



Life Together

March, 2010

WEST PARISH CHURCH
129 RESERVATION ROAD
ANDOVER, MA 01810-3430

Worship and Sunday School 10:00 AM

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From the Desk

of Rev. Thomas McMillan,
Senior Minister

I've occasionally seen a program listing for *Rick Steves' Europe* when flipping through the cable channel guide. Unfortunately, it's on at 11:30 on Sunday morning, a time when I'm usually busy with something else. I recently read an interview with Rick Steves, though, in which he made some points that seem relevant to the upcoming SPY mission trip to Pine Ridge.

Steves approaches travel as a spiritual thing, and says that his goal is to "inflict on comfortable Americans situations that they have never encountered before in the hope that they will gain an appreciation for their place in the world." That's a good goal for any mission trip. Of course, we want to help the Lakota and leave something useful behind. But what we bring back may ultimately be more important. And a better understanding of our place in the world wouldn't be a bad memento.

Understanding our place in the world means confronting our ethnocentrism, which is a challenge for all of us and not just for those who are going on the mission trip. We talk so much about the "American dream" that we begin to think that everyone should share our dream. Other people in other cultures, though, have dreams of their own. Maybe it's a Lakota dream, or maybe it's a Haitian dream or a Pakistani

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Worship for March

March 7 *Third Sunday in Lent*
"Lent Is All About Change"
Luke 55:1-9
+++++

March 14 *Forth Sunday in Lent*
OUTREACH SUNDAY
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
+++++

March 21 *Fifth Sunday in Lent*
"God's New Thing"
Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:4b-14
+++++

March 28 *Palm Sunday*
"The Stones Shout Out"
Luke 19:28-40
+++++



The March Call To Care Contact:

Bernadette Baird

978-758-8343

Please contact the "Call to Care" person with the names of any church member experiencing a life event in which church members may assist, i.e. birth, funeral receptions, cards, meals, etc.

Altar Flower Donations

Would you like to honor a loved one, celebrate a birthday, anniversary or graduation?

The Flower Committee invites you to donate flowers for the altar for upcoming Sunday services through the year.

Sign up in the Church Office, at Fellowship Hour or contact Abby Martin at 978-475-3869.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

March 24th is the deadline for the April Newsletter. Please leave your articles or notices in the Newsletter mailbox in the church office or email to: www.westparishchurch@verizon.net.

CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE SUPPER

Featuring Thwaites' Market Authentic New England Corned Beef

Saturday, March 13th

5:00-6:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

Adults \$10,

Children \$5

Bring a friend.

Pie donations requested. Volunteers needed. Please call Jon Glesmann at 978-470-2998.

AFTER WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR

The Men's Group
is sponsoring coffee hour
for the month of March.

Please join us following the worship service in Fellowship Hall.

Winter Storm Alert!!

If Sunday worship service or church school is canceled due to severe weather, it will be announced on WBZ News Radio 1030 and CBS, Channel 4; News 7, WHDH-TV and WCVB, Channel 5.

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dream, or a Palestinian dream. In any case, most of the world doesn't share the American dream, and that includes millions in this country. Not sharing the American dream does not mean there's something wrong with them.

Understanding our place in the world requires us to ask questions that get to issues of economic justice. As Rick Steves says, "Too often, when Christians visit a place where the people are poor, they bring home quilts those people have woven, but they don't ask, "Why are these people in such squalor?" That "why?" question brings us face to face with some pretty ugly, uncomfortable history. I recently read *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* and didn't find anything in it to make me proud. Our treatment of Native Americans can only be described as a genocide, and the reservation system is a shameful legacy of a policy our country followed for over three hundred years.

If we see things in terms of economic justice, we begin to see changes we can make that show our empathy for and solidarity with the poor. So many of our habits are driven by a consumerist mentality and serve to keep poor people poor. When we buy a pair of shoes, we ask if they're comfortable or sturdy or fashionable, and don't ask if the person who made them works in a dangerous sweatshop or earns enough to support a family and live with dignity. Our faith, however, teaches that God has a preferential option for the poor. When we ignore the effect of our economic choices, we put ourselves on the wrong side of God's plan and purpose.

Although I'm putting this in the context of our upcoming mission trip, it's something we all ought to think about whether we're going to Pine Ridge or not. And what better time to begin than the season of Lent that we're now in.

Blessings,

Tom



SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, March 13

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Sunday, March 14

Outreach Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing
Collection

Sunday, March 21

3:00 Woodwind Concert

Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 1

Maundy Thursday

7:30 Service

Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunday.

