

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

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March 2020



SPECIAL (ANNUAL FINANCIAL) CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020, 11:15 AM

JACK & JILL SPAGHETTI SUPPER & OPPORTUNITY BASKETS

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH, SEATINGS AT 4, 5:15 AND 6:30

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC
Reverend F. Vernon Wright V, Minister ruachwrights@msn.com
William A. MacPherson, PhD., Director of Music
Kara Lehane, Executive Director, Jack & Jill School – 508-222-1149
jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org www.jackandjillattleboro.com
Fred Saunders, Administrative Assistant / Historian
BSA Charter Organization Representative, c: 508-918-0123
Jack Baptist, Sexton
Church Office: 508- 222-4677 Fax: 508- 222-2148
office@attleborosecondchurch.org
www.attleborosecondchurch.org
Find us on Facebook!

THE VOICE

We warmly welcome everyone to celebrate God's love by joining in dynamic worship, creating genuine community, and serving all with justice and respect.

A monthly newsletter

March, 2020

Outreach & Missions	Curator's Corner	One Plus One	Jack & Jill	Music History at Second Church	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Christian Education Committee	Birthdays	Music & Dance	Calendar
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MINISTER'S MUSE

FINDING BLESSING IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE

"The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore." Psalm 121:7-8.

This understanding of faith that the Lord will keep your "going out and your coming in", is a theme in the Old Testament; it is mentioned in Deuteronomy 28:7 and in many other places. Altogether it is mentioned over 24 times. Biblical scholars such as my Old Testament professor at Andover Newton, Carol Fontaine had studied this phrase and come to the conclusion that it goes back to the nomadic memory of the people from the days of Abraham and the days of the Exodus. Times of great stress were the setting up and the breaking down of the tents and moving the camp, because this was when the people were most vulnerable to attack from other tribes and also the bickering and strife which comes common to uprooting your belongings and plunking them down again. To be blessed, faith-filled, and centered during such times was crucial.

Actually we all have a love hate relationship to change. Going out and coming in is stressful and it can be a wonderful adventure. Leaving home as a young person, graduating, starting the first full time job, getting married, sometimes divorce, having children, watching them move away, increasing health and mobility concerns, and

loosing loved ones as an elder are the life stages of going out and coming in.

Institutions must also go through change of going out and coming in. Leaders and personalities change. Ministers change. As I move my location of ministry from Second Congregational Church of Attleboro to First Trinitarian Congregational Church of Scituate, both you and I will be feeling that anxiety of breaking down a camp and setting up a new camp in your journey of interim ministry and finding a new settled pastor. Stress can create bickering and squabbling. Old hurts can come to the surface. Fingers become pointed. But if we remember that our faith can deal with change, we will be able to embrace the wonderful adventure that change can bring. "The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in." God will bless us if we but remember that we are indeed the church, and that we rest on the shoulders of Nomads like Abraham, Moses, Jesus and the apostles too.

It was a blessing to be your minister. In my time here I have also blessed you. But professional ministry is an office, and a role. You will be blessed by fresh insight and a new personality from your new minister. I will be blessed to serve another parish beginning on March 15th. Second Church has a good sense of who it is and what it wants. God will bless you because you are a people of real purpose and meaning. But stay in that bigger purpose and meaning as you greet your new minister. Be loving and kind! Embrace God's blessing for you in this time of change!

Shalom in Christ, Rev. F. Vernon Wright V



LITURGICAL THEMES

MARCH 1

Communion – Gathering Sunday
“Being Faithful in the Wilderness”
Matthew 4:1-11

In this my last Communion with you I will utilize Christ's temptation in the wilderness to lift up a significant theme of faith for us all. Faith is especially important for us in the wilderness of change. As Oswald Chambers, once wrote, "God never gives strength for tomorrow or for the next hour, but only for the strain of the minute."

MARCH 8

My final worship service with you.
“Finding Blessing in the Midst of Change”
Psalms 121

Focusing on Psalm 121:8 I will be focusing on perhaps the oldest blessing in the Hebrew Bible from the memory of being nomads: God bless my going in and my coming out..." Change can be scary but it is also the root of blessing.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Our Lead Deacons this month are Derek Hall and Ted Moxham. Contact any Deacon if you are interested in being a liturgist or usher on a Sunday or sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We'd love to have your help. Call Ralph Giannetti at 508-226-4618 and let him know if you need a lift.

HELP IS NEEDED TO BRING PEOPLE TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.

Please call Ralph Giannetti at 508-226-4618 if you can pick someone up before and bring them home after church.

