

# THE TIDEINGS MARCH 2016

## Mattapoisett Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Pastor

Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken

### e-mail:

mccpastoramy@verizon.net

### Director of Music

Michelle Gordon

### Christian Education Director

Patricia Berry

### Administrative Assistant

Judy Kennedy

### Sexton

David Smarowski

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00—Noon

Website: [mattapoisettcongregationalchurch.org](http://mattapoisettcongregationalchurch.org)

27 Church Street, PO Box 284  
Mattapoisett, MA 02739

Tel (508)758-2671

### e-mail

mattcong@verizon.net



## Holy Week

Among the most special times of the church year is Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday, March 20, and culminating with a glorious Easter celebration on March 27. Please invite a friend to join you.

### March 20 Palm Sunday

Service recalling Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem and the suffering that awaits him. Special music by the Bell Choir and special children's activity in Reynard Hall.

### March 24 Maundy Thursday

**6 p.m.** Simple Soup Supper and celebration of Lord's Supper. Recognition of Communion Milestone Class.

Music by Michelle Gordon and Senior Choir.

### March 25 Good Friday

**7 p.m.** "Seven Last Words of Christ" candle-light service. Scripture and reflections by members of the congregation.

### March 27 Easter Sunday

**7 a.m.** Sunrise Service at the Gazebo in Shipyard Park (coffee being served).

**7:30-9:30** Easter Breakfast by MATTMen in Reynard Hall.

**10:00** Traditional Family Service in the Sanctuary; Senior Choir anthems and special music by the Bell Choir.



Call me strange. Call me gloomy. Call me depressive.

Lent is probably my favorite church season of the year.

Yes, I love Advent with its exuberant anticipation of Christmas. I love the sparkle, the smells of baking, the cards, and the holy chaos of gift-giving that surrounds those poignant reminders of the infant Christ.

And I love Easter, the triumphant singing of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." I love Pentecost and the joyful celebration of the Holy Spirit. I love our fall our season of stewardship, when we remind ourselves of God's graciousness and our best response to God's generosity.

But there's something unique about Lent. Maybe it's because Lent is a time to think about God without an expectation of being cheerful. Now, I'm basically a cheerful person by nature, especially when it comes to church and God. But everyone goes through seasons when we are more reflective than exuberant. We feel called to pause and ponder our place in the world, where we've been, where we are going. These aren't times of judgment or self-condemnation, but seasons in which we take stock. We look at our priorities and think about whether they are in line with God's best intentions. Honestly, how well are we fitting the pieces of our lives together?

As we go to press with this newsletter, we are smack in the middle of Lent. It began with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 10, and ends with Easter on March 27. If you subtract the Sundays, that leaves 40 days, reflecting the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by Satan (see Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13).

During our Ash Wednesday service, we made "Statements of Confession," adapted from the UCC's *Book of Worship*. I offer these again; if we haven't given any Lenten thought to how we might walk more closely with God, we might use the second half of Lent to do so. I invite you to read the confessions carefully. Pause and ponder how you have fallen short. You don't have to judge or condemn yourself. But you can ask yourself, "How is God trying to turn me

from these mistakes, and how might I respond to God's nudgings?"

Our life of faith is a beautiful kaleidoscope of opportunities to witness and respond to God, in all seasons.

Lenten blessings,

Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken

### STATEMENTS OF CONFESSION

- We confess to you and to one another that we have, in thought, word, and deed, gone against your intention. We confess we have sinned by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
- We have not loved you with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
- We have ignored your call to serve as Christ served us, and have not been true to the mind of Christ.
- We confess to you, O God, all our pride, hypocrisy, and impatience...
- Our ways of self-indulgence, especially those which came at the expense of other people ...
- Our envy, greed, and lack of trust in you...
- Our negligence of prayer and worship; our failure to share our faith...
- Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty...
- Our collective ill treatment of your creation, and our personal choices that have caused harm to the earth.
- Our actions that show lack of concern for generations who will follow us. For all these things and other wrongs we confess, accept our repentance.



## Stewardship

If you missed the annual meeting, here is an excerpt from the Stewardship report with the latest information regarding our 2016 Stewardship campaign. It is never too late to pledge!

**The Goals:** \$255,000 in total, \$225,000 for the operating budget and \$30,000 for the mission budget.

### 2016 Results to Date:

In **TOTAL**, the 2016 campaign raised pledges of **\$249,003** as of the annual meeting. **This is just \$6,000 short of the total goal** for the year. For those who pledged last year but have not yet submitted a pledge card or those who would still like to make a pledge for the first time, it's not too late. Stewardship happens all year long!

The operating budget goal was \$225,000. The current pledge total is **\$209,368, approximately \$10,000 more than 2015, but \$16,000 short of the goal.** Pledge units were about the same as last year. There were 17 NEW pledges (some represent individuals who had been giving, but had not before pledged and some were brand new givers) and 19 pledgers from 2015 that have not yet submitted pledge cards for 2016.

