

The George Whitefield ROCK

George Whitefield
UMC

Volume 1, Issue 45
February 2002



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13th. The following invitation is extended during our Ash Wednesday worship service:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: Christians have always observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for Easter by a season of penitence, fasting, and prayer. This season of forty days provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for baptism into the body of Christ. It is also the time when persons who had committed serious sins and had been separated from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the church. The whole congregation is thus reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our baptismal faith. I invite you, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

This year you are invited to a study on the book *Steps Toward Wholeness: Learning and Repentance*. At last year's Annual Conference, the New England Conference voted to engage in an act of repentance for racism at the June 2002 annual conference, and in preparation for this, each congregation is encouraged to read this book and study its own history to learn what relations were like toward African Americans during the congregation's existence. Racism is an evil that has caused division in the Methodist Church and continues to operate in sometimes subtle, sometimes overt ways in the church and in society. Lent is a good time to engage in self-examination around our own racism and to repent individually and as a church.

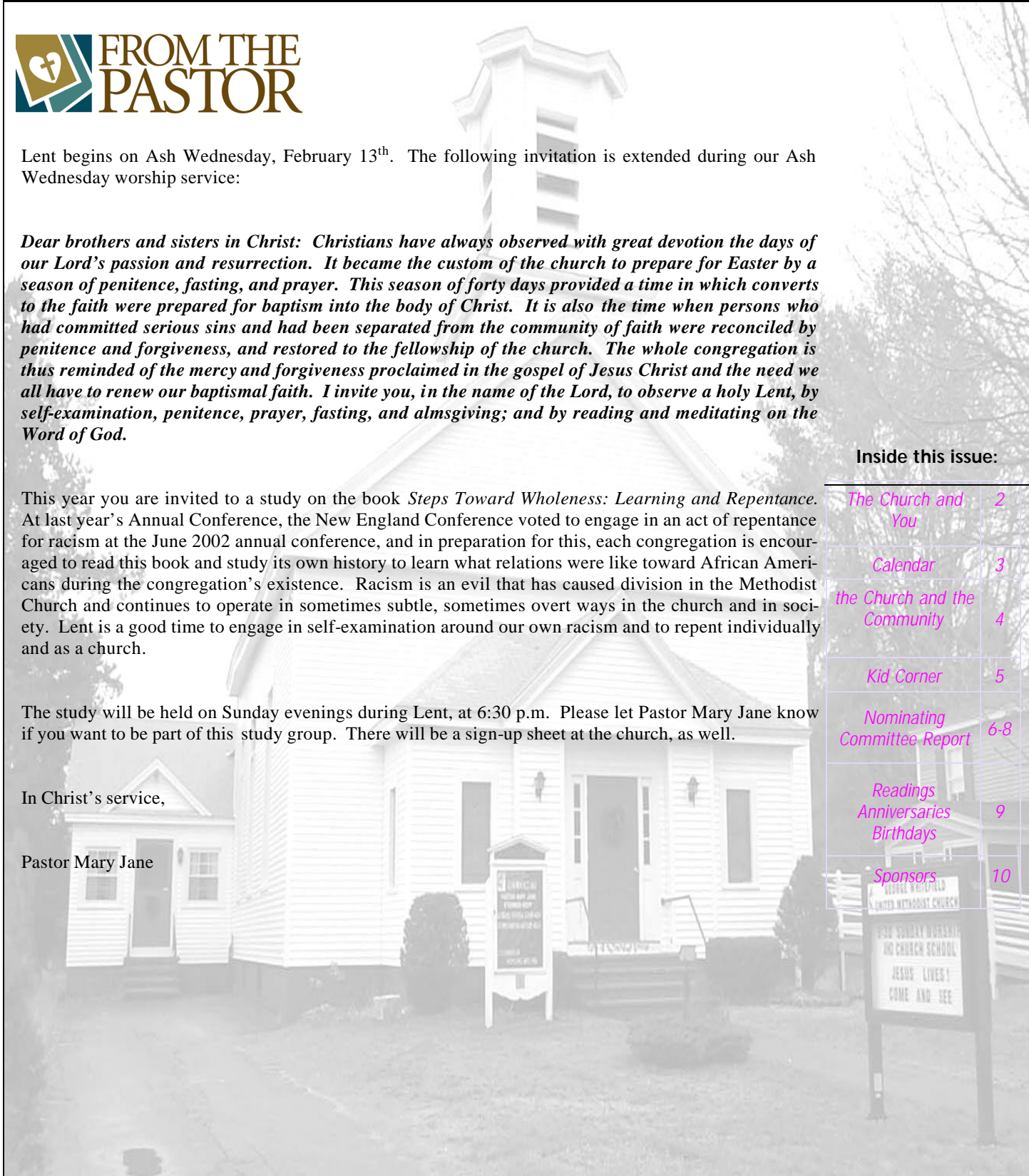
The study will be held on Sunday evenings during Lent, at 6:30 p.m. Please let Pastor Mary Jane know if you want to be part of this study group. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church, as well.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Mary Jane

