

# *THE STEEPLE CHIMES*

*Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ*

FEBRUARY

2012

## **Pastor Betsey Polglase**

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

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### ***Mission Statement***

*The Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ as part of the United Church of Christ and the worldwide Christian Church is called by God to be disciples of Jesus, the Christ. Therefore, the mission of the Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ is to worship God and to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ: to promote Christian fellowship among our members and friends, and to live in Christian fellowship with the Church Universal and the whole creation; that we might live faithfully, serving God and humanity, and striving for righteousness, justice, and peace.*



## **From the Pastor's Porch**

This winter has been so different from last year. We had that freak snow storm in October and then relatively warm temperatures for months. But we have had a bit of snow now and again and more may be on its way. Ice has formed along rivers and lakes and on birdbaths. I am reminded of the great ice jams on rivers that can cause terrible flooding until they break loose to allow the water down its intended path. What breaks the ice in our lives can only be love.

It feels a bit trite to talk about love in February, the month of Valentine's Day with all the commercialism that has developed around it. Yet, as we continue to read about Jesus' ministry, we see again how love is what God is all about – all of the time. Love, in all its variations, is what we as followers of Christ should be all about – reflecting God's love, which is given freely to each of us, onto everyone and everything we encounter. We are commanded to love God with all our heart and soul and mind, and to love each other, and to love ourselves. "For God so love the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3: 16. Eugene Peterson in The Message, the Bible in commentary language, goes on to say, "[The Son] came to help, to put the world right again." We are now the ones to continue Jesus' work of putting the world right again.

In the Apostle Paul's letter's, he makes clear we are all given particular gifts and talents by God, God who knows how all the pieces fit to usher in the realm of God. Find and honor your passion. See it as the treasure God has given to you to be used toward "putting the world right again." Certainly we may not agree on how to do this, but if we are open to the movement of the Spirit, if we listen to each other with our hearts, with love, and not our egos or boxed in expectations and assertions, we just might see the ice begin to shift and the water of life flow freely.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. It is the beginning of a period of time for self-examination, for freeing ourselves from the ice jams in our hearts, in our approaches to life and to others. Plan to join us for worship throughout Lent in our preparation for more fully understanding the greatest gift of all.

The peace of Christ be with you,

**Pastor Betsey**

February 2012

**Sunday 10:00 am Worship****FEBRUARY 5**

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Jack Sabine

Lay Reader: Jack Sabine

Greeters: Jack Sabine, Terry Tangarone,  
Charlotte Sabine, Sally Ruef, and John Polglase.**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.****FEBRUARY 12**

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Jack Sabine

Lay Reader: Jack Sabine

Greeter: Jack Sabine

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.****FEBRUARY 19**

LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Jack Sabine

Lay Reader: Jack Sabine

Greeter: Jack Sabine

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.****FEBRUARY 26**

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Jack Sabine

Lay Reader: Jack Sabine

Greeter: Jack Sabine

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.****COMING EVENTS**

**FAMILY SUNDAY** will continue to be Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour for the remainder of the year. Each family is asked to bring in one appetizer/finger crackers, veggies & dip, mini sandwiches... nothing that needs to be warmed or eaten with a utensil. ONLY bring enough servings to feed 8-12 people.

**“SATURDAY” ACTIVITY NIGHT –**

**February 11<sup>th</sup>/Parish Hall.** Bring a friend and join the fun! Please note the change in date, is only for this month.

**CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER’S MEETING**

**SATURDAY, February 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am**  
12:00 pm/Lounge.

**ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

7:00 pm Worship Service with communion

**Please view the February Calendar of Events on the Church website calendar.**

February 2012



**LAY READER** – Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by being a LAY READER and reading the Scripture or bringing a children's sermon, please sign-up on the appropriate list on the bulletin board by the elevator door **and** speak with Pastor Betsey Polglase.

**DEACON OF THE MONTH**

February – Jack Sabine

**TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH**

February – Dwayne Messerschmidt

**GREETERS AND USHERS**

February 5 – **Deacons** – Jack Sabine, Terry Tangarone, Charlotte Sabine, Sally Ruef, and John Polglase.

