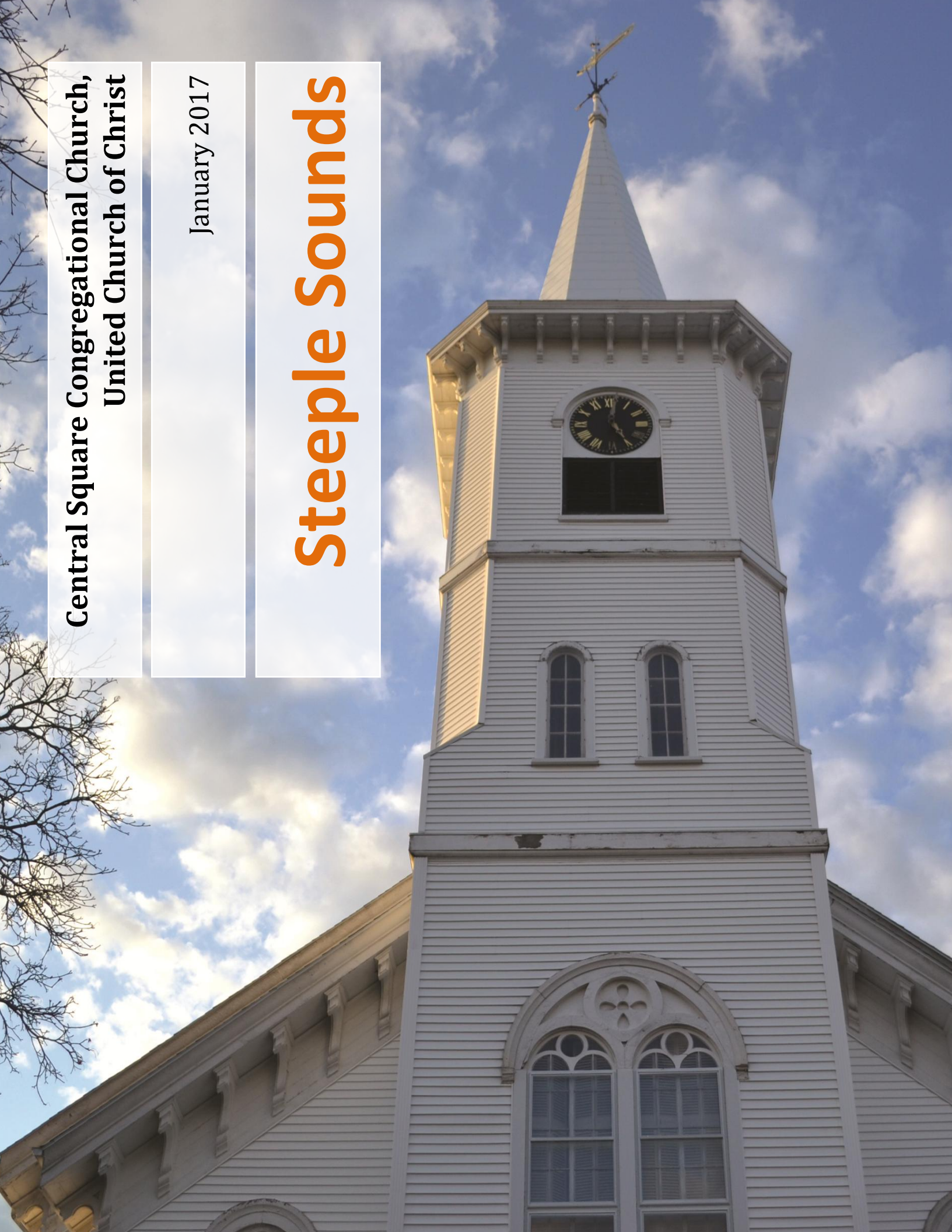


**Central Square Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ**

January 2017

# Steeple Sounds



# ***From The Desk of Rev. Beth***

***"In the beginning..."***

*John 1:1*



**Happy New Year!  
Happy New Year?  
Happy New Year.**

Wherever you find yourself this new year, I just want to take a moment to validate where you are. Perhaps this new year finds you feeling defeated. Perhaps, energized. Maybe you're excited for a new beginning. Or more likely, you're experiencing an abundance of conflicting feelings. Over the holiday I watched the movie *Hope Floats* with Sandra Bullock and Harry Connick Jr., and I was struck by a single piece of discourse in the movie. "Beginnings are scary, endings are usually sad, but it's what's in the middle that counts. So, when you find yourself at the beginning, just give hope a chance to float up. And it will."

