

# THE TIDINGS

## Covenant Congregational Church

*Celebrating over 125 years of ministry*

February 2011

### Inside:

- ◆ Men's Group
- Flavors of the World - Feb 5th
- ◆ Trailblazer & Jr. High retreat info
- ◆ SMI Quilt Show (3/12) & Live auction (4/30)
- ◆ Prayer concerns & celebrations
- ◆ Pastor's book club
- ◆ And more!!!



*Mukama Yebazibwe! These are the words with which Christians in Uganda often greet each other. They are spoken in the native language of Buganda; but translated into English they mean: Praise the Lord! This greeting is exchanged frequently between friends and church goers and those who know that they are in the presence of another Christian. It is said as many times in a day as I might say: "What's up?" or "What's going on?".*

I have often wondered if greeting each other with words of Praise to God, instead of a question that more often than not is just a formality, is a discipline that I should develop. Because the thing about greeting someone with the words "Praise the Lord" is that it reminds us that there is always something to be praising God for. If my brothers and sisters in Uganda; who face crushing poverty, challenges of HIV/AIDS, political insecurities and other obstacles that are hard for us in the west to even comprehend can greet each other on a daily basis with praise to the Lord, then surely I can also find time in my daily life to offer praise to him. Not for material blessing, or for what good has befallen me, but for the simple truth that God is always deserving of our praise.

I am sure that for Ugandans, the phrase Mukama Yebazibwe becomes as rote as saying "hi" does to us. But I am also sure that it is far better to be in the habit of praising than to have nothing in my speech that reflects the depths of my faith and trust in God and his character.

In this season of Epiphany, which is especially long this year, I have been trying to take extra time to see God in new ways and in little things. And as I travel to Uganda and back and look forward to upcoming retreats and events, I am reminded of all the ways that I am privileged to give God praise. In this season of light I hope to encounter God in new ways, but I also hope to reflect him in new ways. And one of these ways is to echo my Uganda brothers and sisters words in my speech and actions: Mukama Yebazibwe!

-Pastor Whitney

# Youth & Children's Ministry News!

## Confirmation

Confirmation meets in  
Sunday School room 5 at  
9:15am. on Sunday  
morning.  
Be ready to dive into the Old  
Testament together!

## jr. high

Winter Retreat!

Feb 25-27!

Sign up Now with the form  
you got in the mail or  
online or contact pastor  
Whitney. Sign up by the  
13th of February!

Trailblazers (grades 3-5)  
will meet on the 3rd and  
17th from 6-7pm.

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Trailblazers winter  
retreat

**Feb. 11-13.**

Sign up now!  
See Pastor Whitney  
for details.

**SENIOR HIGH**  
**6-7:30PM SUNDAY NIGHTS**  
**THERE IS NO SR. HI. YOUTH**  
**GROUP ON FEBRUARY 20TH**  
**DUE TO SCHOOL VACATION.**

## CHIC 2012

July 15-20, 2012

*Don't be fooled!*

*CHIC is right around the corner and we'll be registering before you know it. It's time to kick off the fundraisers and gear up for a life-changing week that will never be forgotten.*

*More details coming soon at Youth Group on Sunday nights.*



## Quilts & Kilts Quilt Show Saturday, March 12th to benefit Science With a Mission



Please be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., so you won't miss our sixth annual quilt show being done as a fund raiser for **SMI - Science With A Mission**. We will be having a Scottish Tea Room serving scones, tea, sandwiches and sweets. Besides the delicious food there will be music performed by keyboard, fiddle and bagpiper, all performed by clansmen of Scottish heritage (*a bonney group*).

Along with the kilts, quilts, food and music there will be vendors and a raffle table, plus a door prize.

We are looking for quilts to be shown that have not been seen in past shows. If you have one or know a friend who would be willing to share one for the day please call Hazel Hayes at 508-238-0202. Write-ups for the quilts are being collected during the month of February for our quilt program books.

*Please plan to attend and bring a friend. A fun day will be enjoyed by all.*

### CCC Book Club



The February meeting of the CCC Book Club will be on Thursday, February 17th at 7:30 p.m.

The book to be discussed is:

*Heaven is for Real*

By Todd Burpo

All are welcome.

### Friendship Club

The Friendship Club will be having their February meeting on Tuesday, February 15, at noon.

This is a chance for all who didn't remember to celebrate Valentines Day, the day before, to come to church and enjoy a musical program presented

by Juliana Anderson. She has been a great addition to our church choir and it will be our pleasure to hear her sing a few songs for us.

