

# THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission is to change peoples' lives  
through a relationship with Jesus Christ

March 2009



## From The Pastor's Heart

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Just recently I came across this story:

Peter's parents approached him about Lent. "We will give up something for Lent if you do," they said. "If you give up candy, we will give up drinking."

Peter wasn't too crazy about giving up candy, but he decided that his parents drank too much anyway, and it would be worth it. Two days later, on a Saturday morning, he was passing through the living room on his way to the kitchen. He noticed that his parents had some friends over, and they were all sitting around drinking beer. He approached his dad, and said "I thought you were going to give up drinking!" His father, flustered at being caught, stammered "Oh, Son, this is just beer. It doesn't count. I meant mixed drinks. Hard liquor, son, hard liquor." Peter thought about this for a while, and said "Okay, Dad," and went on into the kitchen. A few minutes later he came out munching a Hershey's candy bar. His father said to him, "Son, I thought you were going to give up candy for Lent." His son replied, "I am, Dad. Hard candy, hard candy."

Well, here we are, folks! The season of Lent is upon us. I wonder though, what does this mean to you personally? Is it business as usual? Do you go back to your childhood ideas about giving something up? (I was taught if you gave something up, like candy, that Sunday's were free days. On Sunday you could break the fast and could eat candy.) Or do you kind of fudge the terms of your approach as you go along? Do you maybe really try to attend worship on a more regular basis? Do you rethink your relationship with Christ --- and try to deepen it?

What does this Lenten season mean to you?

I invite you to consider marking this season with intentional discipleship!

Stop what you are doing right this minute. Think for just a moment what your heart yearns to do as a follower of Jesus Christ to mark this season. You may want to fast from buying things for yourself, maybe stop eating a particular favorite food, maybe spend less time watching TV, and then take each intentional opportunity to refrain as a reminder of Christ's own sacrifice for all of us. You may want to add a spiritual discipline to your life, such as a morning or evening prayer time, or maybe time for spiritual reading or for reading the Bible (The Sunday Scripture readings for March are included in this newsletter). You may want to join a men's or women's group or perhaps a study group. You may want to become involved in some kind of community service.

Prayerfully consider what God may be calling you to intentionally do to mark this holy season. Now, write your intention and commitment down on a piece of paper and then place this paper some place that you will see it every day during Lent! Each morning intentionally look at your commitment and try to do whatever promised during the day.

I pray that this holy season of Lent will mean much more than just adding something to your already busy schedule. May an intentional commitment to discipleship instead deepen your relationship with Christ in such a way that your heart will be changed and your life transformed!

May you be richly blessed as you take your Lenten journey!

Rev. Michele

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### Special points of interest:

- Capital Campaign Update
- Lenten Readings



## A Poem for Lent

Lent is a time to take the time  
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,  
a time to let the events  
get up and walk around in us,  
a time to intensify  
our living into Christ,  
a time to hover over  
the thoughts of our hearts,  
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem  
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,  
a time to touch his robe  
and feel the healing surge through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...  
Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

*Poem is from the book Kneeling in Jerusalem by Ann Weems*

## Lectionary Readings for March

March 1 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

I Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

March 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

March 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

I Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

March 22 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

March 29 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

## **Blue Bag Food Drive for March**

The "Blue Bag Food Drive" for the month of March will be collecting food for the Sutton Food Pantry. Items needed are peanut butter, Jelly, spaghetti sauce, canned meats such as Spam or canned stews. Pasta is not needed at this time. Please pick up your bags at the door on Sunday Feb. 22nd if you wish to participate. Return the bags on March 1st.

## **Weight At The Cross**

Our first Weight at the Cross (WATC) meeting was wonderful, with 14 of us present. We discussed what we would like to see come of this group. We will be setting up different opportunities for movement like walking groups, line dancing, round dancing, yoga, biking, etc. Keep an eye out for these activities. All are welcome! We will be walking March 1 at 3:45 at the Northbridge track for 1/2 hour. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4 at 7PM in the Activities Room. We look forward to having any interested people join us!

