

First Community Church

Newsletter

January – February 2013



Our Mission Statement

We are a community of faith believing in the power of prayer and seeking earnestly to deepen our spiritual life and share the love of God with others.

The Pastor's Message

This has certainly been a whirlwind of a Christmas season for Darlene and me! We are looking forward to some peace and quiet as we enter into the New Year.

Because Kristen and Mike were in Florida until a week before their wedding, Darlene and I were radically involved in the arrangements. Even though I have officiated at many weddings, I had no idea how many little details, how many (what seem to the bride like life-or-death) decisions are involved. It was a lot of work, but it was also a lot of fun.

Kristen and Mike's friends and family really loved our church! For many of them from Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Alabama, etc., this was probably the first time they had set foot in a typical New England Congregational-type church. David did himself proud with the decorations in the sanctuary, including a Christmas tree that changed from multi-colored to only white bulbs with the flick of a switch. Michael provided the music for the ceremony and the cocktail hour at the reception. And I was able to walk my daughter down the aisle and then officiate at her wedding ceremony. The whole experience was beautiful and deeply moving.

Less than a week after the wedding, we celebrated Christmas. This year's Christmas Eve service was not only better attended than in recent years, it seemed to touch people very deeply. The symbolism of receiving the light from the Christ candle and then passing it on to others is a powerful theme for us as Christians, especially in a time when a great darkness presses in on us.

The next few months are full of activity in our little church. Our Tuesday afternoon and Thursday evening study groups are resuming. The month of January embraces the themes of not only Epiphany, but also Jesus' baptism and his time in the wilderness. Because of my involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, including my participation in the March from Selma to Montgomery 47 years ago, Martin Luther King Day is especially meaningful to me. We need to remember that the struggle for civil rights, for freedom and equality for all people, is an ongoing struggle both in our country and around the world.

February brings our Annual Meeting, a retrospective on the past year and a visioning of our future. I hope you will make every effort to attend. Two weeks later, the Tuesday after Ash Wednesday, we begin our United Parishes of Southborough Lenten Series. This begins the march toward Holy Week, the Passion of our Lord, and the celebration of his Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We have some very active and very rich months ahead of us in the life of our church. I hope one of your New Year's resolutions for the coming year was to become a more integral part of our little community. Our fellowship is much richer with your presence.

I pray for God's blessing and God's guidance as we step forth into the New Year as individuals, as families, and as a church. May it be a wonderful and peace-filled new year for us all!

Yours in Christ,
Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

Adult Bible Study

We continue our study of the Wisdom Literature of the Bible, starting with the Book of Proverbs. We just began this book before our Christmas break, so you will not have missed much. So far, we have discovered a true depth of wisdom in these books, which were originally attributed to Solomon, and we have identified themes that found later expression in the teachings of Jesus and the writing of the apostle Paul.



Proverbs, which is also known as The Proverbs of Solomon, is an amazing collection of brief passages that are full of not only spiritual insight, but also very practical guidance for the living of a deep, meaningful, and fulfilling life.

The Adult Bible Study group meets on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of every month from 9:15 – 10:30 AM in the Vestry. Bibles are provided.

Celebrations Celebrations



February marks the 44th anniversary of Reverend Paul Sanderson's ordination into the Christian ministry.

All of us at First Community Church thank Paul for his service to us and we congratulate and celebrate with him on the anniversary of his ordination.

Missions Offering For January



Our January Missions Offering will go to the Tibet Fund to sponsor a Tibetan refugee. Our adopted child is Tenzin Dekyi.

Tenzin Dekyi was born on April 9, 2009. Her father, Ngawang Norbu works at Tara Tibet beads and her mother, Loudon, is an Ayah (translated in India: a native nursemaid who looks after children) at the Yongling Crèche & Kindergarten School where Tenzin Dekyi attends school. They also have a son, Tenzin Dhaden who is 11 years old. Tenzin's parents are from Tibet who came into exile in 2006.

Education in Exile

Thousands of Tibetans followed H.H. the Dalai Lama to India into exile, fleeing from the forceful occupation of Tibet by the Red Chinese. The Government of India very kindly provided, not only basic rehabilitation to the Tibetan refugees but also facilitated schools separate for the Tibetan children as envisioned by H.H. the Dalai Lama. The need for separate schools for the Tibetans was felt to preserve their unique culture, language and impart modern education. During the early days of the exile-situation, due to many hardships, parents started withdrawing their children from school to earn some extra money by making them work at any odd job. This problem caused concern to the Government, thus prompting them to encourage and inspire the parents to shoulder some of the responsibility to educate the future of Tibet.



The Yongling Crèche & Kindergarten was founded in Dharamsala, India in 1984 by a Tibetan youth, Mr. Dawa Tsering, and with the cooperation of parents in Mcleod Ganj. During those days, many Tibetans were engaged as laborers in construction, road building, and carpet weaving. They faced many problems having to bring their children to work. Thus the kindergarten was established to shoulder the responsibility of the Exile Tibetan Government so that working parents would gain an awareness of their responsibility toward their children's education and could educate their children at the right age. Approximately 260 children, including 50 babies below three years of age attend the school. There are 17 staff including nine teachers, three nannies, two cooks, one dance and music teacher, one hostel mother and a secretary. The school also has hostel facilities for those children whose parents have to move constantly in search of livelihood or are living in places where there are no Tibetan schools.