ONE PLUS ONE

One Plus One is a group of adults who meet to share Christian fellowship. It is open to all members and friends of the congregation and is a great way to get to know new people and catch up with friends. If you'd like to join us, contact me or call the Church office so we can add you to our 1+1 call list.

After holding three gatherings in the fall and a romantic Valentine's Weekend pot-luck dinner, we are planning our next group outing on Saturday, March 7, 2020, to attend a comedic play (“Over the River and Through the Woods”) at

the Attleboro Community Theatre. We are expecting to meet again for another outing in the spring as well as for our annual June cook-out. We're open to other ideas and events too, so don't hesitate to contact me if you see something that looks like it would be an excellent excuse to get out of the house and have some fun.

Colin Blair at colinb@aol.com or 508-226-5457.



The PSM will meet on Monday, March 9th at 12:30 in the Ladies' Parlor. Shawls continue to be of tremendous comfort to individuals experiencing a loss, illness or other traumatic event in their lives. New members are always welcome. **We will teach you the ropes.** Please contact me if you have any questions.

Roberta Ferguson



MUSIC NOTES

CHOIR SCHEDULES

The choirs will follow a regular schedule in March, with rehearsals every Thursday (5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th), 6:30-7:30 pm (Bells) and 7:30-9:00 pm (Adult Choir).

The Choir will sing on March 1st, 15th, 22nd and 29th, but not on March 8th (contemporary service). The Bell Choir will play in church on March 22nd.

Looking ahead

(Adult Choir) Palm Sunday, April 5th;
Maundy Thursday, April 9th.

(Choir and Bells) Easter Sunday, April 12th.

Bill MacPherson

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

The Intergenerational Dance group will have practice just the last Saturday in March, the 28th, at 9:00 am. All are welcome to join us as we prepare for a Palm Sunday presentation and a second dance for worship later in the spring. If you have any questions please let me know at (508) 409-7919 or de_saunders@hotmail.com.

Diane Osborne

OUTREACH & MISSIONS



We made 30 Wallaby Day Pouches! They will be used to assist with Wallaby Joeys' survival from the devastating wildfires, and were sent



to Australian Animal Rescue, Inc. in Devon Meadows, Victoria. Thank you for all your fabric donations, tracing, cutting, pinning, sewing & outpouring of love on February 7th & 8th.



The Food Pantry will be "open for business" to Attleboro residents on **Monday, March 23rd** in Fellowship Hall. The volunteers distributed 24 bags of food to families on January

27th. Thank you for your generous donations of money and supplies. Spaghetti sauce, canned Beef-A-Roni, dry cereals (especially children's), and low or sugar free cereals, real fruit juices, tuna, peanut butter, hearty soups, detergent, toiletries, female hygiene products, and bathroom tissues are always welcome. The drop-off site is in the Ladies Parlor with the Deacons each Sunday or in the kitchen during the week. Contact: Betsey Pray, rlpbpp@verizon.net.

The Family Café will be "open for business" on **Wednesday, March 11th** in Fellowship Hall; 37 guests were served on February 12th. Volunteers to set-up, prepare food, serve beverages, greet, work with children, clear tables, break down tables & chairs, or wash pots & pans are needed anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. Books (specifically for children & young adults) will be gratefully accepted. Contact: Linda Wiswall, wiswalllinda@gmail.com.

Please save **Saturday, September 26, 2020** for a **Family Friendly Oktoberfest Celebration, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall with the Double Eagle Oktoberfest Band. Mark your calendars and practice your polka dancing. Invite your family and friends for an *OOMPAH* load of fun!

The next Outreach and Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, March 8th** at 11:15 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor.. *Janet Blair*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you to all who helped with and attended the Family Fellowship Mardi Gras Pancake luncheon! We look forward to working with the children to help them choose their next mission project.

We are beginning a new program on the 1st Sunday of the month beginning March 1st. Following the anthem, 6th graders and up are welcome to join Tara Tetreault to work towards the following:

- 1) Create a sense of community/ get to know each other
- 2) Establish some goals we wish to accomplish (how we can serve the church and community)
- 3) Come up with some ideas for topics to learn about and discuss during meetings (that YOU are interested in)
- 4) EAT

If you have a youth who is interested in participating but is unable to join us on Sunday mornings please look out for a survey to be circulated regarding time preferences to be considered for how we will build this program in the fall.

On April 5th, Palm Sunday, we invite all ages to participate in our Palm Sunday Processional dance with the Intergenerational Sacred Dance group. If you or your children would like to participate please arrive at 9:00 am on 5th for a quick practice. We will also practice with the children following Sunday School on March 29th.