Inside this issue:

<i>The Church and You</i>	2
<i>Calendar</i>	3
<i>the Church and the Community</i>	4
<i>Kid Corner</i>	5
<i>Nominating Committee Report</i>	6-8
<i>Readings Anniversaries Birthdays</i>	9
<i>Sponsors</i>	10



The Church and You

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month, and we will include songs and prayers from various black people's traditions in our worship each week. In addition, we will be learning about racism in our own United Methodist Church in our study on Sunday evenings during Lent. This is in preparation for an act of repentance for racism at Annual Conference this coming June. It is also in preparation for our own personal act of repentance for the many ways in which racism has been a part of our own lives, both overtly, and as we have enjoyed the privileges that come to us simply because we are white

CHURCH PLANNING RETREAT

Committee chairpersons, members of the Administrative Council, and anyone else interested in the future of the George Whitefield United Methodist Church is invited to a planning retreat on Saturday, February 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church. Lunch will be provided. It was decided at the January 24th Council meeting that we need to take some time together to develop goals for the church for the coming year. Although this would best be undertaken early in the church program year (i.e., late August), the church leadership recommends that we engage in goal-setting for the remainder of the year and then re-visit and revise these goals later in the calendar year. Committee chairs and others whose presence is requested will be notified by mail of this important planning event.

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL STEWARDS!

Once again, the George Whitefield UMC has paid 100% of its "Mission Shares" (formerly called "apportionments") to the New England Conference. The total amount of nearly \$15,000 represents just over 20% of our total budget for the year. Mission Shares go to support a wide variety of ministries both within New England and around the world, as well as supporting the budget of the New England Conference. Detailed information on Mission Shares can be found in a flyer on the table in the side entrance hallway, and also on the bulletin board in Fellowship hall. In addition to paying Mission Shares in full, the church ended the year 2001 with a balanced budget. Income exceeded expenses by \$350 (phew!). The income represents a lot of hard work on the part of many people who helped to supplement our pledge and plate income with money from suppers, the Christmas fair, and other fund-raising events. It also represents sacrificial giving on the part of those who increased their pledge this year and/or who tithe. Thank you, everyone!



LENTEN SEASON 2002

Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday, February 13, 7 p.m.
Study on Racism – Sunday evenings at church, 6:30 p.m.
Trip to Weston Priory – Saturday, March 23, leave church at 7 a.m.
Palm Sunday Worship – Sunday, March 24, 9:30 a.m.
Holy Thursday Seder Supper and Communion – 6 p.m.
Good Friday Tenebrae Service – 7 p.m.
Easter Sunrise Service on Foster Hill – 6 a.m.
Easter Worship – 9:30 a.m.

COFFEE HOSTS FOR FEBRUARY

2/3--Estalene Buzzell & Crystal Armitage
 2/10--Judy & John Bartlett
 2/17--Pam & Ray Andrews
 2/24--Neata & Warren Campbell



List is also posted on bulletin board in hall between sanctuary & fellowship hall.

If you cannot serve coffee the day you are listed please make arrangements to swap days with someone. Coffee, cream and punch will be supplied, the rest is up to you. Refreshments can be home baked or from the store or doughnut shop. Choice is yours. Thanks for your cooperation.