Judy Wohlen will accompany her on piano.

Hostess is Joanne Simonson.

Bring a casserole or salad or dessert, your place setting, and join us at noon that day.

*All are welcome.*



### Knitting Club

Join us on Monday, February 7th & 21st at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

If you knit, crochet, needlepoint, stamp, etc. bring your craft and join us for fellowship.

For more information call  
Connie Dumoulin (508-238-3175).





# Flavors of the World VI Dinner-Dance



Saturday, February 5, 2011  
7pm—Midnight \$75 per person  
Thorny Lea Golf Club, Brockton, MA

*Proceeds to benefit HUGS II of Easton and  
Penelope's Place, formerly Womansplace Crisis Center of Brockton.*

Sponsored by:  
The Men's Group of the Covenant Congregational Church For information or  
tickets contact the Church (508-238-6423)

## Fellowship Hour Schedule:



<u>FEBRUARY</u>	Worship & Music
<u>MARCH</u>	Evangelism & Outreach
<u>APRIL</u>	Finance

## SAVE THESE DATES!

Quilts & Kilts Quilt Show  
Saturday, March 12th 9:30 am – 3:30 pm  
&  
Live Auction  
Saturday, April 30th 6:30 p.m.

To benefit Science With a Mission



## CCC- A Caring Community!

We here at CCC think taking care of our each other, especially in the midst of crisis, is one of the most important things we do. Toward that end we want you to know the resources that are available to all who attend our church. These are ways we can serve you and ways you can be involved in serving others.



- ♥ Church benevolence fund – used for financial crises such as unexpected deaths or unemployment. (White offering envelopes are available in the pews each week for any donation to our *Benevolent Fund.*)
- ♥ Meals for you and your family. If there is ever a time where it would be helpful for you to receive meals from the church family to ease your burden we are here to help. Often families take advantage of this during times of childbirth, extreme stress, times of illness, recovery from surgery or a hospital stay or the passing of a loved one.
- ♥ We have a ministry of prayer shawls and squares. These are shawls or squares that have been prayed over and can bring comfort in a variety of situations.
- ♥ We have a church prayer chain (via email) that allows us to send out information and prayer requests in a timely manner. Simply send an email to [webmaster@ecovchurch.org](mailto:webmaster@ecovchurch.org) to get signed up.

Please do not hesitate to contact the church chair, Pastor Whitney or Pastor Johnny if you are in a time of crisis or stress, we are here to serve you.

## WEEKLY REHEARSALS

**ADULT CHOIR**  
**REHEARSAL**  
**SCHEDULE**  
**AVAILABLE**

**MUSIC MAKERS**  
**REHEARSE**  
**WEDNESDAYS**  
**3:45—4:30 PM @**  
**THE CHURCH**

**JOYFUL NOISE**  
**REHEARSES**  
**SUNDAYS**  
**IMMEDIATELY**  
**FOLLOWING**  
**CHURCH IN THE**  
**CHAPEL**



# Worship & Music

## *Choir Appreciation Sunday*

Please take a moment to stop a member of the choir and say "thank you". It takes a great deal of dedication to work week after week to enhance our worship time together on Sundays.

To all the members of the congregation, thanks for your words of encouragement! It's always nice to hear that you have enjoyed a particular piece we sing. To the choir, my deepest gratitude for your hard work and commitment! "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10. Thank you for faithfully giving of your gifts and talents each week.

In addition to our adult choir, we have two children's choirs. Please stop & thank the young children who sing so beautifully each month. They practice hard every week and take their work seriously. A big thank you to Beth Abreu & Nancy Hall (directors of Music Makers), Susan Santry & Linda Wainwright (directors of Joyful Noise) for all of their work with the children.

### **Teen Challenge**

February 20, 2011 10:30 AM

Please join us during our regular worship service to share in song & testimony with Teen Challenge.

Teen Challenge is one of the oldest, largest and most successful programs of its kind in the world. Established in 1958 by David Wilkerson, Teen Challenge has grown to more than 170 centers in the United States.

