



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

February — YAAAYY!!!

Is February anyone’s favorite month? There are many people in the world, so I assume there are some who love it. Personally, it’s my least favorite month. I like snow and winter, but even for me by February I am ready for heat and sun, and we need to get past February to get to the warmer days of March.

February is just a downer. So it is good that Lent often starts in February. Lent is a time to take our February energy (what there is of it) and turn it into good works. We can be good to ourselves, good for our family, good for our community or even the world. Lent is a time when Catholics give up meat on Friday. We are asked to start a Lenten discipline. We can fast from something we know is bad or add something we know is good.

In the past I have used a Lenten discipline to start going to the gym (something I am still doing 32 years later). In other years I have given up chocolate and caffeine. (The caffeine was the least successful Lenten fast I have ever done.)

The Lenten discipline is not just a physical thing. So whether we successfully went 40 days without caffeine, or by the second week were chugging a liter of cola a day, should not be our ultimate goal. It should be a reminder of who we do it for. Lent is a period of preparation for Easter. When we do (or fail) our Lenten discipline our mind should be lifted out of the mundane and into the sacred. Maybe a little prayer, “God I thank you that I can leave my body and be made one with you. Give me strength to put away that which hurts me and do more of that which strengthens me. In the name of He who died on the cross I pray, Amen.”

Remember, no fasting on Sunday. Sunday you can have whatever you have given up for Lent.

Ash Wednesday, Feb 18, we will be having our usual Ash Wednesday service at 7PM. On the following Wednesdays during Lent we hope to have some nourishing soups and sandwiches, followed by discussions of the basics of our religion. The meal starts at 6 and we are done, except clean up, by 7. Kids are welcome. This year we are discussing:

- Feb 25 “Jewish Like Jesus”
- March 4 “Baptism, a Nice Bath”
- March 11 “Communion, a Loving Meal”
- March 18 “What Other Christians Believe and Why We Don’t”
- March 25 “The Church, What Is It Good For?”

Pastor Brian

February Sermon Topics:

- Feb. 1 “A Prophet”
- Feb. 8 “Paul, All Things to All People”
- Feb. 15 “Changing a Person”
- Feb. 22 “Why Would People Hurt You?”
“War Bow/Rainbow” - Children’s Sermon

Join us on **February 8th**
as we celebrate **Boy Scout Sunday** during
our 10 a.m. worship
service.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

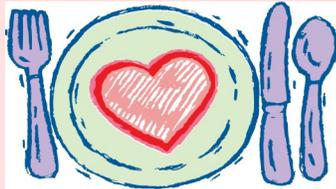
Happy Valentine's Day everyone! We are all so blessed to have the love of God our Father always and forever. Once again Alex and I will be spending Valentine's Day with 200-300 of our favorite teens up in the cold mountains of New Hampshire. YOM, with the help of BOCE, was able to come up with the money to attend Encounter — Winter Teen Snow Camp the weekend of Feb.13-15 at Monadnock Bible Conference. Each teen only needed to contribute \$30.00 each. I want to thank Michelle and Rich for once again being understanding and spending Valentine's Day alone again this year. Thank you to Laurie Babcock who volunteered to be our third chaperone for the weekend. Please see the display in fellowship hall that shows pictures from last year.

Sunday school is going very well. I appreciate those new faces that have come down to help out. We had Abby's House come and speak to the kids on Jan. 25. We then presented them with a check of \$200.00 that the kids had raised through offerings. The new child-centered organization they have chosen is Auburn Youth and Family Services. So, if you are able, we collect offerings every Sunday downstairs. Anyone is welcome to help downstairs; just see me and I will give you a date. Hope to see some new ADULT faces soon.

Life is only traveled once; today's moment becomes tomorrow's memory. Enjoy every moment, good or bad, because the GIFT of LIFE is LIFE itself.

Have a wonderful Day!!!

Jean McPherson
Director Religious Education



COMMUNITY DINNER

COMMUNITY SUPPER

Saturday, February 21st at 5 pm

\$10.00 - adults \$5.00 - children

Please join us for a delicious community supper.
(Look for menu info in future bulletins.)

Servers/Kitchen Help Volunteers are Always Needed and Appreciated.

Happy 71st Wedding Anniversary!!!

