

THE TIDINGS

Covenant Congregational Church

Celebrating over 125 years of ministry

February 2012

In It Together

- Pastor Johnny

My good friends and colleagues, Dave Cairns and Jim Condap, the Executive Director and the Ministry Director of Pilgrim Pines respectively, wrote an intriguing article in the most recent edition of The View, the quarterly newsletter of Pilgrim Pines. In it they talk about the fact that Pilgrim Pines has had such an amazing 50 years of ministry due to the fact that we, as an East Coast Conference, have been *in it together*. 1000's of people over those 50 years have given 1000's of volunteer hours building and up keeping facilities, improving buildings, running programs, hosting events, giving financial support. Without us all being *in it together*, the ministry of Pilgrim Pines over these last 50 years would not have been possible.

But they also point out that over the last decade or so there has been a fundamental shift in society that affects Pilgrim Pines, churches and all volunteer-based organizations. People have become so busy in their day-to-day lives that they are rarely volunteering anymore. In many ways we are creating a society in which people are doing more and more, but giving of themselves less and less. We are becoming busier, but in doing so, we are losing the *togetherness* that allowed ministries like Pilgrim Pines and local churches to thrive. Dave and Jim ask the important questions " *Who's next? Who will become the next set of lifelong volunteers? Who will step forward and take on this ownership? On whose shoulders will our ministry grow into the next generation?*"

These are important questions for us here at CCC as well at this moment in time. This church has thrived over the years because of the faithfulness of its people, passionately serving God. Yet, like so many other churches across our conference and country, we are seeing generational changes take place in our pews, and facing an ongoing shortage of volunteers to carry the ministry forward. In the past, the church succeeded because of a fundamental sense of being *in it together*. And that commitment to togetherness ensured a common bond of serving faithfully alongside each other.

So the challenge for us now, here at this time and this place, is to make that same commitment to be *in it together*. To be the next group upon whose shoulders the ministry of this church will grow into the next generation. All of us are needed. All of us can do it. But only if we are *in it together!*



Youth & Children's Ministry News!

Confirmation



We meet in room 4 at 9:15am on Sunday mornings. Remember if you miss a week—just do the next chapter in your book!

Trailblazers (grades 3-5)
will meet on
Friday, March 2
from 6-7pm in the gym



Jr. Hi. Winter Retreat

February 24-26
Pilgrim Pines

\$110

Forms available online at
www.ecovchurch.org



**Junior High
Youth Group**
Grades 6-8
Sunday afternoon
4:30 - 6:00pm

SENIOR HIGH
6-7:30PM SUNDAY NIGHTS
GRADES 9-12
FUN, FELLOWSHIP & FAITH



The Wednesday Evening Ladies' Bible Study will be beginning a Lenten study using the guide "Parables and Passion: Jesus' Stories for the Days of Lent" by John Indermark. We will meet at Ann Shelley's home on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 from February 29th to April 4th. All women are welcome. If you are interested in joining, please call Sally Poirier at [508-238-0864](tel:508-238-0864)

Friendship Club

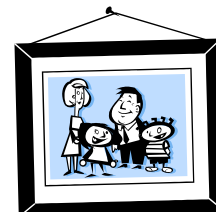
Please join us Tuesday, February 21st at Noon for the Friendship Club meeting and lunch in the Fireside Room.

The topic is "Memory Lane" - led by Al Souza.

Please come with a story, a picture, or an item from your past that you can share with the group .

Bring a dish or dessert to be shared and your own place setting.

All are welcome.



Knitting & Crafts

Join us *every* Monday, 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).



CCC Book Club

CCC Book Club will be on Thursday, February 16th at 7:30 p.m.

Book to be discussed:
Area 51
by Annie Jacobsen

All are welcome.

Further information call:
Judy Tyler at 508-238-6827



Prayer Power and Stephen Ministry

James tells us that the prayers of righteous people are powerful and effective (James 5:16).

During the coming week, we invite you to pray about our congregation's Stephen Ministry.

Specifically, please pray for those God is calling to serve as caregivers in this ministry. For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact Linda Cohen, [508-243-8815](tel:508-243-8815) or attend one of the two (1 hour) information times scheduled February 5th after church and Monday evening February 6, at 7:00 p.m.

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



QUESTIONS???