## **Prayer Shawl and Blanket Ministry**

As the group is fond of saying, "We knit, we crochet and we tie knots!" If you can do any of these things or wish to learn, join in the fun and prayer at the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Shawls are given as reminders of God's love in times of chaos and need and also in appreciation of ministry, weddings, births and transitions.

The Prayer Shawl and Blanket Ministry will meet on the Sunday, March 1 and Sunday, April 5 (first Sunday of each month) from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Meetings are held in Faith Hall at the church on 61 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts.

## **Good and Faithful Servant**

We salute Carolyn Mitchell this month as our Good and Faithful servant. Carolyn has given so much for so many years to the Church! She's been with us for some 30 years and has always been there with a helping hand when needed. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees, leads our Welcoming ministry, has organized the youth bell choir, works with the Friday morning volunteer cleaners, and leads (she's President) and keeps us connected to the Northbridge Association of Churches. And those are just her current activities! So, thank you Carolyn, for being such a good and faithful servant.

## **Women's Ministries**

### **Book Study**

A new book study will begin on March 3, and continues on March 17 and 31 from 7:15 - 8:30 in the Activities Room. We will be discussing "The Shack" by William P. Young.

### **Ladies Movie Night**

Ladies Movie Night at "Wilson's Theatre": Movie to be announced shortly. We will meet at 5PM for a potluck supper. Please RSVP to Danielle or Lee.

### **Women, Work, and Worship**

Women, Work and Worship (formerly known as Women's Craft Day) will meet Saturday, Feb. 28 from 9 to noon in Faith Hall at the church. Bring a goodie to share...or not. Bring a personal project to work on or come work on one of the many opportunities that will be available that day. There will be some sewing projects. If you have a sewing machine and wish to bring it, we can set you up with an easy task. We are working on our mission project, "One Dress at a Time" and handmade items for our small scale fair in November. All women in the church are invited to join hands and hearts to use our talents for the Lord's work. Our worship will be about recognizing our talents and honoring them. At our last workshop we had a wonderful and productive time. Do come!

# Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church

## Capital Campaign 2008

### **Background**

On July 15, 2007 the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church overwhelmingly approved motions to begin phase three of a four- phase building campaign.

Phase One: Repair work on church bell tower: Completed 4/2007, Cost \$115,000

Phase Two: Excavation and installation of new addition foundation: Completed 10/2007, Cost \$95,000

Phase Three: Construction of new addition: Completed 2008, Cost \$840,000

Phase Four: Original Church building renovations: Completion TBD, Cost TBD

In response to the congregation's direction a capital campaign committee was formed:

Chair Glenn King, Vice Chair Dean Fortin, Building Committee Chair Charlie Thompson, 2007 Trustees Chair Bob Marseglia, Finance Committee Chair Derek Plourde, and Reverend Michele Ewers. Mark Gentry and Jim Gallagher also attended meetings and participated in the process. Phase three had price tag of \$840,000, less available cash of \$258,879 resulting in a capital campaign need of \$581,121. The capital campaign sought donations as well as three-year pledges

### **2008.**

In 2008, \$78,142 was raised. This includes the fulfillment of pledges as well as additional donations. This money was used to reduce the amount of the mortgage necessary to fund completion of the project; a \$300,000 mortgage was obtained from UniBank for Savings. The fulfillment of pledges and additional donations will be used to meet the monthly mortgage obligation and to make additional payments towards the loan principle to retire the debt as soon as possible. The goal of the congregation is to retire the debt in 5 years. In 2008, \$25,000 of additional payments were made to reduce the amount of the mortgage principle. These additional payments will reduce the interest paid on the loan by over \$50,000!

This last year many members and friends of the church chose to make donations, in addition to their normal pledges, in honor of loved ones or in memory of those with our Lord in Heaven.

