



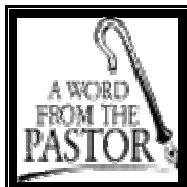
THE TOWER TIMES
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
28 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440
January 2012



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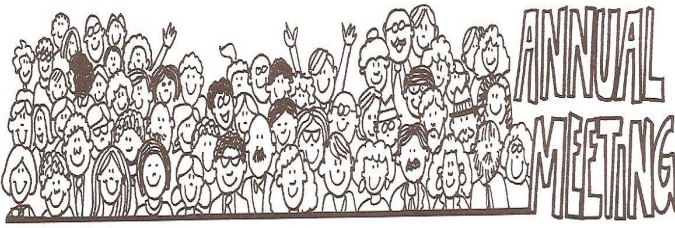
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the New Year appears before us, the promise of new beginnings can enlighten the hearts of people of faith. God is always creating, recreating, and renewing (making new again) the universe to which God spoke fourth.

In the book of Revelation, Christ Jesus, sitting on the thrown of heaven declares, “Behold, I make all things new.” God spoke through the prophet Isaiah and said, “behold I am doing a new thing, behold it springs fourth, do you not perceive it?” Do we perceive it? Can we see the extraordinary possibilities available to us? Our faith in God can provide an access to the potential for good things, a potential unleashed and activated by acknowledging that God Himself has empowered us to be a light in a dark world. Truly we look to the year ahead with a great sense of hope and expectancy. In faith we believe and know that something new, unexpected, and wonderful awaits us.

We already have the power to change some things, which can be changed; accept things which cannot be changed, and to have the wisdom to know the difference (St. Frances of Assisi). If the “prayer for serenity” and are faith in the love of God is the centerpiece of our lives, we can be sure of a peaceful year. The peace that faith can bring will be in itself a catalyst for change. This is true because with a calm and peaceful center, our minds and hearts are free from clutter and able to more clearly perceive the wonderful new things which “spring fourth” from the loving heart of Jesus. I pray that your New Year may be filled with serenity, peace, and positive change.

In Jesus Love,
Pastor Frank



Annual Meeting

Duly in accordance with Bylaw 3, Section 3, I hereby give official written notice of the Annual Meeting of the congregation to be held after worship service on Sunday January 22, 2012 in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of this meeting will be as follows:

- Review committee reports.
- Vote on the candidates for officers, board and committee members.
- Approve the budgets recommended by Trustees, Mission and Church Council.
- Act on any recommendations brought forth by the Council or the Congregation.
- Attend to any other business that properly comes before the Church.

All are welcome to attend and warmly encouraged to do so. Child care will be provided. Please also note that the meeting will be preceded by a pot-luck luncheon.

Sincerely,
David E. Smith
Moderator



From the Deacon's Corner for January

We hope you all were able to spend some time with your family over Christmas.



The Pastor is planning on continuing the bible study into the New Year, so if you are looking for a bible study, Pastor Frank has one on Wednesday night 7pm to 7:59pm. All are welcome.

The last Sunday of the month Pastor Frank has a healing service, anyone who wants healing or prayers you are welcome to come forward.



The Deacons are planning a New Members Sunday yet to be decided which Sunday. If you are thinking about joining our church, please, talk to Pastor Frank or any of the Deacons and we will let the Pastor know.

With the New Year come new hopes and promises. We hope our church builds spiritually and financially in the come year!!

Chair of the Deacons,
Faith Glover



An Active, Welcoming and Growing Community of Faith

Christian Education News

Happy New Year,



Thank you to all the children, youth, and adults that shared their gifts through planning, costumes, scripture readings, music, and prayers during our Advent worship services.

The joy of the season was shared by many!



Please mark your calendars. January is looking to be a busy month on Sunday, the 8th, following worship, Pastor Frank

will be hosting a time of fellowship with the preschoolers and on Sunday, the 15th, K-8th grade will have their time of fellowship, pizza with Pastor



, following worship.



We are trying something new this year for the presentation of the 3rd grade Bibles-The Bibles will be presented on January 8th during

worship. This is in preparation for their Communion Class set to begin in March.

Hope that everyone has enjoyed the Christmas Season with family and friends. May the New Year be filled with Blessings and Joy.

Sue Rader

From the Pastor

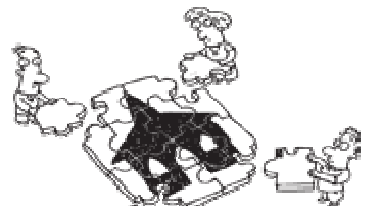


For Everything There is a Season

“Please call the church office (978-632-2142) if you would like to meet with Pastor Frank or have any pastoral needs. If there is any way the church or pastor can be of help, just let us know. We are always available to minister to you in Jesus' Name.”



News from the Trustees

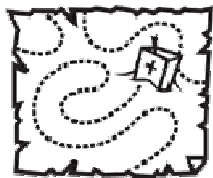


Church Trustees

The trustees are currently working on the 2012 budget. We would like to finish any current projects on the building before we begin any new projects. We will be looking for volunteers to participate in these projects. In an effort to be good stewards of the Lord's resources we elected to gather for worship in the fellowship hall until April 1, 2012, Palm Sunday.

