



# THE SPIRE

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
35 Conant Street, Beverly MA 01915

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VOLUME LIV, ISSUE 6

February 2018



***FEBRUARY 14 ASH WEDNESDAY***

***Soup Supper Followed by Worship***

**6:00 pm– Supper 6:45 pm Worship**

**Gather around the table for a simple supper of soup and bread.**

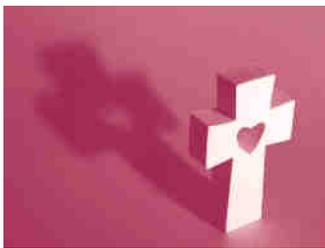
**Followed by a short service of hymns and reflection suitable for young people.**

**Receiving the ashes.**

*See page 7 for further Lent happenings in February and watch for more in March*

## February Schedule:

- 4 *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*  
Communion  
**Annual Scout Sunday**  
Message: Rev. Judith Brain  
Lay Reader: Jade Haile  
**Church Council 11:00am**
- 6 **Church Board Meetings, 7pm**
- 7 **Board of Christian Education, 6:30pm**
- 11 *Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*  
Message: Rev. Brain  
Lay Reader: David Boynton
- 14 **Ash Wednesday**  
Soup Supper/Worship 6pm
- 17 **Community Spaghetti Supper**
- 18 *First Sunday in Lent*  
Message: Rev. Brain  
Lay Reader: Nancy Koch
- 25 *Second Sunday in Lent*  
Message: Rev. Brain  
Lay Reader: Maureen Schug



### 2018 Fellowship Dues

Annual Dues to support common services and programs of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Northeast Association amounts to **\$21/church member**. Please make check payable to Second Congregational Church, earmarked 2018 Dues.

Don't forget to cover the cost of all active members in your household.

## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The Church Spire will be illumined "*In Loving Memory of Jack & Jean Card, by their family.*" Also, "*In Memory Virginia & Henry Swanson by son Dana.*"

The Tablet continues to be lit "*In Loving Memory of Marian & Bill Tannebring by their family.*"



## THE TREE OF LIFE

**Christian Love & Sympathy** is extended to friends and family of **Myrtle I. Sillen**, who died January 16.

**Congratulations & God's Blessings** upon the Rev. W. Alan Froggatt, installed as Pastor & Teacher of the United Church of Chester, UCC (29 W Main Street, Chester, CT) on January 28.

**GRATITUDE & GODSPEED** are extended to **Michelle Couris** who has served Second Church as Financial Secretary for the past eight years.

**WELCOME ABOARD Jan Holiday Allen**, joining the church staff as Financial Secretary.

## BELONGING BEFORE BELIEVING

“Belonging before believing” is a watchword of the UCC. We do not require members to ascent to a set of beliefs before they join us. In fact, part of our identity is our theological diversity. We call ourselves a “covenantal church” rather than a “creedal church.” Our bond is not shared beliefs but a shared agreement to walk together on the journey of faith and to respect our differences.

### Wait, what do we believe?

We do, however, call ourselves Christian. What are some of the concepts that come under that Christian umbrella? I’m calling them “concepts” rather than beliefs or doctrines since that word implies a possibility of interpretation. There has never been universal agreement in the church about what any one of these ideas actually mean. Oh, we’ve tried. We’ve even murdered people when they disagreed with what the power structure said they mean. But diversity of interpretation has always been the norm.

### So, let’s talk.

During Lent, we’re providing an opportunity for learning more about our faith – starting with some of the big ideas. The plan is to make it easy as possible to attend so we’ve scheduled them for Sunday after worship when a lot of us are already in the building. Grab a cup of coffee after worship, come to the parlor, and share your thoughts about aspects of Christianity that will have been introduced in the sermon.

### You don’t have to know stuff!

Don’t be intimidated because you don’t know anything about the Bible or you’re just getting your feet wet in this Christian thing. You’ll be in good company. We’re all fumbling our way along this path to God; sharing our experiences can only help each other.