Donald & Carolyn Slongwhite will be celebrating their 71st 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

2/1, 2/8	Stewardship Committee
2/15, 2/22	Outreach Committee
3/1	Personnel Committee

Thanks to a special church family from Gloria Whitehead's family.

One of Mom's favorite things to say was, "It was divine providence." She always felt and recognized a presence of love and goodness beyond herself. This was how she viewed each positive little (and big) thing that happened to her on a daily basis, and very possibly how she viewed her passing into God's loving arms.

December 27th started out with the Whitehead Hanks crew leaving family in Gainesville, Florida for a two-day drive home to Massachusetts. Kelsea was with us; Emily was in Manila in the Philippines. Plans were to arrive home the afternoon of December 28th and celebrate Mom's birthday on December 29th. The Whitehead Quitslund crew was preparing to leave the next day for a ski trip to Whistler in British Columbia with friends from California. Signe was ready to go back to school shortly after the New Year. Linda was seriously considering coming back East in January. We had all spoken with Mom/Gram numerous times over the previous few days. She had had many conversations with close friends and relatives and sounded like she was enjoying celebrating the Christmas holiday on her own terms. She was with the Slong-whites at 9 pm visiting and checking blood pressure with them as they did frequently in an effort to take responsibility for their own good health. Never did we imagine that we would all be together a few days later to mourn Mom's passing and celebrate her life.

This is where you, our church family, jumped in so lovingly. Words are inadequate to express the gratitude we feel to all of you for supporting our family while you were simultaneously feeling the unexpected loss of a longtime friend. Thank you to Pastor Brian for your lovely and honest message capturing the essence of a woman you have known only a few years. Denise, thanks for your coordination behind the scenes, Monday meetings with Mom, and being such a good stabilizing factor in her busy schedule. A special thanks to Shirley Hill and all those who prepared a beautiful gathering to welcome friends and family from near and far after the service. Thank you for your cards and all your words of support and comfort along with your stories of how Mom impacted your lives.

We are truly blessed to be part of a loving and generous church family.

With abiding love,

Connie, Ron, Emily and Kelsea, and Linda, Gary, and Signe



POTLUCK SUPPERS & 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. 17 - *White Christmas* - 5:30 p.m. start time

Tuesday, Mar. 17 - *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson - 6 p.m. start time

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



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 19° outside and we are expecting a snowstorm this weekend. 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.

I am happy to report that our enrollment for this year is improving. We opened in September with each classroom having many empty slots. As of this writing, we are almost filled in each room. Still a few more openings remain, but we are in much better shape now. Yippee!

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 10th from 9:00-11:00. At this time we do have openings in most sessions, except our 3-day and 5-day extended are full. 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 12th & 13th. The children will have the opportunity to share cards and goodies 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 a \$20.00 or more value. 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 ("move & groove," music, and karate).

The school will be closed for winter break from 2/16-2/20. 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

NEW BIRTHS

We welcome little Arya Grace Pickard who was born 9 weeks prematurely on Dec. 29th weighing just 3 lbs., 6 oz. and 15 1/2 inches long. At time of printing, Arya was 4 lbs. and is expected to go home in a few weeks. She is the daughter of Jordan Pickard and Cheyenne LaDue. Grandparents are Linda and Tom Pickard. Great-grandparents are Bob Burns and the late Don and Flo Aker. Great Aunt and Uncle are Lori and Nick Stockhaus. Congratulations to all!



We celebrate with the Hill Family on the birth of Elijah Daniel Chery, the newborn son of Allison and Dan Chery. Elijah was born on Dec. 30th and weighed in at 7 lbs., 6 oz. and 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Steve and Shirley Hill.



On Sunday, January 11, 2015, we celebrated the baptism of Parker Thomas Censabella, the now 3 month old son of Lindsay and James Censabella.



February is American Heart Month. Heart disease is the #1 killer of women. It is also National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, National Children's Dental Health Month and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

February 7th is National Wear Red Day. It is also "Give Kids A Smile Day." February 7-14 is Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week.

February 14 is National Donor Day.

The flu has been around! Wash your hands! People are even getting it in the hospital! Avoid people with coughs and colds, and if you have a cough or cold, stay home and take care of yourself. The flu shots aren't protecting you from all the strains of the flu that are out there.

Please remember the closet with medical equipment, walkers, wheelchairs, commodes, tub seats, etc. Items are available to anyone as long as you find what you need.

Mostly, stay warm and healthy through this month!

God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

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