



## The Link - March 2007

### Bishop's letter for March 2007

Dear Partners in Ministry,

◆ **WHEN THE WORLD CHANGES.** Last Tuesday through Friday, I was at the Northeast Jurisdiction College of Bishops' meeting near Baltimore, MD.... during the BIG CHILL ice and snow storms that hit the East Coast. "Some say the world will end in fire, some say in ice," Robert Frost wrote in his poem "Fire and Ice." If he had visited parts of the East Coast last week, he surely would have concluded that when the ice hits, the world almost comes to an end, or at least a dramatic stop. (Where was global warming when we really needed it?) Crusted with snow and ice, instantly the world changed. Just ask Jet Blue passengers. We have trouble handling change.

Some folks (including "all powerful bishops") couldn't make it to the meeting... what would we do? Even a speaker couldn't make it.... could we change the carefully prepared schedule?... the very thought of it, two hours of unexpectedly unfilled time in the middle of the day.... what would we do with it? Being the undying romantics that we bishops are, having unwittingly (or half-wittedly) set this week-long meeting over Valentines Day, some of us were concerned that the flowers that we had sent our spouses (collective sigh!) would not get through the ice and the storm.... and they didn't.... could love endure (as I Corinthians 13 promises) such a change as this? And then there's Daisy, our dog who has lived in Virginia all her life, without the benefit of more than a few flurries of snow.... but who is now in Boston... and the world suddenly changed from grass and bushes and smells, to a vast, cold, odorless expanse of what looks and feels like white linoleum under her feet.... where is one, you know, to go????sniff, sniff.... she wasn't trained for this! We have serious dilemmas when the world changes.

Lovett Weems, an expert in church renewal, did make it to our meeting. His central message is that the world has changed from ten and twenty years ago.... different cultural "smells".... music... language.... people (younger, more diverse).... it feels very different under foot. Can our churches change in appropriate ways? What do we do? We clergy and laity weren't trained for this! As someone has said, sometimes we seem to be "God's frozen people." But many of our clergy and laity are confronting the "Big Chill" and are discovering exciting new ways of doing effective ministry in this changed world.

Saturday we had another good session with about 250 clergy at Wesley UMC, Worcester, MA (we had the first one several weeks ago in Maine). There were many good reports about transformation that is happening through our "NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT" training. A number of churches are trying new forms of worship, small groups, and reaching out to the unchurched (did you know at least 40% of the population in much of New England is not active in any church! Plus, next to the New York Conference, the New England Conference has the largest population....

14 million.... in its boundaries).

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## It's going, going, going...

To be a very fun evening! You don't want to miss our upcoming **Discovery Auction on Saturday, March 31**. Thanks to the work of a dedicated auction committee, this event to benefit the "Exteme Faithlift" campaign is sure to have something for everyone. Donations from church members and local businesses have turned up Hummel collectible figurines, 14k jewelry, a Red Sox autographed baseball, a silver tea set, a barrister book case, a Memorial Day weekend stay in Wells, Maine, a 1-hour flying lesson, gift certificates galore, and much more. For details and a complete list (with pictures), please visit [www.kelleyauctions.net](http://www.kelleyauctions.net), and click on "charity auction". The Kelley Auctions web site will be updated throughout the month. If you have something to donate to the auction, please contact Alyson Cox or Joyce Swett. In the mean time, plan to come to the auction. Even if you're not inspired to bid, you're sure to enjoy the food and the fellowship.

### WHO News

Thank you to everyone who helped to orchestrate our first annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Michele Rogers expertly coordinated the evening with help from many who cleaned, cooked, baked, hosted, donated, created crafts, and shared all with our community. It was a blessed evening.

Next up: a *pillow drive*. WHO (Women Helping Others) is leading the charge to shower our local homeless shelter with brand-new pillows. Over the years, our church has given blankets, sheets, and towels to the shelter. These gifts are needed, and much appreciated. If you would like to help us with this mission, please bring new, standard pillows to church on or before **May 6**, when we plan to present them to the homeless shelter directors. Thank you!

WHO's next business meeting will be **Wednesday, March 21, 7:15 p.m.** at the church. New members are always welcome.

### Camp Aldersgate

North Scituate, RI

Summer 2007 - Children of all ages, Families, Single Parents

Camp Aldersgate is an outdoor ministry site of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Camp Aldersgate is ACA (American Camp Association) Accredited.

Open House Dates: Sunday April 22nd 1-5 pm and Sunday June 3rd 1-5 pm

Anyone interested in attending Camp Aldersgate this summer

please see the bulletin board in the Vestry for more detailed information and brochure

(rates are very reasonable) or check out the new website at : [www.campaldersgate.com](http://www.campaldersgate.com)

## **From the Mailbag:**

### ***Letter from Rev. Jean Trench, dated February 19, 2007:***

Dear Pastor Linda,

I have so many things for which to thank you. First is the Memorial Service you had for my husband. It was beautiful and having it on the same day as the one we had here made it especially meaningful for me. I have just re-read the words in the bulletin Jean Dorchester brought and realize again how fitting they were for Rev. Ed. He loved being a pastor and we both loved the dear folks in Marlborough (as I still do). It was a very caring deed for you to have the service there for everyone.

