



THE SPIRE

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

Interim Bridge Minister: Rev. Judith Brain

Directors of Music: Mr. Charles Turner & Ms. Nancy Rexford

Phone: 978.922.5722

Fax: 978.922.3064

Email: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com

Web site: www.BeverlySecond.com

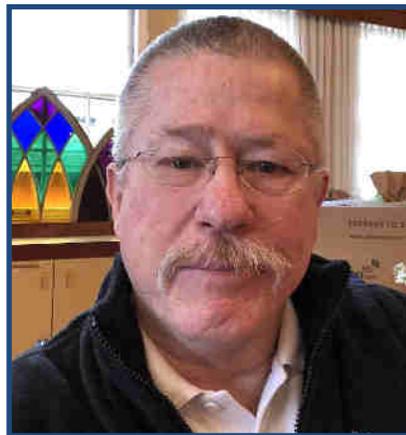
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May 2018



The SCC Designated Term Pastor Search Committee has called **Reverend Fred Meade** to be our new pastor and he has accepted our call!

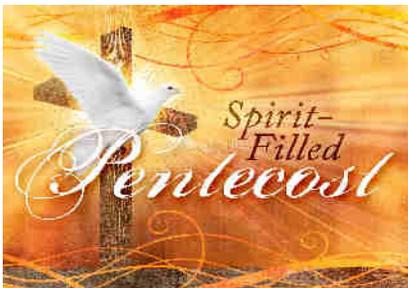


Join us on **May 6th** to hear his candidating sermon. There will be a brief congregational vote to accept him as our new Designated Term Pastor.

Please see page 9 for the full announcement from the search committee.

May Worship/Events

- 6 Sixth Sunday of Easter
Communion
Sermon: Rev. Fred Meade,
Designated Term Candidate
Lay Reader: Kathy Taylor
Congregational Meeting
New Members Lunch
- 8 Church Boards 7pm/Chapel
- 9 CE Board 6:30pm
- 13 Seventh Sunday of Easter
Message: Rev. Judith Brain
Lay Reader: Lauren Swiniuch
- 19 Community Supper 5-6pm
- 20 Pentecost Sunday
Message: Rev. Brain
Lay Reader: Doug Marquart
Annual Meeting
- 27 Trinity Sunday
Message: Rev. Brain
Lay Reader: Marty Brandt



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

During May the Church Spire will be illumined In loving memory of **Frances Newmark** by her daughter Pat McCue. The Tablet on the Cabot Street end of building, continues to be lit in loving memory of **Marian & Bill Tannebring** by their family.



TREE OF LIFE

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family and friends of **Warren K. Wentworth**(d. Nancy), who died April 7th.

Gratitude is extended to the children of **North Shore Christian Beacon** campus for donating 10 Shaw's food gift cards, purchased with their mission offerings, to extend to needy families we have been supporting for the past several years.

Annual Church Meeting

At the call of the Moderator a meeting of the Second Congregational Church United Church of Christ will be held on **Sunday, May 20** in the Sanctuary following Worship. Copies of the Annual Report will be available prior to the meeting on May 13.

These are exciting times for Second Church as you are about to enter a new relationship with your next pastor. I think you are in a good place. Part of that assessment grows out of the article posted below. It is an essay on effective smaller churches. I have met the author, David Ray. For decades he has been a champion of smaller churches and I frequently drew on his wisdom during my ministry. Take a look at the list he has made of the characteristics of effective smaller churches. I'm pretty sure Second Church possesses many of these qualities. What do you think?

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## ELEVEN CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE SMALLER CHURCHES

Rev. David Ray

Some years ago, I traveled across the United States, west to east and north to south, and back north, visiting twenty-one smaller faith communities that were noted for the quality and faithfulness of their life together. I asked probing questions and listened carefully, looking for the common denominators, the faithful and exceptional qualities that were present in most or all of these congregations. I identified eleven prevailing qualities that characterized most, if not all, of the faith communities I visited.

*A smaller church that applies itself to realizing these common denominators is sure to be a dynamic, faithful, and effective church that has no need to apologize and will be a vital organ in the Body of Christ.*

I believe the following practices can help your congregation be more what God is calling you to be. Imagine and strategize how each could be manifested even more in your congregation.