To learn more: <http://www.tcnewengland.org>



### **Opportunities to participate:**

- Choir (Adults & Children)
- Sanctuary Keeper
- Communion Server
- Usher
- Lay reader
- Worship Leader

### **Questions???**

Please contact:  
Kirstie Wheeler  
Director of Music Ministries

Phone: 508-238-6423

E-mail:  
[kirstiewheeler@verizon.net](mailto:kirstiewheeler@verizon.net)

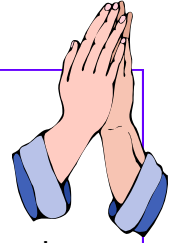


## **Prayers**

- *Family and friends of Pastor Whitney's grandmother Doris, who passed away on January 19th.*
- *Shirley Carlson who remains hospitalized with pneumonia.*
- *James Noone , Peter McHugh's father in law, was badly injured in a collision with a drunk driver in Ohio and has multiple injuries that are very serious. Peter is Ruth and Mike McHugh's son.*
- *Connor Buckley who is recovering following a minor surgical procedure.*
- *Pastor Whitney & Linda Cohen & Todd Klipp (from Trinity Covenant, Lexington) traveled to Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, to work with Hearts & Hands for Uganda. Pray for safe travel and wonderful times of ministry and relationship building during their trip.*
- *Murray Johns, brother of Heather Willis, who underwent emergency surgery while continuing to receive treatment for his liver disease, as well as for Heather's mother who is struggling with health concerns of her own.*
- *Tim Driscoll as he recovers from a separated shoulder and other injuries sustained in a fall.*
- *Angela Whitley as she undergoes tests and treatments.*
- *Anne and Rick Martin whose North Easton home was completely destroyed by fire in December.*
- *For the ministry of the Easton Food Pantry and the record number of families that they are assisting.*
- *For Steve Sutton as he continues the long process of recovery after serious illness.*
- *Don MacLeod Jr. is undergoing treatment for cancer.*
- *Stacy Hamalian is home recovering from surgery.*
- *Joe Davis and his ministry in Sweden.*
- *Betty Lawson, Cathy Zelinski's aunt, is doing well after experiencing severe effects from a stroke.*
- *Rob Driscoll continues to receive treatment for kidney problems.*
- *Carole DesLauriers, Ed Willis' mother, is in need of our prayers for peace and strength.*
- *Steve Littlefield, serving his 2nd tour of duty in Afghanistan.*
- *Gail Hubbard, friend of Lynda Valenzuela, receiving treatment for a brain tumor.*
- *Judy Higgins, Scott Peters' sister, who has been diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing treatments.*

## **Prayers of Celebration**

- *For our Ministry chairs and members as they begin a new year of service in our midst.*
- *For our wonderful Annual Meeting and the faithfulness of God's provisions for us.*
- *The engagement of Bryan Bassett and Coleen Morse.*
- *For the new friends who have started attending since our Christmas Eve worship services.*
- *The great progress taking place in Steve Sutton's recovery from his serious health issues.*
- *The hiring of two new nursery care givers allowing us to reopen our infant nursery on Sunday mornings.*



## We're praying for you this week:

Prayer is one of the most important things we can do for each other. In addition to praying for the needs of our church family during any given week our pastors and staff are praying specifically for you.

Check the schedule below to see when we'll be praying for you.

Please feel free to give us a call or send an email with any specific prayers or praises.

### Week of:

#### February 1

Elmore Dyer & Karlene Smith,  
McSherry family,  
Dave Williams

#### February 15

Edlund family,  
Meehan family,  
Jean & Roger Williams

#### February 8

Eaton family,  
Gordon Mears,  
Megan Williams

#### February 22

Ginny & Jim Elson,  
Merola family,  
Russell Williams family



## February Birthdays



Karen Brooks	1-Feb	Brendan Costello	12-Feb	Richard Bissett	21-Feb
Andrew Austin	2-Feb	John Humphries	12-Feb	Taylor Piccuito	21-Feb
Joey Barrett	2-Feb	Victoria Norville	12-Feb	Kristi Humphries	22-Feb
Ken Brooks	3-Feb	Will Conforti	15-Feb	Lucy Agurkis	23-Feb
Hillary Tarr	3-Feb	Ugonna Chibueze	16-Feb	Raymond Gagnon	24-Feb
Gary Hight	4-Feb	Bridget Dumoulin	16-Feb	Cameron Gay	24-Feb
Andrew DiFilippo	7-Feb	Pauline Heckman	16-Feb	William Goodwin	24-Feb
Thomas Whitley	8-Feb	Michael O'Brien	17-Feb	Carl Knowlton	24-Feb
Kelly Fleischman	9-Feb	Armen Varadian	17-Feb	David Tarr	24-Feb
Allyson Greene	9-Feb	Sarah Varadian	17-Feb	Ellen Long	25-Feb
Bryan Bassett	10-Feb	Kyle Peters	18-Feb	Jack Barrett	26-Feb
Maeve Wallace	10-Feb	Namaan Wheeler	18-Feb	Seth Peters	26-Feb
Wendy Norrman	11-Feb	Judith Wohlen	18-Feb	Mary Stevens	26-Feb
		Noah Fitzgerald	19-Feb		