### Here’s the schedule. Please come.

- |             |                                                                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 18 | <b>Discipleship</b> • <i>Following Jesus, Self Giving</i>                   |
| February 25 | <b>Incarnation</b> • <i>Made in the image of God.</i>                       |
| March 4     | <b>Forgiveness</b> • <i>The Prodigal Son</i>                                |
| March 11    | <b>Hospitality</b> • <i>Angels Unaware</i> • <i>Affirming our Mission</i>   |
| March 18    | <b>Salvation, Conversion</b> • <i>What does it mean to be “born again?”</i> |



**Judy**

## Music Notes From music directors Nancy and Charles:

IT'S A GOOD TIME TO JOIN UP! With the joyful bustle of Christmas behind us, we have several weeks of normal music-making ahead of us. This is a good season to begin to sing with the choir, because we have more time to spend working on the skills that make the choir sound good. 'Fundamentals', as my basketball coach used to say.

Anyone who has questions about singing or ringing may contact us at [bev2music@gmail.com](mailto:bev2music@gmail.com). Please do!

### AND WE HAVE SOME NEW SINGERS!

Well, Roger Moulton is new to US, and a very, very welcome member of the tenor section. Also, Wenga Kyanga is joining both bells and choir. Since he grew up in Burundi in a learn-by-ear musical culture, Wenga is now learning to read music (and English!). He has a very nice singing voice and seems like a natural bell-ringer already. His dream is to someday become a church musician, so he is very motivated.

### UPCOMING ANTHEMS

January 28 brings the story of Zacchaeus and the music of Aaron Copland's 'Simple Gifts. On February 4 we will sing a folk song from Ghana, 'Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love.' That service will feature a number of hymns about the nature of Jesus.

### VALENTINE'S DAY - SEASONS OF LOVE

On February 11, we will be welcoming a pick-up choir of young people, led by Aaron Swiniuch, who will be singing "Seasons of Love" from the musical 'RENT.' Any other younger folks out there who'd like to join this group, please contact us at [bev2music@gmail.com](mailto:bev2music@gmail.com) and we'll make sure you get information about plans and rehearsals.



### ASH WEDNESDAY

The evening service that marks the beginning of Lent will be held in the lower hall. This will be a quiet, intimate event; the choir will not perform.

### ALSO IN FEBRUARY

The first Sunday in Lent is February 18; we will perform Nancy's anthem 'Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace', emphasizing the theme of discipleship. On February 25, the women of the choir will perform an anthem about Incarnation, called 'Like Mary', which really cooks; it's influenced by the blues and rock and roll.

### REGARDING THE HANDBELLS

We plan to incorporate handbell music into the service more often. People have responded very positively when the bells have played, and perhaps this is due to the innately spiritual sound of the bells. We think that sound is like a foretaste of Heaven.

### EASTER IS COMING

We have some great musical things planned for Palm Sunday and Easter: stay tuned!

# WORSHIP LEADERS

The word *liturgy* means “the work of the people.” When we gather for worship, it’s not just the job of the minister to lead us. We’re all in it together. The choir and organist support our singing, the congregation all contributes to the prayers we read together and the prayers we offer as we share concerns. Lay readers lead us in responses. All of us together make Sunday morning a collective effort.

Lay readers are an important visual reminder of congregational leadership. Would you like to be included in the 2018 list of leaders?

To be added to the list of Sunday morning lay readers, please email Mary Jane Clark at parishadmin@beverlysecond.com or call the office at 978-922-5722. The readings and detailed instructions about what to do will be available in advance.

In January, we’ve seen some young people do a great job with dramatic readings. We hope to see a few more of these young faces on Sunday morning. So, middle and high schoolers ... sign up!

If you are already on the list but are unable to continue, please let us know.

**Family Promise** had a very successful Annual Appeal and reached our end-of-year fund-raising campaign goal of \$50,000! Second Congregational’s continued support is much appreciated!

Congratulations to Mom, Maridza & her second grade daughter, Chloe who have graduated from Family Promise! Marisa has a new job in Boston and has found housing there!

We now have 2 families (2 Moms & 8 children) and are now interviewing 3 potential new families.

