



The Link - December 2007

A Birthday Message from the Pastor

During December, we say HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Of course, we think first of the birth of our savior, Jesus. And we say Happy New Year, because Sunday, December 2 marks the beginning of Advent season—the beginning of a new church year.

Advent 2007 also marks another landmark birthday for Methodists: the 300th birthday of Charles Wesley. Charles was the brother of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. Charles was a gifted hymn writer. He wrote over 100 hymns for Communion alone!

Charles Wesley came to Boston in 1736 and preached in the Old North Church. His historic visit and his 300th birthday are being commemorated by a service of hymns and singing at Old North Church, 193 Salem Street, Boston. This once-in-a-lifetime event is Tuesday, December 2007 from 6:00-7:30 PM. Admission is free, thanks to sponsorship of Boston University School of Theology, The Hymn Society of the US and Canada, and Old North Church.

If you've been looking for a delightful, fun way to celebrate the holidays this year, this is it! Please join Pastor Linda for this event. We can coordinate commuting from both Marlborough and North Grafton. The plan is for a group to meet at each church and travel by public transit (Commuter Rail from Grafton or perhaps Framingham for the Marlboro congregation). Please let Pastor Linda know if you would like to join her for this extraordinary excursion!

Sunday school Announces 2007 Christmas Pageant

Please join us in the vestry on Sunday evening, December 16, for the Sunday school's musical performance of "The Christmas Checklist". Enjoy the traditional retelling of the Christmas story, replete with wisemen, shepherds, and sheep in a play punctuated by traditional carols and a timeless perspective. As always, we feature the fabulous talents of our Sunday school cast and an open invitation to sing along. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m.

Refreshments to follow the performance. We hope to see you there!

Hats and Mittens for December

The Youth Group will be collecting Hats and Mittens during the month of December. Please leave any donations on the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary. All collected will be donated to the local food pantry for distribution to those in need in our community. Thanks in advance for your continued support!

Mission to Boston Harbor Happens on Saturday, December 15

All are invited to join the Marlborough Youth Group for a day of “hands-on” mission to Boston Seafarer Friend Society in Chelsea. Usually, we bring materials for ditty bags and pack them on-site, but this time our task will be more “heavy duty.” We will be moving the chapel area from the lower level of the Center to the upper level and the lounge area from the upper level to the lower level—furniture and all! This means that we need adults as well as youth workers for this trip. Please bring a sack lunch, simple tools such as screwdrivers/hammers, and a furniture dolly if you have one.

The North Grafton volunteers will carpool from the North Grafton church no later than 8:15 AM. We will meet the Marlborough volunteers at the Marlboro church and leave no later than 8:45 AM for arrival in the harbor around 10 AM. After a morning work session, lunch and early afternoon work session, we will tour the harbor and return home—around 4:30 for Marlborough and shortly thereafter for North Grafton.

Boston Seafarer Friend Society has been serving seafarers from many nations since 1827. It was founded by Methodists but was taken over by the Congregational Church when Methodists were no longer able to support it. Please help us reclaim the Methodist connection to this historic humanitarian ministry.

New Chair of W.H.O. required

Co-Chairs Judy Chaves & Joyce Swett will be stepping down from their positions in December. Joan Parris & Alyson Cox have also given a year of service as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Anyone interested in holding any of these positions, please consider it, and a discussion will be held at our next meeting, December 19th.

Season of Giving has begun!

W.H.O. (Women Helping Others) has kicked off its annual campaign to help those in need this Christmas Season. There are several ways you can help:

Toiletry Gift Bags for Homeless Shelter

We are collecting toiletries for 16 men and 4 women. A plastic bin is located in the vestry. It contains a list of items we are collecting. Please drop your donation off by Sunday December 16th. This will give the ladies a few days to purchase any items still needed.

Christmas Baskets for Homebound Church Members

We are making 15 baskets this year. If you would like to donate to this cause a sign-up sheet is located in the vestry. It contains the items we are including this year. Please drop items off by Sunday December 16th. This will give the ladies a few days to purchase any items not donated.