## Pastor's Book Club

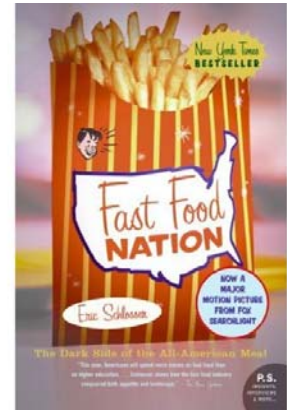
- by Pastor Johnny

### Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal

Eric Schlosser

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

2001



*The United States now has the highest obesity rate of any industrialized nation in the world. More than half of all American adults and about one-quarter of all American children are now obese or overweight. Those proportions have soared during the last few decades, along with the consumption of fast food. The rate of obesity among American adults is twice as high today as it was in the early 1960s. The rate of obesity among American children is twice as high as it was in the late 1970s. According to James O. Hill, a prominent nutritionist at the University of Colorado, "We've got the fattest, least fit generation of kids ever."*

*A recent study by half a dozen researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the rate of American obesity was increasing in every state and among both sexes, regardless of age, race, or educational level. In 1991, only four states had obesity rates of 15 percent or higher; today at least thirty-seven states do.*

Every month about 90 percent of American children between the ages of three and nine visit a McDonald's.

*-from Fast Food Nation*

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser has been on my "must read list" for a few years now. But I have to admit that every chance I got to find an excuse to not read it, I took it. I allowed other books to move ahead of it on my list. And the reason for that is that I knew enough about what was inside this powerful book that I was kind of afraid of what I would fully find out by reading it. I mean, I like McDonald's. I like fast food. Did I really want to know everything that goes into me getting a burger, fries and soda for under \$5? Did I really want to know the real cost to others and our society, now and in the future? Did I really want to know what that burger, fries and soda was doing to me?

Be warned. This book will change your outlook on food. Even though it is now a bit dated (10 years old), much of the critical elements of our country's foodchain (from agriculture through drive thru) explored in this book have not seen any substantive change. It was only two weeks ago that new laws in our nation (the first since Teddy Roosevelt was president!) begin to address some of the startling and troubling food safety issues explored in this book! Already there is talk that the new congress will cut the funding necessary for the governmental agencies tasked to carry out those laws, to do their jobs. In many ways, this book continues to be right on the mark.

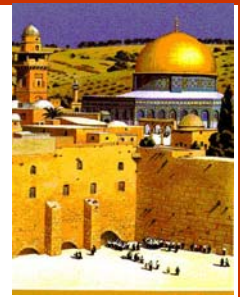
Practically, this book explores how the rise of the fast food industry has impacted almost all aspects of our society, from farming, to labor, to food safety, to economics, to health care, to political fundraising and lobbying efforts. Some of the information is staggering; some of the anecdotal stories are painful and disturbing. Some will simply see this as a "left vs. right" issue, like almost every issue in our country these days. But a deeper, more honest reading, leaves the reader with some true soul searching and deep questions. How much is a cheap meal really worth?

It's hard to say that you'll "enjoy" this book. But I do think you'll find it fascinating, disturbing and incredibly thought provoking. For those reasons, I recommend it to you as this month's Pastor's Book Club selection.



### **Holy Land Pilgrimage 2012**

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to see and feel and experience the land of the Bible? To walk in the very footsteps of Jesus?



Pastor Johnny will be hosting a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land for Pilgrim Pines in March of 2012!

Johnny last led a pilgrimage shortly before he arrived here in North Easton and is thrilled to be heading back to the land known as “the 5th gospel”.

More information will be available soon for those interested in this life-changing opportunity!

### **New Adult Ed Class**

Join us for a 6 week, verse by verse study of Paul's two letters to the Thessalonians. This class will be led by Joe Barrett. We'll be studying Paul's amazing answers to some important questions surrounding Christ's 2nd coming.