The mission budget goal was \$30,000. The current pledge total is **\$39,635!!!, almost \$10,000 more than the goal and almost \$14,000 higher than 2015.** There were 62 units pledged in 2015 and 81 units to date for 2016. This is very exciting news.

Overall, a highly successful 2016 Stewardship campaign filled with Bountiful Blessings and Joyful Giving. Continued Bountiful Blessings,

Cindy Wicks, Stewardship Chair

Committee Members: Jack Braitmayer, Sara Schipper, Beverly Farwell, Dan Berry (Finance Committee Representative) and Dave Anderson (Mission Committee Representative)



### The Book of Exodus!

Co-Study with Tifereth Israel Congregation  
Starts March 30

We will again be embarking on a journey through the Bible with our friends from Tifereth Israel Congregation. Our study of the Book of Exodus begins March 30. Please keep an eye out for more information about this six-session class, led by Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken and Rabbi Raphael Kanter.

**MATTMen News:** We plan to meet for breakfast the 1st Sunday of every month. For information contact Marc Anderson at [zukhfish@gmail.com](mailto:zukhfish@gmail.com).

**Greetings from the Capital Campaign Committee,**

We as a congregation unanimously voted to approve the “A Welcome Home” capital campaign at the annual meeting on February 7th. We have been working hard to put our teams together to ensure the overall success of this endeavor. As a congregation, together we can make our goal of \$600,000!!! Rest assured, everyone reading this will be involved in the campaign. Yes, the intent is to raise the funds necessary to achieve our goals (accessibility, sanctuary renovations, capital repairs/improvements, funding a new Buildings Maintenance Fund and a contribution to our Missions fund). All of us will be asked for a visit from a member of the congregation to talk about the goals of the campaign and to receive a pledge. No dollar amounts will be discussed and your pledge will be completely confidential. This will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to connect, share and further the mission of our church. Together, as a community, as a family, we will reach our goal!

Sincerely, David Kaiser and Lisa Hill and the rest of “A Welcome Home” Capital Campaign committee

**FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

On December 29, 2015, our parsonage located at 20 Barstow Street was sold and the proceeds from that sale, along with several gifts, were used on January 20, 2016, to acquire a new parsonage located at 13 Abby Lane.

The net effect of the two transactions resulted in a cost to the church of \$197.60. Following is a breakdown of the details of each transaction.

<u>Barstow Street</u>		<u>Abby Lane</u>	
Gross Sales Price	\$ 360,000.00	Gross Purchase Price	\$ 465,000.00
Closing Costs		Closing Costs	
Commissions	\$ 18,000.00	Title Insurance	\$ 1,697.00
Deeds/Stamps	1,641.60	Deed Recording	202.00
Deed Recording	154.00	Plot Plan	150.00
Water & Sewer	417.10	Permit	50.00
Legal Fee	750.00	Total Costs	\$ <u>2,099.00</u>
Total Costs	\$ <u>20,962.70</u>		
Net Proceeds	\$ 339,037.30	Net Disbursement	\$ 467,099.00

**Summary**

Sale (Net)	\$339,037.30	<u>Relocation Expenses</u>	
Gifts	<u>132,000.00</u>	Inspection	\$ 575.00
Total Available	\$471,037.30	Pest Control	110.00
Purchase	<u>467,099.00</u>	Carpet Cleaning	262.00
Excess Funds	\$ 3,938.30	Moving	<u>3,188.90</u>
		Total Costs	\$4,135.90
	Deficit	\$ 197.60	

## **MISSION UPDATE**

### **Charting the Course for Missions**

Inspired by the transformative experience of direct mission work during our mission trip to the Craddock Center in 2014, we decided it was time to re-examine what we do, why we do it and how we do it. We wanted to nurture our church's generous financial support of those in need and, at the same time, increase our efforts in direct mission work -- with a goal of 100% congregational participation in some type of mission work.

To begin this process, we scrutinized our budget and all the organizations we so generously support. We asked those organizations to send us information and invited them to send a representative to come to our meetings. We also reworked our mission and vision statements.

Next to chart our course, we convened an all-church retreat, facilitated by Rev. Liz Magill, to discern where the congregation believes we should go from here. On a hot July evening, about 30 of us gathered in discussion about our passions and dreams for missions. Those unable to attend had written input on charts in Reynard Hall throughout the early fall.

Taking this data, we set three major areas for action: fighting hunger, helping those in need and supporting education. During Advent, we again sought full church participation in our "December Stars Month" where folks had a chance to vote on our Christmas trees in the hall for where our resources should go and where they want to be actively involved.

This effort will continue throughout this year to "zero in" on our next big project.

### **Alternative Gift Program**

This year's new holiday initiative, the alternative gift program, was quite successful. As a result of your generous gift donations we gave \$60 to All Hands volunteers, \$125 to "Bag Hunger Now" Y collaboration, \$60 to Carlos Pacheco School for books, \$225 to Heifer Project and \$65 in much needed diapers and children's socks to Gifts to Give. How wonderful to be celebrating Christmas cheer in February! Kudos to Tara Rajaniemi whose brain child this is. We plan to do this again next year.