With our sponsorship, we will be providing Tenzin Dekyi with food, shelter, health care and education for one year – truly a mission worth every penny!

Missions Offering For February

Our Mission Offering for February is given to the Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling Center (AVPCC). The center was founded in 1979 by the clergy of the greater Westborough community and currently serves over sixty communities in the greater Central/Metro West Massachusetts.



Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling Center is:

- ♥ *“A Place for Healing and Growth”* -- The Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling Center provides quality therapeutic services (child, adolescent, adult, couple, family and group psychotherapy, testing and assessment, and preventative education programs) serving over 60 communities in the greater Central/Metro West Massachusetts area.
- ♥ *“Where Extraordinary Human Pain and Suffering Meet the Holy”* -- Pastoral Counseling is available for all people and draws on the rich traditions of both psychology and spirituality. We welcome all to our center regardless of religious affiliation. Working from an interfaith perspective, we respect everyone's journey as he or she faces difficult life experiences.
- ♥ *“A Specialized Ministry”* -- A Ministry that provides quality psychotherapy, testing & assessment, and preventative education programs to the greater Central Massachusetts area. Our clients came from 72 different communities this past year, although the majority came from Westborough and its surrounding towns. We are located at the Kirkside building on Church Street.

The clinical staff of the pastoral counseling center includes Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, Mental Health Counselors, Psychologists and a Certified Spiritual Director. Three of the staff has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in psychology, marriage & family, and pastoral counseling.

- ♥ *“Unique”* -- Its therapists are doubly trained in the behavioral sciences and religion. As such, our mission for 29 years has been providing counseling to individuals, couples, children, adolescents, families and groups utilizing each person's own faith perspective in their healing and growth - a view that has recently captured the interest of the scientific community. The pastoral counseling relationship provides a person with a direct and personal connection to their religious community and the values it represents.

What happens in pastoral counseling is the telling of stories, genuinely understanding them as they are presented, and interpreting them in the light of the religious community's larger story of life's meaning. The pastoral counselor's role and function as representative of the story of faith enables a person to reinterpret his or her story in the light of the faith's understanding of who a person related to God is. This allows one to experience and interpret new possibilities of selfhood, relationships and behavior.

A fundamental aspect of AVPCC's mission is to provide pastoral counseling for all who want to take advantage of this unique ministry. It is our local faith communities and charities that have faithfully provided funds each year to help offset the cost of providing this vital ministry to those who otherwise would not be able to afford the cost of pastoral

counseling. A donation may also be designated to AVPCC through one's United Way contribution.

More and more persons are finding the level of clinical expertise combined with the compassion and redemption of the pastoral perspective as found here at AVPCC are the qualities most likely to affect their healing and growth

The staff is available for church, synagogue, and community programs on a wide variety of issues pertaining to mental health and preventative education for:

Children - Child/Adolescent Counseling, ADHD Evaluations & Strategies, Behavioral Problems, Divorce, Grief and Loss, Parent-Child Conflict, Parenting Concerns

Couples - Pre-marital Counseling, Marriage Enrichment, Communication Concerns, Relationship Issues, Marriage and Family Problems, Parenting Issues

Self - Anxiety and Stress, Depression, Abuse and Shame, Loss and Grief, Low Self-Esteem, Alcohol Abuse and Dependence, ACOA Issues, Co-Dependence

Church Schedule



The Pastor will be at the church Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and evenings. Unless there is a scheduling conflict, the Boards and Committees will meet on the following days:

Diaconate	1st Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM (following dinner together at Carbone's)
Trustees	2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:15 PM
Stewardship	4th Tuesday of every month at 6:15 PM
Investment	Meets quarterly on a Thursday evening at 7:00 PM
Church Council	Meets quarterly on a Thursday evening at 7:00 PM (Date is determined at previous meetings)
Women's Fellowship	Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month

The January Schedule has been pushed back a week because the first Tuesday was New Year's Day. The Women's Fellowship does not meet in January and February.

These Boards and Committees are the heart of our church, the place where we do our short and long-term planning and where decisions affecting the life and mission of our community are made. Everyone is welcome to attend any of these meetings (with voice but no vote).

Let The Games Begin



the fun and the game.

For those of you who do not drive at night or do not want to attempt any winter weather conditions, please call Cheryl & Jim Holmes at 508-460-0142 for a ride – We don't want you to miss out on the fun!

Bunco Night II – Revenge of the Dice!!

You asked for it, we planned it.

You come, we play!

David Sickles and Cheryl Holmes, your host and hostess, are always ready for an evening of fun. Bunco "Round 2" will be the game of the evening. Mark your calendar for Saturday evening, February 9 at 6:00 PM.