Thank You!

The Silverberg family wants to say thank you to all of our church family for the many expressions of love shown to us at the time of Arvid's death. We will be forever grateful for the gifts of food, the pleasant coffee hour, and especially Mary Jane's lovely service.

February 2002

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March 2002						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Sunday, February 3** – Potluck Supper and Program on Islam at First Congregational Church, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 5** - United Methodist Men at church, 6:33 p.m.
- Sunday, February 10** – “Fat Sunday” potluck supper and talent show at church, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 13** – Ash Wednesday worship, 7 p.m.
- Friday, February 15** – NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
– material to Paul Chicoine
- Saturday, February 23** – Church Planning Retreat at church, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Monday, February 25** – Wings & Hands craft group at church, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 26** – Committee on Lay Leadership at church, 7 p.m.

CALENDAR – REGULARLY SCHEDULED

- Every week (unless otherwise noted):
- ? Sunday at 9:30 a.m. - Worship with Sunday School
 - ? Wednesdays at 10 a.m. – Women’s Bible study at the home of Annalee Collins
 - ? Wednesdays at 2:15 p.m. – Prayer group at parsonage (no prayer group on 1/30)
 - ? Thursdays at 3 p.m. – Lectionary Bible study at parsonage
 - ? Thursdays at 6:33 p.m. – Men’s Bible study (at homes during winter months)

the Church And the Community

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

The West Brookfield Ecumenical Council invites everyone to a potluck supper and presentation on Islam to be held on Sunday evening, February 3 at 6 p.m. at First Congregational Church. The speaker will be the Rev. Whit Bodman, an ordained United Church of Christ minister who received a Doctorate from Harvard Divinity School in Islamic Studies. In light of the current interest in the fastest-growing religion in the world, this promises to be an enlightening and enjoyable evening of learning and fellowship. For more information, contact Pastor Mary Jane.

Bizarre-bazaar Meeting

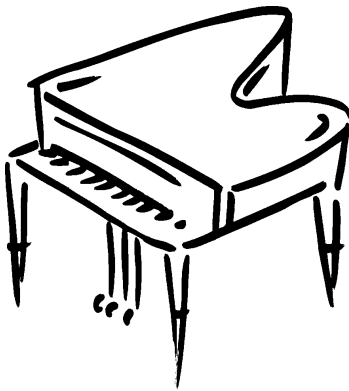
Tuesday, January 22 a meeting was held at the church to begin preparations for the all-church bazaar to be held on November 9 this year.

New times---8:00am-2:00pm, new chairpersons—Karen Farrell and Elsa Silverberg Bates, some new ideas for tables. Hold onto your hats—Here we GO!

Look for news each month in the Rock. If you have any ideas to share, don't be shy. Just speak to either of them and we'll go from there.

Easy does it

There is a story about a minister who wanted to have the piano moved from the left side of the chancel to the right side. When the change was seen and objected to by several folks, he decided it was time to move on. A couple of years later he returned for a visit and was stunned to see that the piano was where he had wanted to put it. Taking the current pastor aside, he asked him how he got the piano moved without creating a stir? The pastor answered, "Nothing to it. I moved it one inch a week."



FAT SUNDAY

Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday) will be celebrated as Fat Sunday instead.

Celebrated on Sunday February 10 with a pot luck supper at 5:00pm and a Talent Show to follow.

What talent can you share with the Church family? Do you sing, dance, play an instrument, tell stories or read poetry, tell jokes?