### **Books for First Graders**

We plan to give a book to every first grader at Carlos Pacheco and Hayden-McFadden Schools. If you are interested in making a donation toward this please mark your check " books for 1st grade" and either put it in the collection plate or get it to the church office. Any questions please talk to Dennis Desrosiers.



## Christian Education

Faith and Family  
Growing Together

### Upcoming Sunday School Schedule (subject to change)-

***“But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faith, Gentleness, and Self-Control” Galatians 5:22-23a***

Sunday School series, Fruit of the Spirit Journey, is filled with stories, engaging activities, 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. Each Sunday is Fruit of the Spirit Journey stop.

#### **Fruit of the Spirit Stops**

2/28 **Kindness**- small group classrooms, Communion Faith Milestone Class 10am,

Family Bible Class preparing for “My Bible” Faith Milestone 5pm-7pm

3/6 **Goodness**-go to large classroom first, Communion Sunday

3/13 **Faithfulness** and Communion Class 10am

3/20 **Palm Sunday**, Large Group Sunday School in Reynard Hall-Holy Week

#### Activity Stations

3/27 **Easter Sunday Service, No Sunday School**

4/3 **Gentleness**- go to large classroom first, Communion Sunday

4/10 **Bible Sunday, No Sunday School**

4/17 **Faith in Action - Stewards of the Earth- large group classroom**

4/24 **Joy** – Small group classrooms

5/1, **Self Control**- go to large classroom first. Communion Sunday

5/8 **What does it mean to belong to Jesus**- small group classrooms

5/15 **Pentecost, Confirmation Sunday Service, No Sunday School**

5/22 Practice for Celebration Sunday- **Living by the Spirit**

5/2 Prepare for Celebration Sunday- **Living by the Spirit**

6/5 **Celebration Sunday Service in Reynard Hall**



#### **Sharing Our Love**

We celebrated Valentine's Day by sharing our Love for God and our neighbors. Sunday School children made gifts and the church Visitation members delivered them to our neighbors. The homemade gifts and messages of God's Love filled our neighbors' hearts with joy and warmed their spirit to be remembered especially on one of the coldest days of the season.

### 2015 Open Table Report

The following report is submitted by the Open Table Committee following a review by the Finance Committee:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2015 \$1,000.00

#### Receipts:

Meal Donations	\$1,366.00	
Other Donations	348.00	
Total		<u>\$1,714.00</u>
Sub Total		\$2,714.00

#### Disbursements:

Meal Supplies	\$1,976.01	
Other Expenses	98.96	
Total		<u>\$2,074.97</u>

Ending Balance 12/31/2015 639.03

Average Meals Served: 60

### Poaching Pastor's Parking Space Prohibited!

Now that the Parsonage is located outside the village and our pastor no longer walks to work, please respect all three reserved parking spaces in the Mechanic St. parking lot. Parking in the spot reserved for the pastor may not have been an issue before, but it is now. The Trustees kindly request that you park elsewhere—Pastor Amy's spot needs to be available 24/7! Thank you.

Marc Anderson, Trustees




### Rummage Sale

The Women's Guild is planning a rummage sale on Saturday, 4/16, 9 to noon.

They will be accepting clothing, shoes, handbags, books, and household linens beginning 4/18.

**NO** electronics, appliances, furniture, White Elephant items, suitcases.

# MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:45 am PRAYER 5:00 pm Past. Rel. 7:30 pm Mindfulness	2 6:30 pm DEACONS 6:30 pm CHOIR 8:00 pm BELLS	3 5:30 pm MISS 6:30 pm STEWARD	4 "Home Alone" 3:00-9:00	5 SKI TRIP
6 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION MATMen Bkfst.	7 9:30 am WORSHIP CTTE. 6:00 pm CONFIRMATION	8 6:45 am PRAYER 7:30 pm Mindfulness	9 5:30 pm TRUSTEES 6:30 pm CHOIR 8:00 pm BELLS	10	11 4:30 pm OPEN TABLE	12
13 10:00 am WORSHIP  CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF	14 6:00 pm CONFIRMATION	15 6:45 am PRAYER 7:30 pm Mindfulness	16 6:00 pm EXEC. 6:30 pm CHOIR 8:00 pm BELLS	17	18	19
20 10:00 am WORSHIP  Palm Sunday	21 6:00 pm CONFIRMATION	22 6:45 am PRAYER 7:30 pm Mindfulness	23 6:30 pm CHOIR 8:00 pm BELLS	24 6:00 pm SIMPLE SUPPER	22 1—3 SANCTUARY OPEN 7:00 pm Good Friday Serv.	26
27 7:00 am Gazebo 7:30 am Breakf. 10:00 am WORSHIP EASTER SUNDAY	28 6:00 pm CONFIRMATION	29 6:45 am PRAYER	30 6:30 pm CHOIR 8:00 pm BELLS EXODUS STUDY - 6:30-8:00 pm	28		

## 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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>Mattapoissett</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
---	--	---	---	--	---