Anyone over the age of 7 can play. If you have never played, you're in for a treat. Bring your friends, kids, or grandkids! Pizza, desserts, and drinks will be on the menu. No work involved. Just come and enjoy

Spiritual Exploration Reading Group

**Tuesday Afternoons from 2:30 – 4:00 PM Led By Rev. Sanderson
Resumes Tuesday, January 15, 2013**

The theme of our Tuesday afternoon Spiritual Exploration Reading Group this spring will be the search for that deepest level of spiritual experience that underlies all of the world religions.

This spring we will begin by reading Aldous Huxley's introduction to *Swami Prabhavananda* and Christopher Isherwood's 1944 translation of the classic Hindu text *the Bhagavad-Gita*. This short essay is an excellent articulation of what has been called "the Perennial Philosophy." Copies of Huxley's essay will be distributed at the meetings.

This introduction will be followed by viewing and discussing the material presented in the "*The Power of Myth*," a video series of Bill Moyers's interviews with the world-renowned mythologist Joseph Campbell. This series, perhaps more than anything else that has been presented in the public venue, served to open the general public up to the depth dimension of religion and the psychological and spiritual dimension of mythology. This series is also available in book form for those who are interested.

The Tuesday afternoon study group meets every Tuesday from 2:30 – 4:00 PM in the Vestry. Everyone is welcome!

From The Desk Of The Collector



2012 has now joined the other 147 years of our Church history in the rear view mirror, left for historians to interpret. Were it not for the cancellation of the final Church service of the year, I have no doubt we would have received 100% of the amount pledged. THANK YOU!

Bring on 2013, our 149th year! We are in a more challenging position than ever before. At this point in time, we have received only 19 pledges totaling \$38,174. This represents less than 50% of the budget last year.

If you have not yet filled out a pledge card, please estimate the amount you hope to give to the Church in the coming year on an annual basis and return a pledge card. It will give better direction to the boards that must wrestle with financial shortages. The Trustees and Diaconate, in conjunction with the Treasurer, will present a 2013 budget at our February 17 Annual Meeting.

2013 pledge envelopes have been given out and the Collector's books will soon be in the faithful hands of the Auditor. Once they are returned the final pledge statements will be prepared and distributed (barring a Collector's Financial Cliff) by January 31 to all who pledged.

The first several months of the calendar year are always the most difficult for the Treasurer. Heating season and other factors often result in expenses exceeding income.

Collector's friendly reminder: Please do not put mission or building envelopes inside your weekly offering envelope. Simply mark the outside of the envelope how you would like your check divided and toss out the other envelopes.

Thank you!
Jim Holmes, Collector

PS We REALLY need your pledge card!

Annual Reports

In preparation for our Annual Meeting all Annual Reports with the exception of the Auditors and the Nominating Committee, must be submitted to our Church Clerk, Beverly Lees as soon as possible but no later than January 20.

Reports should be submitted in final typed/printed form whenever possible. The cooperation of all concerned will be appreciated and is essential because of the significant amount of time and effort it takes to organize and edit the reports and produce bound copies for distribution one week prior to the meeting.



Annual Meeting

Come for worship; stay for the luncheon, fellowship, and our Annual Meeting, which we are planning to begin at 1:00 PM on Sunday, February 17.



After lunch, we will openly discuss the “Business” of our Church. Remember, although all are welcome to come and speak on the various issues that come before the Annual Meeting, only official members of the church may vote on the budget and nominations for the coming year, as well as any other business that comes before us. If you have not yet become a member of our church, stay after worship for the meeting and discover what our church is all about. New members are usually received into the church every spring.

At the Annual Meeting, in addition to a review of the past year, we will elect officers and members of the various boards and committees, and vote to establish our budget for the coming year. At these meetings, we usually engage in a lively discussion of ways that our church might adapt or change in order to grow and thrive. Last year, for example, we discussed changing the time of our worship service to an earlier time in the hope that this might be more amenable to the Sunday schedule of young parents. The discussion and your vote on matters like these are invaluable to the boards and committees that are charged with planning for the coming year.

The luncheon will be hosted once again by Women’s Fellowship.

As always, this is a very important meeting. It is your chance to listen, speak, and vote. We encourage all members to attend.

Congratulations!

To Kristen Sanderson and Michael Springer who were married at First Community Church on Sunday, December 16, 2012.



Blessed with the double honor of walking his daughter down the aisle, Rev. Paul Sanderson also officiated. The ever-proud Mom, Darlene, watched with love at this joyous occasion of her little girl and her future husband joining in marriage.

We all wish Kristen and Michael a very blessed and loving marriage for the many years ahead.

United Parishes Lenten Series

The United Parishes of Southborough Lenten series will focus on the theme of peace, *shalom*, on both a personal and collective level. Several of the relatively new clergy in town will share their thoughts about this theme.

The dates of the gatherings will be February 26, March 5, 12, and 19. Palm Sunday is March 24 and Easter will be celebrated on March 31, a little early this year. Our own church study groups will continue to meet throughout Lent.

The meetings begin at 6:00 PM with worship. This is followed by dinner, the presentation, and discussion. We end promptly at 8:00 PM.

Since this schedule is tentative, and we do not presently have a schedule of where the meetings will be held, please check our website or contact the Pastor for up-to-date information.

The complete details will be printed in the March 2013 Newsletter.

