

Rev. Lawrence T. Starr: Pastor
Church Office: 665-7331
Pastor's Study: 665-4888

February 2012

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Greetings from Green Street,

Don't we all love to talk about the weather! Last year it was all about the snow that wouldn't stop. This year, none. While snow is lovely and all, I'll take this year. No cancelled church or meetings (at least so far!) The skiers can have all the snow they want - just keep it above the New Hampshire border!

February brings the beginning of Lent. **Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22.** As usual, those who want to usher in the sacred season will gather for worship that night. It is always a small group. It is always a deeply spiritual service. I hope you will come. After that, we will have our usual special Lenten events. You will receive a brochure highlighting the series in a few weeks.

Lent is also a special time for the choir. Rather than a cantata this year, the focus will be to have the music at each Lenten service complement the theme of the day. Some extra rehearsals will be called. I look forward to what the choir will present and imagine that each number will be a lovely addition to the service of the day.

A few weeks before Christmas I wrote to you all about the deficit we were facing. I invited those who could, to help make up the shortfall. In some cases it was a matter of catching-up on pledges - in others it was to make a special extra gift. I am so pleased to share that a number of you responded and we were able to erase just about all of the red ink. Amazing! Once again you have shown yourselves to be extremely generous and truly remarkable in your commitment to our church. You inspire me. You make me so proud to be pastor here. Thanks to everyone for caring and those who were able to create another "little miracle" within our fellowship.

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting in a few weeks. Whether you are a member or not, come, hear the reports and understand our structure, the ministry and our finances more fully. The reports that are presented are interesting and informative. Come and look at the details of our little miracle which met the deficit that loomed. Ask a question or make a comment. We covet your presence and input.

I hope you are fending off some awful winter colds that have been around this year. When you are not here, we miss you. And if you have been absent from "your" pew for any reason this winter, come on back! A blessing awaits.

Love, joy & peace.

Pastor Starr



Winter Weekend 2012 was a wonderful experience. There was fun, laughter, new friendships formed, old friendships celebrated, copious junk food consumed and many playful traditions revisited. The final total was 48, a new record! New attendees included the Dillers, Thompsons, Maloneys, Katie MacKinnon, Mackenzie Bright and Keith Lovett. The McNeillys were there too but not for the photo.

The theme was **Spiritual Treasure** based on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22. The reality that “the fruit” flow into the believer from the Holy Spirit prompted an exploration of both the Spirit and the fruit. It was educational, challenging and inspirational. Closing worship included Communion this year where each person was encouraged to commit to a deeper, stronger connection to the Holy Spirit.

If you are not in this picture, you’re missing out. The date for next year is Jan. 25-27. Write it down!

Bread of Life This Month

All are reminded that February is a Bread of Life month, basically because this is a leap year! On Feb. 29 the crew will gather the donations of Shepherds Pie and brownies and serve them to disadvantaged folks at St. Paul’s in Malden. Thanks to all who contribute and to Sue Hamilton for providing leadership.

Celebrate Italian Style

This annual Italian Dinner is scheduled for March 3. At this point there are only a few places left but being on the waiting list has often worked out as people have cancelled in the past. Thanks in advance to Maria Frazier and to the young people who will serve. It is always a delightful event.

Painting Project Completed

Three crews of painters tackled the Archive Room and hallway on the third floor. It looks maaaaarvelous. Thanks to all who participated and to Lee LaPerche and the Property Committee for providing leadership.

Call to Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 12:15 PM. The Annual Meeting for presentation of reports, the election of officers, boards and committees & such other business as may come before it will be held as indicated above.

Annual Reports from committee chairpersons and church officers are due now.

February 2012






Birthdays

2 - Will Tetterton
 12 - Kathy Harlow
 13 - Connie Rice
 15 - Ken Strum

19 - Ingrid Long
 23 - Rob Harlow
 23 - Dorrie Swales
 24 - Andrew McNeilly
 28 - Debbie McVicar

Anniversaries

06 - Elaine & Jim Lally
 14 - Wendy & George Lovett
 21 - Grace & George Tura

			1	2	3	4 8:00 Men's Group
5 11:00 Worship & Communion	6	7	8 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer	9 	10	11
12 11:00 Worship	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer	16 6:30 CTNG - with Gail Corcione at Olive Garden 7:00 Trustees	17	18
19 9:30 Mission Committee Mtg. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Annual Business Meeting	20 President's Day 	21 7:00 Christian Ed	22 7:00 Worship 	23 7:00 Property Committee	24	25
26 11:00 Lenten Worship	27	28	29 5:30 Bread of Life 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer	