

THE TIDEINGS JANUARY 2016

Mattapoisett Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pastor

Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken

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As 2015 draws to a close, I want to report on the progress of the Pastoral Housing committee. We closed on the sale of 20 Barstow Street, 12/29/15. We have posted a warrant regarding the January 10 vote on the purchase of 13 Abby Lane in Mattapoisett. That inspection takes place very soon and, provided the membership votes to approve the purchase and a clean inspection, we can close in January.

Thank you to our legal advisor, Jerry Johnson, for his hard work. The committee has worked exhaustively to make sound decisions in the best interest of the members of the MCC. Without a true team effort, we could not have moved forward. Thanks again to Dave Kaiser, David Dunn, Cindy Wicks, Peter Hodges, and Ross Edminster for their enthusiasm and positive approach to our very large tasks.

I encourage everyone to consider the requests of the nominating committee, as we have several positions to fill on various committees. It truly takes a village (of volunteers) to keep things running smoothly.

Thank you to Dave Kaiser for heading up the Capital Campaign committee and building another trustworthy group to steward the drive ahead for our congregation.

Jennifer Shepley, Chair

Congregational Vote, Sunday, 1/10 in the sanctuary, after worship

The congregation will vote to authorize the purchase of real property at 13 Abby Lane for use of the church parsonage with the purchase price of \$465,000.00 being funded by the net proceeds from the sale of the current parsonage at 20 Barstow St. and private donations made for said purchase.



Happy New Year!

Let's make it a big deal this year!

Sometimes the new year slips in with too little fanfare. In fact, we may already be living in 2016, having marked our pristine 2016 calendars with doctor's appointments, vacations, meetings, and visits from family. If that's the case, maybe we can have our own private little fanfare the first time we actually write the numbers **2-0-1-6**, whether on a check, a letter, or a card.

The turn of a new calendar year is a good time to take positive stock of the upcoming year. We may be mulling the past 12 months and what they contained. But it may be even more important to cast our gaze to the next 12 months, and all the potential they contain. It's a time to consider the ability each of us has to write our own future. Each of us the power to make choices to define our life so we may live as fully and abundantly as God intended. So, it's also a good time to turn to God in prayer, and consider with God how to shape the next 12 months.

What's true for us as individuals is true for us as a community of faith. We have several opportunities in the coming months to collectively chart our course. How do we want to live as a church? Who is God calling us to be? How can we serve, and whom? How is God already working through us to provide joy, hope, and sustenance for mind, body and spirit?

A couple weeks ago, the Cub Scouts invited me to their December meeting. I'm happy to report the pack is growing! Dozens of boys are learning about service, citizenship and reverence, and many important skills, in our building. Many, if not most, parents aren't church members, but they are at home here. Many expressed their gratitude, had questions about our services, and said they felt this was *their* church.

The pack returned the next night to share some holiday spirit with the 80 or so folks who came to Open Table. That was an evening of music, fellowship, food, and laughter (endless thanks to all the volunteers who make Open Table happen under the leadership of Paull Magee).

Again, many people who came aren't officially "members" of the church, but consider Matt. Congo *their* church. So, too, do the Mattapoisett Women's Club, AA, ACA, Girl Scouts, and many other organizations

We are an extremely important part of our community. All ages, all stages, all walks of life rely on this church as a place that is safe, comfortable, and infused with a positive feeling of Christian fellowship. Our church is a place where anybody can come to be uplifted, nourished, encouraged, and loved. This is a unique thing in our community. We've all heard the grim statistics about how organized religion is slipping in a variety of ways. I can't see how that is true of our church.

The New Year holds many opportunities for us, as a community of faith, to take stock of our place in the larger South Coast community. How can we better serve those we are already serving, and whom else can we serve? For example: Our summer evening worship experiment showed us a significant desire for worship beyond a traditional Sunday morning service. Another example: Our lift is getting more and more use on Sunday mornings – praise God! Another example: Our joint study with the Tifereth Israel Congregation shows a lot of energy for doing new things and reaching beyond the lines of our faith. Another example: Our children's programs, such as the White Gift Pageant shows that our community continues to cherish tradition, and children love to be involved.