Calendar Girl

To all of you wonderful, generous people who have donated calendars to the patients on my unit at Metrowest Medical Center in Natick -- thank you so much on behalf of my patients! Being hospitalized can be disorienting in terms of what day it is and how this date is centered in a reference of time. It helps them not only figure out what day it is, but to get a better handle on when they were admitted, how long they have been hospitalized, and when their surgeon is planning to operate...that sort of thing.



This year the Chaplin has partnered up with me. It all started when I was told “No religious calendars” so the Chaplin was happy to use them in her work. Now if she has a patient on another unit that could be helped with a calendar, she will seek me out for that patient. So the whole hospital benefits! Thank you all so very much.

Wishing you all a year of happiness, peace and good health.

Dianne Simmons

PS If you should happen to come across more calendars in the next few months, I will be glad to take them off your hands!

Women's Fellowship

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."
Psalm 31:24

The Women's Fellowship met on December 9 and held a combined Business Meeting and Christmas Party. Barbara Crane, who led the devotions, blessed us all with a wonderful story about an old woman and an old man (who were also husband and wife) and after a long separation, met again through a long lost tablecloth that the woman had made. We also heard a delightful story about a black puppy.

Though we were few in number, we shared some good food and fun together, sang a favorite Christmas Carol and really enjoyed our Yankee gift swap.

The final total made on our Christmas Table Fundraiser was \$265.00 and we want to thank all members of the Women's Fellowship and the church family who helped on this effort in any way. "Thank you all!"

Looking ahead, we did the planning for the Annual Meeting Luncheon to be held on Sunday, February 17. It was decided we would again keep the meal simple with little clean up. We will offer three choices of hot soups with sandwiches and light dessert. No other food is needed. Below is the menu.

Soup	Sandwiches	Dessert	Misc
Beth Hook Clam Chowder	Barbara Crane Chicken salad (18)	Karen Farmer	Sandy McKeen Crackers
Marlene Joe Minestrone	Cathy Ten Eyck Tuna salad (18)	Helen Varney	
Martha Hubley Corn Chowder	Beverly Lees Egg salad (18)		

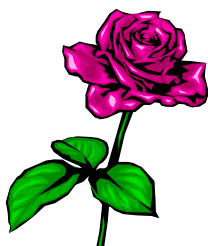
We set an early clean-up date for the kitchen on Saturday, February 23 from 10:00 AM until finished.

The Women's Fellowship will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 PM. Beth Hook will lead the devotions and Beverly Lees will be responsible for refreshments.

To all members, please remember to be thinking about a program for April or May. God's rich blessing on you all in the New Year and we will see you in March.

Respectfully,
 Mattie Cummings, Secretary

With Our Sincerest Sympathies



We were all saddened at the recent loss of Myra L. (Farnum) Claflin our friend and member of First Community Church of Southborough who joined in 2008. Myra, 80, died on Wednesday, November 21, 2012 at Beaumont Skilled Nursing and Rehab Center in Westborough after a period of declining health.

Myra was the beloved wife of Ralph Claflin for the past 59 years. She also is survived by her sons, Steve Claflin and his wife Juanita of Irvine, CA; Jonathan Claflin and his wife Susan of Bradford; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her son, David Claflin, who passed away in 2003.

A funeral service, officiated by Rev. Paul Sanderson, was held on December 1 at our church followed by a collation in the Vestry.

Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies go out to all of the Claflin family for their loss.

Spiritual Study & Growth Group

**Thursday Evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM Led By Rev. Sanderson
Resumes again Thursday, January 17, 2013**

Our Thursday evening Spiritual Study and Growth Group will continue its exploration of the relationship of Jungian psychology (the psychology of Carl Gustav Jung), particularly the dynamics of the persona and shadow, to the Christian faith and to our personal and sociological relationships. This past fall we read and discussed Robert Johnson's *Owning Your Own Shadow* and Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*.

This spring we will move a little more to the "light" side by viewing and discussing several movies that illustrate the dynamics of the repression, projection, acting out, and integration of the shadow. We will watch *Thelma and Louise*; *The Mask*; *The Man Without a Face*; and *The Nutty Professor*. Each film will take approximately 3-4 meetings to view and discuss.

Behind this theme is our concern with the problem of evil: the kind of evil that we have recently witnessed in Newtown, Aurora, Columbine, Virginia Tech, Oklahoma City, and many other smaller-impact tragedies.

In the future we hope to explore Marie Louise von Franz's book *Shadow and Evil in Fairytales*, and explore the Jungian perspective on how we can best protect ourselves and our society from an invasion by personal and collective evil.

The Spiritual Study and Growth Group meets every Thursday from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Vestry. Everyone is welcome.

A Blast From The Past

148 Years Ago

1865 -- January

- ♦ On January 18th, a Council of Pastors and Deacons from surrounding towns met at Winchester Hall, and after hearing views of the members of the Council assembled, voted to proceed with the organization of the Second Congregational Church of Southboro located in Southville with eleven original members.

