



## The Link - February 2007

### From the Pastor's desk

Our 2007 Church year is gaining momentum! The excitement of welcoming the Christ child back into our hearts at Christmas is spilling over into a flurry of winter activities that feel more like early spring, thanks to the absence of snow flurries this winter!

In this edition of The Link, you will see that our Youth and women's group (W.H.O.) are already planning some fun fellowship and mission events. We have received more warm thanks from Boston Seafarer Friend Society and more national publicity for our intergenerational efforts for mission to seafarers in Boston Harbor. The whole congregation is maintaining a healthy level of fellowship through coffee hour, prayer chain and Bible studies.

Our successes from last year have encouraged us to reach for some new experiences in 2007. W.H.O. is starting a new tradition that mirrors Marti Gras and other North American Shrove Tuesday traditions. On Tuesday, February 20, from 6-8 PM, we will usher in the Lenten season with a family pancake dinner that is open to the public. Everyone is needed to participate before, during and after this fellowship and fundraising event. W.H.O. is hearing the call for more fellowship opportunities before the end of school; therefore, we are scheduling our first-ever Community Appreciation Luncheon for Sunday, May 20. It will be a pot-luck gathering that honors not only our congregants but also many vendors and community agency contacts, in a spirit of thanksgiving for their help during the year.

As your pastor, I feel somewhat like Paul writing to the Philippians. I cannot be more proud of your 2006 accomplishments. This church has blossomed in many ways, as the women's group, youth group, and mission efforts have soared to amazing levels of assistance to our local, regional and international communities.

Also, like Paul, I am convinced that our ever-faithful God will continue to guide us, completing the good work that God has already done in us, so that we are ready for the Day of Christ Jesus.

God is depending on us, through unwavering use of our free wills, to strive to complete work in areas that still need tending. With God's help, I encourage and challenge you to run the good race, to fight the good fight to achieve the following goals this year. These good works may not be as glamorous as the mission work we did in 2006, but they are every-bit as holy and necessary to the future existence of our church.

Continued in Page 04

## Homeless Shelter Update

Belated thanks to the following for their help in preparing and delivering the meals to the shelter.

October: Pastor Linda and Sally Williams

November: Michele Rogers, Philemon Close, Zelda and Peter Garrison-Desany, Anne Edelman, Cindy Beals and Alyson Cox

December: Anne and Greg Halliday

January: Zaia family

The schedule for the remainder of 2007 is as follows:

February	Cox family
March	Youth Group
April	Lauretta Field
May	Searles Family
June	Pastor Linda
July	Vacation
August	Vacation

**Volunteers needed** for September, October, November and December

Interested persons contact Joan Parris after Sunday services, or call 978-562-3632  
Joan Parris - Homeless meal coordinator

### WHO News

WHO (Women Helping Others) met in January to elect new officers and to plan for future missions and fellowship. Newly elected co-leaders are Joyce Swett and Judy Chaves. Joan Parris is now treasurer and Alyson Cox and Evey Golan will continue as secretaries. Upcoming missions include a **pillow drive** for the homeless shelter and a **pancake dinner** for Shrove Tuesday (February 20). Also in February, in lieu of a business meeting, many of our members will be attending Gilbert and Sullivan's play, *Iolanthe*, performed by the Sudbury Savoyards on Wednesday evening, February 28 (see more about this trip elsewhere in this newsletter). Our next business meeting will be Wednesday, March 21, at 7:15 p.m.

## Thanks to

- The Sunday school would like to thank all those who gave to the Hat and Mitten Tree during the month of December. The hats, mittens, scarves, etc were delivered to our local food pantry for distribution, just in time for the cold weather!
- W.H.O. and the Youth Group for donating Christmas gift bags to the shelter. Your kindness and support is deeply appreciated.
- Brandi Swett and Joyce Swett for being Worship Assistants at New Horizons throughout January, while the regular Worship Assistant, Cynthia Rice, was away.
- Cynthia Rice for making our homemade Communion bread each month!

