



From the Desk of the Reverend

Lent is a time of self-reflection and growing in one's faith. It is often thought of as a time for quiet and solitude, a time for repentance and re-evaluation of who and how one is in the world. In our scriptures the Greek word which is used for repentance is *metanoia* (met-ah-noyah). Metanoia is a compound word which combines the two meanings of time and change, so that the whole compound means: 'to think differently after'. Metanoia is "change of mind and heart", or, "change of consciousness".

I know that we confess each week, but how much do we commit to being changed? So often the word change has negative connotations. But what if change is the whole purpose of the Church?

I have frequently wondered about the purpose of our church; what is it that we are called to be and do in the world? What if our purpose is to promote change of mind and heart? What if our purpose is to help change the lives of those in our church, those in the surrounding community, and in the wider world?

It seems to me that perhaps this is our purpose: to change lives with the help of God and the Good News. In so many ways we are already living this out. I hear stories almost every week of church members who have been supported and cared for by the ministry of this community of faith. We get letters from community organizations thanking us for our support. Many of us get to see, first hand, the people whose lives we impact by volunteering at the food pantry, or by sharing a meal, or taking warm clothing to the homeless.

By God's grace we are helping to change lives! Now we just need to work on telling the stories of theses remarkable changes. There are lives being changed and we are all part of making these changes happen. So this Lent, as part of our repentance, we will continue to be changed by our faith and God's grace, but in addition I'd like for you to share with each other all the ways you have been changed or helped by Central Square Church. You might want to share the story of a simple kindness from a member that helped make your day or your week feel a little less burdensome. You might recall a sermon or prayer that challenged or inspired you to make a difficult decision. Share and listen to the stories of change out in the community that we have been instrumental in bringing about. How have you been changed?

Children of God, lives are being changed! Let us be inspired to proclaim this good news to God and to each other. Amen!

In Christ,

Rev Beth



March 21(10 am)Fireplace RoomPractices in Breathing Meditation

March 28(10 am)Fireplace RoomBook Discussion "Breathing Under Water" by Richard Rohr

March 29(10 am)SanctuaryPalm Sunday Worship Service

April 2(7 pm)SanctuaryMaundy Thursday Worship Service

April 4(10 am)Fireplace RoomEnd of Life Planning and Discussion

April 5(6:30 am)Hanson FarmEaster Sunday Sunrise Service

April 5(10 am)SanctuaryEaster Sunday Worship Service

From the Board of Deacons



Why do we give up something for Lent?

Neela Kale Answers:

You're out with your friends on a Friday night and suddenly you notice that one of them has switched from his favorite microbrew to... lemonade? Is it time for Lent already? Giving up something for Lent sometimes evokes head-scratching in non-Catholics, but what might seem like just another Catholic eccentricity can actually be a practice with deep spiritual significance.

Lent, the period of 40 days that precedes the celebration of Easter, has its origin in the early days of the Church. Converts seeking to become Christian, who at that time were mostly adults, spent several years in study and preparation. Under the threat of Roman persecution, becoming a Christian was serious business, so their process of preparation was intensive! Then they went through a final period of "purification and enlightenment" for the 40 days before their baptism at Easter. The rest of the Church began to observe the season of Lent in solidarity with these newest Christians. It became an opportunity for all Christians to recall and renew the commitment of their baptism.

Today we know Lent as a season of conversion: we acknowledge the ways we have turned away from God in our lives and we focus on turning our hearts and minds back toward God. Hence the three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These observances help us turn away from whatever has distracted or derailed us and to turn back to God. Giving up something for Lent is ultimately a form of fasting. We can deprive ourselves of some small pleasure or indulgence and offer that sacrifice up to God. Or we might "give up" a bad habit such as smoking as a way of positively turning our life back towards what God wants for us.

So maybe your mom was on to something when she had you give up Oreos or your favorite TV show as a child. An experience of want, however temporary, can help us to appreciate the true abundance in our lives. And a small positive change can have a big impact that lasts beyond the 40 days of Lent.

Take the time now to think about what you might give up this year. Is it something you enjoy that you want to sacrifice for a while, like your daily latte? Or is it a bad habit you want to conquer, like running in late to meetings with co-workers? Or perhaps you want to turn your cell phone off for a few hours each day and not let it distract you from the loved ones you are with in real time? Find something that works for you, and whatever it is, may it help you to turn towards God in this holy season of Lent.