125 Years Ago

1888 -- January

- ♦ Mrs. Martha P., widow of the late Rev. John LeBosquet of the 2nd Congregational Church of Southville, was taken ill Sunday morning, 15 January, of paralysis and lingered until evening when she passed away at the ripe old age of 75 years. Mrs. LeBosquet's death is mourned by a large circle of friends, many of whom have been acquainted with her for long years and accustomed to look to her for motherly counsel and advice. She was married to the late Rev. Mr. LeBosquet fifty two-years ago and their wedded life has been one of almost unalloyed happiness. Four children survive her. The funeral occurred from her late residence Wednesday afternoon, Rev. Truman Merrill officiating, assisted by Rev. D.E. Adams.

1888 -- February

- ♦ The Strangest Thing Yet -- A horse with sleigh attached, passed this station (Southville) going west on the railroad track about 6:35 PM, having come all the way on the track from South Framingham, safely crossing two bridges and several culverts, meeting one freight train going east and passing by the steamboat express train going west. He arrived at Southville just before the 6:45 train stopped at that station, which was probably the cause of his leaving the track here. He was found in back of the freight house in the enclosure lately fenced in by the railroad company. The horse belonged in Ashland.
- ♦ The concert and supper given in Southville chapel Wednesday evening was a success, though the attendance was not so large as was hoped for. The entertainment consisted of three readings finely rendered by our popular young elocutionist, Miss Jessie O. Bailey, who bids fair to outrank many professionals of to-day. Music by the Southboro Brass Band and singing by Southboro Male Quartette, making as a whole a very pleasing programme. Supper was served at 6 o'clock and during the evening.

100 Years Ago

1913 -- January

- ♦ Rev. Arden M. Rockwood, resigned as pastor of both the Congregational Church in Southborough and the 2nd Congregational Church in Southville, Sunday and has moved to Portland, Oregon, where he will lead the farming out-door life on account of his poor health and eyesight. He will be missed by every one of his congregation. A purse of \$185.75 was presented to him by J.T. Gibson of the Southborough Church, in behalf of the congregation.
- ♦ The 9th grade class of the new South Union grammar school are making preparations for the first dance ever held in the new school building on Friday, January 31st. The Liberty orchestra of Fayville will furnish the music.

1913 -- February

- ◆ Considering that the skating has been good on the Sudbury river, it may be of interest to know that the record for skating from Woods Hole pond, Southville, to Cordaville mill pond, a distance of 1 ¼ miles, was made in two minutes and 25 seconds by William J. O'Neill about 15 years ago. Mr. O'Neill was at that time considered the fastest skater in this vicinity and the record has never been broken.

75 Years Ago**1938 -- February**

- ◆ The Ladies Circle of the Southville Federated Church met on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Walter E. Dunn, Parkerville Rd.

50 Years Ago**1963 -- January**

- ◆ January 6th. Special meeting called by the clerk on request of the pulpit committee. Mr. W. Earl Appleby was called as Pastor of the First Federated Church to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Rev. Glessner. Mr. Appleby is a student at Gordon theological School in Beverly. We hope his stay with us will be a long one.
- ◆ The Women's Fellowship had a "Birthday Party" and helped to fill "Pete the Pig." Also had a Food sale on January 26th.

1963 -- February

- ◆ The Women's Fellowship welcomed friends from other churches at their "Guest night." Rev. Donald Ehat was guest, speaking and showing films on Africa.

25 Years Ago**1988 -- February**

- ◆ The annual meeting was held on February 13th. The budget for the coming year, \$27,995 was approved. Article 4 Membership Section 5-B Inactive list was changed to streamline the membership list for purposes of determining a quorum and realistically assess the progress of the church membership.
- ◆ Funeral of Anita E. Stockwell on February 1st.
- ◆ Officers of the Diaconate for 1988: Chair: Robert Farmer; Treasurer: Arlene Williams; Secretary: Jean Wynn; Representative to Church Council: Jill Riggles. Representative to United Parish: Arlene Williams

10 Years Ago**2003 -- February**

The Annual Meeting was held on February 8th. The gap (about \$22,000) between pledges and costs need to be closed. No raises will be given this year. Jim Holmes suggested that next year the Deacons and Trustees hold a joint meeting prior to the annual meeting in order to come to a mutual agreement on salaries and benefits before the meeting. We need to look into the laws regarding employees and issuance of W-2 forms or 1099 forms. Lee Cummings noted that our oil costs are locked in at \$0.89/gallon. The budget bottom line is now \$63,385.

- ◆ Rev. Sanderson went to Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis to attend the memorial service for Gayle Nittler.

Joy In Dark Times

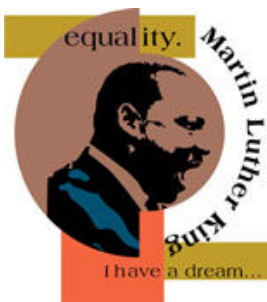
*Joy and woe are woven fine,
clothing for the soul divine:
under every grief and pine runs a joy with silken twine.*

*It is right it should be so:
we were made for joy and woe;
and when this we rightly know,
safely through the world we go.*

by William Blake

Happy New Year! Whatever lies ahead may you go “safely through this world.”