Please contact:
Kirstie Wheeler

Phone:508-238-6423
E-mail:
kirstiewheeler@verizon.net

Worship & Music

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Romans 12:1)

Communion Server Coordinator

The Worship & Music Ministry is looking for someone who is willing to coordinate servers for communion the 1st Sunday of each month.

This is a wonderful way to serve the church.

Please contact Kirstie Wheeler if you are interested.

Sanctuary Keepers: Each week there are "church mice" who come and make sure that the sanctuary is prepared for worship. Currently, they need more help. The goal is that each team is only responsible for one month during year. Please consider becoming part of this special group who work behind the scenes.

Adult Choir: Anyone who loves to sing (even if you do not think it is your best gift) is welcome to join the Adult Choir.. We enjoy preparing music for the service and sharing in time of prayer with one another. Please consider singing with us.

Fellowship Hour Schedule:

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



7th Annual Quilt Show & Luncheon Saturday, March 24, 2012 to benefit Science with a Mission

Please be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, March 24th from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm so you won't miss our Seventh Annual Quilt Show & luncheon. This is done as a fund raiser for Science with a Mission, Inc. (SMI) each year.



Our theme this year for our luncheon is *Country Western* and some of the foods being served are chili, corn bread, and pulled pork sandwiches.

As you enjoy your lunch you will be enjoying music by our own Blue Grass Boys: Bob McIlhatten, Paul Poirier and David Sproul. Tickets will be sold at the door. The price is \$5.00 for the quilt show and \$5.00 if you plan to come to the luncheon.

Along with the quilts, food and music there will be vendors and a raffle table, plus a door prize. All proceeds go to SMI.

We are always looking for quilts to display that have not been in the past shows. If you have one or have a friend who would be willing to share one with us for the day, please call Hazel Hayes at [508-238-0202](tel:508-238-0202) or email at hohaz@verizon.net. We will be collecting write-ups about the quilts during the weeks before the show to put into the quilt show booklet.

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



Adult Spiritual Formation

One of the verses we have discussed in our current study on *Community*, Philippians 2:1-2, reminds us "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose" (NIV). All of the above is best accomplished in *Community*.

Join us on Sunday, February 5 at 9:15 a.m. as one from our community, Alynne MacLean, shares with us about one of her passions, *Stop Hunger Now*. Learn more about *Stop Hunger Now* by joining us and by checking out their website, www.stophungernow.org. You will be blessed and perhaps convicted.

We will be wrapping up our discussion of *Community* on February 12. February 19 will usher in our discussion centered on *The Shack*. It will encompass five sessions, ending on March 25 with a break on March 11. It is interesting to us that our study on *The Shack* will coincide with Lent, especially when one considers the topics to be discussed during the study: The Mystery of Human Suffering, The Power of Forgiveness, The Effects of The Fall, The Mystery of God's Grace, and The Mystery of God's love. 1John 4:9-10 explains this love God has for us so succinctly "God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love-not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins" (NLT)--hard to believe from a human standpoint, but oh so true.

God bless,

Karen McSherry, Linda Cohen, Dom DiBattista, Joe Barrett



*You're Invited
Flavors
of the World VII*

"A Wine & Food Extravaganza"

Saturday, February 4, 2012

7pm—11pm

\$75 per person

Thorny Lea Golf Club, Brockton, MA

Proceeds to benefit

HUGS II in Easton

and

Penelope's Place in Brockton.

Sponsored by:

The Men's Group of the

Covenant Congregational Church of North Easton.

For information or tickets contact:

the Church (508-238-6423) or

Denise Papagno

(508-942-5060 or dpapagno@comcast.net)



Community WinterFest

Saturday, February 18th from 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Borderland State Park

The Evangelism and Outreach Ministry invites to you bring your family, neighbors and friends to a fun afternoon of sledding, snowman competitions and hot cocoa by the fire (in the Skate House). We'll conclude our afternoon together with a short time of devotions and prayer. This is a wonderful and non-threatening way to invite people to see what our faith and our church community are all about!