I have included some detail below about the lessons we will be sharing in Sunday School this month and some tips on how to continue the discussion with your children at home. Please note that March 1st will be a Gathering Sunday for our families to experience worship and Communion together. The nursery will be open for our friends 3 and under.

March 8th

Luke 19: 28-40

“Jesus rides into Jerusalem”

Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week's story. (1) Read Matthew 21:1-11. How was Jesus greeted by the people of Jerusalem? (2) Play joyful music. Dance and shout for joy. (3) Work together to name five ways you welcome Jesus into your home.

Did you know? What Old Testament prophecy foretold the savior to ride a donkey? < Zechariah 9:9>

Prayer for the week: *God, help us to welcome Jesus into our hearts and daily lives. Amen.*

March 15th

Matthew 26:1-5, 14-30

“The Last Supper”

Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week's story. (1) Read Matthew 26:26-28. What did Jesus offer to the disciples to symbolize his body and blood? (2) Silently tell God things you are sorry for. Receive God's loving forgiveness by saying to each other, “God loves and forgives you.” (3) Eat pita bread and drink grape juice to remember Jesus' last supper. Add hummus or falafel and plain yogurt.

Did you know? What Jewish festival did Jesus celebrate at the Last Supper? <Passover>

Prayer for the week: *Thank you, God, that you forgive us no matter what we do. We rest in your love. Amen.*

March 22nd

Matthew 26:36-27:66

“Jesus' arrest and death”

Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week's story. (1) Read Matthew 27:55-61. Notice the family members and friends who were there when Jesus died and was buried. (2) At his arrest, Jesus told a friend to put away his sword. Why didn't Jesus want people to fight for him? (3) Judas was paid for leading soldiers to arrest Jesus. Lay out thirty silver coins and think quietly about the love Jesus showed to others.

Did you know? What did Roman soldiers say when Jesus died? Unscramble the words: lyurT isht nam saw oGd's noS. <Truly this man was God's Son.>

Prayer for the week: *God, help us follow your way of love. Amen.*

March 29th

Matthew 28:1-10

“Jesus is risen!”

Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week's story. (1) Read Matthew 28:1-10. What comforting words did both the angel and Jesus say to the women? (2) Take a walk outside to look for signs of new life. (3) Reenact the story. Be sure to include the earthquake, descending angel, shaking guards, women worshipping Jesus, and then the women running to tell the good news.

Did you know? The date of Easter can vary between March 22nd and April 25th.

Prayer for the week: *Risen Christ, we celebrate the joyful news of resurrection. Alleluia! Amen.*

We are always looking for volunteers in the classroom and the nursery. Please speak to me at church or contact me at (508) 409-7919 or de_saunders@hotmail.com if you are interested. *Diane Osborne*



March is an industrious month underneath the stars. The children are flourishing. With routines under their belts and expectations understood, we have paved the way for great growth. Spring is on the horizon and the children's ideas and imaginations are transforming before our eyes.

The teachers are actively assessing children and preparing progress reports for parent – teacher conferences. Our students are registering for Kindergarten and taking part in their screenings! A very exciting time for our families!

Our Board of Directors and parents will be working hard this month preparing for our Spaghetti Supper. The event will be held on Saturday, March 28th in Fellowship Hall. Our donations are already rolling in and we will be selling opportunity tickets for our baskets and supper tickets on Sunday March 22nd during Coffee Hour. We thank you for your continued support of our school.

We look forward to our annual MARCH MADNESS festivities with the following fun days at school! Crazy Hair Day, Silly Sock Day, PJ Day, and Favorite Color day! March is a long month and these days add some fun and excitement into the children's days.

Enrollment for the 2019-2020 academic year is underway. If you know anyone seeking placement for the fall, please encourage them to call me at 508-222-1149. I'd be happy to show them our wonderful program.