Board of Deacons

From the Board of Trustees

Just like everyone else in the area, the winter weather has been the primary concern of your Board of Trustees over the past month. We have been unable to secure a commitment for snow removal by any of the groups that use the church facilities. Despite our best efforts, we were not able to keep up with the required snow removal, so we have enlisted a local contractor to maintain our walkways and the accessibility ramp. We are also dealing with the same structural integrity concerns and ice damming that you probably are. **We'd like to take moment to give a huge thank you to Dave Hanson who has done a yeoman's job clearing the snow off the roof.** Obviously, it can't be stressed enough how important this is and we would like to publicly thank him. Ice dams have caused some water issues that we are investigating now and we will have a damage assessment done very soon.

In addition to managing weather challenges, we have also upgraded the fire panel in the church and are adding additional smoke detectors to the lower level. I'd like to thank John Sharland for shepherding this extremely important project.

The Trustees would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to Richard Ellis of Bridgewater Towing for his generous donation of a snow blower for use at the parsonage – it certainly couldn't have come at a better time!



Finally, we are always looking for help maintaining the church and the parsonage. If you have a skill or a trade and you would like to volunteer some time, your gift is encouraged and welcome. Please send an email to <u>cscc.trustees@gmail.com</u> if you'd like to help out.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Tom Struzik, Chair

From the Board of Stewardship



How to Invite Someone to Church-a short primer: In Matthew 28:19 Christ told his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations."

This starts with a simple question: "Would you like to go to church with me?"

Ask yourself, who do I know – friend, neighbor, co-worker, family member, acquaintance – that God is putting on my heart to invite to church? Then do it! Some people need to warm up to the idea and need to be asked more than once. Don't give up! Try inviting to a Fellowship Breakfast or Dinner, Family Ministry activity, or other events at Central Square.

Research shows that only **2%** of church goers invite an unchurched person to church, but that **82%** of the unchurched are likely to attend *if invited*!

In God's hands,

Your Board of Stewardship Mike, Rob and Jim

Do someone you know a favor; invite them to Easter services and help them to see how they can fill their life with hope, healing, and new life. - Growth

From the Board of Outreach

The Outreach Committee had our 2nd distribution for **Warmth in Cold Places** on Tuesday, February 24th at the St Thomas Episcopal Church soup kitchen in Taunton. It was 5 below zero when we got up that morning and only about 5 degrees when people started coming in for breakfast. There weren't as many people as normal for breakfast and the distribution was slow, but it really picked up at lunch time and we were able to distribute most of the clothing we had brought with us. It was heartwarming (literally and figuratively) to be able to provide clothing to those who obviously have a great need. Thanks to all in the congregation for your donations, we had plenty of items to give out!



Food Pantry Donations Needed

The food pantry has been relatively slow this past month due mostly to the crazy weather we have experienced! The holiday rush of donations has now come to a crawl and we are getting low on many food items. We could use donations of peanut butter, jelly, canned soup, coffee, tea, juice boxes, apple juice, baking goods, snacks, cereal, baked beans, and pasta sauce. We also have a need for paper towels, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes and other toiletry items.

Our focus now turns to helping out with the Mission Youth Dinner. The Outreach team will be setting up tables and chairs on Friday March 13th and setting out the place settings on Saturday March 14th. The Outreach committee donated \$800.00 to the Mission Youth to pay for the food so that all money received from the event will go directly into the Mission Youth account.

Women's Guild & Fellowship

Come Join Us!



March 4th Women's Guild Meeting at 6:30 - 7:30 followed by Coffee House Poetry Night with Janet Colford.....back by popular demand!

Women's Guild is responsible for hosting Coffee Hour after worship for the month of March. Please contact Sandy or Phoebe if you can help out on March 15, 22 and 29!

It's not too early to think about our Spring Rummage Sale.....time to clean out your closets, basements and attics! We will be accepting small furniture this year - end tables, bookcases, chairs, etc. No electronics please (such as tvs, computers, printers, and the like).

We are also looking for names of Veterans who served with the armed forces in WW II, Korea, Desert Storm, Vietnam to invite to our Veterans Appreciation Dinner on April 14 along with a guest. Chef Basler has come up with a very delicious menu for this event! Once again, contact Sandy or Phoebe with names.

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The next **Cabinet meeting** is **WEDNESDAY**, **MARCH 18!** Please mark your calendar now, and if you are a Board or Committee Chair, or an officer, please plan on attending.