February Birthdays

Karen Brooks	1-Feb	Victoria Norville	12-Feb	Richard Bissett	21-Feb
Andrew Austin	2-Feb	Owen Haskell	14-Feb	Taylor Piccuito	21-Feb
Joey Barrett	2-Feb	Reese Haskell	14-Feb	Kristi Humphries	22-Feb
Ken Brooks	3-Feb	Will Conforti	15-Feb	Addison Scowcroft	22-Feb
Hillary Tarr	3-Feb	Ugonna Chibueze	16-Feb	Lucy Agurkis	23-Feb
Gary Hight	4-Feb	Bridget Dumoulin	16-Feb	Alex Gao	23-Feb
Andrew DiFilippo	7-Feb	Pauline Heckman	16-Feb	Raymond Gagnon	24-Feb
Thomas Whitley	8-Feb	Michael O'Brien	17-Feb	Cameron Gay	24-Feb
Kelly Fleischman	9-Feb	Armen Varadian	17-Feb	William Goodwin	24-Feb
Allyson Greene	9-Feb	Sarah Varadian	17-Feb	Carl Knowlton	24-Feb
Bryan Bassett	10-Feb	Kyle Peters	18-Feb	David Tarr	24-Feb
Maeve Wallace	10-Feb	Namaan Wheeler	18-Feb	Ellen Long	25-Feb
Wendy Norrman	11-Feb	Judith Wohlen	18-Feb	Jack Barrett	26-Feb
Brendan Costello	12-Feb	Noah Fitzgerald	19-Feb	Seth Peters	26-Feb
John Humphries	12-Feb			Mary Stevens	26-Feb



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 to get signed up.

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





Prayers

- *Murray Johns*, brother of *Heather Willis*, as he recovers from liver transplant surgery.
- *The family, and many friends, of Paul Rockwell* who died suddenly on January 11th at age 65.
- *The family of Karen Short's aunt and Muriel Olson's sister, Eva*. *Eva* passed away on Christmas day after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.
- *The Prew family* as they grieve the death of *Lori's aunt Wanda Meade*.
- *The Bailey family* as they grieve the death of *Jay's mother*.
- *John Gallagher* who is recovering from surgery this week.
- *Heather Willis' mother* as she recovers from hip surgery.
- *Joanne Lundin*, *Sandie Corradina's sister-in-law*, passed away after a brave battle with cancer. Prayers to *Sandie* and her family.
- For *Rev. Whitney Hall* during this time of transition in her ministry.
- *Bob Clary's mother* is home recuperating.
- *Brian Edlund's brother Chuck*, who is undergoing treatment for a tumor in his eye.
- For our congregation as we navigate the transitions of these coming months.
- *The Edlund's 14-year old nephew, William*, who has been diagnosed with Stage I osteosarcoma and is receiving chemotherapy treatments.
- *Ernie and Pearl Robertson* for ongoing health challenges.
- *Linda Wainwright* as she struggles with severe and chronic back pain.
- *Carole DesLauriers*, *Ed Willis' mother*, for continued healing and peace.
- *Cindy Doherty*, who was diagnosed with throat cancer.
- *Angela Whitley* as she undergoes treatments.
- *Don MacLeod Jr.* is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- *Rob Driscoll* continues to receive treatment for kidney problems.
- *Joe Davis* and his ministry in Sweden.
- *Gail Hubbard*, friend of *Lynda Valenzuela*, receiving treatment for a brain tumor.

Prayers of Celebration

- *Todd Cudmore* who is now in physical therapy after back surgery.
- For the students and adult volunteers, who attended the Sr. High Winterfest and Trailblazer Winter Retreats in January.
- For those who have volunteered for ministries this upcoming year.
- For *Linda Cohen* who returned after undergoing training to become our newest Stephen Ministry leader.
- For the many ways in which God has provided, challenged, and blessed us as individuals and as a congregation this past year.

To all my friends and family of the congregation,

I just want to thank everyone for all their thoughts and prayers while I went through my surgery and the recovery. The doctors are saying my back is healing well and I will be starting physical therapy on the 16th of January. If everything goes well, I will be going back to work in late February.

Thank you,
Todd Cudmore



Dear Friends,

Finally! After a decade of learning, dreaming, hoping, waiting, and teaching other about the issue, we are moving to Sierra Leone, in West Africa, to help set up an aftercare facility for women and children rescued from human trafficking.

We have been asked to join an anti-trafficking group in the capital, Freetown, and serve as mentors to the leadership team as they start this new program. We will be supporting Sierra Leonean leaders as they create solutions to human trafficking in their country. We are projecting that this will take about 3-4 years, and that is the amount of time we are initially signing up for. At the end of that time we are expecting national leadership will have the skills and confidence to lead without our support.

