



## The Link - February 2008

*Let's All Have "Chocolate for Lent"*

Giving up chocolate for Lent is a favorite off-the-cuff joke around the water cooler at work or in our quick phone conversations. It says a lot about how we dance all around the issue of how we want to face the most holy Christian seasons of Lent and Easter without really directly facing their meaning at all. I'm not sure where the idea of giving up some favorite food for Lent originated—in the Middle Ages, I suspect—but it distorts the real meaning of Lent, which should be a season of preparation for celebrating the Good News of Easter morning.

There are many aspects to spiritual preparation. Only one of the traditional Lenten disciplines involves sacrificing and self-denial. Truly, we should be practicing these spiritual disciplines year-round, not just lightly at Lent, so that we are constantly aware of our American lifestyles of abundance to the point of excess and waste.

Many of us choose a significant food or activity to sacrifice during lent; but, like our New Year's resolutions, they almost always go by the wayside as our demanding secular lives take precedence.

This year, I invite you to use the season of Lent to prepare in a way that honors the spiritual discipline of sacrifice and denial, but also in a way that **adds** to your spiritual strength and fellowship with other Christians. I invite you to join me in sacrificing one short hour each week for a Lenten study entitled "**Chocolate for Lent**"

"**Chocolate for Lent**" is based on the celebrated movie "Chocolat." So, we will be watching the movie and having interesting discussions as we prepare our lives for God's will to unfold in our lives anew, so that we will be refreshed and inspired for the renewed direction of our church ministry in 2008.

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Please join me for **Chocolate for Lent**, based on the study book by Hillary Brand. Cost of the book is \$12.50 which will include shipping. We will meet in five one-hour sessions in the Pastor's Study. Here is the schedule:

Session 1 Monday Feb. 18 Topics: The Curious History of Chocolate Giving Up—  
The Prelude to Change  
Session 2 Monday Feb. 25 The Power of a Gift  
Session 3 Monday Mar. 3 The Possibility of Change  
Session 4 Monday Mar. 10 The Power of Acceptance  
Session 5 Monday Mar. 17 The Process of Change  
Closing Ceremony: A Feast of Chocolate!

This study is open to all ages from Middle School through mature adult. If you would like to participate, kindly fill-in this registration form and return it to Pastor Linda immediately so that the books can be ordered.

Yes, I would like to share a feast of **Chocolate for Lent**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### *WHO would like some tea?*

The ladies of WHO (Women Helping Others) will be hosting a "Friendship Tea" on Sunday, February 10, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, in the vestry. We cordially invite all women from our church to attend and to bring a friend. We will be serving several types of tea, as well as tea sandwiches, cakes, and breads. Our resident tea expert, Ann Halliday, will share her knowledge of tea history and customs. Please join us for this festive occasion. Wear your best tea hats and gloves if you feel so moved.

***The worship committee:***

Lent is almost upon us. It begins on Ash Wed., the 6th of Feb. There will be many services you can attend between then & Easter Sunday. A thought for the day from the Upper Room. "For those who follow Christ, the best is yet to come." How true. Following Lent, "The end of winter celebration will begin!!" Come & join in the fellowship!! We will be traveling together from house to house or church for an evening of fun. A Progressive Dinner is being planned. Pastor Linda will hostess the appetizer course @ the home of Jean Dorchester. Joan Parris will hostess the salad & or soup course, 978-562-3632. Ann Edelman will hostess the main course, 508-485-5786. Joyce Swett will hostess the dessert, 508-485-0815. If you want to attend please call one of the persons above or add your name to the sign up sheet in the vestry. This will all take place on April 5th beginning @ 5:30 p.m. Directions & more to follow in the next letter. The Worship committee will meet again on Feb. 17th following the service.

Worship Chair,  
Ann Edelman

***From the mail bag***

**From Helen and Diana Fronczak,** for the Christmas basket: "Thanks so much for your kindness."

**From the Child Life program** at UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center in Worcester: "Dear W.H.O.: Thank you for your generous donation of soft stuffed animals. They are ideal for our patients in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit to provide them comfort while they are in the hospital. I know they will enjoy them. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas."

**Note from Dot and Bud Wahl:** Thank you so much for the great Christmas basket that pastor Linda brought to us. What fun we had discovering all its treasures! We really appreciate your concern for us. We hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas, too.

**Note from Marion and Alan Burgess:** Hi, Friends. Much thanks for the lovely basket. Al and I are so pleased to receive it. As you know, we are doing well in assistive living. Alan has recovered very well from his heart surgery. He enjoys his Bible reading. I manage to keep busy. We both miss coming to church, but are so grateful when we can make it. We are blessed in Pastor Linda as she visits us when she can. Her visits are always enjoyed. God bless. Love to all, Love in Christ.

***Lent worship 2008***

The Lenten season begins early this year, the earliest date since 1913! Mark your calendars to join us for worship and spiritual studies during this holy season.



February 6 Ash Wednesday: Receive your imposition of ashes at your convenience between 7 AM and 11 AM at the church, either in the Anglican Chapel or Pastor Linda's office.