The *Chocolatiers* (2 church members) will make an appearance—and whip up something good. Audience participation is vital. Come and join the fun.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CALENDAR

In the year 2002, the Massachusetts Council of Churches is celebrating its 100th anniversary. They are inviting Christian congregations throughout Massachusetts to pray regularly for each other and for Christian unity. The prayer they have suggested is this:

Holy One, whose being-in-community is the root of our unity, we come to You this day with thanksgiving for (name of church and leader) and for the spiritual gifts these sisters and brothers in Christ share with all Your people. Bless them and their congregations in their life and ministry. When they struggle, sustain them. Help us to stand with them as a sign of Your unity in community, and as a witness to Your care and compassion. When they celebrate, help us to rejoice with them as a sign of Your love. We pray for the day when the causes of our separations should affect our relationships with each other no more than they do in your dealing with us. Help us to celebrate our diversity, heal our divisions, and manifest the unity we share through You. This we pray in the name of the One who calls us to be one, Your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

In February 2002 we are asked to pray for:
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Boston District
The Rt. Rev. George Walker (Connecticut)
Presiding Elder Rev. Nathaniel Perry
United Church of Christ, Massachusetts Conference
The Rev. Dr. Nancy Taylor, Minister and President

Abraham Lincoln's spiritual wisdom

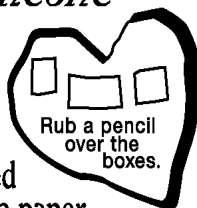
During the Civil War, a delegation came to confer with him about the conflict. Sometime during the meeting a minister said to President Lincoln, "I hope that the Lord is on our side." The President amazed the group with his response. "I don't agree with you," he said to the pastor. "I am not at all concerned about that, for we know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and the nation should be on the Lord's side."

-Carl Sandburg in
Abraham Lincoln, The War Years (III)

Make a Valentine for Someone Special

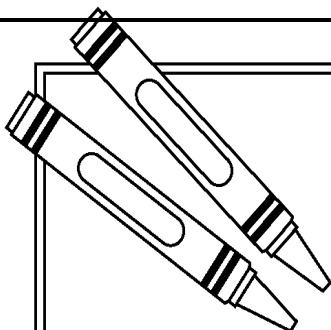
You will need:

- ♥ a sheet of red construction paper
- ♥ a sheet of white copier paper
- ♥ glue or a glue stick
- ♥ scissors
- ♥ pencil
- ♥ red marker
- ♥ fine-point black marker



How to make it:

1. Cut a large heart out of the red paper.
2. Using the leftover scraps, cut out letters (about 1 inch high) to spell "I LOVE YOU" or "GOD LOVES YOU." Glue the letters in the center of the heart.
3. Cut a heart out of the white paper. Make it about 1 inch smaller than the red one.
4. Glue the white heart on top of the red one so that a 1 inch red border shows and the letters are covered.
5. Feel where the red letters are under the white paper and draw a box around each word using the red marker. Below the last box write: Rub a pencil over the boxes to find a special message!
6. Sign your name.



Just for KIDS

A Message of Love

Luke 10:27 has a wonderful message to live by.

Find the message by writing the opposite words next to the ones given. Then transfer the letters to the numbered lines they match below.

cool	<u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u>	soft	<u>20</u> <u>21</u> <u>22</u> <u>23</u>
under	<u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u>	old	<u>24</u> <u>25</u> <u>26</u> <u>27</u> <u>28</u>
out	<u>9</u> <u>10</u>	after	<u>29</u> <u>30</u> <u>31</u> <u>32</u> <u>33</u> <u>34</u>
large	<u>11</u> <u>12</u> <u>13</u> <u>14</u> <u>15</u>	false	<u>35</u> <u>36</u> <u>37</u> <u>38</u>
quiet	<u>16</u> <u>17</u> <u>18</u> <u>19</u>		

“ 14 5 6 7 35 20 7 15 17 36 23 24 5 18 8 28 17 23 ”

1 9 35 20 2 16 14 24 5 18 3 20 7 13 8 35 2 10 23 ”

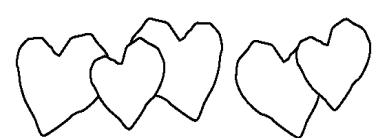
1 9 35 20 13 14 16 24 17 37 36 11 5 18 14 2 27 19 ”

1 9 35 20 21 15 16 24 17 18 36 11 35 3 30 10 28 35 20 ”

2 10 23 1 9 35 20 21 14 15 24 5 37 8 4 9 10 23 ;”

21 27 23 16 32 6 7 24 5 18 22 10 34 9 28 20 29 17 33 ”

13 11 24 25 26 22 11 7 14 31 .”



