



THE GRAPEVINE

FEBRUARY 2010

John 15: 1-5

Monthly Newsletter of Belchertown United Church of Christ

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 17th

Ash Wednesday Service
7pm in the church

Friday, February 26th

Potluck & Karaoke Night
See next column for more details.

Tuesday, March 2nd

Christian Ed. Meeting
New board members needed soon!
See page 4 for more details.

Sunday, March 7th

Annual Meeting
followed by a potluck brunch
See page 3 for copy of the warrant.

Wednesday, March 24th

Loaves and Fishes
Volunteers needed
See page 5 for more details.

Without love, what are we worth?
Eighty-nine cents! Eighty-nine cents
worth of chemicals walking
around lonely.
~M*A*S*H, Hawkeye

Karaoke Cruise Never Leaves Port

BUCC will hold a potluck Karaoke Cruise night on Friday, February 26, 2010 at 6:00 in the Parish House dining room. Shake off your dead of the winter blues, don your snazziest cruise wear, whip up your favorite dish to share and join in the fun. Food, Karaoke and other surprises promise to make this an evening of fun for all ages that you'll only find at BUCC.
ALL ABOARD! See you there!

BUCC'S PLAYHOUSE presents...

On Saturday, February 6th BUCC's Playhouse presented the murder mystery, *BEDLAM IN CABIN B* by Paula Hilton. The play was a fundraiser for the Belchertown Historical Association, as well as BUCC.

(BUCC proceeds were \$1,000!)

Thanks to the actors who learned their lines and blocking to make this event a great success! If you know a group outside of Belchertown that would like to hire BUCC's Playhouse to produce *Bedlam in Cabin B*, please contact the church office. If you would like to perform in future productions, please contact Todd.

PASTOR'S LETTER FEBRUARY 2010

The early church used Lent as a time of preparation for new life. Members of the faith community dedicated themselves to intentional prayer and spiritual activity so that when Easter arrived, they would experience the newness of life that Jesus' resurrection signaled for the world and for themselves. It was not until the Middle Ages that Lent became equated with fasting and abnegation.

It has been said by the likes of modern day theologians (Brian McClaren, Tom Bandy, Bill Easum, Walter Bruggeman) that the latter part of the 20th Century and today is more like the first century than the middle ages.

To that end, I would like to suggest that during Lent this year you (and I) take time to *add* to our spiritual lives by engaging in activity that is nurturing to our souls.

In this newsletter you will find a coin card that encourages you to pray twice a day (morning and night) and in doing so, make an offering of thanksgiving to God for the blessings anticipated and received in your daily journey. By intentionally communicating with God on a twice daily basis, we open ourselves to a new kind of relationship with the Holy that will present us with challenges as well as blessings.

To assist you in focusing on those prayers, we will publish a weekly list of Scripture readings in the bulletin, online on our facebook page, or, if you prefer, delivered daily through a twitter account via *buccbuzz*. The hope is, by making the texts accessible, you will more likely engage them, reflect on them, allow them to shape you in the coming weeks as you prepare for the renewal that is Easter morning.

May the coming days (beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17 at 7pm) be a quiet reminder of the rich possibilities for faithful living that we have in Jesus Christ.

Peace,

todd

**WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN BELCHERTOWN,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TO BE HELD SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010
AFTER WORSHIP
IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY**

To all church members of The Congregational Church in Belchertown, UCC qualified to vote in church affairs (and our friends):

You are hereby notified of the Annual Meeting called by the Church Moderator to be held in the church sanctuary on
Sunday, March 7, 2010 following the Worship Service,
then and there to address the following articles:

ARTICLE I: To reflect on and discuss the 2009 ministries of the church.

ARTICLE II: To hear the interests of the membership to participate in the work of the boards and committees of the church.

ARTICLE III: To hear the proposed budget for 2010 as presented by the Board of Financial Stewardship and vote approval.

ARTICLE IV: To act upon any other business that may legally come before said meeting and adjourn.