Thank you!



"FELLOWSHIP FURNITURE MAKES A HOUSE A HOME" (Advance notice for WG&F's Spring Rummage Sale, April 11)

Do you have a table looking for a dining/coffee companion? Any desks yearning for students? A chair to welcome a guest? Homey-hutches (not large) to house your treasures? Mirror-mirror on the wall? One picture is worth how many words? Bookcases awaiting literary company?

Shoppers may view--and become the owner--of these items at the newest shop, "Fellowship Furniture", to debut at the WG&F Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 11. Weather permitting, this will be a outdoor Canopy Corner event.

Beginning March 1, we will be accepting donations of furniture and certain home decor accessories (mirrors, pictures, etc.) But please remember that 2 or 3 gals generally will be lifting/moving these items, so we cannot accept large weighty pieces. NO ELECTRONICS OR TVS.

Call Marie Nelson, Rummage co-chair, at 508-947-6920, or email at <u>renman.ma@verizon.net</u> to discuss condition, size, and of course "drop-off" of the items you wish to donate. Items for the sale (including all Rummage goods) will be received at the church during the week of April 6.

Note: if your donated item is not sold we will request that you arrange for its removal.



All Youth programs are open to all youth in grades 7 through 12. Please join us! View the Youth Calendar at csccuccyouth.wordpress.com. And follow us on Facebook for the latest news.

Sunday, March 1st

Breakfast Club

9:00 AM

All Youth will get breakfast in the Kitchen, then come down to the Youth Room!

10:00 AM

Worship with Scout Sunday . If you're a Scout, please wear your uniform.

Mission Dinner Meeting

11:30 AM

All youth, parents, and others involved in the Mission Dinner, please come down to the Youth Room for a planning meeting after Worship.

Sunday, March 8th

Youth Sunday School

10:20 AM – 11:15 AM

Youth will begin in Worship at 10:15 AM, then proceed to Sunday School around 10:20 AM.

Friday, March 13th

Mission Dinner Setup

Watch out for an email or check the Mission Facebook page for your shift times.

Saturday, March 14th

Mission Dinner!

6:30 PM

All Youth going on the Mission Trip are required to participate. Other Youth are encouraged to support this event.

Sunday, March 15th

Youth Sunday School

10:20 AM – 11:15 AM

Youth will begin in Worship at 10:15 AM, then proceed to Sunday School around 10:20 AM.

Sunday, March 22nd

Youth Sunday School

10:20 AM – 11:15 AM

Youth will begin in worship at 10:15 AM, then proceed to Sunday School around 10:20 AM.

Sunday, March 29th

Palm Sunday

10:00 AM

Worship will feature a presentation by children & Youth.

Youth Adventure!

11:30 AM

Join Deb & Rev. Beth for Lunch & a Labyrinth walk!



Palm Sunday – Images of Holy Week

We have such a wonderful gift at CSCC. It is always there quietly waiting for an opportunity to come forth. Sometimes we experience it through a song played by a musical instrument and other times through a moving liturgical dance. Sometimes we hear it in a prayer or a sermon and other times we witness it during The Message for All Ages. This wonderful gift is our children and youth. They are imaginative and creative and we will have a glimpse of that talent in the next few weeks. Their imagination will be challenged as they will be asked to tell the stories of Holy Week through live pictures. The youth will hear the stories of Holy Week, select one that speaks to them and then help create a picture that tells that story. They will use costumes, props, and themselves to portray this story. Many of the children participated in this event last year. How will this be different this year? Each child will be asked to select a different story. You will see all ages working together to create a new image. Come to church on Palm Sunday to hear the eight Bible stories and witness the pictures that tell the story of **The Images of Holy Week**.

Heifer

The children and youth invited the congregation to join them Feb. 1 after church to experience **The Living Gift Market.** They sold a variety of food such as sheep cupcakes, pizza, cheese trays for cheeses of the world, chicken wings and much more in order to raise money for the sponsorship of animals. Chickens from Hanson's farm paid a visit, llama rides were offered and a challenge to bowl with a stuffed sheep. It was a fun and a profitable day for each class. The following animals were successfully sponsored by the classes with the help of donations from the congregation, 3 Flocks of Hope (ducks, geese, & chicks), a Basket of Hope (chicks & rabbits), trees, 2 sheep, a llama, 2 goats and a water buffalo. The following totals were realized by each class: pre-k & Kindergarten – \$109.53, GRADES 1 & 2 – \$115.30, GRADES 3 & 4 - \$167.67, GRADES 5 & 6 - \$311.61, GRADES 7 – 12 - \$216.69 the congregation \$276.31 FOR A TOTAL OF \$1197.11.