Many thanks to everyone that assisted with the decorating for this Advent season and to those that helped throughout the year by going the extra mile to clean up our church.

Happy New Year,
Dale Rader



LOOKING FOR A
Bible Study?

**Bible Study
with
Pastor Frank**

On Wednesdays @ 7pm

YOGA FROM THE HEART
Naida Johnson R.Y.T.



If you find that you have time in your busy schedule, please consider coming and trying a yoga class. The hectic pace we sometimes live keeps us jumping from one thing to another and really disconnecting from our bodies. We are on auto pilot. Yoga will help

you slow down and reconnect through focused breathing and movement.

Come to yoga and de-stress, improve flexibility, tone muscles-just to name a few more benefits.

I am currently teaching a class on Monday nights in the fellowship hall. Class starts promptly at 6:45 and ends at 8:00 p.m. Come and try a class for free!

Contact Naida at 978-630-1182 or 978-870-0326 if you have any questions.



Nursery volunteers needed

Please contact Sherri Mills at
978-632-8040 or

SherriMills13@yahoo.com

if you'd like to help out in the nursery.

Donations needed for the nursery:

- ❖ baby wipes
- ❖ tissues



Jan 1st Heather Reed
 Jan 8th Denise Smith
 Jan 15th
 Jan 22nd Rachel Taylor
 Jan 29th Lauren Bastien
 Feb 5th Heather Reed
 Feb 12th
 Feb 19th
 Feb 26th



January

01/01 **Worship Service @ 10:30am**
 ● Service in Fellowship Hall

01/02 **Yoga @ 6:45pm**



01/03 **CE Meeting @ 7pm**



LOOKING FOR A
 Bible Study?

01/04 **Bible Study with Pastor Frank @ 7pm in the Parlor**
 ● Al-anon @ 7pm

01/05 **CAC Meal @ 4:30pm**

● **Choir @ 7pm**
 01/06 **Epiphany**

01/08 **Worship Service @ 10:30am**
 ● **3rd Grade Bible Presentation**
 ● **Preschool cookies w/Pastor after church**



01/09 **Yoga @ 6:45pm**
 01/11 **Bible Study with Pastor Frank @ 7pm in the Parlor**
 ● **Al-anon @ 7pm**
 01/12 **CAC Meal @ 4:30pm**
 ● **Choir @ 7pm**

01/15 **Worship Service @ 10:30am**
 ● **K - 8 Pizza w/Pastor after Church**



01/16 **Yoga @ 6:45pm**
 01/17 **Council @ 7pm in the parlor**
 01/18 **Bible Study with Pastor Frank @ 7pm in the Parlor**
 ● **Al-anon @ 7pm**
 01/19 **CAC Meal @ 4:30pm**
 ● **Choir @ 7pm**
 01/22 **Worship Service @ 10:30am**
 ● **Potluck followed by Annual Meeting**



01/23 **Yoga @ 6:45pm**
 01/24 **For the FEBRUARY TOWER TIMES**

Newsletter DEADLINE

is January 24th. Please submit via email to office@fccgardner.org

Thank You!

01/25 **Bible Study with Pastor Frank @ 7pm in the Parlor**
 ● **Al-anon @ 7pm**
 01/26 **CAC Meal 4:30pm**
 ● **Choir @ 7pm**
 01/29 **Worship Service @ 10:30am**
 ● **High School Seniors time w/Pastor letters coming in mail soon**
 ● **Chair City Church Meeting**

01/30 Yoga @ 6:45pm

Please mark your calendars

Parents of preschoolers- January 8th following service Pastor Frank will join them for cookies and milk and a short activity.



Parents of kindergarten-8th grade on January 15th following service, Pastor Frank will be enjoying pizza and fellowship with a short activity.



God's Answers Prayers

Missing Prayer Book if anyone knows where the prayer book is please let the office know at 978-632-2142.

Epiphany



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Healing, Comfort, and Peace for:

- ❖ All the families and members of the armed forces.
- ❖ Prayers of comfort for those awaiting results of medical testing.
- ❖ Prayers for those separated from family and friends during the holiday season.
- ❖ Thanks to all who are helping to fill the food baskets for the Gardner CAC.
- ❖ Healing prayers for all who are in the hospital.



Happy Birthday!

January

January 2	Denise Smith
January 3	Margaret Shick
January 4	Amber Hickey
January 5	Paul Farrell
January 6	Sarah York
January 7	Timothy Smith
January 9	Amy Farrar
January 9	Rebecca Ruston
January 15	Heather Baczewski
January 18	Gail Dill
January 19	Brian Smith
January 20	Kaitlyn Scott
January 21	Doug Glover

January 29
January 31

Donna Farrell
Jacob Halfrey



FLOWER COMMITTEE NEWS

- ◆ In honor of
- ◆ In celebration of
- ◆ In loving memory of

Fresh flowers in the Parish Hall are a welcome addition to our Sunday service this winter. You have the choice of taking them home with you or having the Deacons deliver them to the “joys and concerns” of church members. Flowers can be ordered for \$30.

**Call the Flower Committee,
we'll do the rest!
Sue Menard at 978-632-5586**