Next, I enjoy reading the *Link* immensely. You are being successful in so many areas of church life! There are creative activities and many mission projects. The outreach of the church is such a strong witness within the community and to all those in need and folks of all ages are taking part. I could note the activities as separate topics but it would take a long time to address each one.

Next, it is such fun to see familiar names in the newsletter and realize how the young folks have grown and are taking part along with devoted parents. Also, it's good to see new names and know that you and the church folks are welcoming more people all the time. I'm getting familiar with many of the new folks as I read the newsletter.

I applaud you and affirm your ministry in Marlborough and North Grafton (more dear folks). I think you are just the right person for those churches and my heart rejoices that you are there. You have the love and commitment that pleases God, I'm sure.

I have given a donation each year towards the expenses of sending the *Link* to me, so I'm enclosing a check. May God bless you as you continue serving and following God's will in joy.

Love and peace, Jean Trench

### ***Letter from City of Marlborough Human Services:***

The Holiday Helper Committee would like to take this opportunity to offer our most sincere thanks for your continued support of the program. This program which assisted over 500 families this holiday season could not have done so without the support and generosity of individuals, companies and organizations. Once again, thank you for making the holidays brighter for Marlborough's less fortunate families. We wish you a healthy and prosperous new year. Sincerely, Rosalind Baker, Director

### ***Letter from Marlborough Community Services, Inc.***

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your recent donation. Your contribution assists us in meeting the ongoing needs of those whom we serve through our Food Pantry and Direct Services Program. Fatinha Kerr, Executive Director representing the Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers

## **First Annual Public "Extreme Faithlift" Auction Fundraiser**

Thanks to Trustee Alyson Cox and a small committee of volunteers, we will hold our first of what we hope will become many more annual public auction fundraisers on Saturday, March 31. Preview of auction items and sale of dinner food will be from 5-7 PM. The auction, led by a professional auctioneer, will begin promptly at 7 PM and continue until all items are sold. The purpose of this major event is to raise money to defray the debt on our new lift.

**We need the help of all church members to make this event as profitable as possible.** You can help by:

1. Donating items for auction
2. Pray for the success of the event
3. Invite friends to come to the auction, dine and bid on items
4. Being present at the auction to set up, help greet the public, register bidders and track successful bids, handle security, prepare and sell food items, collect and account for money, and clean up after the event
5. Contact businesses and individuals you know for items to auction. Joyce Swett can give you the proper letter to accompany your request.

Here are some of the items that have been generously donated so far. Don't be shy about contacting friends and businesses where you trade often to ask for donations. Antiques, jewelry and collectibles are welcome.

We are grateful to the following for auction items donated:

Villari's Self Defense Center	1 month of Classes	\$79 value
Vin Bin	Gift Certificate	\$25
Wayside Country Store	Scrapbooking Supplies	\$40
Red House Antiques	Yankee Candles	\$30
Edinboro Flower Shop	Wreath	
Party Works	Gift Certificate	\$25
Professional Automotive	2 oil changes	\$60
Kennedy's Market	Gift Certificate	\$25
Don's Flying Service	1 hour flying lesson	\$120
Lazer Zone	4 missions of lazer tag	\$80
Ann Edelman	Memorial Day Weekend In Wells, Maine Condo	\$200
Blockbuster Video	5 rentals	\$18
<b>Boston Red Sox</b>	<b>Mike Timlin autographed Baseball</b>	
Worcester Sharks	2 tickets	\$33
Stow Acres Country Club	2 rounds weekday golf	\$96
Marlboro Country Club	Gift Certificate for dining	\$25
Marion Burgess	<b>35 Hummel figurines</b>	<b>\$1000</b>
Walmart	Gift Cards	\$50
Marg-e Kelley	Barrister Book Case	\$250
Marg-e-Kelley	<b>art piece</b>	
Robin Zaia	<b>Silver tea service</b>	
New England Revolution	4 tickets	
Worcester Tornados	4 tickets	
Providence Bruins	4 tickets	

### 2007 Lent Worship Schedule

March 4	Second Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion and Candle Extinguishing Ceremony
March 11	Third Sunday in Lent with Candle Extinguishing Ceremony
March 18	Fourth Sunday in Lent—Rose Sunday with Candle Extinguishing Ceremony This is the only Sunday in Lent when flowers adorn not only the altar but the whole sanctuary. <b>Everyone is invited to wear bright colors and to bring bright spring flowers to place throughout the worship space as a sign of joy: We are half way through the season of Lent!</b>
March 25	Fifth Sunday in Lent with Candle Extinguishing Ceremony Noon—family craft time led by Michele Rogers: Folding palm crosses
April 1	Palm Sunday and Reception of New Members
April 5	Maundy Thursday Service at New Horizons, 7 PM
April 6	Good Friday Tennebrae Services, 5:45
April 7	Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil Service, 7 PM
April 8	Traditional Easter Sunday Service with special Sunday school activities



Youth Group presenting two checks from their last Yard Sale to help fund our Extreme Faithlift project. We especially thank Linda Papil and Wal-mart for matching our earnings for the last yard sale

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper that started our season of Lent. The Papile, Swett and Chaves families are shown in the picture. We thank everyone who worked at the events. We are pleased that several of our neighbors from our wider community joined us for this event which we hope will become an annual tradition!