Answer: warm; over; in; small; loud; hard; young; before; true; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength and with all your mind;" and, "love your neighbor as yourself."

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR THE CHARGE CONFERENCE OF
NOVEMBER 5, 2001
GEORGE WHITEFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
(changes and new nominations are in italics)

CHURCH (ADMINISTRATIVE) COUNCIL

OFFICE

Chairperson	Edward McKeon
Recording Secretary	Evelyn Armitage
Membership Secretary	Judith Bartlett
Lay Leader	Paul Chicoine
Associate Lay Leader	Edward McKeon
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Marion Hunt
Alternate Lay Member to A.C.	Barbara Smith
Treasurer	Stewart King
Assistant Treasurer	Gail Sledziewski
Financial Secretary	John Bartlett
Development & Memorial Fund Treasurer	Stewart King

Chairpersons of:

Board of Trustees	<i>elected by Trustees</i>
Staff-Parish Relations Committee	Crystal Armitage
Finance & Stewardship Committee	Charles Reim
Worship Committee	Phyllis Warriner
Education Committee	Terri Ducharme
Nurture/Member Care Committee	<i>Dorothy Bailey</i>
President of United Methodist Women	<i>elected by UMW</i>
President of United Methodist Men	<i>Tom McCann</i>
Task Force on Ministry to Children & Families	<i>elected by Committee</i>
Evangelism & Church Growth Committee	<i>elected by Committee</i>
Long-Range Planning Task Force	Harvey Collins

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2002

John Bartlett
Melvin Williamson
Stewart King

Class of 2003

Warren Campbell
Richard Buzzell
Pam Andrews

Class of 2004

Albert Theberge
Marge Reim
Dorothy Carpenter



STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Class of 2002

Barbara Smith
Edward McKeon

Class of 2003

Crystal Armitage
George Warriner

Class of 2004

Phyllis Adams
Claire Wirf

Lay Member of Annual Conference - Marion Hunt

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Chair of Church Council
Lay Member of Annual Conference
Lay Leader
Trustees Representative
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Representative from SPRC

Charles Reim
Edward McKeon
Marion Hunt
Paul Chicoine
John Bartlett
Stewart King
John Bartlett
elected by SPRC

NURTURE, OUTREACH, AND WITNESS MINISTRIES COMMITTEES

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH COMMITTEE

Stewart King
Annalee Collins
Jane Dolan
Gail Sledziewski
Melvin Williamson

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairperson Phyllis Warriner
Members Harold Smock, Dell Marona, Gloria Reid, Dorothy Bailey,
George Warriner, Stewart King, Marie King

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Terri Ducharme
Members Ros Ducharme, April Learned, Kathy Pease, Marie King,
Christy McCann

NURTURE (MEMBER CARE) COMMITTEE

Chairperson Dorothy Bailey
Members Dell Marona, Estalene Buzzell, Millie Silverberg, Neata
Campbell, Judy Bartlett

LONG-RANGE PLANNING TASK FORCE

Harvey Collins, Crystal Armitage, Mel Williamson, Stewart King, Charlie Reim,
Gail Sledziewski, Ken Cloutier, Paul Chicoine, Rosie Ducharme

TASK FORCE ON MINISTRY TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Debi Nichols, Evelyn Armitage, April Learned, Marion Hunt, Betsy Cloutier

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Marge Reim, Gloria Reid, Melanie Merrill

OTHER COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS

NOMINATIONS AND PERSONNEL (NOTE: THIS COMMITTEE IS BEING REPLACED IN 2002 WITH THE COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP)

Class of 2001

Phyllis Adams

Barbara Smith

Claire Wirf

Class of 2002

Annalee Collins

George Warriner

Class of 2003

Paul Chicoine

Judy Bartlett

REPRESENTATIVES TO WEST BROOKFIELD ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Barbara Smith,