February 10 First Sunday in Lent: 11 AM Worship & Sunday School. Sue Lodi, Lay Speaker, Preaching Prayers for our 2008 Confirmation Class Micaela Garrison-Desany, Guest Musician



February 17 Second Sunday in Lent: 11 AM Worship & Sunday School. Sacrament of Baptism for Joseph Parris Mauceri, grandson of Joan Parris. Prayers for our 2008 Confirmation Class. Karley Searles, Guest Musician



February 24 Third Sunday in Lent: 11 AM Worship & Sunday School. Prayers for our 2008 Confirmation Class. Micaela Garrison-Desany, Guest Musician



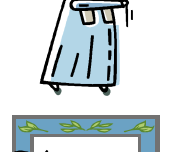
March 2 Fourth Sunday in Lent: 11 AM Worship with Holy Communion. Prayers for our 2008 Confirmation Class Micaela Garrison-Desany, Guest Musician



March 9 Fifth Sunday in Lent: 11 AM Worship & Sunday school: Jan Racca, Lay Speaker, preaching Girl Scout Sunday: Senior and Daisy Scouts from the 2 troops meeting in our building will participate in Worship with us. Karley Searles, Guest Musician



March 16 Palm Sunday: 11 AM Worship with Procession of Palms and Sunday school. Micaela Garrison-Desany, Guest Musician



March 23 Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service at Parsonage in Grafton, time TBA. 11 AM Worship with Sunday school. Confirmation Sunday

## ***Faithlift Auction in the works***

Save the date! The Auction Committee announces the return of our most popular fundraiser of the year, **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Faithlift Dinner and Auction featuring Talents, Treats, and Trivia, on Saturday, March 29, 5:30 – 8:30 PM.** This year's auction will be held at the Moose Family Center, 67 Fitchburg Street, Marlborough.

Last year's Faithlift auction raised over \$5,000 toward lift installation. We are ever so grateful for auction donations which included collectible Hummel figurines, fabulous jewelry, and more from our own congregation as well as a wide range of items from our community. Donated items, enthusiastic bidding, and the talents of our volunteers all contributed to our success. This year, we have many more projects to fund, including installation of a handicapped-accessible restroom. You are invited to come and get in on the fun and also to help with the planning and execution of this event.

Please carefully consider helping in any of the following ways:

### Donations:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I can donate an item for auction. \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of item)
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will solicit donations from the community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will donate a *treat* for auction. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home made item or baked goods)
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will donate a *talent* for auction. (Use your imagination here. Can you give a music lesson? Prepare a meal? Iron shirts?) Separate forms available for these donations.

### Time and talent:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will distribute advertising in the community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will help with set-up (5:00-5:30).
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will help with clean-up (8:30-9:00).
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will help to cook and serve the meal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will help run the trivia contest during the auction.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will be an auction "runner" (displays items for bid and delivers to winners).
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will be a cashier.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I can be an auctioneer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will be event photographer.

## **Church Calendar for February 2008**

2	Saturday	Noon-5 PM	Special Mandatory Clergy Session for Pastor Linda, Woonsocket, RI
3	Sunday	11 AM	Sunday morning worship with Holy Communion Transfiguration Sunday
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		12:30-2 PM	Confirmation Class, Pastor's Office and Nursery
4	Monday	10 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
5	Wednesday	7-11 AM	Ash Wednesday Come and Go to receive ashes in Anglican Chapel or Pastor Linda's office
		7 PM	Trustees, Meeting Room
7	Thursday	7 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
10	Sunday	11 AM	Morning Worship with Sunday School First Sunday in Lent
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		2:30-4:30	Ladies' High Tea, Vestry, sponsored by W.H.O. (Women Helping Others) No Confirmation Class
11	Monday	10 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
13	Wednesday	3:30 PM	Marlborough Interfaith Association meets at our Church
14	Thursday	7 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living Annual Statistical Report due to Conference Statistician
16	Saturday	6 PM	North Grafton church Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser: everyone from Marlborough is invited!
17	Sunday	11 AM	Morning worship with Sunday school and Sacrament of Baptism for Joseph Parris Mauceri, grandson of Joan Parris
		Noon	Second Sunday in Lent Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry No Confirmation Class
18	Monday	10 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
20	Wednesday	7:15 PM	W.H.O. (Women Helping Others), Meeting Room

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**Church Calendar for February 2008 (continued)**

21 Thursday	7 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
23 Saturday	1:30 PM	Memorial Service for Dorothy Ransom, Chapel at New Horizons Assisted Living: all are invited to attend
24 Sunday	11 AM	Morning worship with Sunday school Third Sunday in Lent
	Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship in Vestry
25 Monday	10 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
	7 PM	Administrative Board, Meeting Room
28 Thursday	7 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living

***Faithlift Auction in the works continued from page 5***

There will be many surprises up for auction and a trivia contest during the auction. Correct trivia answers earn "Auction Bucks" redeemable as cash toward auction items. Put on your thinking caps and bring your sense of humor!

Please return this form to any member of the Auction Committee: Alyson Cox, Joyce Swett, Michele Rogers, Cindy Beals.

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The date for **Easter 2008** (March 23) is the earliest it can possibly be. In the 250 years between 1875-2124, Easter occurs that early only one other year - 1913. Because of the early date for Easter this year, Lent also comes early with Ash Wednesday on February 6 and there is an exceedingly short period for planning and preparing Holy Week and Easter services.

Pastor Linda Stetter.

Link Editor: Arul J. Gerald (ajjoe@rediffmail.com)

***Entertainer Greg Cooney kept children and adults moving, laughing and singing during a concert in our vestry on Monday, January 21, 2008***





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**Address Correction Requested**

**Pastor Linda Stetter**