Consecration of the pall for funeral services. Our thanks go to Michele Rogers for doing the sewing and to Esther Gerald for embroidering the cross. This project was sponsored by W.H.O. (Women Helping Others)

**Bishop's letter for March 2007***Continued from page 01*

33% of the population in New England is between the ages 21-45; 27% is between 0-21; and only 13% is above 65. Think about the profile of your own congregation... does it look as diverse and young as your community? If not, maybe you should take advantage of some of the good training workshops our staff is offering in the next couple of months for this changed world... this world that God so loved that God gave us Jesus! (Call your DS's office for details on training events in your region.)

Grace and Peace,  
Bishop Peter Weaver

**Could you be a Trustee?**

The Trustees say good bye this month to chair person Tom Racca and to Tim Howe. Tom and Tim have given countless hours of time and immeasurable dedication to projects over the years. Most recently, of course, both have been leaders of the lift project which is nearly completed. We thank Tom and Tim for their service. Unfortunately, the Trustees are now down to just three members, Steve White, Joyce Swett, and Alyson Cox. Fellow church members, please look into your hearts and consider prayerfully whether you could be the next Trustee. Please see any Trustee or Pastor Linda to discuss the possibilities of joining this important group.

**Notes from the Worship Committee**

Ann Bastian has offered to make the new paraments needed for Lent, and we thank her for her time and efforts!

During worship, we are signing friendship tablets again on Sundays.

There are still openings for Liturgists on Sundays. Matthew Alexander is working diligently on this. Greeters are also needed.

There are many things you may volunteer to do if able, and you are welcome to do them. See Ann Edelman if any of these are of interest to you! Thanks for your ongoing support!

**Youth Group News**

The Youth Group met on February 11. Attending were Brittany, Kelsey, Christopher, Brandi, Nicole and Sarah. The Youth Group will meet the second Sunday of the month unless it's a holiday; then they will meet on the third Sunday.

On March 4 after church, the group will have a pizza, pool and air hockey social at the Swett home. On March 17, the Youth will prepare the monthly meal for the homeless shelter. Meatloaf will be the main dish. There will be a side dish and salad. Desserts will be brownies, cupcakes and cookies home baked.

Another mission trip to the Boston Seafarer Friend Society is being researched. The next regular meeting is March from 12:30- to 1:30 PM.

Youth will help at the Auction on March 31 by doing kitchen duty and possibly a bake sale. The Annual Spring Yard Sale is April 28 from 9 AM – 3 PM, with setup the day before from 5:30-8:30 PM.

## Church Calendar for March, 2007

1	Thursday	7.00 PM	Worship at New Horizons with Holy Communion
2	Friday	9.00 AM	Marlborough Human Services Meeting
4	Sunday	10.00 AM	Sunday school
		10:30 AM	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		11.00 AM	Second Sunday in Lent
			Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		12:30-1:30 PM	New Member class: What Do United Methodists Believe?
5	Monday	7.00 PM	Repeat of New Member Class at Parsonage, Grafton
		10.00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
		6:30 PM	Girl Scouts Meet, Education Room
		7.00 PM	Intergenerational Bible Study, Pastor's Office
6	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7	Wednesday	7.00 PM	Trustees Meet, Education Room
8	Thursday	7.00 PM	Worship at New Horizons
11	Sunday	10.00 AM	Sunday school
		10:30 AM	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		11.00 AM	Third Sunday in Lent Traditional Morning Worship
		12:30-1:30 PM	New Member Class: What Do United Methodists Believe?
		7.00 PM	Repeat of New Member Class at Parsonage, Grafton
12	Monday		No Bible Study
13	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
15	Thursday	7.00 PM	Worship at New Horizons
18	Sunday	10.00 AM	Sunday school
		10:30 AM	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		11.00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent: Rose Sunday Worship
		12:30-1:30 PM	New Member Class: What Do United Methodists Believe?
		7.00 PM	Repeat of New Member Class at Parsonage, Grafton
19	Monday	10.00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
20	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
21	Wednesday	7:15 PM	W.H.O. (Women Helping Others) meets in Vestry
22	Thursday	7.00 PM	Worship at New Horizons
25	Sunday	10.00 AM	Sunday school
		10:30 AM	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		11.00 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent: Traditional Sunday Worship
		Noon	Family Craft Time: Folding Palm Crosses
26	Monday	10.00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
27	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
29	Thursday	7.00 PM	Worship at New Horizons
31	Saturday	5.00-7.00 PM	Dinner and Preview for Church Auction
		7.00 PM	Public Auction Fundraiser

### Mark your Calendars.....

Vacation Bible School, our theme this year is "Trading Places"

To be held June 25 - 29, 6-8 pm

We are always looking for help, anyone interested please see

Robin or Lee. More details to follow in the next Link.



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**Address Correction Requested**

**Pastor Linda Stetter**