So here we are in a New Year, a time where we say goodbye to things that were more concrete and say hello to the unknown. My prayer for each of us is that when we sit among the chaos of life and of the new year, may we feel tremendous blessing in our midst.

***"Blessing in the Chaos"***

***By Jan Richardson***

To all that is chaotic in you,  
let there come silence.  
Let there be a calming  
of the clamoring,  
a stilling of the voices  
That have laid their claim on you,  
that have made their home in you,  
that go with you  
even to the holy places  
but will not let you rest,  
will not let you hear your life with wholeness  
or feel the grace that fashioned you.  
Let what distracts you cease.  
Let what divides you cease.  
Let there come an end  
to what diminishes and demeans,  
and let depart all that keeps you in its cage.  
Let there be an opening  
into the quiet that lies beneath the chaos,  
where you find the peace  
you did not think possible  
and see what shimmers  
within the storm.



## *From the Board of Trustees*

As you drive by 81 Union Street in Bridgewater, the church parsonage address, you may have noticed some action up on the roof. (In addition to The Stotts's good looking outside Christmas decorations!) Not Santa either! The chimney is in need of some tender loving care, which will be given to it when the warm weather shows up again. Until then, the top two feet of the chimney is to be removed before it falls on the solar panels.

Now while all that is going on, National Grid will be removing the large tree on the side of the drive way. They are increasing the electric line voltage along with raising the support arms higher up on a new electric pole. The tree would be a potential hazard!

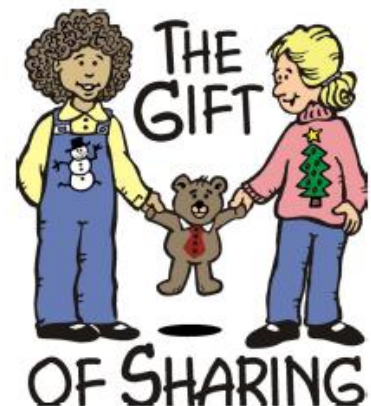
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## *Growth Updates*



**January 15, 2017**

Join us for bring a friend Sunday and blessing of the bears. It has been quoted most people would go to church if asked. So ask someone to Join you. Ask them to bring a stuffed Animal to be blessed. Maybe an animal for their new grandchild, a blanket or shawl for sick parent, a small animal or token for a friend in need. It is a special day with a special message "all are welcome and our love will travel with you". Please join us!



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*"Prepare and look to meet someone new at church!"* – Growth

Please wear your nametags! New people will be visiting and we hope to make them feel welcome. You can help!

## Women's Guild & Fellowship Come Join Us!



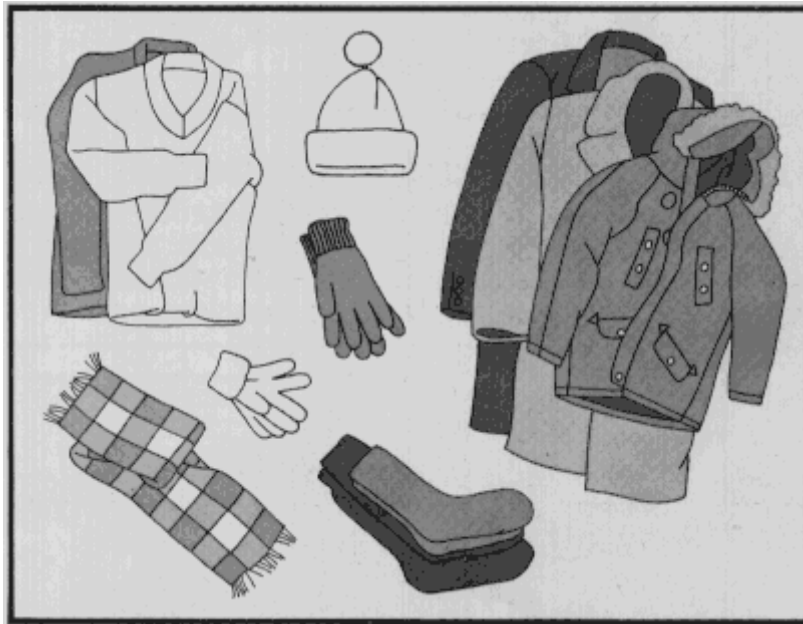
There are sixty-eight references to incense in the Bible. Of these incenses, fifty-four are oils. Come to our January meeting and learn what some of them were used for and are still used for today! Gina Savignano will be presenting her program on "Oils of the Bible" on January 4th. We will begin the evening with our business meeting at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall, break for refreshments, and then learn about the oils with Gina at 7:30 PM. **We welcome all ladies of the church and are looking forward to wonderful evening. Come join us!**