## **Second Church’s 2018 Host Weeks are:**

- **Week of February 18-25** (February School Vacation Week)
- **Weeks of March 28-April 1 & April 1-8** (2 consecutive weeks, which include Holy Week & Easter Sunday)
- **Week of September 9-16** (our final Host Week of 2018).

SCC has a rather compressed schedule, instead of hosting 1 week each quarter. This occurred primarily to help to fill the first quarter completely, which can be a problem due to some of our Host Congregations’ schedules.

Please watch for the online sign-up for the Feb. 18 Host Week and sign-up for a shift or 2! The sign-up will be out during the last week of January. Cheri will also take sign-ups after church during Coffee Hour, January 28 & February 4.

## Knitting Notes

Recently, I delivered Prayer Shawls to Care Dimensions (Hospice). I wish I could sprinkle fairy dust on all the knitters, filled with thank yous, happiness, and the love that was given to me for the beautiful Prayer Shawls. Hospice certainly does appreciate our work. Thank you from me, also, I delivered baby hats for Beverly Hospital. Our next get together will be **February 7** at 1 pm in the Parlor. (The date was changed to the first Monday this month due to Ash Wednesday) Come and join the chatter.

Ruth Moran

PIZZA

&

prayer

**Thursday March 8th @ 6:00 PM**

As part of living into our new church mission, we will be offering a Pizza and Prayer service once every other month. We will be worshipping around the table, providing a feast for your body and your spirit! The service will be no more than an hour and is for all ages.

## Spaghetti Supper



2nd Congregational Church

35 Conant St. Beverly

**Saturday, February 17**

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Adults - \$7.00, Seniors - \$6.00, Children - \$3.50

Slice of Home Baked Pie - \$1.50

Menu: Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, coffee, tea, milk, and rolls

Musical Entertainment





## February Schedule

2/4—Church School

2/11—Church School

2/18—No School Vacation Week

2/25—Church School

## February Church Lent Offerings



**FEBRUARY 14**                      **ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER**                      **6:00 pm**

Gather around the table for a simple supper of soup and bread.

**FEBRUARY 14**                      **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**                      **6:45 pm**

A short service of hymns and reflection suitable for young people.

Receiving the ashes.

**FEBRUARY 18**                      **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**                      **9:30 am**

### *Discipleship ~ Following Jesus, Self Giving*

First in a series of Lenten sermons on big ideas in the Christian faith.

In each of the Lenten texts, we will explore what makes us Christian.

**11:15 –12:00 PM**                      **LENTEN ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Reconvene in the parlor to share thoughts about ideas raised in the sermon.

How does this Christian doctrine affect our lives?

**FEBRUARY 25**                      **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**                      **9:30 am**

### *Incarnation ~ Made in the image of God.*

Choir: "Like Mary"

**11:15 –12:00 PM**                      **LENTEN ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

## Prudential Board

Final financial numbers for 2017 have been completed. While we had budgeted a deficit of \$90,576 for 2017, the actual deficit came in at about half that, or \$43,850. This is virtually all a result of the reduction in salaries and related expenses as we moved from two pastors to one. Unfortunately pledge receipts came in below plan, which prevented an even bigger deficit reduction. Looking forward to 2018, our budget reflects a further reduction in the deficit, to approximately \$32,000. While this deficit position is very undesirable, our progress on this front is visible. We look forward to working with the various Boards and Committees in continuing the reduction effort and, more importantly, in finding ways to increase the revenue side as well.

Following the congregational vote in December, we completed the sale of P-2 in January. Gross sale price was \$444,500. Net after broker and legal fees was \$419,348 (original asking price was \$399,000!). After withholding cash for anticipated costs of potential repairs and upgrades to P-1 (a one-time expense, not a regularly budgeted line item), \$320,000 has been added to our Primary Investment Account. Investment income from this deposit will be added to our total income stream for 2018 and beyond.

