooth. We will be holding a **CANDY SALE during coffee hour on February 9th**. Whether for your Valentine or as a treat for yourself, please support this American Cancer Society fundraiser as we work together to create a world where this disease will no longer threaten our loved ones or rob anyone of another birthday.

McDONALD'S RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER — SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD 7-10 A.M.

We will be having a fundraiser at McDonald's across from Auburn High School on Sunday, February 23rd. Please look for coupons on the table in Fellowship Hall or see one of the D.U.C.K.S. team members to obtain one. Just present the coupon when placing your order and 15% of the sales will go to support the D.U.C.K.S.! Team members include: Alex Brownwell, Barbara Cowden, Shirley Hill, Jean McPherson, and Bev Scobie.

POTLUCK SUPPER & MOVIE/BOOK DISCUSSION TIME

Our monthly potluck supper get-togethers in the vestry (old kitchen) area continue. The potlucks begin at 5:30 p.m. on movie nights with the movie viewing during dinner, and discussion to follow at its conclusion. On book discussion nights, the potluck begins at 6:00 p.m. with the book discussion beginning at approximately 6:30-6:45 p.m. You do NOT have to read the book, if you just want to come for food and fellowship, please do!

Tuesday, Feb. 18 - *Trees in the Pavement: New Hope in a Free Country* by Jennifer Grosser - 6 p.m. start time

Tuesday, Mar. 18 - *What's So Amazing About Grace?* by Philip Yancey 6 p.m. start time

We welcome book/movie recommendations for future suppers and discussions. Please speak with Pastor Brian if you have any suggestions.

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