**We will also be collecting items for the Animal Protection Center in Brockton leading up to Valentine's Day. The following are the list of items that the Center has requested:**

<p><b>Adoption Center Wish List</b></p> <p> AnimalProtectionCenter OF SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS</p> <p><i>Thanks for your help!</i></p> <p><b>For the Animals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Blankets, sheets and towels</li><li>Kitten Milk Replacer (powdered form)</li><li>Dog Toys</li><li>Cat Toys</li><li>KONG Toys</li><li>Timothy Hay</li><li>Salad Greens / Carrots (for bunnies)</li><li>Treats (cat, dog, bird, small critters)</li><li>Kuranda Beds (for dogs)</li><li>Dog Bandanas</li><li>Clay Cat Litter</li></ul> <p><b>For the Humans (Office Supplies)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Copy Paper (white &amp; color)</li><li>Pens</li><li>Printer Ink for:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- HP Laser Jet 1022n</li><li>- HP Desk Jet 8540</li></ul></li><li>Folders (2 pocket portfolio)</li><li>Postage Stamps</li></ul> <p><b>Animal Protection Center</b> of Southeastern Massachusetts 1300 West Elm Street Extension Brockton, MA 02301 <a href="http://www.apcsm.org">www.apcsm.org</a> / 508-586-2053</p>	<p><b>Adoption Center Wish List</b></p> <p> AnimalProtectionCenter OF SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS</p> <p><i>Thanks for your help!</i></p> <p><b>Cleaning &amp; Maintenance Supplies</b></p> <p><b>Bleach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Laundry Soap (powdered &amp; liquid)</li><li>Dryer Sheets</li><li>Dish Soap</li><li>Sponges w/ "scrubby" on one side</li><li>Paper Towels</li><li>Toilet Paper</li></ul> <p><b>Trash Bags (large contractor size)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scrub Brushes (long handled)</li><li>Squeegees</li><li>Dust Pans &amp; Brushes</li><li>Latex Gloves</li><li>Mr. Clean Magic Erasers</li></ul> <p><b>Miscellaneous:</b> (speak w/ a staff member for specific details)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mutt Mitts</li><li>Digital kitchen timers</li><li>Digital Camera (NEW!)</li><li>Kennel Leads</li><li>Radios w/ CD player</li></ul> <p><b>Animal Protection Center</b> of Southeastern Massachusetts 1300 West Elm Street Extension Brockton, MA 02301 <a href="http://www.apcsm.org">www.apcsm.org</a> / 508-586-2053</p>
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Lynn Pietras 508-824-0855  
Gail Wright 508-697-7159

## *From the Board of Outreach*



Is your closet jammed packed after you put away the clothing items you received as Christmas gifts? Wondering if someone could use the ski parka you just replaced? Are your drawers filled with gently worn items that you no longer wear that could help keep someone else warm?

Outreach has the perfect solution! We are looking for donations of warm clothing to help those in need during what is sure to be a brutal Winter. Coats, hats, gloves, wool socks, jeans, sweatshirts, sweaters, etc. Donation boxes are located in the Narthex (entry hall) and inside the Church Street entrance door. Anyone who does not have clothing to donate but would like to make a monetary donation, please see Bill O'Neil. He will be happy to do the shopping for you! Spread the word to your friends, neighbors & co-workers! **Together we can make this year's Warmth in Cold Places campaign a huge success!** Outreach will be distributing donated items on or around January 16th as well as throughout the Winter on Saturdays at the Central United Methodist Church in Brockton.

In addition, our support for Penelope's Place, a battered women's shelter in Brockton, is ongoing. A list of household items needed is in each weeks bulletin and on boxes in the Narthex and the Church Street entrance.