January also saw the departure of Michelle Couris, our Financial Secretary, who will be moving to New Hampshire soon. Michelle has done a wonderful job for us and her assistance will be sorely missed! On a brighter note, we have already hired Jan Allen as Michelle's replacement – please welcome Jan to the church office! Jan will be coming up the learning curve over the next several weeks and is looking forward to her new role.

Finally, as many of you know, Kit Taylor has decided to step down from his Chairmanship of the Prudential Board, after 18 years of selfless, tireless and dedicated service. Kit's leadership has been exemplary and we will sorely miss him in this role. Mac Donaldson has agreed to step up to fill Kit's shoes, a very tall order indeed!



We were slow going the last two months because of the holiday season, but we have made much progress. The church moderator asked two new members, David Brandt and Dale Miller-Bouton, to join the committee and they graciously accepted. We felt it was important to add these members because Becky came down with a bad case of pregnancy and Chuck is heading off to the Casa in Mexico for a month for his mission. We have narrowed the list of 17 candidate profiles down to our top 7. We have reached out to these 7 so we can try to obtain video, audio or written sermons for our review. We are meeting weekly from here on out and are scheduling phone interviews with the top seven so we can hopefully cull down to a smaller number to bring in for in-person interviews.

Kit Taylor  
Recognition of His Example

Kit Taylor has led the Prudential Board for the last 17 years. His consistent dedication, persistent attention to the details and focus on doing the right thing are hallmarks of his approach to the task of steering the Prudential Board. Kit's time as the Prudential board chair ended with the last budget meeting.

I have been an admirer of Kit's for a long time, from before Kit's career retirement. Kit is an example to me of someone who has found balance in a life which includes his commitment to our church. I loved that sometimes, when I was in church, he'd be off biking with Chuck and friends, or off sailing or skiing in the winter. There were regular trips with Kathy and friends to Italy and elsewhere in the world. He traveled with his children or to his children to climb mountains. You could tell his time with his grandchildren took priority. Yet when he wasn't away, he'd be in church and the second Tuesday of each month, chair the Prudential Board meeting.

Kit's contribution to Prudential Board centered on his focus on the budget and his monthly review of the budget. Annually, Kit estimated most of the details of the church budget. There are many budget items that have to do with the mundane details of running a church enterprise. The accuracy of planning for the commonplace budget items is what allowed the impactful programs of the church to be maximized. Kit has always taken great joy when utilities came in under budget.

A hallmark of Kit's monthly detailed review of the church's budget was his analysis of the most recent month's activity. Kit's analysis was great at teasing out the key items to review, important trends, as well as anomalies. Note, it was clear to us Kit regularly fought with his computer and often lost. Kit's monthly detailed budget reviews, therefore, were for the most part in long hand. You need to know; Kit's handwriting was barely legible. Although, while Kit has removed his Board Chair hat, he promises to continue to contribute.

While his real estate developer mindset about the numbers was front and center, the bigger picture of the mission of the church was not overlooked. I think Kit wrestled with the hard decisions of the last few years. While we were obviously working with fewer members and declining pledges, Kit showed a recognition to realistically look ahead.

At the end of each Prudential Board meeting, Kit would ask for one of us to lead a final prayer. Often, Kit led that prayer. Inevitably Kit ended the prayer with a reference to doing God's work. In his role as Chair of the Prudential Board and as a member of the church, Kit remains an excellent model and example of the embodiment of doing God's work.

- Roger Moulton

## Recovery High— The Relationship

It started out with lipstick and a little eye makeup and grew into one of our most important ministries. Rosie McKenna would pack up her Mary Kay goody bag and visit with the girls of Recovery High School hoping that a little lipstick and some girl talk would help them find some hope in a life of struggle.