Warmly, Kara Lehane



March Birthdays

- 1 Jack Baptist
Clint Ferguson
- 3 Mark Robinson
- 4 Bill Hogarth
Natalie MacDonald
- 5 Jean Phillips-Currier
- 7 Ginny Bassler
- 8 Emma Keane
- 9 Joan Lepper
- 10 Chris Saunders
- 12 David Buttrick
Kevin Goulding
- 13 Steve Withers, Sr.
- 15 Jack McKenna
Mary Quimby
- 18 Jane Huston
- 19 Glenn Weidner
- 22 Mary Goldzung
Shirley Schromm
- 25 Joel Hauerwas
- 26 Jenell Halverson-Martin
- 27 Mike Edwards
James H Miller
Reverend Vern Wright
- 28 Connie Bozzi
Ruth Connor
Jamesom Connor
Ralph Giannetti
- 29 Jean Garrott
Andrew Osborne
- 31 Lucy Hogarth
Betsey Pray
Ruth Shaver



Curator's Corner

Prayer Shawl Ministry at Second Church

Perhaps you may have noticed the many beautiful prayer shawls that are draped in several places in our sanctuary. Perhaps you have even received one during an illness or other rough time in your life. These works of art are created by some very dedicated ladies at Second Church. Roberta Ferguson, who wanted to use her talents and give back to her church, is the guiding light behind this ministry. She started the Prayer Shawl Ministry in 2005. To date twenty crafters have produced an astonishing 1,032 shawls. Their handwork has traveled far and wide. We know one made it to Arizona and one possibly overseas.

As each shawl is started a prayer is said for the receiver and throughout the making, the prayers continue. A label with the church's name is tacked to the bottom and a final prayer is given. It then becomes available to be given out to someone in need of comfort.

If you are interested in making a shawl you just have to go to the Office door on the second Monday of each month from 12:30 to 2:00 pm and Roberta will have the supplies you need to get started.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been a wonderful addition to the outreach of Second Congregational Church. Roberta and her cadre of knitters are to be commended for their beautiful work and their continuing dedication.

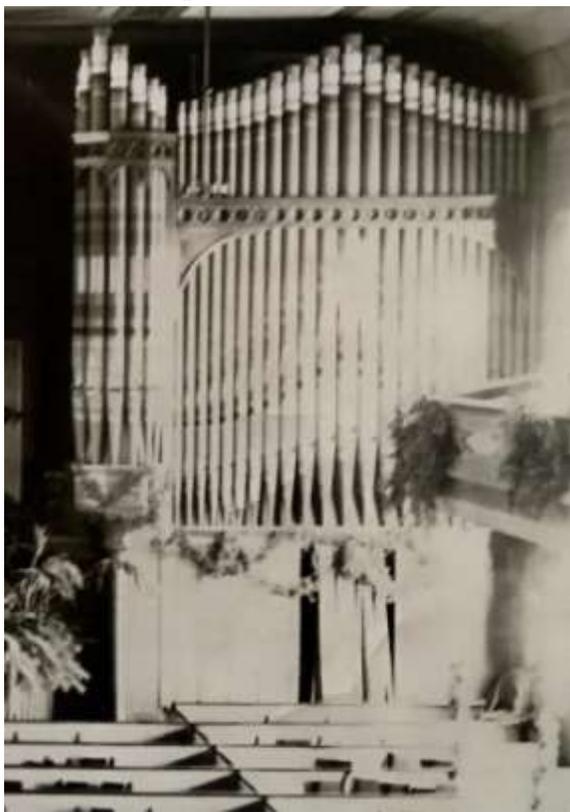
Ted Moxham, Curator

HISTORICAL NOTES ABOUT MUSIC AT SECOND CHURCH PART I: THE FIRST ORGANS, 1850-1904

Last fall Fred Saunders was given what is probably a rare item in the history of Second Church: a commemorative booklet published in the spring of 1904 when the present edifice (the “Brick Church”) was dedicated. Fred very kindly made a copy for me. In addition to some historical information about the church and lists of church officers and members of committees, the booklet contains the dedication week program, a series of special events held between the 15th and 22nd of May, including the orders of worship for the “Last Sabbath in the Old Church,” a “Fellowship Meeting” and evening service on Tuesday the 17th organized by the “The Ladies’ Sewing Society,” and the “First Sunday in the New Church.” Also included is a program for the dedicatory “Organ Recital” on Monday evening the 16th.

Eighteen months ago, I had done some research in our archives about the organs of Second Church for use in the 50th anniversary celebration of our current instrument (Schlicker Organ Co., Buffalo, NY, 1968). New information in the dedication booklet, particularly the program for the organ recital along with the musical selections in the other services, caused me also to go back and look more closely at archival documents pertaining to the organs. I’m planning (hoping) to write a series of articles for the *Voice*, starting with this one.

In the last 170 years, Second Church has owned three organs. Little is known about the first, which stood in the gallery of the “White Church” from 1850 to 1894. It was undoubtedly the smallest. The third, the Schlicker, is the largest and most varied in its tonal colors. But the second instrument, installed initially in the White Church in 1894, has, I think, the most interesting history. It was moved to the Brick Church in 1904 and was the one used in the dedication programs. In various incarnations it remained in use until the Schlicker replaced it.