Gift Cards for Local Teens

We will be providing 10 teens in our community with ~\$50- in gift cards. If you would like to make a monetary donation to this drive please drop your donation in the collection plate earmarked “teens Christmas gift”. We will present these gifts to the Food Bank for distribution by the 14th of December.

Thank you

Thanks to all who attended the Marlborough Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Immaculate Conception on Monday, November the 19th. The offertory of \$347 was presented to Our Father’s Table, and organization housed in the First Baptist Church that prepares and serves hot dinners for the needy in our community.



Advent Study 2007

North Grafton: Sunday evenings, Dec. 2, 9, 16
7 PM at the Parsonage

Marlborough: Monday evenings, Dec. 3, 10, 17
6 PM in the Pastor's Office

Session 1:

Waiting for Jesus: 400 Years of Advent

All ages between Middle School and 120
welcome!

Session 2:

Surprises in the Lineage of Jesus

No homework! Just come as you are and
enjoy an informal time of scripture study,
reflection and fellowship.

Session 3:

Old Testament Prophecy

A perfect time-out amid the holiday rush!

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee held meetings on October 12, 2007 and November 11, 2007.

The results of those meetings:

We requested and received permission from Ad Council to combine the line items for the Homeless Meals and the Missions. It will make the bookkeeping and budgeting easier. We are presently working on setting up the Charles Lyons Trust (this is money given to our Church each year to aid children of Marlboro up to 16 years of age. The mission committee is working on setting up our criteria and the application process. We will work with the Marlboro Schools, other local churches and non-profit organizations. There will be more information later.

We have a proposed budget for 2008:

1. Homeless Shelter \$100.00
(To help the needy to meet their \$3.00 co-pays for their prescriptions drugs—
antidepressant, hypertension, diabetes)
2. Teen Christmas \$500.00
We give 10 teens (5 girls and 5 boys) \$50.00 worth of gift certificates for
3. Gas and tolls \$100.00
To reimburse drivers for Missions trips i.e.: Maine and the Seafarers

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4. Homeless Meals \$200.00
To reimburse volunteers for monies spent to preparing the meals the third Saturday of each month
5. Special Sunday Offerings (6) \$300.00
World Communion Sunday—United Methodist Student Day
6. Honorarium for visiting Preachers \$350.00
Speakers from Seafarers and the Native American Ministry

On November 12, 2007, Pastor Linda with volunteers from the Mission Committee, W.H.O, and the Youth Group traveled to Kingsfield, Maine to the United Methodist Salem Economic Ministry. It is located in a very depressed area.

We delivered warm winter clothing, shoes, and blankets. We were given our own display area. We place everything on hangers and folded the items neatly to make the space attractive. It was a beautiful traveling day—we enjoyed our fellowship with each other and the staff at the Economic Ministry.

Thanks to everyone who has prepared and delivered the Homeless meals on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

September Pizza Party—we made pizzas, regular (all kinds) and dessert pizzas. It was a wonderful afternoon of fun and fellowship.

October Art and Ann Bastian prepared the meal from their home. Thanks to Art and Anne.

November - A traditional Thanksgiving meal was prepared by Michele Rogers, Loretta Field, Evy Golan, Cindy Beals, Katlin Beals, Philemon Close, Bernice Bramwell and Bess Cowan who provide the money for the ham. Thanks to all of you.

We need volunteers for the December meal. It will be December 15, 2007. We still need volunteers for the 2008 meals, except for the months of May and June.