We thank you for your support this past year and look forward to working together in 2017 to reach out and have a positive impact on our neighbors in need, both near and far.

Warmest Regards,

Bill O' Neil, Jack Melcher, Dave Hanson, Kim Wallace,  
Carol Chaffee, Rob Basler, Devon Basler

## *From Christian Education*



### **Heifer**

What a wonderful way to spend the month of January, learning about Heifer Project International through the rotation model. The children will have an opportunity to explore Heifer through one of the following workshops: art, cooking drama, geography Make your own video, movement/games, photography, puppetry, science or storytelling. Pre-schoolers and kindergarten children will learn about Heifer in ways that plant the seed of solid awareness. Grades 1 – 5 will find the experience to be fun, interactive and enlightening as they learn about Christian service through Bible study, engaging activities and Heifer. Tweens and youth are working on forging their identity. That's a perfect time to explore the call to act on their faith. While experiencing a workshop curriculum the children will select an animal for sponsorship. This whole experience will culminate with the **Living Gift Market**, when the children will share what they have learned and fundraise for Heifer by inviting the congregation to experience a Heifer market. Come and see what it is all about on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> following church in the fellowship hall.

### **Adult Heifer Participation**

If you are called to be a part of the Heifer experience there are many ways you may participate. 1. You could work directly with the children and teach a class in the rotation model. 2. Participants are needed at the Living Gift Market behind the scenes counting the money. 3. People are needed to monitor a table where people may sponsor an animal. 4. You may try your hand at having a table at the Living Gift Market and sponsor an animal raising funds towards purchasing that animal. 5. The final way is you could be a cow courier and move one of 3 cows to homes of your friends. That could be a fun experience for you and your children to experience together. For more information please see Terry Reynolds after church or text or call at 508-942-9531.

### **Women's Retreat**

The annual womens retreat will be January 27th at the Glastonbury Abbey. Explore the topic of music and how it relates to our lives with leaders: Rev. Beth Stotts, Denise Molinari and Deb Sorgman. Coordinated by Meg McDermott. Sign-ups will be during coffee hour.



## **Updates from Cabinet:** December Meeting

Rev. Beth submitted her report. In addition, she noted that the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be wonderful thanks to the work of the Advent Think Tank.

Treasurer Larry Brown submitted his report. We are at 46% of expected income and our expenses are at 50%, which are mostly on track. There will be some end of year donations as well.

Board of Deacons: The Advent Think Tank was commended for all their hard work. Deacons purchased two large wreaths for the church. Deacons also commend the Board of Christian Ed for the wonderful Christmas pageant. Deacons may be trying to reschedule meetings as attendance is down. Membership and confirmation Sunday are being worked on. Thanks to Brad Barnsley for suggesting having acolytes ring the church bells, as they love it. It has been a big hit with the kids and their families.

Board of Trustees: The estimate for the re-doing all the church lights came in at \$23,000. It is \$17,000 after National Grid portion. That's too high for us right now, so the project will start with the lights in the fellowship hall and then will go from there at some point. An estimate for just that portion is being worked on. A general contractor will be giving estimates on the work needed inside and outside the church so there will be a total for a possible new capital campaign. The church sound system needs to be addressed. After some discussion it was decided to form a subcommittee to review the congregations' needs first. After that, there can be some assessment as to what can be done to help meet those needs. This will begin after the holidays. **Opportunity:** if you are interested in helping to consult and formulate a plan for sound system solutions, please contact Diane Sheibley, [diane@sheibley.net](mailto:diane@sheibley.net).

Board of Stewardship: Stewardship is in discussions about a possible new capital campaign. Time and talent opportunities for the bulletin were given.

Board of Christian Education: The advent workshop and the pageant went very well. January is Heifer month! The women's retreat theme will be the Beat Within Us. There will be a music subcommittee for the retreat, which will be held January 27-28. All women welcome! Bring your friends!