Hutchings organ in the front corner of the White Church. 1894.

The White Church was built in 1825, but it took another 25 years for organ music to be accepted as a regular component of worship. This first organ, according to church records, was purchased as a used instrument and repaired to provide “more power.” The annual report for 1894 noted that “in July the old organ that had for 45 years given forth its melody, folded its tent and withdrew from further active service in the church, to give place to an elegant new organ that was set up in the North East corner.” The “North East corner” of the White Church would be approximately where the Jack and Jill playground is located now.

The builder of this “elegant” instrument was George S. Hutchings, the rising star of Boston organ builders in the late 19th century. Hutchings had been the foreman and then superintendent in the shop of the Hook brothers, Elias and George, the most renowned Boston builders in mid-century. In 1869, he left Hook, and, with a partner, founded Hutchings, Plaisted and Company in 1872. Their largest instrument (1876) was for the newly built Old South Church in Copley Square. The firm became the George S. Hutchings Company when Plaisted left in 1884, and later, in 1901, became Hutchings-Votey when Hutchings partnered with Edwin Votey. Notable instruments contemporary with Second Church’s organ were

installed in the Arlington Street Church, Boston (1895), St. Bartholomew’s Church, New York City (1896), and Sayles Hall at Brown University (1902), which is the largest extant Hutchings instrument in original condition (aside from a new console and restorative repairs).

The Second Church organ had 22 stops, 10 on the Great manual, 10 on the Swell, and 2 in the Pedal. This is a good-sized two-manual organ, and with its variety of stops, 30-note pedalboard, and Hutchings pedigree, would have been an impressive musical presence in the White Church, especially compared to

its predecessor. But, like the old organ, the wind came from a large bellows, hand-pumped by someone other than the organist. The specification for the Hutchings organ includes a control on the console called the “Blower’s Signal,” which would have prompted the pumper to get to work. His efforts were made known to the organist via a “Wind Indicator.” All of this information, by the way, comes from the original contract in our archives, dated March 6th, 1894, signed by Hutchings and representatives of the church. The total cost of the instrument itself was \$3275 (the equivalent of almost \$100,000 in 2020). Fundraising, from “subscriptions,” had totaled \$2922.87, and the old organ was sold for \$300.

The 1894 annual report also notes that there had been “a little unrest on the part of some because of the much wished for new church that as yet has not materialized.” Nine years later, however, construction of the Brick Church was underway, and a letter to the church from the Hutchings firm (now Hutchings-Votey) details the costs, totaling \$1100, of moving the instrument to the new building. Included was new casework and a redesigned pipe façade, since the organ would now be front and center instead of in a corner. Hutchings recommended changing one stop on the Great and one on the Swell to add different tonal colors; this was agreed upon, because a later organ specification (which is next month’s chapter in our history) shows the changes. The organist or other church members had also apparently considered adding a third manual, but Hutchings-Votey vetoed that as too costly, saying “it would be better to build a new organ entirely.”

The most notable update in technology was the inclusion of a “water motor of the best make,” to power the bellows, in place of hand pumping. Water engines, which used city water to drive a piston back and forth, were briefly popular around the turn of the 20th century, before electric motors and blowers came into use. The letter from Hutchings-Votey notes that the motor should “stand directly under the organ” on a foundation supplied by them, but the cost not including “the work of bring[ing] the water to and taking it away from the motor.” I’ll end this chapter by saying that I recently investigated yet another nook within our building that I had never visited, the supply closet in the rear of the middle classroom downstairs. It is located directly below the organ chamber. And in the corner of the back wall of the foundation is an old water valve, now capped, almost certainly the source of city water for the Hutchings organ’s water engine.

Dr. William A MacPherson



The same instrument, relocated to the Brick Church, 1904.

M A R C H 2 0 2 0

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> 10:00 AM Worship / Communion 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting	2 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	3 6:00 PM Board of Deacons Meeting	4 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	5 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Time Begins 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Special (Annual Financial) Church Meeting	9 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	10 7:00 PM Marketing Committee Meeting	11 5:30 PM Family Café 6:00 PM J&J Teacher Training 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM J&J Board Meeting	12 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Music Committee Meeting Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting	16 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	17 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	18 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	19 April Voice Deadline 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 10:00 AM Worship 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting	23 4:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	24	25 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	26 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	27	28 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal 4:00 PM Jack & Jill Spaghetti Supper & Opportunity Baskets
29 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Palm Processional Rehearsal	30 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	31				

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