- 1. Prioritize worship.** In each place, worship was a priority, and they were working to make their worship richer and more vital. What can you do to strengthen your worship?
- 2. Take advantage of your size.** None were embarrassed by their smaller size; rather, they were taking advantage of their size. How could you take advantage of your size?
- 3. Kindle a family spirit.** In each place, there was a strong family spirit and a close and caring community. How can your church take better care of one another and deepen the relationship among everyone?

**4. Have fun.** In these faith communities, the members really enjoyed one another and had great fun together. How can members be helped to enjoy one another even more and have more fun together?

**5. Commit to mission.** At most of the places I visited, there was a serious, passionate commitment to mission, addressing serious needs and issues beyond their church doors. What could you do to develop or expand a deeper commitment to mission and service where you are?

**6. Find your distinctive niche.** These congregations knew they couldn't be all things to all people, but they had found and defined their particular niche and were filling it. What is your distinctive niche, and how can you better fulfill it?

**7. Strengthen your pastor's leadership.** All those places had effective, trusted pastoral leaders (young and old, lay and ordained, part-time and full-time), and most had been in place for several years. What can you do to maximize the relationship with your pastor and, if possible, extend it?

**8. Deepen the effectiveness of laity.** In all these places, there was a committed core of laity. Knowing that every congregation is dependent on its membership, what can be done to take laity to a deeper level of faithfulness, purpose, and effectiveness?

**9. Deploy resources wisely.** I don't believe any of these congregations were wealthy, but they all knew how to generate enough money to do what they wanted and needed to do. How might your congregation do more with what it has and generate more resources?

**10. Thrive! Don't just survive.** All of these places were more concerned with being a living church than a surviving organization. What would move your congregation beyond merely a survival mentality to becoming a contagious, vibrant faith community?

**11. Nurture a passionate faith.** Last and most important, in each place there was real commitment to spiritual nurturing and faith development. What steps could your church take to help people, young and old, become more passionate about their faith?

A smaller church that applies itself to realizing these common denominators is sure to be a dynamic, faithful, and effective church that has no need to apologize and will be a vital organ in the Body of Christ.

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*This article is adapted from David Ray's book, Smaller Churches: Real Possibilities for Hard Times © David R. Ray, 2015.*



## Knitting Notes

I am sure we are all looking forward to May Flowers after the cool April we have had. I read an article about spreading threads of love, compassion and hope around the world. I thought of the threads of yarn filled with love and hope that we have spread around the North Shore, right here in Massachusetts. Thank you to all who work on this mission.

Our prayers are with Karen and Dave Varga. Karen we hope you will be back with us soon.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 9 at 1 pm in the Church parlor. All are welcome to come and chat.

Ruth Moran



# Volunteer Fair

**Wednesday, May 16**

**4-6pm**

*Second Congregational Church*

*Fellowship Hall*

Want to volunteer and not sure just where? Come visit some of our areas great non-profits and find out about volunteering opportunities. Light refreshments will be provided.

## Cookout

2nd Congregational Church

35 Conant St. Beverly

**Saturday, May 19**

5:00 - 6:00 PM

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

Watermelon - \$.50

Menu: Hamburger, Hot Dog, Cole Slaw

BBQ chicken, BBQ beans, Beverages

Building is Handicap accessible



## ***Casa San Jose - 2018***

Our 18th trip to the Casa and it never gets old. The children and adults greet us with open arms and hearts. They decorate our apartment with welcoming signs and leave us a basket full of fresh fruit for our table.

The work at the Casa began while we were still home and it ended the evening before we left. It seems there is never enough time; no matter how we plan it, we always come home exhausted. The projects were many and the biggest this year -- the repair and sealing of the roofs over the boys' dorm, the girls' dorm and the cocina. We removed and replaced the roof over the library, the office and the doctors' offices.

The security system was enhanced by adding cameras near the garden, the school and another at the entrance. Chuck built 7 serving tables for the monthly breakfasts; 2 sets of risers for the choir to stand on during their performances and a gardening table for Ramon who is in charge of the plants at the Casa.

Staples were purchased, meat and fish bought for a month, office supplies replenished, the seats in the van and red truck were reupholstered, a new water pump installed, new carpet for the library reading area ordered, a large chest freezer for the kitchen, two hand trucks were purchased and the list goes on.

To meet new government regulations, 6 doors in the dorms were fitted with emergency push bars. In addition, they also required that all the outdoor stairs be painted yellow.

We even helped out the elementary school on the grounds of the Casa. We bought a projector, a printer, English language workbooks and had overhead fans installed in each class.

Other than overseeing these projects, we have enjoyed having the jovenes (teenagers) at our apartment for game nights and we even included pizza for all one evening. We have shown movies, served cookies and juice to the younger ninos; walked the kinder to school and before we left, we took all the ninos to a zoo for their enjoyment followed by our annual hamburger dinner.

Word gets out that we are at the Casa and some of the kids return to see us for one more hug. It's an emotional time but we know what a difference our presence has made in their lives.

Thank you all for your well wishes, prayers and contributions.

Chuck and Elaine



## May Schedule



5/6— Church School & Nursery (in the Chapel this day)

5/13— Church School & Nursery

5/20— Church School and Nursery

5/27— Memorial Weekend no class and no nursery



A reminder we are always accepting donations for Beverly Bootstraps—  
Donation Basket is located in the Narthex

### Top Food Items Needed

- \* Peanut Butter
- \* Canned Vegetables
- \* Canned Fruit
- \* Canned Beans
- \* Rice
- \* Cereal
- \* Tuna Fish
- \* Spaghetti Sauce
- \* Child Friendly Snacks
- \* Soup

### Save the Date

*We will be hosting a strawberry social*

*June 16th*

*Further Details to follow.*





## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

It is with great pleasure that we announce the SCC Designated Term Pastor Search Committee has called **Reverend Fred Meade** to be our new pastor and he has accepted our call! Reverend Fred is a seasoned minister with a deep faith that has evolved over thirty years of experience. He prioritizes pastoral care, counseling and vision and is passionate about serving the local church. The Search Committee was impressed with his proven leadership in mission and social action opportunities. He has had great success creating Sunday School Programs, organizing Youth Groups and helping churches to expand their good works into the community.

Rev Fred believes that "Sunday morning worship is the heart of the living church." His sermons are positive and meaningful, and impart an important message to think about for many days to follow. He is a good teacher, with a voice that speaks to all ages. His words will help to renew, restore and revitalize us to go out into the world and help others.

As a pastor and a volunteer disaster chaplain in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, Rev Fred provided a compassionate, non-anxious presence to those who were suffering. His experience in trauma and grief work will help our congregation to heal some old wounds. Having carried others through literal devastation, he has the credibility to cast our issues in a new light, and inspire commitment to our missional purpose.

The Search Committee voted unanimously to call Reverend Fred Meade to be our Designated Term Pastor. His maturity, quick wit, sense of humor, intellect and quiet confidence showed us that he will be a great fit for Second Church. In Reverend Meade we see wisdom, resilience, and strength of purpose. We believe he possesses the resolve to shepherd our congregation down new paths, while bringing valuable perspective to any challenges we may face.

On **Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**, Reverend Meade will preach his candidating sermon at Second Church. After service, there will be a brief congregational vote to accept him as our new Designated Term Pastor, followed by a meet and greet coffee hour in Fellowship Hall hosted by the Search Committee. Please make every effort to attend!

Finally, the Search Committee would like to extend its deepest appreciation for the patience and support the congregation has shown us during this time of transition. God bless you all!

Gratefully,

Bonnie Molino

Chairperson, SCC Designated Term Pastor Search Committee

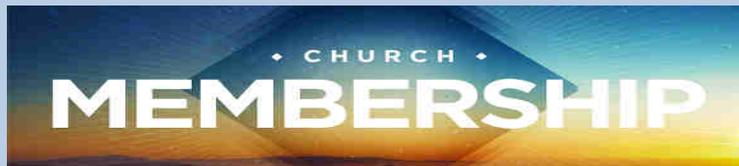


**Second Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

35 Conant Street

Beverly MA 01915



Would you like to become a member of Second Church? We will be receiving new members in the worship service on **June 10**.

**On May 6, we will meet in the parlor after church** to talk about what it means to join this community of faith.

- Who are we as the UCC?
- What does it mean to make a commitment to the mission of this church?
- What if I have doubts about faith and beliefs and wonder if I belong here?

**Come and join the conversation and enjoy a light lunch even if you are just curious.**

Please contact me if you are interested at [Revbrain@aol.com](mailto:Revbrain@aol.com)