Thank you to parents and members of the congregation for supporting the children's efforts. You helped to make the Living Gift Market a success.

2015 Mission Dinner

Saturday, March 14 at 6:30pm! Call the office at 508-697-6016 to make your reservations now!



SIT DOWN, RELAX AND ENJOY ALL THE COMFORTS OF OUR UPSTATE HIDEAWAY

APPETIZER PLATE \$12 Steak on a Stick, Brown Sugar Bites, Corn Chips and Campfire Dip

ENTREES \$18 Upstate Pot Roast with Roasted Vegetables *Gluten Free Cassoulet Chicken with Roasted Vegetables *Gluten Free

Hideaway Pork Stew with Chorizo

All Entrees served with Campfire Wedge Salad with Buttermilk Ranch Dressing topped with Bacon Bits Hot Water Biscuits and Cornbread with Maple Butter

SWEET ENDINGS \$5

Some-Mores – Vanilla Ice Cream Topped with S'mores Pineapple Upside-Down Cake Indian Pudding *Gluten Free

DRINKS \$2 Coffee, Tea, Bottled Water, Ginger Ale, Cranberry Lemonade

Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 6:30pm Thank You For Helping Us Celebrate The Great Mission Work Our Youth Have Been Doing For The Past 13 Years With Your Support! Enjoy! Chef Basler



The 2015 Nominating Committee is formed and about to start its annual work! I'm extremely grateful to those that have accepted the role of committee member, and the service these folks have committed to. They will do you proud!

I have two requests of all the other members of the church. First, if a member of the Nominating Committee approaches you about serving on a board or committee, I ask that you take the time to consider it. We understand most of our lives are wildly busy these days. And we understand that so many of you already serve and support the work of the church in so many ways. And I, personally, am grateful to you for that.

I said it last year, but I'll say it again. The "blessing and the curse" of how much our church has to offer is that that requires time, talent, and energy. We need people to step up and say "I can help!" It might even require some of you to step a bit out of your comfort zone. Or it may just ask you to offer up the talent and expertise that God (and experience) have blessed you with, and to pay it forward.

Whichever one of these applies to you, I simply ask that you thoughtfully and prayerfully consider any request a member of the nominating committee may make of you. And in making that decision, if you feel that it's just not a commitment you can make at this time, but are willing to participate in the work of a specific committee on, perhaps, just a project or two, please let the nominating committee know that. Maybe you just want to work on a golf tournament fundraiser, but not officially be on a committee? Maybe you feel called to help with the food pantry, or the breakfasts, or the mission dinner, or the fair... just let us know. More hands to help are always welcome.

On the other hand, before someone approaches you, if you feel called to do work in a specific area, or you have talents or interest in an area we might not be aware of, please reach out to one of the committee to express your interest, ask questions, and explore whether there might be a good match for you with a board or committee. We're all in this together, and the only way we continue to flourish is by the commitment and can-do attitude of individuals like you and me.

I am pleased to announce that this year's Nominating Committee is comprised of: Anne Malmquist, Denise Molinari, Barbara Morey, Rob Basler, Brad Barnsley, and John Schuller.

Remember that our work requires all of us to pitch in in small ways and in big; from experienced "old-timers" and those new to the table; of the young and the not-as-young-as-we-used-to-be. Everyone is welcome to play a part in the work that we do here at Central Square Congregational Church. And to paraphrase a familiar saying, no matter who you are, or what talents and skills you have to offer, there's a place for you here at Central Square.

Thanks for all that each of you do, and for who you are from Diane Sheibley, Moderator

Daily Lectionary Scripture References March 2015 (Year B)

Sun., Mar. 1 Second Sunday in Lent Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

Mon., Mar. 2 Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 Genesis 21:1-7 Hebrews 1:8-12

Tues., Mar. 3 Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 Genesis 22:1-19 Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

Wed., Mar. 4 Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 Jeremiah 30:12-22 John 12:36-43

Thurs., Mar. 5 Psalm 19 Exodus 19:1-9a 1 Peter 2:4-10

Fri., Mar. 6 Psalm 19 Exodus 19:9b-15 Acts 7:30-40

Sat., Mar. 7 Psalm 19 Exodus 19:16-25 Mark 9:2-8

Sun., Mar. 8 Third Sunday in Lent Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