Board of Outreach: \$800 has been allocated to warmth in cold places, and collection of coats and other warm items is in full swing. Items will be distributed on January 16th and 17th for Taunton and Brockton homeless. Teen Challenge will be at our service on January 22nd. The Bridgewater Food Pantry gave out 56 Thanksgiving baskets, a little down from last year. The Boston Food Bank provided all of the turkeys. Larry Brown asked about the re-doing of the shelves in the hallway. They are a work in progress and more will be done after the holidays. Outreach will be reviewing charities they have given money to in the past and allocating some money to them. Larry also inquired if there were any groups in the area getting ready to help out the refugees. This will be looked into. Gordon reminded Outreach to work with Trustees when making plans for the new shelving.

Music Committee: Thanks were given to everyone who contributed to Lin's retirement celebration. Gift cards for local restaurants were given to her. The choir is looking forward to working with Julia during the next few months, as she will be acting as both accompanist and choir director. After the first of the year, work will be done to decide if the accompanist and director will remain combined or be kept as two positions. Gordon asked that an "atta girl" be given to Ellen for the Christmas Hymnal Supplements.

Growth Committee: Only 4 families came to see the Living Nativity. The committee brainstormed and decided to try the Living Nativity during Christmas on the Common next year. "Snack with a pack" is still being considered (a "dine with nine" concept that includes whole families). New church t-shirts are being discussed. The church needs greeters! It was suggested to utilize volunteers that are not on Growth to solicit interest at coffee hour. It was suggested that the church as a whole can do a better job at mingling with new people during coffee hour.

Coffee hour will be done by Mission Youth for the month of January, although Rev. Beth offered to take care of it on January 1.

Women's Guild and Fellowship: The annual Christmas service was wonderful. During the business portion of the meeting it was decided to buy a new crockpot instead of a coffee maker for the church. In January, items will be collected for the animal shelter in Brockton.

A few reminders:

- \* Annual reports from all boards and committees are due January 15th.
- \* The nominating committee will be up and running soon. If you are interested in serving in this short-lived but important committee, let Diane Sheibley know.
- \* Time and Talent requests that volunteers are invited to participate in:
  - Baking Bread for Growth
  - Liturgists
  - Hymn suggestions are needed
  - Sunday School guest teachers and guest presenters are needed for the Sunday School rotation module
- \* The calendar is bursting with activities for the next 2 months of Sundays- Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Epiphany, Bring a Friend, Teen Challenge and more. Remember to check the calendar at [cscucc.org](http://cscucc.org) for all important dates!
- \* Rev Beth will be at a Seminar from Jan 8-10 (after church service). she has been asked to head a workshop on Think Tanks at the Mass Conference of churches.
- \* We should look into lighting our steeple and/or fixing the spotlight on the front door of the church so it is more visible at night. Trustees will explore this.



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### Important Dates

- \* **January 15** : annual reports due to the office! All boards, committees, and groups!
- \* **January 27-28** : Women's Retreat
- \* **February 12** : CSCC Annual Meeting – plan on staying after service for lunch and to celebrate the accomplishments of our wonderful church community!



Nominating committee is now being considered... if you're interested in serving on this short-lived but vital committee, contact Diane Sheibley at [diane@sheibley.net](mailto:diane@sheibley.net).

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References January 2017 (Year A)

**Sun., Jan. 1**  
*New Year's Day*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Psalm 8  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
Matthew 25:31-46