Our eyes, ears, and spirits must be open to flows of energy such as these. We can think of it as the Holy Spirit moving in our midst. We must keep those energies in mind when it comes time to think about a Capital Campaign, church budget, and speakers and events associated with upcoming sabbatical this autumn. Who are we as church today, and how is God calling us forth into the future? Lots to think about, and such a blessing to be able to chart our course as a community.

Many blessings for the upcoming year!

Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken

CONFIRMATION

We are pleased to welcome seven of our teens to the 2016 Confirmation Class! They are: Khalil Awer, Freemin Bauer, Billy Osborne, Noah Perdigao, Ryan Ribeiro, Anneliese Schipper, and Noah Schipper.

Between our Commissioning in worship on Jan. 24 and Confirmation on Pentecost, May 15, these teens will explore their connection with God. The classes will be led by Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken, with several church members joining the journey as confirmands explore their faith. We'll learn about church; Jesus' life, death, and resurrection; and social justice, among other topics. Along the way, each teen will have a mentor from the congregation, and will enjoy a retreat and a movie.

Wanted: Sabbatical Implementation Team Members

We are truly honored and blessed to have received a Renewal Grant from the Lilly Foundation to fund a three-month sabbatical for our minister. The plan we submitted is quite impressive, calling for guest speakers, retreats, celebrations, and special programs at the church while Rev. Amy is away August through October, 2016.

We need some folks to put the fully funded plan into place! If you can help with publicity, event planning, speaker coordination, etc., please call the church office. This is an exciting opportunity for our church!

The Book of Exodus! Upcoming Study with Tifereth Israel Congregation

After carefully reviewing your feedback about the parables study with the Tifereth Israel Congregation, Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken and Rabbi Raphael Kanter are planning to co-teach a study of the Book of Exodus in the spring.

The class will be held Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 8 p.m., March 30 through May 11 (skipping Passover on April 27), and will cover the first half of Exodus. Three classes will be held at the church, with three being held at the synagogue. Stay tuned

Thursday Adult Bible Study Continues in Jan. with Galatians

The Thursday Bible Study will resume its usual schedule in January with a study of Galatians. This is a very important letter written by the Apostle Paul to the churches in Galatia as the early church expanded to include both Jews and Gentiles.

The class will meet at its usual times: 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Thursdays, in the multi-media room downstairs. This will be a six-week study beginning Jan. 14. The primary leader will be Christian Education Director Patricia Berry, who is preparing to become a Commissioned Minister in Christian Education. Sign up and pick up your book in the church office.

Capital Campaign Update – December 2015

The “Lift Up Our Hearts” Capital Campaign is off to a great start! We have organized a “communications team” of three members who will work on a “Case Statement” and slogan for the campaign as well as work on ways to spread the word as the campaign progresses. Along with the communication team, we will be forming a Visitors Team, an Events Team, a Worship Team, and a Community Team to reach out to those in town who have either become separated from the church over the years or have not been associated but would be interested in preserving one of this town’s greatest historic landmarks. We have also been working with the Trustees to refine many of the costs associated with the three major areas of the campaign: Accessibility, Sanctuary renovations (which include accessibility), and Capital Improvement and Repair projects. We will also be focusing the campaign on Building our Endowment.

We ask that if you are contacted to be part of the many teams we are building that you strongly consider joining in. We expect the campaign to wrap up by the early spring so this will not be a long-term commitment. Your involvement will help to ensure we meet today's goals and needs as well as strengthen our already solid foundation for many years to come!

Please contact David Kaiser or Lisa Hill, Campaign Co-chairs, if you would like to get involved.



Easter Music

If you would like to be part of the musical celebration of Easter, see Michelle, or email her at MGordonPiano@gmail.com. Anyone who would like to sing with the choir or play an instrument for Easter is cordially “invited.”

Update from the Trustees Committee

Would you believe it? We're seeing water again in the basement by the back stairs and the Triads room. We suspect this is the result of a clogged and/or leaking pipe somewhere between the lower level restrooms and the street and have temporarily closed the bathrooms to prevent further leaking. We have engaged a contractor to clear and inspect the pipes and let us know exactly what and where the problem is. Please be patient and use the other restrooms until we get this fixed.

Hopefully you noticed that we recently had the plaster repaired over the choir loft. Other projects in the works involve upgrading existing heat sensors with smoke detectors in the hallways, replacing a gutter on the north side of the building, and replacing a section of corroded pipe in the boiler room.

MISSION UPDATE

Your mission committee has been overwhelmed was by your generous pledge support. It is heartwarming to know what a caring congregation we have, supportive of spreading the love of Christ to those in need. Your generosity allowed us to participate in the PACE/New Bedford family support center's Christmas drive. Take joy in knowing that two single-mom families with three children each had their wish lists fulfilled because of you.

December Stars Month: The three Christmas trees are still in Reynard Hall for you to vote for where you want our mission dollars to go and also to fill in your personal yellow star indicating where you want to do some hands-on mission work. We have already been able to put a few "yellow star" people in touch with the hospice volunteer coordinator; Your votes will not only help us direct our funds but also help us to zero in on our congregation's passion which will define our next big mission project.

Carlos Pacheco School: We now have three in-class volunteers and they all say they are loving it! The kids are terrific and the teachers need the help. It's not too late to get involved in the classroom. You needn't be a trained teacher; there are always papers to prep and classroom chores to do. Speak to Drew if you are interested. The library project unfortunately has been on hold until the district facilities people can make sure the shelves are safe and ready for books.

Habitat: The Marion Habitat house is moving along but they still need weekend helpers. Those from our congregation who have participated have found it to be rewarding. If you have an interest either speak with Beth Ward or call the Wareham Habitat office and speak with Christine to find out the needs for the next weekend.

We want to recognize and congratulate the Open Table crew. It is wonderful that our church is once again welcoming the greater community in for a delicious meal.

MattMen Greetings!

MattMen will meet for breakfast on Sunday, January 10, in Reynard Hall. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. - join us!

Chili Bowl

MattMen will host the third annual Chili Bowl on Sunday, January 31, in Reynard Hall from 4PM to 6PM. Come and sample free chili prepared by MattMen. Vote for your favorite chili, and support the ministry of Open Table.

Tickets available in office.

Christian Education

DAY BY DAY JOYS
Love Joy Peace
Patience
Kindness Goodness
FAITHFULNESS
Gentleness
SELF-CONTROL

New Sunday School Series

Exciting Fruit of the Spirit journey filled with stories, fun, prayer and discovery!! We will learn about expressing God's love to others through caring actions, and healthy attitudes, with the help of God's Spirit.

Eating our Way through the Bible
Science, Drama, Art, Music, Media,
Community Service
Departure Prayers, First Stop Discoveries,
Story Excursions, Scenic Routes, and More.

**Journey Begins January
2016**

White Gifts Pageant Service 2015

On December 13, at 5:30 pm, we held our annual White Gifts Pageant Service in Reynard Hall. For over 80 years, the children of our church have shared the Christmas message of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love during the Advent Season. It is an event that links generations and has become a rite of passage in our church history. Thank you to the littlest angels, the tallest readers, the musicians, the costume and script helpers, the production designers, the clean-up crew, the gift givers, the parents, the teachers and the audience for contributing to our long standing Christmas event. It was a night filled with Joy! Over 150 people kids and adults were in attendance and 115 White Gifts were presented to the cooing baby Jesus. Special thank yous to Elizabeth Milde, our talented pageant director, Lisa Dunn, our professional photographer, and Holly Gordon for helping with vocals and mending costumes. Feel free to post pictures past and present on our Advent memory bulletin board and church face book .

Welcome to New Members!

Merry and Ralph Eustis

In November we welcomed to our congregation Merry and Ralph Eustis, who have been attending regularly for many months.

While the Eustises are new to the congregation, they are certainly not new to Mattapoisett, having made their home on Angelica Point for 40 years. The couple is retired and has many interests including interior design and flower arranging (Merry), and current events, history, travel, boating, skiing and gardening (Ralph). They are also already volunteering their considerable talents to the work of our church, including upcoming Capital Campaign and missions.

Jordan Pouliot

We welcome Jordan Pouliot, and her family: husband Hunt Latham and six-month-old Archer Latham.

Jordan placed her membership on Dec. 20. The Pouliot/Latham family makes its home in New Bedford. Jordan is a graduate student in history at Boston University, where she is working on her dissertation on women small-business owners in New York City. She likes to read, play soccer, walk, hike, and watch television. Hunt is a restaurateur, having interests in several area restaurants. Little Archer is set to be baptized at a Congregational church in New Hampshire, after which we will give him a special welcome.

5:00 pm, Christmas Eve, 2015



THANK YOU

Greeters : Peter Hodges, Caryn Coulombe, Jerry Baker, Betty Parker, Bev & Don Farwell

Deacons of the Month: Diana Dunn, Paul Magee

Trustees of the Week: Marc Anderson, Arthur Blackburn, Rory McFee

Memorial Flowers: Peg Olney

Refreshments: Hospitality, Barbara Baker, Betty Parker, Bev Farwell, Sandi Hewitt, The Blackburns

Sound & Recording: David Dunn & Bob Field & Megan Field

Photography: Patty Berry, Lisa Dunn, Holly Gordon, Lee Heald

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE A FRIENDLY VISIT?



LET THE VISITATION COMMITTEE KNOW!

Contact any member:

Joan Manchester

Madelyn Fogler

Gert Soares

Carol Shute

Betty Parker

June Damery

Gail Dunn

Cindy Johnson

Beverley Moore

Elizabeth Field

Bruce Rocha, Sr.

We continue to keep in our prayers friends and members of the church who are homebound or ill. Please contact the church office if you or a family member would like a visit during a hospitalization



Helen Eldridge

Phyllis Howes

Bobby Knight

Fran Gordon

Lois Murray

Lorraine Ward

Dight Crain

Lynne Olson

DEADLINE FOR FEB TIDEINGS

is January 15.

MATTCONG@VERIZON.NET

Nothing will be accepted after 1/20.



Open Table is alive and going strong. We are serving 50-60 people each month. Everyone is welcome to join us for this great community meal.

Open Table will continue to be held on the second Friday of each month through June. Doors open at 4:30pm and a delicious hot meal is served at 5pm.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to set up, do food prep work, cook, serve and clean up. If you are interested in helping with open table you can contact Paul Magee at paulmagee4@gmail.com or at 508-758-3959.

JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION	4	5 6:45 am PRAYER	6 6:00 pm DEACONS 6:30 pm CHOIR 8:00 pm BELLS	7 5:30 pm MISSIONS 6:30 STEWARD.	8 4:30 pm OPEN TABLE	9
10 10:00 am WORSHIP Congregational Vote on Parsonage	11	12 6:45 am PRAYER 6:00 pm CE	13 5:30 pm TRUSTEES 6:30 pm CHOIR 8:00 pm BELLS	14 BIBLE STUDY 9 am & 5 pm	15	16
17 10:00 am WORSHIP	18	19 6:45 am PRAYER	20 6:00 pm COUNCIL 6:30 pm CHOIR 8:00 pm BELLS	21 BIBLE STUDY 9 am & 5 pm	22	23
24 10:00 am WORSHIP	25 CONFIRMATION BEGINS	26 6:45 am PRAYER	27 6:30 pm CHOIR 8:00 pm BELLS	28 BIBLE STUDY 9 am & 5 pm	29	30
31 10:00 am WORSHIP CHILI BOWL 4:00-6:00 pm						

REGULARLY SCHEDULED FUNCTIONS/MEETINGS IN THE CHURCH BUILDING

<u>Catelli Dance School</u> Monday 2:30-6:45 Tuesday 3:00-6:30 Wednesday 3:00-8:00	<u>Brownies & GS</u> <u>Troop 88266</u> Monday 5:30 pm <u>Troop 80017</u> Tuesday 5:45 <u>Troop 75429</u> Friday 6:00 pm	<u>BS & CS</u> <u>Troop 53</u> Tues 7:00 pm <u>Pack 53</u> 1st/2nd Thurs 6 pm Pack Night: 3rd Thurs 6:00 pm	<u>Mattapoisset</u> <u>Woman's Club:</u> 3rd Thursday at Noon	<u>Sippican Choral Society:</u> Mondays at 7:30 pm	<u>AA:</u> Thurs, 9:30 am <u>ACA:</u> Mon. 6:00 pm Sat 10:00 am
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