One service at 10:00AM

Thursday, April 15

Mother Daughter Banquet

Saturday, April 17

Ham and Bean Supper

Saturday, May 1

May Breakfast

Dave Harmoning is home from rehab following his hip replacement on 2/2. He is doing very well and would like to thank WP friends for all the prayers, cards, calls and visits. Thanks, Ellen

Thank you so much for all the cards and prayers after my recent surgery. Kathleen Cherny

“UNDIES SUNDAY”

This Lenten season will mark the 13th year **Communities Together** has sponsored its diaper and underwear drive for children in need in the greater Lawrence area. Last year, Communities Together collected over 18,000 individual items as part of this drive. The collection is shared with between 8 and 12 social service agencies able to reach those most in need. Food stamps and WIC vouchers *cannot* be used to purchase diapers.

Please limit your donations to diapers, pull-ups, and new children’s underwear.
Thank you very much!

West Parish will be collecting donations in the collection box located in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or in the office during the week.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED FOOD COLLECTION Sunday, March 7th

The bags may be returned **Sunday, March 7th**, or they may be left in the yellow container opposite the nursery any time.

Bags will be handed out on Sunday, March 28th for the **Sunday, April 4th collection.**

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: Sunday, March 14th

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church’s Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Nearly one-third of the UCC’s offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugee, disaster, development, and advocacy programs.

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 92 cents are used directly for mission programming.

**Please make checks payable to
“West Parish Church.” or contribute on-
line at:**

www.ucc.org/oghs

**sharing resources ...
changing lives...**

KOINONIA

**Monday, March 1st at noon
Fellowship Hall.**

Pot Luck Lunch will be served.

Koinonia is a social group of retired West Parish members and friends.

Contact Donna Ellsworth (978-475-3009) for more information or to request a ride.

Women's Evening Circle

**Thursday, March 11th
Fellowship Hall
7:30PM**

Pat Dumont, Certified Yoga Instructor
Leading us in "Chair Yoga"

Hostesses are: Toni Rollins and Marjorie Snell

If you are not on the WEC calling list and would like to attend this evening, please call Phyllis Klockow at 978-208-0920.

Chocolate Extravaganza

An extravaganza is described by Webster's dictionary as "a lavish or spectacular show or event". I think we can safely say that West Parish's Chocolate Extravaganza was a spectacular event! More than 200 church and community folks came out on Sunday, January 31, to sample the finest, sweet chocolate desserts on the planet. It was a heart-felt feeling to be among those who enjoyed the rich cupcakes, brownies, fudge, tortes, or other specialties and the camaraderie of our supporters.

To each and every member who baked, worked, attended, contributed to the raffle, bought tickets or any or all of the above, Thank You. It would not have been as successful without your help. A special thanks to Sam Vano who contacted Andover merchants requesting gifts for our raffle. With ticket sales and raffle tickets we earned over \$1850 towards our Spy and adult mission trip to South Dakota—a fun fundraiser for a great project.

Bernadette, Marie & Nancy

Easter Plant Orders

Due No later than Sunday, March 28, 2010

(Funds received after this date are contributed to the Flower Committee General Fund)

Easter is **April 4th**, just a few weeks away. It's time to place your order for Easter Plants used to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, and to remember our loved ones.

Lilies: \$12.00

Choose from:

*White,
Mona Lisa Pink, and
NEW pale yellow)*

Tulips: \$9.00

Tulip colors are subject to availability.

Please complete this form, and make your checks payable to "West Parish Church Flower Committee."

Return order form to the church office or place in the collection plate during worship.

Any questions, please call Abby Martin at: 978-475-3869 or email at: sebaqo21@comcast.net

Easter Plant Order Form

Return by **Sunday, March 28, 2010**

With check payable to "**West Parish Church Flower Committee**"

Given By: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving of: _____

Number of Tulips (@ \$9.00 each) _____

Number of Lilies (@ \$12.00 each) _____

Circle Lily choice: *White, Mona Lisa Pink, or NEW pale yellow)*

TOTAL: _____

_____ I will take my plant(s) home after the Easter Service on April 4th (one service at 10:00AM)

_____ Have the Ministry of Fellowship deliver to a shut-in.

Come and sing with the choir for Lent and Easter!

We have special music planned each Sunday during Lent

March 7: *Cantique* by Gabriel Faure (sung in French)

March 14: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*, by Marshall Thomason
with Roxann Nickerson, Oboe

March 21: *Steal Away*

under the direction of Carolyn Wilkins, Berklee College jazz professor

March 28 (Palm Sunday): *Hosanna to the Son of David*

with percussion players

April 4 (Easter Sunday): *Allelujah* from *Coronation Anthem No.3* by G.F.Handel

The Choir Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM in the music room.

Yoo-Kyung

Tanglewood Festival Chorus

Tanglewood Festival Chorus will perform Mendelssohn's *Elijah* on April 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Symphony Hall, and on the April 5th in the Carnegie Hall in New York. All performances start at 8 PM.