The women & children in the program have survived forced prostitution, abuse & forced labor and need a safe place where they can heal and restore. This program will be a haven for them. A place where they can receive counseling, healing, restoration, family therapy & get plugged into resources within their community.

We are thrilled, and nervous, to have this opportunity. Moving our family to West Africa is not something we have taken lightly. Sierra Leone is a very safe country and shows no sign of that change soon. We cannot do this alone. We need your prayers, your friendship, your love & encouragement ...

Please feel free to contact me via email (courtneyorange@gmail.com) to learn more or to find ways to support us.

Love,

Courtney (Doherty) & Brent Orange, Brooklyn (7), and Sam (6)



Dear friend,

Your generous gift of \$933.00 to Stop Hunger Now is changing lives! On behalf of those we serve, thank you for your compassion and commitment to the mission of ending hunger in our lifetime. We are honored to work on your behalf and are committed to using your donation wisely and efficiently.

In 2011, more than 70,000 volunteers packaged 17.5 million meals through Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program, which supported school feeding programs in thirty-seven countries and provided much needed relief to those afflicted by famine, flooding, and other disasters. Another 1.3 million meals were packaged by volunteers internationally in South Africa, Malaysia and the Philippines. This means more children were fed, educated, and now have a chance of lifting themselves out of extreme poverty. It isn't just rice and soy that we are sending, but bags of hope, education, and promise.

With the help of supporters, volunteers, and partners, ending hunger in our lifetime is achievable, and our movement to end hunger continues to gain momentum. In 2011, we opened three new meal packaging locations in Southern California; Washington, DC; and Orlando, Florida, so even more volunteers have the opportunity to be involved.

Thank you again for your support. Please visit our website, www.stophungernow.org, often for updates and news. We hope to see you at a meal packaging event soon. In the meantime, I hope you will accept our sincere appreciation for sharing in our vision of a world without hunger.

Warmest regards,

Rod Brooks

President and CEO



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Dear Members of Covenant Congregational Church of North Easton,

I'm so excited to be back from my week long Stephen Series training course and want to thank you for your prayers and thoughts during the time I attended. The training took place from Sunday night, January 8, to Saturday morning, January 14 and consisted of a group of 342 lay people, pastors, and Stephen Ministers who learned how to implement the Stephen Series program of lay caring ministry for the congregation. Instruction included both how to train and supervise lay people in caring ministry.

Little did I know the plans God had for me when I signed up to be a Stephen Minister, just a few short years ago. Perhaps you were in church a few months ago when one of the Stephen Ministers or Care Receivers shared pieces of their story and how God has worked in their lives through Stephen Ministry. It is now time, again, to find men and women of our congregation who are willing to answer Jesus' call to serve as Stephen ministers, beginning with 50 hours of stimulating and useful training in Christian caring skills. This training will be led by me, a trained Stephen Leader, and will include a variety of topics such as listening, Christian assertiveness, maintaining boundaries in caregiving, and grief. The training is distinctively Christian and focuses on God as the one who cures as we care. When the Stephen Ministers have completed their training, they will be commissioned and ready to begin their ministry. Working under supervision, these Stephen Ministers will be available to meet weekly with people experiencing such problems as these, and many more.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| * Bereavement | * Terminal illness |
| * Single parenting | * Long-term hospitalization |
| * Job Loss | * Natural disasters |

Stephen Ministers commit to at least two years for training, service, and regular supervision. Many Stephen Ministers enjoy their ministry so much that they choose to serve beyond the two years.

While being a Stephen Minister requires commitment of time and effort, it also brings joy and fulfillment. It may be one of the most rewarding challenges you will ever embrace. In addition, you will use the skills you learn not only in your caring ministry, but also in your everyday relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

Think and pray about his opportunity. If you decide you would like to be a Stephen Ministers, please contact me right away and we can talk about how you can get started. You are also invited to attend one of our (one hour) information sessions: Sunday, February 5th (right after church) or Monday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. If we agree that you would be well-suited to be a Stephen Minister, you will then begin training for this exciting ministry on Monday, March 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

When you serve as a Stephen Minister, I'm sure you will find that you grow spiritually. After all, when God calls you to service, he also gives you the faith and the gifts you need to do his will. I am excited to see what God is going to do in the lives of those who undertake this ministry and in the lives of those who will receive care from our Stephen Ministers.