## Mark your calendars

- The Education Committee continues to meet the first Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be held Feb. 1 at 6:45 pm in the meeting room.
- The Youth Groups next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 11th following the service.
- The Youth Group Spring Yard Sale will take place April 28th. Start your cleaning, no clothes please.
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Thanks in advance for your continued support!  
Lee

## A Musical Experience

You are in for a treat if you will join us for a trip to see *Iolanthe*, performed by the Sudbury Savoyards on Wednesday evening, February 28. This adventure is sponsored by WHO, but all are welcome to come along. *Iolanthe*, one of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular comic operas, pokes fun at English law and the House of Lords and makes much of the war between the sexes. This is the story of Strephon, a shepherd, who is in love with Phyllis, a shepherdess. He wants to marry her, but, although Phyllis also loves Strephon, she has a dilemma; she is so beautiful that all of the House of Lords and the Lord Chancellor also want to marry her. There are many complications, not the least of which is that Strephon is half fairy and half mortal. Tickets are \$10 and proceeds benefit the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The show is at 8:00. A carpool will leave from the church promptly at 7:00 p.m. Please see Alyson Cox if you would like to reserve seats.

## Yum! Pancakes...for dinner!

Are you thinking about how to spend Shrove Tuesday this year? Are you wondering what Shrove Tuesday *is*? According to a Calendar of British Holidays, Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Lent, or the day before Ash Wednesday. The name Shrove comes from the old word "shrive" which means to confess. On Shrove Tuesday, in the middle Ages, people used to confess their sins so that they were forgiven before the season of Lent began. Because Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up, Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge, and to use up foods that aren't allowed during the Lenten season. Pancakes are the traditional food of Shrove Tuesday because they contain fat, butter, and eggs which were forbidden during Lent. In the United States, we may be more familiar with the French name for this day, Mardi Gras, which means Fat Tuesday. In England and in Newfoundland Canada, Shrove Tuesday is known as Pancake Day. Here the tradition is to add symbolic objects to the pancakes such as coins, nails, and wedding rings. The lucky one who finds a coin in his pancake will be rich, one who finds a ring will soon be married, and one who finds a nail will be a carpenter (or a carpenter's wife). Here at the First United Methodist Church of Marlborough, we'll celebrate this Shrove Tuesday with our first annual **Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 20, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** Tickets will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children, or \$15 per family. Please join us for this evening of fun and fellowship (and door prizes!). Proceeds benefit the missions of Women Helping Others. Thank you to Michele Rogers for introducing us to this excellent tradition and for organizing this event.

## It's a "Pillow Drive"

WHO is leading the charge to shower our local homeless shelter with brand-new pillows. In years past, we, as a church, have given blankets, sheets, and towels to the shelter. These gifts are needed, and very much appreciated, by guests at the shelter. If you would like to help us with this mission, please keep your eye out for "white sales" and look for standard pillows. Bring your pillows to church on or before **May 6**, when we plan to present them to the homeless shelter directors. Thank you!

## **From the Pastor's desk** (Continued from Page 01)

In many cases, these good but necessary works will take extraordinary effort to accomplish in 2007. The Bible tells us in many places that there is a high price for procrastination. We remember that some of the young women who were told to keep their lamps burning to greet the Bridegroom did not pay attention to their dwindling oil supplies. Because they were out looking for oil in a crisis situation, they missed the Bridegroom's coming forever.

We do not know when Christ the Bridegroom is coming, so we need to be tending to the urgent issues in our church every week. For every week that we procrastinate in taking care of matters of stewardship and membership, a little piece of our potential for the future is shaved away and lost forever.

Please consider prayerfully how you can support these good works in 2007. As small as our congregation is, everyone must be involved.