**Mon., Jan. 2**  
Psalm 20  
Genesis 12:1-7  
Hebrews 11:1-12

**Tues., Jan. 3**  
Psalm 72  
Genesis 28:10-22  
Hebrews 11:13-22

**Wed., Jan. 4**  
Psalm 72  
Exodus 3:1-5  
Hebrews 11:23-31

**Thurs., Jan. 5**  
Psalm 72  
Joshua 1:1-9  
Hebrews 11:32-12:2

**Fri., Jan. 6**  
*Epiphany*  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

**Sat., Jan. 7**  
Psalm 29  
1 Samuel 7:3-17  
Acts 9:19b-31

**Sun., Jan. 8**  
*The Baptism of Christ*  
Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

**Mon., Jan. 9**  
Psalm 89:5-37  
Genesis 35:1-15  
Acts 10:44-48

**Tues., Jan. 10**  
Psalm 89:5-37  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Acts 8:4-13

**Wed., Jan. 11**  
Psalm 89:5-37  
Isaiah 51:1-16  
Matthew 12:15-21

**Thurs., Jan. 12**  
Psalm 40:1-11  
Isaiah 22:15-25  
Galatians 1:6-12

**Fri., Jan. 13**  
Psalm 40:1-11  
Genesis 27:30-38  
Acts 1:1-5

**Sat., Jan. 14**  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Kings 19:19-21  
Luke 5:1-11

**Sun., Jan. 15**  
*Second Sunday after Epiphany*  
Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

**Mon., Jan. 16**  
Psalm 40:6-17  
Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28  
Acts 8:26-40

**Tues., Jan. 17**  
Psalm 40:6-17  
Isaiah 53:1-12  
Hebrews 10:1-4

**Wed., Jan. 18**  
Psalm 40:6-17  
Isaiah 48:12-21  
Matthew 9:14-17

**Thurs., Jan. 19**  
Psalm 27:1-6  
1 Samuel 1:1-20  
Galatians 1:11-24

**Fri., Jan. 20**  
Psalm 27:1-6  
1 Samuel 9:27-10:8  
Galatians 2:1-10

**Sat., Jan. 21**  
Psalm 27:1-6  
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13  
Luke 5:27-32

**Sun., Jan. 22**  
*Third Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

**Mon., Jan. 23**  
Psalm 27:7-14  
Judges 6:11-24  
Ephesians 5:6-14

**Tues., Jan. 24**  
Psalm 27:7-14  
Judges 7:12-22  
Philippians 2:12-18

**Wed., Jan. 25**  
Psalm 27:7-14  
Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26  
Luke 1:67-79

**Thurs., Jan. 26**  
Psalm 15  
Deuteronomy 16:18-20  
1 Peter 3:8-12

**Fri., Jan. 27**  
Psalm 15  
Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4  
1 Timothy 5:17-24

**Sat., Jan. 28**  
Psalm 15  
Micah 3:1-4  
John 13:31-35

**Sun., Jan. 29**  
*Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

**Mon., Jan. 30**  
Psalm 37:1-17  
Ruth 1:1-18  
Philemon 1-25

**Tues., Jan. 31**  
Psalm 37:1-17  
Ruth 2:1-16  
James 5:1-6



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# January Calendar

<b>Jan 1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> 10 Communion 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	<b>2</b> <b>New Year's Day observed</b> 6p Food Pantry - LL 7p NA-FH	<b>3</b> 8:30 Play Groups - MR 4p Brownies - LL 6:15p Girl Scouts - FH 7:30p Stewardship - MR	<b>4</b> 6p Girl Scouts - LL 6:30p WG&F - FH	<b>5</b> 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10 Worship 11:30 Growth - FR 4p Tiger Den - LL 7:30p AA-FH	<b>9</b> 6p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	<b>10</b> 8:30 Play Groups - MR 7p Deacons - MR 7p Outreach - MR	<b>11</b> 6p Girl Scouts - LL 7p CE - FR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	<b>12</b> 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Worship 11:30 M-Uke-Sicians - FR 7:30p AA-FH	<b>16</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Martin Luther King Day</b> 7p NA-FH	<b>17</b> 8:30 Play Groups - MR 4p Brownies - LL 6:15p Girl Scouts - FH	<b>18</b> 6p Girl Scouts - LL 7p Cabinet-MR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	<b>19</b> 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	<b>20</b> 5p Webelos - MR 6:30p Pack 35 - FH	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	<b>23</b> 6p Girl Scouts - MR 7p NA-FH	<b>24</b> 8:30 Play Groups - MR	<b>25</b> 7p Trustees-FR 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	<b>26</b> 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	<b>27</b> <b>Womens Retreat - offsite</b> 6p Webelos - MR	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10 Worship 7:30p AA-FH	<b>30</b> 7p NA-FH	<b>31</b> 8:30 Play Groups - MR 4p Brownies - LL	Feb 1 6p Girl Scouts - LL 6:30p WG&F - FH 7:30p BSU Choir - ST	<b>2</b> 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

\*This calendar is subject to change at any time. For the most up to date calendar at all times, please visit [cscucc.org](http://cscucc.org).

Church Administration

**Pastor:** Rev. Elizabeth Walden Stotts – [csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com)

**Congregational Administrator:** Ellen Atherton – [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com)

**Sexton:** Rich Sullivan

**Interim Music Director:** Julia Scott Carey

**Treasurer:** Larry Brown [treasurer@cscucc.com](mailto:treasurer@cscucc.com)

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