Mon., Mar. 9 Psalm 84 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Tues., Mar. 10 Psalm 84 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19 Hebrews 9:23-28 Wed., Mar. 11 Psalm 84 Ezra 6:1-16 Mark 11:15-19

Thurs., Mar. 12 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Genesis 9:8-17 Ephesians 1:3-6

Fri., Mar. 13 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Daniel 12:5-13 Ephesians 1:7-14

Sat., Mar. 14 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Numbers 20:22-29 John 3:1-13

Sun., Mar. 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

Mon., Mar. 16 Psalm 107:1-16 Exodus 15:22-27 Hebrews 3:1-6

Tues., Mar. 17 Psalm 107:1-16 Numbers 20:1-13 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Wed., Mar. 18 Psalm 107:1-16 Isaiah 60:15-22 John 8:12-20

Thurs., Mar. 19 Psalm 51:1-12 Isaiah 30:15-18 Hebrews 4:1-13

Fri., Mar. 20 Psalm 51:1-12 Exodus 30:1-10 Hebrews 4:14-5:4

Sat., Mar. 21 Psalm 51:1-12 Habakkuk 3:2-13 John 12:1-11 Sun., Mar. 22 Fifth Sunday in Lent Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

Mon., Mar. 23 Psalm 119:9-16 Isaiah 43:8-13 2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Tues., Mar. 24 Psalm 119:9-16 Isaiah 44:1-8 Acts 2:14-24

Wed., Mar. 25 Psalm 119:9-16 Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23 John 12:34-50

Thurs., Mar. 26 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Deuteronomy 16:1-8 Philippians 2:1-11

Fri., Mar. 27 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Jeremiah 33:1-9 Philippians 2:12-18

Sat., Mar. 28 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Jeremiah 33:10-16 Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

Sun., Mar. 29 Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a;Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]

Mon., Mar. 30 Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11

Tues., Mar. 31 Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36



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March Palenter

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mar 1 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Communion 10 Worship 2:45p Webelos 1 - FH 4p Wolf Den - MR 7p AA-FH	2 6p Food Pantry - LL 7p NA-FH	3 8:30 Play Groups - MR 7p CE - MR 7:30p Stewardship - FR	4 6p Girl Scouts - Nursery 6:15p Daisys - LL 6:30p WG&F - FH 7:30p BSU - ST	5 9 Staff Mtg - FR 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Mens AWOL - LL 7p Pack Com - MR 7p Al-Anon - FH	6 7p Al-Anon- MR	7
8 Daylight Saving Time star 10 Worship 10:20 Youth Prog - LL 11:30 Growth - FR 7p AA-FH	9 7p NA-FH	10 8:30 Play Groups - MR 6p Daisys - FH 7p Outreach - FR	11 7p Deacons - FR 7:30p BSU - ST	12 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Mens AWOL - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	13 6p Kids of the Kingdom - L 7p Al-Anon- MR	14 6p Mission Dinner - FH
15 9 Breakfast - FH 10 Worship 11:30 Youth Group - LL 7p AA-FH	16 7p NA-FH	17	18 6p Girl Scouts - Nursery 6:15p Daisys - LL 7p Cabinet-MR 7:30p BSU - ST	19 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Mens AWOL - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	20 7p Al-Anon- MR	21 10 Practices in Breathing N
22 10 Worship 10:20 Youth Prog - LL 4p Daisys - MR 7p AA-FH	23 7p NA-FH	24 8:30 Play Groups - MR 6p Daisys - FH	25 7p Trustees-FR 7:30p BSU - ST	26 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Mens AWOL - LL 7p Al-Anon - FH	27 7p Al-Anon- MR	28 10 Book Discussion - FR
29 10 Worship 11:30 Youth Adventure! 2:45p Webelos 1 - FH 4p Tiger Den - LL 4p Wolf Den - MR 7p AA-FH	30 7p NA-FH	31 8:30 Play Groups - MR	Apr 1 6p Girl Scouts - Nursery 6:15p Daisys - LL 6:30p WG&F - FH 7:30p BSU - ST	2 10 Food Pantry - LL 7p Mens AWOL - LL 7p Pack Com - MR 7p Al-Anon - FH 7p Worship - ST	3 7p Al-Anon- MR	4

*This calendar is subject to change at any time. For the most up to date calendar at all times, please visit csccucc.org.

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