All are invited to the Parish House dining room where we will eat brunch and enjoy the fellowship which the Lord has provided us in one another. Thanks will be given to those who have served God this past year in positions of leadership in our church, and we will continue to seek interest from all to participate in the work of the boards and committees of the church.

An attested copy of this warrant will be posted in The Congregational Church, February 26th, 2010 at least seven days prior to said meeting in accordance with the By-laws of The Congregational Church in Belchertown, UCC.

FROM CHRISTIAN ED.

The Board of Christian Ed. would like to invite anyone that is interested in becoming a board member to their next meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 2nd. Many of the board members have children who are "aging out" of Sunday School, so new members are needed soon! Now is a good time to learn more about this exciting committee so you can learn the ropes before September. Please see Donna or Cyndi for more information about meeting location or the Sunday School program.



FROM OUR YOUTH GROUP

On Sunday, February 7th, the Youth Group raised just over \$400 for our own Helping Hands Food Pantry as a part of the larger nationwide effort known as Souper Bowl Sunday. The group collected money during services then invited the entire congregation to join them in the Parish House Dining Room for a soup lunch. Featured were homemade soups and breads. 100% of the money raised went to the food pantry.

What the world really
needs is more love and
less paper work.
~Pearl Bailey



Please attend BUCC's Annual Meeting after worship on March 7th!

O'BRIEN UPDATE

On Sunday, January 24th, 2010, our seminarian, Tom O'Brien was voted to the position of pastor-elect of the Memorial Congregational Church (UCC) in Sudbury, MA. Tom will begin his duties at MCC in mid February and make the final move to that community in August.

Tom's ordination will be scheduled in cooperation with the Hampshire Association, and is likely to happen when the weather is warmer, so stay tuned!

To find out more about MCC, go to <http://mccsudbury.org/>. Congratulations, Tom!

Attention Committee Chairs:

Annual reports were due February 8th. If you have not yet submitted your report, please submit via email, mail or mail slot ASAP! Typed or Word processed reports ready for printing are the most helpful submissions. Thank you for your prompt attention.

LOAVES & FISHES

Wednesday, March 24th

is the next Loaves & Fishes meal at Christ Church in Springfield. People are needed to prepare Shepherd's pie, salad and brownies, and to serve the meal.

A sign-up sheet is in the church entryway.

Please contact Sue @ 283-5375 for

SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN

Is there someone giving you a hard time?

Is your relationship stressful or hurtful?

Do you find yourself needing a place to go to talk, to get advice, to get resources?

Please contact the church office for further information on dates and meeting times.



Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity.

~Henry Van Dyke



Everyone can sing!
Can you make a short commitment to the choir during the Easter season? The more voices, the better the cantata! Please see Dan for more information or call the office.

Church Office

Open Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Church Phone - 413-323-7442
Please leave a message.

Church e-mail address:
belchertownucc@yahoo.com

Web site -
www.belchertownucc.org

Submit information for the Sunday bulletin by Wednesday



Belchertown United Church of Christ
18 Park St.
P.O. Box 603
Belchertown, MA 01007
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
STANDARD MAIL
Belchertown, MA 01007
Permit No. 2



Relational Covenant
In all things, we will pray to God for guidance.
We will strive to be a church that seeks unity and acceptance of all people, respectful and tolerant in all our actions, supportive of one another in addressing difficult situations, valuing the thoughts and ideas of others, though we may not agree.
Open to considering change, we will listen in a caring, open-minded way for understanding, without interruption, criticisms or put-downs, with awareness of our body language, we will speak the truth with love. Seeking to discover all the facts before we speak, refraining from threats, harsh gestures and yelling, we will create safe, constructive and regular opportunities to share thoughts, ideas and opinions face-to-face, always striving for fairness and respecting confidentiality.
If we are not able to communicate with each other, we will ask another non-judgmental person to be present.

A Statement of Intentional Ministry
We resolve to be a church that seeks to identify, equip, encourage and evaluate Christian Discipleship, anytime, anywhere, by anyone, for the purpose of nurturing an individual's gifts and visions, thereby strengthening and glorifying the Body of Christ as it realizes itself in the world.