Karin Farmer
Contributing Columnist



Remembering Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 21

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the great 20th century prophets (in the biblical sense of that term), a tireless worker for peace and justice, challenged us to stand up for our beliefs and convictions when, in a sermon delivered in the Ebenezer Baptist Church on November 5, 1967, he said:

You may be 38 years old, as I happen to be. And one day, some great opportunity stands before you and calls you to stand up for some great principle, some great issue, some great cause. And you refuse to do it because you are afraid. . . . You refuse to do it because you want to live longer. . . . You're afraid that you will lose your job, or you are afraid that you will be criticized, or that you will lose your popularity, and you're afraid that somebody will stab you, or shoot at you, or bomb your house; so you refuse to take the stand. Well, you may go on and live until you are 90, but you're just as dead at 38 as you would be at 90. And the cessation of breathing in your life is but the belated announcement of an earlier death of the spirit.

W. B. Yeats in his poem “The Second Coming,” said:

*The best lack all conviction
While the worst are full of passionate intensity.*

Mahatma Gandhi once said that in order for evil to triumph, all that has to happen is for good people to say and do nothing.

There are so many areas in our national dialogue where we need to take these words of advice and challenge to heart. Let us rededicate ourselves to this higher vision and higher calling in our celebration of Martin Luther King’s birthday.

Oh The Weather Outside Is Frightful....



Our general policy as a church is to try to hold worship whenever we can, if only for a few people. We believe that if you want to make the effort to attend on a snowy day, we should be there for you. However, we wouldn't want you to be hurt either walking or driving to church in inclement weather. We also need to remember that our Pastor and our Organist come from quite a distance. It may be a lot easier for some of us to get to the church than it would be for them. Above all, we don't want you to end up driving to church on a snowy or icy day only to find that church has been cancelled.

In anticipation of snowy or icy days, when we would not want people to go out, the Diaconate and the Minister have put together a policy and procedure for the cancellation of our Sunday service. The decision of whether to hold or cancel church because of weather will be made by the Pastor, who lives in Foxborough; the Moderator – Lou Dundin, who lives in Grafton; and Bob L'Heureux, Chairman of the Diaconate who lives in Southborough.

We will not post the cancellation on the telephone tape at the church number because that would entail someone trekking to the church and re-recording the message. We will also not be posting it on our website.

Notice of the cancellation will appear on the three Boston television stations:

Channel 4 (WBZ) -- Channel 5 (WCVB) -- Channel 7 (WHDH)

Please note: WBZ News Radio will no longer be announcing the list of cancellations.

The decision will be made and the cancellation will be called in to these stations by 8:30 AM Sunday morning by the Pastor, who alone has the secret, encrypted code numbers that enable our church to appear on the cancellation list for each station.

From The Editor

The deadline for the March 2013 Newsletter is **Sunday, February 24, 2013.** Remember to include any dates for meetings or events you would like listed on the calendar. Articles may be submitted to Cheryl Holmes by:



(508) 460-0142



244 Flanders Road
Westborough, MA 01581



caholmes@charter.net

Thank You

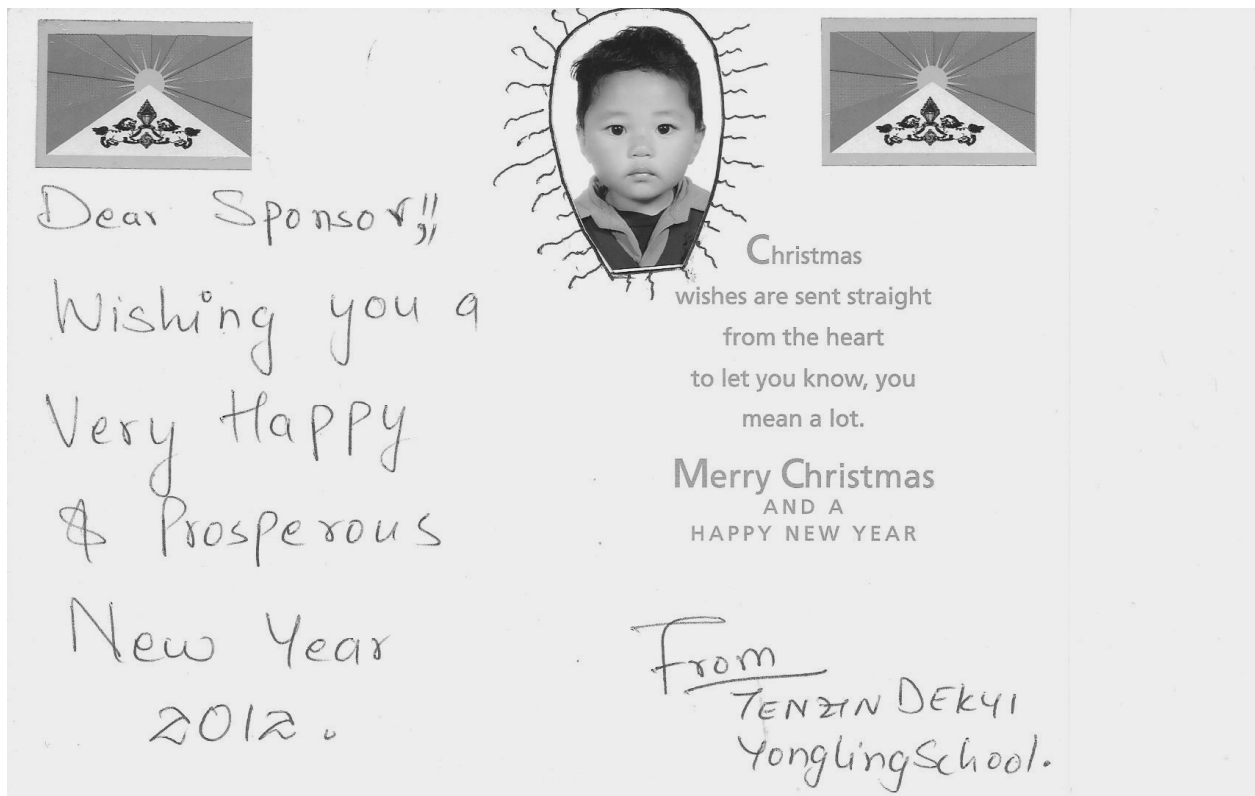
From Our Missions

Dear Sponsor!!

How are you? How's the weather over there? New Year is coming so from all of my family members, we wish you a very happy and long life...

Merry Christmas To All Of You!!

From the Parents of Tenzin Dekyi



From Our Members

Dear Paul,

Myra is guiding my hand as I write this. I'm sure she and David were present during the service. I will not forget the outpouring of love and caring that was with all of us. This is one wonderful gathering of Christians.

Love,
Ralph Claflin



Merry Christmas and warm wishes for the New Year.

Thank you for all your cards – I really do appreciate receiving mail.

Rae Kay

From Our Pastor and Darlene

Our many thanks for adding your special touches to Kristen and Mike's wedding --

*T*o Michael Larson for providing beautiful music for Kristen and Mike's wedding at the church and also at the reception at the Mandarin Oriental in Boston.

*T*o David Sickles for making the sanctuary so beautiful.

*T*o the Diaconate for providing the Sunday flowers following Kristen and Mike's wedding in celebration of their marriage.

From Our Choir Director

Members and Friends,

Thank you so much for your very generous Christmas gift. You are all such a blessing in my life.

David Sickles

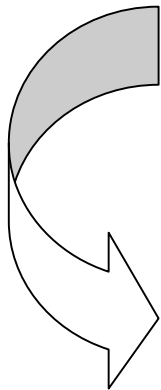
With Our Special Thanks To –


- ◆ David Sickles, Michael Larson, the Choir and Daniel “Flash” Prefontaine for hosting the Advent Event. It was a great evening of fantastic food, fun, entertainment, and fellowship. Thanks to all who brought in their favorite foods. The Tree Lighting Sing-A-Long was enjoyed by everyone, and the Choir was at its best in their performance “Miracle at Midnight.” Look out Broadway -- here they come!!!
- ◆ Bob L’Heureux for setting up and taking down our Nativity for all to see every Sunday during this Christmas season. Thanks to David Crane for making the much-needed repairs to the “stable.” Thanks also to Rev. Paul Sanderson for delivering it and taking it back to his house to store until next year.
- ◆ David Sickles for this year’s magnificently decorated walls and windows in our sanctuary for Christmas. The Christmas tree stood gracefully lit, adorned with the angel atop and soft white ribbons twirling down. Just when you think it can’t get better, you add a new touch that brings out “the beauty of the season” at First Community Church.
- ◆ Sharon Willman for providing the Christmas wreaths on our front door that welcome everyone inside to worship each Sunday.
- ◆ Pat Grogan for making all the arrangements to collect, purchase, and deliver the Christmas Poinsettias for Christmas Sunday and the Christmas Eve Service.
- ◆ Michael Larson, David Sickles, and the members of our Choir for their inspirational music throughout the Advent season and Christmas Eve.
- ◆ The Advent Candle lighters: Garcia, Roy and Nigel Pinnock; Eileen, Roy, and Daniel Prefontaine; Beverly Lees, Pat Grogan, Zachary Webster and Faith Alexander; Sandy and Scott McKeen, Kim, Clark, Cassidy and Carter Bilawchuk.
- ◆ The Christmas Eve readers: Bob L’Heureux, Dianne Simmons, Bob Farmer, Karin Farmer, Darlene Sanderson, and Lou Dundin. Thanks also to our Christmas Eve Greeters, Sharon and Skip Willman who make sure all are welcomed with a friendly handshake, a bulletin, and a candle for our Silent Night Candle Lighting.
- ◆ The Women’s Fellowship for organizing and providing for the collation following Myra Claflin’s memorial service. Also a special thanks to Skip Willman for finishing the plowing and removing the front railing for access to the sanctuary.
- ◆ Bob Farmer, David Crane, and Skip Willman for cleaning up the leaves and branches.
- ◆ David Crane for fixing so many little broken things around the church.