In His Name,

Linda Cohen

February 2012



204 Center Street
North Easton, MA 02356

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship Stephen Ministry intro 4:30 Jr Youth Group 6:00 Sr Youth Group</p>	<p>6 4:00 Jr. Troop (FS) 5:00 Basketball (Gym) 7:00 Knitting (FS) 7 Stephen Ministry intro 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>BOLD ITEMS ARE CHURCH FUNCTIONS</p> <p>7 9 Gym reserved 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 4:00 Cub Scouts (gym) 6:30 Soccer (Gym) 7:30 Ministry Meetings 7:30 Soccer (gym)</p>	<p>1 3:45 Music Makers 4:00 Bear Scouts (Jr. Church, Gym) 5:00 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Small Group Bible Study</p>	<p>2 9 Gym reserved 5:00 Practice (Gym) 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>3 10 Gym reserved 10:30 Ladies Bible Study (FS) 12:45 Birthday Buddies 4:00 Daisy Troop (gym) 6:30 Basketball (Gym)</p>	<p>4 FLAVORS OF THE WORLD</p>
<p>12 8:15 Choir 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship 2:00 Wedding (sanc) 4:30 Jr Youth Group 6:00 Sr Youth Group</p>	<p>13 4:30 Brownie Trp (Jr) 4:30 Brownie Trp (FS) 5:00 Basketball (Gym) 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Knitting (FS) 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>14 9 Gym reserved 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 6:30 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Council 7:30 Soccer (gym)</p>	<p>15 3:45 Music Makers 4:00 Bear Scouts (Jr. Church, Gym) 5:00 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Small Group Bible Study</p>	<p>16 9 Gym reserved 5:00 Practice (Gym) 7:30 CCC Book Club 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>17 10 Gym reserved 10:30 Ladies Bible Study (FS) 4:00 Daisy Troop (gym) 6:30 Basketball (Gym)</p>	<p>18 2-4 Community Winterfest at Borderland State Park</p>
<p>19 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship 4:30 Jr Youth Group 6:00 Sr Youth Group</p>	<p>20 4:00 Jr. Troop (FS) 5:00 Basketball (Gym) 7:00 Knitting (FS) 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>21 9 Gym reserved 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) Noon Friendship Club 6:30 Soccer (Gym) 7:30 Soccer (gym)</p>	<p>22 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 Small Group Bible Study 7:30 Ash Wednesday Worship</p>	<p>23 9 Gym reserved 5:00 Practice (Gym)</p>	<p>24 JR. HIGH RETREAT 10 Gym reserved 10:30 Ladies Bible Study (FS) 6:30 Basketball (Gym)</p>	<p>25 JR. HIGH RETREAT AM St. Paul's Kitchen Lunch setup (gym)</p>
<p>26 JR. HIGH RETREAT 8:15 Choir 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship 4:30 Jr Youth Group 6:00 Sr Youth Group</p>	<p>27 4:30 Brownie Trp (Jr) 4:30 Brownie Trp (FS) 5:00 Basketball (Gym) 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Knitting (FS) 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>28 9 Gym reserved 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 4:00 Cub Scouts (gym) 6:30 Soccer (Gym) 7:30 Soccer (gym)</p>	<p>29 3:45 Music Makers 4:00 Bear Scouts (Jr. Church, Gym) 5:00 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Small Group Bible Study</p>			



Non Profit

U.S. Postage Paid

N. Easton, MA 02356

Permit No. 20

**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

Pastor:

Rev. Johnny Agurkis

Staff:

Nancy Hall

Office Manager

Kirstie Wheeler

Director of Music Ministries

David Cudmore

Church Custodian

www.ecovchurch.org

508.238.6423

February Dates:

February 3rd— Birthday Buddies

February 4th— Flavors of the World VII

February 5th & 6th— Stephen Ministry introduction

February 16th— CCC Book Club

February 18th— Community WinterFest (Borderland)

February 21st— Friendship Club Luncheon

February 22nd- Ash Wednesday Worship

February 24-26— Jr. High Youth Retreat

Mondays- Knitting at 7 p.m.

Wednesdays— Small Group Bible Study at 7 p.m.

Fridays— Ladies Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.