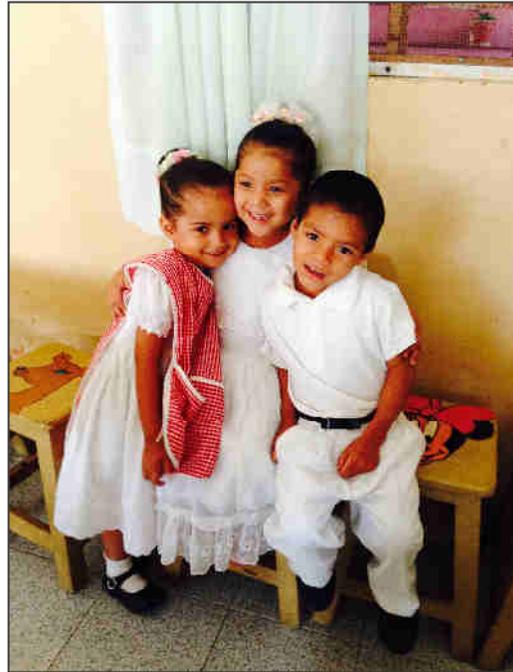
Soon Michele Lipinski, the principal of RHS, asked Rosie if she knew some “normal” people that would come and visit with all the students once a month and Rosie reached out to the Board of Social Action and Mission. I’m not sure we knew what we were getting ourselves into when we said yes but we plunged ahead with the companionship of our two ministers and began our journey.

At first we would visit them when they were at the Memorial building and later when they moved to Sohier Road but now they come to visit us at Second Church on the second Friday of the month. We have cookies and doughnuts, Snapple and Sunny D, coffee and clementines and we talk honestly and earnestly about things that are happening in their lives. We offer our wisdom , our truth, and our empathy but mostly we listen. They are brutally honest about their lives and their struggles and their raw truth often brings tears to our eyes but they persevere and we continue to support both the students and the staff.

We prepare a Thanksgiving dinner on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to make sure everyone has a celebration, we hold the Graduation Ceremony in our sanctuary, and we have had Memorial Services when one of the students has died. It’s important work to reach out to this community that is often misunderstood, ignored, or judged harshly. Many families are touched by the problems associated with addiction and we are trying to take action by reaching out to people in need of love and support. You are invited to join this mission. Contact anyone on the Board of Social Action and Mission.

Members of the Board are: *Rosie McKenna, Dale Miller-Bouton, Joyce Mosher, Cheri Marquart, Kathy Taylor, Paulette Misins, Donna Kendall, Barney Bouton*

## Mexico Mission 2018



On February 19<sup>th</sup> we leave for a 30 -day mission trip to the Casa Hogar Orphanage in Colima, Mexico. Lupita, the Director of the orphanage, is always grateful for the projects we address but she is quick to remind us of the importance of spending time with the children. She told us all the children are talking about the fun we had last year and are now counting the days until we arrive. We hope you will keep us in your prayers.

### CREATING OPPORTUNITY ON THE NORTH SHORE



Essex County Community Organization (ECCO) is a diverse network of congregations and organizations across the North Shore building relationships and power to put human dignity at the center of public life. We work together across race, class, and faith lines to ensure that all people on the North Shore can thrive, grow, and dream. Second Church needs a representative to ECCO to help with their important work. Can we count on you? If interested please contact Dale Miller Bouton ( [dalemiller-bouton@gmail.com](mailto:dalemiller-bouton@gmail.com)).



**Second Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

35 Conant Street

Beverly MA 01915

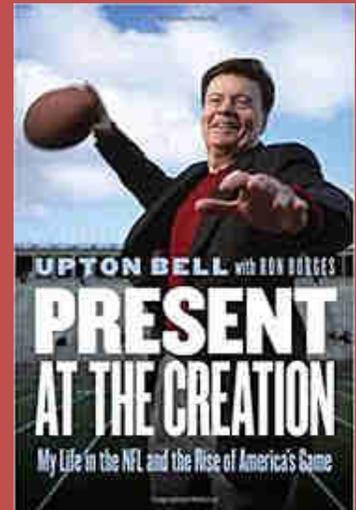
## **Community Speaker Series**

**Sunday, March 11th, 2 pm**

*Free Admission*

Come hear local star and former NFL player, **Upton Bell** share stories of the early days of the NFL and how this country grew to love the game as much as he does!

Second Congregational Church, 35 Conant Street,  
Beverly, MA



*Purchase the book in advance or the day of, Upton will be available  
for autographs afterwards*