Class begins on Sunday mornings, March 6th at 9:15am in the chapel.



### **Nursery Volunteers**



#### Nursery

- 2/6 Mark Ingalls
- 2/13 Diane Hayes
- 2/20 Joanne Peters
- 2/27 Pam Barrett

#### Tiny Tots

- Lizanne Cox
- Sheri Anderson
- Sean McGarry
- Linda Clary

Thanks to all the volunteers!

Please contact Ruth Porter (508-580-6858) if you can help.

### **February Greeter Schedule**

- 2/6 Joanne Peters & Karen Bassett
- 2/13 Open
- 2/20 Open
- 2/27 Open

If you are interested in greeting on a Sunday morning before worship, please contact Dave “Cuddy” Cudmore or sign up on the sheet in the church office.





# February 2011



204 Center Street  
North Easton, MA 02356

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 4:00 Cub Scouts (gym) 5:30 Basketball (Gym) 7:30 Ministry Meetings	2 3:45 Music Makers 5:30 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Small Group Bible Study 7:30 Basketball (Gym)	3 6:00 Trailblazers 7:00 Jr. High Youth 7:30 Choir	4 12:30 Birthday Buddies 5:00 Girl Scouts #80542 (Jr) 5:00 Soccer (Gym) 6:00 Soccer (Gym)	5 FLAVORS OF THE WORLD
6 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship Joyful Noise 6:00 Sr Youth Group	7 4:00 Jr/Brownies (FS) 7:00 Knitting (FS) 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 4:00 Cub Scouts (gym) 5:30 Basketball (Gym) 7:00 Council	9 5:30 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Small Group Bible Study 7:30 Basketball (Gym)	10 7:00 Jr. High Youth 7:30 Garden Club (FS)	11 <b>TRAILBLAZER RETREAT</b> 4:00 Girl Scouts #80542 (Jr) 5:00 Soccer (Gym) 6:00 Soccer (Gym)	12 <b>TRAILBLAZER RETREAT</b>
13 <b>CHOIR APPRECIATION</b> 8:15 Choir 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship Joyful Noise 6:00 Sr Youth Group	14 3:30 Daisy Troop (Jr) 4:00 Jr/Brownies (FS) 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 Noon Friendship Club 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 4:00 Cub Scouts (gym) 5:30 Basketball (Gym) 7:00 PRC	16 3:45 Music Makers 5:30 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Small Group Bible Study 7:30 Basketball (Gym)	17 6:00 Trailblazers 7:00 Jr. High Youth 7:30 CCC Book Club 7:30 Choir	18 Noon-4 Medical Res. Inservice Sem. (FS) 5:00 Soccer (Gym) 6:00 Soccer (Gym)	19
20 <b>TEEN CHALLENGE CHOIR</b> 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship Joyful Noise	21 4:00 Jr/Brownies (FS) 7:00 Knitting (FS) 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 4:00 Cub Scouts (gym) 5:30 Basketball (Gym)	23 5:30 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Small Group Bible Study 7:30 Basketball (Gym)	24	25 <b>JR. HIGH RETREAT</b> 5:00 Soccer (Gym) 6:00 Soccer (Gym)	26 <b>JR. HIGH RETREAT</b>
27 <b>JR. HIGH RETREAT</b> 8:15 Choir 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship Joyful Noise 6:00 Sr Youth Group	28 3:30 Daisy Troop (Jr) 4:00 Jr/Brownies (FS) 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts					



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**FEBRUARY  
TIDINGS!**

## CCC AT A GLANCE

### Sunday Morning

8:30 -9:15

Breakfast

9:15- 10:15

Opening Celebration &  
Sunday School

10:30

Worship Service

### Pastors:

Rev. Whitney Hall

Rev. Johnny Agurkis

### Staff:

Nancy Hall

*Office Manager*

Kirstie Wheeler

*Director of Music Ministries*

David Cudmore

*Church Custodian*

**[www.ecovchurch.org](http://www.ecovchurch.org)**

**508.238.6423**

## February Dates:

February 2,9,16,23— Small Group Bible Study

February 4th— Birthday Buddies

February 5th— Flavors of the World VI

February 7th & 21st — Knitting

February 11-13— Trailblazer Retreat

February 13th— Choir Appreciation Sunday

February 15th— Friendship Club Luncheon

February 17th— CCC Book Club

February 20th— Teen Challenge Choir

February 25-27— Jr. High Youth Retreat