Yoo-Kyung Kim is a member of the chorus. Boston Symphony Orchestra will play with them under the direction of James Levine.

Music, Sermons, and More!

The WPC Audio Group is now recording our Sunday Services on CDs.

That gives us quality recordings of our wonderful music, Pastor Tom's and Reverend Marie's sermons and more. The service is recorded in pieces (tracks) so, sermons and music, etc. can be easily copied and placed on a CD copy you can take home. Did you miss a Sunday? Liked the music or heard the music was great? Missed a sermon? Pastor Tom's and Reverend Marie's sermons are getting better and better. Simply call the office and request a copy of the part of the Sunday Service you desire. It's Free and it will be put on a CD you can play in your car or on your computer or music player. Our WPC Office Staff is here to serve you.

Reminder: Please use the microphone! Part of the audio upgrade improves our system by providing 4 microphones. Two handheld units are available for announcements and presentations. Did you know how many people depend on the increased volume provided by our in ceiling speakers? Can you see them? They are 30 feet up behind the ceiling grills. Also, several people in our congregation depend upon the Hearing Assist Earbud devices in the foyer. They are easy to use and have their own volume control. But, they don't work unless you use the microphone. It doesn't matter if you talk loud; they still don't work. So, don't discriminate, use the microphone.

Yours, "*So everybody can hear*", Fred Hohn

WOODWIND CONCERT

Sunday, March 21, 2010

3:00 pm

West Parish Church

129 Reservaion Road, Andover

(Corner of Route 133 and Reservation Road)



Featuring:

The Merrimack Valley Woodwind Quintet

- *Linda True on flute,*
- *Ron Dann on Clarinet,*
- *Jiffi Rainie on French horn,*
- *Brad Morse on bassoon, and*
- *Roxann Nickerson on oboe*

And Joyce Painter Rice on piano and organ



A free will collection will be taken to support the West Parish Youth Mission Trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

UCC Outdoor Summer Experiences

Looking for a summer camp or outdoor experience for your child or even for yourself? There are several great UCC outdoor ministry sites throughout New England:

Covenant Hills Christian Camp Located in Cabot, VT, this camp is jointly run by the UCC and the United Methodist Church for 2nd - 12th graders and includes many cool specific programs like Rock Band week and drama week. www.covenanthillsvt.com.

Silver Lake Located in Sharon, CT, this camp offers programs for young people ages 8-18. www.silverlakeect.org.

Star Island Located off the coast of Portsmouth, NH, this site offers weeks for 9-12th graders as well as family programs. www.starusucc.com and www.starisland.org.

Horton Center Located in the White Mountains of NH, family programs for Kindergarten and up as well as high school and young adult experiences including Canoe Camp and "Hut to Hut" (hiking the Appalachian Trail). www.hortoncenter.org.

Pilgrim Lodge Located in West Gardiner, MA, this camp offers week long sessions for 3rd graders through high school as well as weekend events for adults. www.pilgrimlodge.org.

Paper Shredding?

Do you have a lot of old records that should be shredded rather than put into recycle? It is dangerous to put anything containing a credit card number or social security number into a recycle bin or even into trash, as this kind of information in the wrong hands can lead to identity theft.

In preparing for their move, Don and Roxann Nickerson have several cartons of records but not enough to meet the minimum for on-site shredding. They have contacted a commercial shredder who will come to their home and shred on site. Minimum cost is \$95 for first 200 pounds (about 5- 12x18x9 cartons). If you are interested in sharing the cost by contributing your old confidential records, contact Don Nickerson by phone (978-475-4450) or e-mail topdonn@verizon.net.

Calling All SPYs

All 7-12th graders (and friends too) are invited to relax in the youth room on Sunday evening, March 7 from 6:30-8:00pm. We'll have no set agenda but it will be a chance to talk about what's on your mind, discuss your confirmation projects, play a few games, and listen to music together.

Note: There is no Sr. SPY that night; our original schedule had assumed that we would be going on a winter retreat in New Hampshire which was cancelled.

Girl Scout Sunday

Sunday, March 7th

All Girls Scouts, Brownies, and Daisies are encouraged to wear their uniform to church and to come up for blessing at Children's Time.

Friday, March 12, 2010 marks the 98th birthday of Girl Scouts of the USA.

Book Group

The next gathering is on Tuesday, March 30th. The March book is [Here if You Need Me](#) by Kate Braestrup. The discussion is facilitated by Kate Margolese.

Valentine Gift Bags

The Outreach Ministry extends a huge thank you to everyone for their donations for the Valentine Baby gift bags for the Community Day Care Center in Lawrence!

Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated by the infants and moms and the staff at the Center. We filled fourteen bags!