Joan Parris,
Missions Chairperson

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

A Recovering American soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

Pledge amount for 10/28/07 was \$635.00
Thanks, Susan (Lodi)

Church Calendar for December 2007

2	Sunday	11:00 AM	First Sunday in Advent Morning Worship, Holy Communion & Sunday school Blessing of the Advent Wreath
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship in Vestry Dedication of the Mitten and Hat Tree
3	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Advent <i>Christmas Carol</i> Study led by Anne Halliday Home of Bess Cowan
		6:00 PM	“Preparing our Hearts for Advent” Intergenerational Study Pastor’s Office
		6:30 PM	Girl Scouts, Meeting Room
		7:00 PM	Administrative Board, Vestry
4	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Sunday School Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
6	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
9	Sunday	11:00 AM	Second Sunday of Advent, Worship & Sunday school Special Music by Indian Gospel Melodies
10	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Advent <i>Christmas Carol</i> Study led by Anne Halliday Home of Bess Cowan
		6:00 PM	“Preparing our Hearts for Advent” Intergenerational Study Pastor’s Office
		6:30 PM	Girl Scouts, Meeting Room
11	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Sunday School Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
13	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
15	Saturday	8:30 AM	Mission Trip to Boston Seafarer Friend Society, Chelsea
16	Sunday	11:00 AM	Third Sunday of Advent, Worship & Sunday School Special Music by Ann Edelman and Sally Williams Hanging of the Greens and Decorating the Chrismon Tree
		Evening	Sunday School Christmas Pageant
17	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Advent <i>Christmas Carol</i> Study led by Anne Halliday Home of Bess Cowan
		6:00 PM	“Preparing our Hearts for Advent” Intergenerational Study Pastor’s Office
		6:30 PM	Girl Scouts, Meeting Room
18	Tuesday	4:30 PM	Trip to Old North Church, Boston for 300 th Anniversary of Charles Wesley preaching in Boston
19	Wednesday	7:15 PM	W.H.O. (Women Helping Others)/Youth, Meeting Room Cookie Swap and Packing Christmas Gifts for Food Bank, Shut-ins and Homeless Shelter
20	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
23	Sunday	11:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Advent, Worship & Sunday School Baptism of Grace Williams
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
24	Monday	4:30 PM	Early Evening Prayer, Anglican Chapel
		6:00 PM	Traditional Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
25	Tuesday		Christmas Day, Church Office Closed
27	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
30	Sunday	11:00 AM	First Sunday after Christmas Day Traditional Worship and Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
31	Monday		New Year’s Day Holiday, Church Office Closed

NOTE: No Sunday school December 23rd and 30th.

A Very Special "Store"- Created on November 12 with donations of new and lightly used clothing from FUMC. Needy children near the Salem Economic Ministry will have the dignity of shopping for affordable gifts for their parents and siblings this Christmas, thanks to your generosity. Those traveling in mission were Joan Parris, Sarah Papile, Brandi Swett, Joyce Swett and Pastor Linda. The trip was fun, the weather was perfect, and all agree that FUMC should make future mission trips back!



Indian Gospel Melodies – a choir group which practices in our church every Friday, performing in one of the New England Churches. They will be singing some specials on our Sunday service on the 9th of December.

FUMC Youth Group

Just a reminder from our meeting on November 18th.

The cookie swap and gift preparation for the Homeless Shelter and Shut-ins will take place on Wednesday, December 19th at 7 pm if you are available. The WHO are doing the cookie swap, if you want to participate you need to bring 3 dozen cookies- some will be used to fill tins for the shut-ins.

There will be no Youth Group meeting in the month of December. Our next meeting will be January 20th at 10 AM.

If you are in "The Christmas Checklist" play, don't forget practices on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm. And don't forget to invite your friends and relatives to the show on Dec. 16th. We will have refreshments following the play.

Best Regards,
Mrs. Caissie

Items to be collected for the Food Pantry: Please keep in prayer those who are making difficult choices between staying warm and eating this winter. The Food Pantry is a critical link between our expression of God's generous mercy and the ability of our community to support those who have fallen on hard times. Please pick up these items when you shop and place them in the tubs in the Vestry.

First Sunday in December: Canned milk

First Sunday in January: Hot Cereals

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Pastor Linda Stetter