LOOKING AHEAD

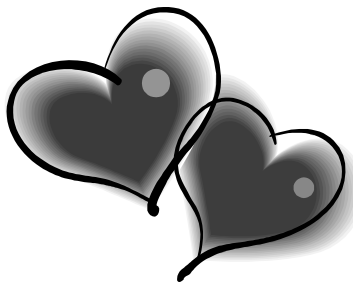
United Parishes Lenten Series
Continues on Tuesday evenings in March

Write down these dates!!



	
<i>Birthdays</i>	
Mitch Hansberry	5 th
Jill VanderSluis	6 th
Roy Prefontaine	15 th
Nigel Pinnock	17 th
Susan Hansberry	25 th
Daniel Prefontaine	26 th
Jennifer Dundin	28 th
Michael Larson	31 st

	
<i>Birthdays</i>	
Lois Jacobson	8 th
Bob Farmer	8 th
George Nutting	9 th
Evelyn Till	10 th
Joan Brunelle	10 th
Thelma Oakes	11 th
Joyce Harrington	12 th
Jim Holmes	13 th
Helen Varney	14 th
Holly VanderSluis	16 th
Jason Elias	19 th
Arlene Williams	21 st
Diane Sickles	22 nd
Cody Willman	24 th
Wendy Willman	28 th
<i>Anniversaries</i>	
Helen and Dick Varney	16 th
Marlene & Gil Joe	19 th



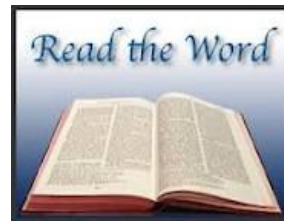
CELEBRATIONS



For we are laborers together with God (1 Corinthians 3:9)

Lay Leaders

January 6 - Lou Dundin
January 13 - James Holmes
January 20 -
January 27 -



Greeters

January 6 - Beverly Lees
January 13 - Helen Varney
January 20 -
January 27 - Barbara Crane

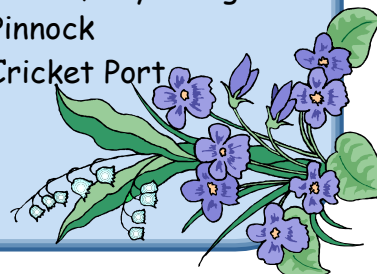
Coffee Hour Hosts

January 6 - Martha Hubley & Marlene Joe
January 13 - Garcia, Roy & Nigel Pinnock
January 20 - Barbara Crane
January 27 - Karin Farmer & Helen Varney



Memorial Flowers

January 6 - Bob L'Heureux
January 13 - Cheryl & Jim Holmes
January 20 - Garcia, Roy & Nigel
Pinnock
January 27 - Cricket Port



Deacons for January

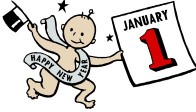


Joyce Harrington and Bob L'Heureux

Our Gifts We Brought



With the total figures in from our Treasurer Bob Farmer, we see the final picture of what we have collected and donated on a monthly basis to the Missions that we had chosen to support for 2012. Our Mission donations are made above and beyond our gifts of the Pledges that we made to support the First Community Church of Southborough's General Operating Budget.

This year we donated a grand total of \$4,269.00 in monies as well as bags and bags of groceries to the Southborough Food Pantry.

 <p>\$410.00</p>	 <p>\$320.00</p>	 <p>\$360.00</p>
<p>Abby's House</p>  <p>\$433.00</p>	 <p>\$300.00</p>	 <p>\$250.00</p>
 <p>\$251.00</p>	<p>Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling</p>  <p>\$300.00</p>	 <p>\$550.00</p>
<p>Haiti</p>  <p>"His Royal Ministry" 1 Pet. 2:9 <i>Working with Haitian Pastors and Leaders to Build Up Christ's Church in Haiti</i></p> <p><small>Mattie L. Cummings, Director 20 Flagg Road, Southborough, MA 01772 Tel. (508) 461-2086</small></p> <p><i>"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord...to give you a future and a hope."</i></p> <p>\$325.00</p>	 <p>\$320.00</p>	<p>"Stop Girl Trafficking"</p>  <p>\$325.00</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2013 Missions – The Tibet Fund Sponsorship of Tenzin Dekyi			2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
 <p>Epiphany 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Coffee Hour following Worship Service January-February Newsletter Deadline</p>		5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Diaconate Meeting				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service		2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:15 PM Trustee's Meeting		7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service		2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal		7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		

27	28	29	30	31	
9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service		2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal		7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2013</h1> <h2>Missions - Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling</h2>					1	2 
3	4	5	6	7	8	9  Game Night 6:00 PM
10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Coffee Hour following Worship Service		2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Diaconate Meeting		7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		
10	11	12	13 	14	15	16 
9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Coffee Hour following Worship Service		2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:15 PM Trustee's Meeting		7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		
17	18 	19	20	21	22	23  Women's Fellowship Kitchen Clean-Up Begins at 10:00 AM
ANNUAL MEETING 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Lunch and Annual Meeting following Worship Service 		2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal		7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		
24	25	26	27	28		
9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service March Newsletter Deadline		2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM United Parishes Lenten Series Host Church TBD		7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		