In Honor of	In Memory of	From Estates
Howard Anderson	Andrew Avedisian	Ruth Trowbridge Brown
Ruth Anderson	Danielle Beauchaine	
Barbara Fortin	Susan Gilmore	
Dean Fortin	Jeanne Hubbard	
Joshua Fortin	Janet Lathrop	
Justin Fortin	Cindy Marseglia	
Glenn King	George McNelly	
Charles Peter Rollins III	Eva O'Keefe	
	Eleanor Rosselli	
	Norman Spratt	
	Anna White	

**Boy Scout Troop 155**



Lyle Hamm, Scoutmaster  
358 Jessica Way  
Northbridge, MA 01534

February 24, 2009

Rev. Michele Ewers  
Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 55  
Whitinsville, MA 01588

Dear Rev. Ewers:

As of Tuesday, February 17, Troop 155 has returned to the Village Congregational Church as renovation work there has been completed. Now the process will begin of getting all of our equipment back to the church, renovating our own equipment room, and remounting our advancement board and Eagle Scout plaques in the downstairs hall.

The time spent at the United Methodist Church, nearly nine months, was critical in keeping our troop together and functioning during the time away from the Village Church. Faith Hall proved to be a very good space for our troop to meet. The boys may have been a little noisy, but we did our best to protect your new hall from any damage and tried to leave the place clean after each weekly meeting.

We also are appreciative of the church allowing us to host a supper on Saturday, April 4. Again, we will thoroughly clean the facility after the supper. I understand that many members of the church have expressed an interest in attending the supper. Charlie Thompson and Dean Fortin will handle ticket sales at your church.

As a token of our appreciation, please accept the enclosed check in the amount of \$500. Although not required or expected by you, we want to help with the electricity and heat used during our "occupation" of the church hall on Tuesday nights.

Please convey our sincere appreciation to all the members of the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church. We are wishing you great success in the years ahead.

Yours in Scouting,

Lyle Hamm  
Scoutmaster



## Spaghetti Supper

to benefit

Boy Scout Troop 155

*(Summer Camp Fund)*

Saturday, April 4, 2009

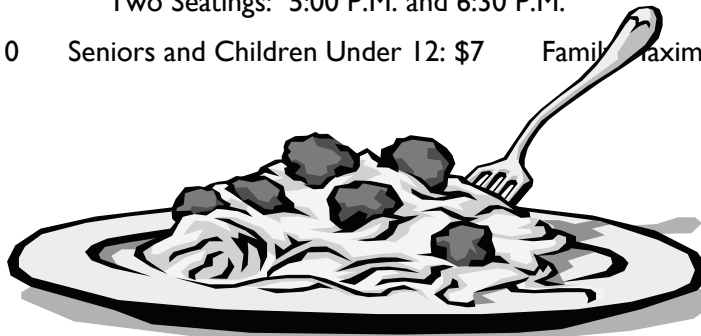
Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church, 61 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville

*~all you can eat~*

Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Dessert, Coffee & Punch

Two Seatings: 5:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M.

Tickets: \$10    Seniors and Children Under 12: \$7    Family Maximum: \$40





## Celebrations

### March Birthdays



- 4- Charles Peter Rollins III
- 6- Kimberly Nadreau
- 8- Bethany Wright
- 10- Elaine Berglund  
Brian Marszalkowski  
Jennifer Mellen
- 13- Tammy Gilpatrick
- 20- Madison Wollen
- 21- Emma Daigle  
Audry Sherry  
John Thibodeau
- 22- Renee Kipling
- 24- Peggy Codner  
Hunter Daigle  
Daniel Wright
- 25- Beth Barkley  
Sarah Oosterman
- 28- Suzanne Boudreau  
Ralph DiStefano  
Robert Mellen
- 29- Jessica Stevens



Please help the Communications Team keep the Birthday/Anniversary list up-to-date. Should you notice an error or omission, please let us know.