- Inviting friends to church at least one Sunday per month. By the end of 2007, we need to have brought in **at least 5 new active families, plus five new individuals** into church membership—in addition to persons attending in our congregation who need to become confirmed members.
- Offering your ideas and labor for a **MAJOR fundraising project** to support the valiant effort the Trustees have already made in our Extreme Faithlift project for the handicapped lift. **We must raise \$75,000 this year to pay our debt for the lift. This cannot be done by a handful of people who are already doing a big share of other church duties. We need innovative, creative ideas and then faithful follow-up throughout the year.**
- Meeting with the Committee to which you have been elected. Our church can no longer function without the Church Council, which is the backbone of all communication and decision-making on programs, worship, church growth, and budget directions. Liaisons from each committee report to the Church Council and keep our administrative functions intact. Visitors and prospective members can sense when a church's internal processes are not cohesive.
- Embrace our Methodist heritage of accountability to each other by joining small group this year. I challenge the men of Marlboro FUMC to start a group that is meaningful to all men in the church. I also challenge every member to attend or lead one group Bible Study or social issue investigational study during 2007.

## **Ongoing Congratulations to our Youth**

Copies of "All Friends on Deck" were included in January worship bulletins. This article, by Jeannie Choi, featured our church's harbor ministry in Outreach Magazine. Outreach goes to 33,000 pastors' nationwide, highlighting mission and ministry efforts that are considered innovative and inspiring.

### Season of Lent and Holy Week Worship Schedule

*Shrove Tuesday Feb. 20 6-8 PM Family Pancake Supper, vestry. Open to Public*

*Ash Wednesday Feb. 21 "Come and Go" Imposition of Ashes for individuals and*

*small groups*

*7 AM-9 AM in Pastor Linda's Office*

*1st Sunday in Lent Feb. 25 10 AM Sunday school and 11 AM Worship*

*2nd Sunday in Lent March 4 10 AM Sunday school*

*11 AM Worship with Holy Communion*

*3rd Sunday in Lent March 11 10 AM Sunday school*

*11 AM Worship*

*12:30-1:30 "What Do Methodists Believe"*

*class,*

*Education Room*

*4th Sunday in Lent March 18 10 AM Sunday school*

**Our sincerest thanks to Sue, Ann and Michele** for faithfully giving of their time, talent and caring energy to keep our office and worship-related functions up and running. Sue will be tabulating Sunday School records and organizing with special mailings, Conference-required statistical reports, and other details that need follow up from Sunday worship. Ann is covering the phone and is assisting Pastor Linda in some office organization tasks. Michele is collating information for the Sunday worship bulleting and producing the bulletin. Then, Ann Edelman and Jean Dorchester are folding the bulletins and monthly church newsletters to prepare them for the congregation.

**If you have parish announcements or prayer chain names for the weekly worship bulletin, that information should be emailed to the church office no later than noon each Thursday. The email address continues to be [rosefumc@verizon.net](mailto:rosefumc@verizon.net).**

We could still use some help in the office on Tuesdays and Fridays. If you are available, please let Pastor Linda know immediately.

## **Take action for our auction!**

The “Extreme Faithlift” capital campaign lives on. Next up: a live auction here at the church on **Saturday, March 31, beginning at 5:00 pm**. All are welcome to attend this lively, very fun event. In the mean time, the auction committee needs your help! In order to ensure the evening’s success, the auction will be professionally managed by Kelley Auctions, which also brings us an established audience base among Kelley’s clientele. And we have already received a generous donation of collectibles to offer at auction. Now, here’s how you can help. During the month of February, we will need assistance securing donations of auction items from local businesses and from our congregation. In March, we’ll need to pursue local advertising. Please consider joining the auction committee to assist with advertising, auction-item collection, or auction-day preparations. See or call Alyson Cox (508-303-5014) to sign up. And of course, we could use your donations for auction. Auction items should be those things with which you can part, but are “too good” for a yard sale. Top selling auction items include antiques, art work, clocks, collector knives/swords, diamonds and precious stones, ephemera, musical instruments, pocket watches, and pottery. Other popular auction choices are gift certificates, tickets, and services such as spa packages, limousine service, and the like. Put your thinking caps on! And thank you for your help.

## **Notes from the Worship Committee**

The 2007 Worship Committee met on Sunday, January 28. Meetings will be held prior to each liturgical season. The purpose of the Committee is to be a liaison with Pastor Linda.

During Lent, the proper paraments will be changed by Judy Chaves, Sarah Papile and Brandi Swett. For the fourth Sunday in Lent, a maker of new rose-colored paraments will be found.

There will be no altar flowers during the Sunday of Lent.

The Committee is creating a year-long schedule of liturgists to read scriptures each Sunday morning. Joan Parris and Sarah Papile will read on Sunday, February 4. A schedule for Greeters will also be put together. Name tags will be available for members to wear at some future date.

The Committee is also re-instituting use of the friendship tablets so that we can accurately track worship attendance for our required statistical reporting. The information from these tablets will be delivered weekly to Jean Dorchester, Membership Chair, who will help keep attendance and stay in touch with members who are absent from worship.

Also, the Committee decided to re-institute use of visitor information cards so that we give proper welcome and follow up to our visitors.

The Committee is forwarding a request to the Trustees for purchase of the most recent United Methodist Hymnal to supplement the hymnal we have. It is called *The Faith We Sing*.

## **February offering**

Please bring offerings of baby food and baby formula (Enfamil, Similac, etc) to church and put them in the appropriate box in the vestry. We will bless them on Communion Sunday in March. It is unthinkable to have hungry babies in Marlborough; yet families whose transportation and heating costs go up in the winter cannot buy all the groceries they need because their incomes are not increasing as fast as expenses.

Please pick up an extra item or two each time you shop for groceries. If 10% of each grocery bill is for charitable food giving, then you are practicing a spiritual form of tithing.

## Church Calendar for February, 2007

1	Thursday	7.00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
4	Sunday	10.00 AM	Sunday school
		10:30 AM	Fellowship Hour, Vestry
		11.00 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
5	Monday	10.00 AM	Adult Bible Study on Philippians, home of Bess Cowan
	Tuesday	7.00 PM	Intergenerational Bible Study on Philippians, Education Room
		3:30 PM	Marlborough Interfaith Association
		7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
7	Wednesday	7.00 PM	Trustees Meet, Education Room
8	Thursday	7.00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
9	Friday	All Day	Pastor Linda at Commissioning Exams
11	Sunday	10.00 AM	Sunday school
		10:30 AM	Fellowship Hour, Vestry
		11.00 AM	Morning Worship
		Noon	Youth Group Meets
12	Monday	10.00 AM	Adult Bible Study on Philippians, home of Bess Cowan
		7.00 PM	Intergenerational Bible Study on Philippians, Education Room
13	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
14	Wednesday		Church Statistical Report due to Conference
15	Thursday	7.00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
17	Saturday	All Day	Special Mandatory Clergy Session, Worcester
18	Sunday	10.00 AM	Sunday school
		10:30 AM	Fellowship Hour, Vestry
		11.00 AM	Morning Worship
			Transfiguration Sunday
19	Monday	10.00 AM	Adult Bible Study on Philippians, home of Bess Cowan
		7.00 PM	Intergenerational Bible Study on Philippians, Education Room
20	Tuesday	6-8.00 PM	Shrove Tuesday Traditional Pancake Supper
21	Wednesday	7-9.00 AM	Ash Wednesday, Imposition of Ashes. Come and Go individually or in small groups to receive your ashes
		7.00 PM	North Grafton joint Ash Wednesday Service with Wellspring UMC. All from Marlboro are welcome to join us.
22	Thursday	7.00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
25	Sunday	10.00 AM	Sunday school
		10:30 AM	Fellowship Hour, Vestry
		11.00 AM	Morning Worship: First Sunday in Lent
		Noon	Pastor Parish Relations Comm., Education Room
26	Monday	10.00 AM	Adult Bible Study on Philippians, home of Bess Cowan
		7.00 PM	Intergenerational Bible Study on Philippians, Education Room
27	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Choir Practice, Sanctuary
28	Wednesday	7.00 PM	W.H.O. trip to see Gilbert & Sullivan production in Sudbury

### New Office Hours and Assistance:

Mondays:	1.00 PM – 3.00 PM	Sue Lodi
Wednesdays:	9.00 AM – Noon	Ann Edelman
Thursdays:	3.00 PM – 5.00 PM	Michele Rogers



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**Address Correction Requested**

**Pastor Linda Stetter**