Marge Reim,

Claire Wirf

NEWSLETTER EDITOR -

Paul Chicoine

CHURCH SECRETARY/OFFICE ASSISTANT -

Judy Bartlett/Marion Hunt

SECRETARY OF MEMORIALS & DEVELOPMENT - Dell MaronaCOMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP (NEW IN 2002)*Pastor - Mary Jane O'Connor-Ropp**Paul Chicoine (Lay Leader)**Marion Hunt**Edward McKeon**Stewart King**Crystal Armitage (young adult)**Elizabeth Sanford**Marie King**Rosie Ducharme (youth)**Judy Bartlett**Charlie Reim*

Scripture Readings: Notice

Each month I will publish the readers for each weeks scripture lessons. It is requested that you read from the Lectern Bible. If you can not be in church on the week that you are scheduled to read, please arrange for someone else to read in your place or contact Paul Chicoine or Rev. Mary Jane. Pastor Mary Jane is willing to give tips/lessons to anyone desiring them. Also if you are interesting in being included in the readers list please notify Paul Chicoine at 436-7744.



Bible Readings for the Month

February Scripture Readings:

- 3rd - Micah 6:1-8
- Paul Psalm 15 (UMH 747)
- Chicoine 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- Matthe w 5:1-12

- 10th - Exodus 24:12-12-18
- Charlie Psalm 99 (UMH 819)
- Reim 2 Peter 1:16-21
- Matthew 17:1-9

- 17th - Genenis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
- Gail Psalm 32 (UMH 766)
- Sledziewski Romans 5:12-19
- Matthew 4:1-11

- 24th - Genenis 12:1-4a
- Liz Psalm 121 (UMH 844)
- Sanford Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
- John 3:1-17

Need a ride to Church???

If anyone in the local area needs a ride to church on Sundays or to any church function or meeting, please call Judith Bartlett at 867-3002 or the church office at 867-3667 for help in making arrangements.

Also, if you are willing to give anyone a ride, please have your name put on the driver's list in the church office.

THANKS !!!

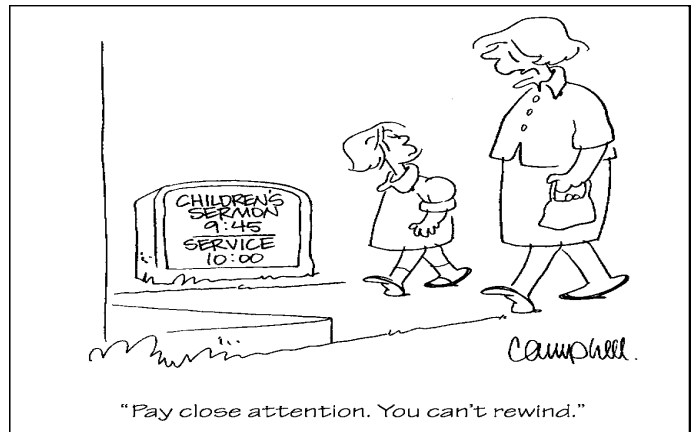


Happy February Birthdays

Joye Gregg	2/4	William Masterman	2/6
Elizabeth Noppa	2/6	Clarice Bartlett	2/7
Jeromy Ducharme	2/8	Kristal Ducharme	2/15
Elizabeth Ploof	2/17	David Arsenault	2/23
Lee Kibbe	2/25	Frank Whittemore	2/27
Gloria Reid	2/28		

Celebrating Anniversaries in February

Norman & Phyllis Adams 2/15
 Frank & Dorothy Whittemore 2/22/97



"Pay close attention. You can't rewind."

The Grief and Loss Support Group

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE IN YOUR BE-REAVEMENT"

The last Wednesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. Sponsored by the **WEST BROOKFIELD COUNCIL on AGING** at the Senior Center, 27 Front St. Everyone is welcome. For more information call Frank Halloran 867-2497.

AN OPEN INVITATION

The George Whitefield Rock welcomes any and all submissions. We reserve the right to edit or reject any material. This is your newsletter, please feel free to make any suggestions to the pastor or the editors. Also if you would like to share your loved ones birthdays and anniversaries please send them for submission to the editor.

Have you visited our web site lately?

www.gbgm-umc.org/whitefield



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*George Whitefield
United Methodist Church*

See us on the Internet
<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/whitefield/>

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