**February 12 - Volunteers needed**

**February 19 – Volunteers needed**

**February 26 – Volunteers needed**

## PARISH NOTICES

The return of Pledge Cards to support the budget for 2011 – 2012 is always welcome. Cards may be left in the Stewardship box, given to any member of the Stewardship Committee or handed into the Church Office. Extra pledge cards are available in the Stewardship box upon request. We invite your generosity in supporting the 2011 budget.

**THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN CONCERN** – has an ongoing need for clean, empty food containers with lids for donation to the Covenant Soup Kitchen. A collection box for them is located in the coat closet near our Church Office. Thank you for helping to fill this need and recycle too. Items to be donated to WAIM should be taken directly there. Thank you for your assistance.

**WAIM** is frequently in need of the volunteer services of skilled craftspeople. If you are skilled as a carpenter, painter, electrician, plumber, sheet rocker, heating systems, computer technician, etc. and would be willing to become part of a craftspeople resource guide for WAIM please see Anthony White, Sr. for survey form.

**FOOD PANTRY:** The Church is collecting food for the Soup Kitchen and the Columbia Food Pantry. **Items especially needed: baked beans, pork & beans, canned tuna, canned pasta meals (chef-boy-ar-dee), canned soups, cereal, and feminine products.** If you would like to contribute, please leave items in the basket found at the front of the church.

February 2012

\* Fun \* Food \* Fellowship \*

Join us for

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Activity Nights**

The fun is for all ages!

Games, crafts, cooking!

Bring a snack to share if you can and stop by 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
in the Parish Hall

Have a game, craft, or other activity you'd like to share? Let me know!

Following are the dates for upcoming  
activity nights,

Hope to see you there!

Lynn Sharpe

[lynns331@hotmail.com](mailto:lynns331@hotmail.com)

### **Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**

March 10<sup>th</sup>

April 14<sup>th</sup>

May 12<sup>th</sup>

February 2012

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**

Church School will be celebrating the love in our hearts for one another. We begin February by decorating and filling the Church World Service School Bags. We collected all the school items in the beginning of the school year and now we will decorate and fill the bags for shipping in April. Church World Service will send the bags where they are most needed giving children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. Here's a gift that really makes a difference. Letting our love shine makes a simple gift priceless.

We show our love and concern for those who live in poverty and hunger, through our annual Heifer International outreach program. The children take great pride in this life changing mission. This mission is part of our Lenten program where each child receives an ark bank for saving towards their class animal. Each class chooses a farm animal to purchase through Heifer's "Pass it on" program. Each recipient agrees to give the first born to another family who in returns does the same. This gift is one that keeps on giving. Be on the lookout for coffee hour bake sales in March! They are a great way to support the Church School in their effort to raise money for their animals. The gift of Hope...Priceless!

Remember: The Greatest Commandment: Matthew 22:37

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

We love that our Church School is growing and welcome all our new class members with love. God Loves us with a great Big love all the time.

**Happy Valentine's Day**

**Jean Murphy**

February 2012

**February Worship Schedule****2012****(subject to change)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Proposed Sermon Title</u>	<u>Note</u>
Feb. 5	Isaiah 40: 28-31 Mark 1: 40-45	TBA	Communion
Feb. 12	2 Kings 5: 1-14 Mark 1: 40-45	"Can't Keep It In"	
Feb. 19	Mark 9: 2-9	"The Thin Veil"	Transfiguration Sunday
Feb. 22	Psalm 103: 1-18	No sermon	<b>Ash Wed. 7:00pm</b> <b>Communion</b>
Feb. 26	Psalm 25: 1-10 1 Peter 3: 18-22	"Yellow Brick Road"	1 <sup>st</sup> Lent

February 2012

### **Columbia Congregational Church Legacy Endowment Society**

We wish to celebrate the generosity of those who have started to lay the foundation for the Columbia Congregational Church Legacy Endowment Fund, and we want to begin to identify other founding members of the Legacy Endowment Society. We will be doing so with prayers of thanksgiving and with shared joy of delicious cake during fellowship hour on Sunday, February 12.

If you have already provided a gift for the Legacy Endowment Fund in your current estate or gift plan, you are a founder right now even though the gift will not be made for years to come! If you adopt an estate or gift plan, which provides for a gift in future years to the Legacy Endowment Fund, and you adopt it between now and the end of April you will be also be a founding member!

Handouts answering commonly asked questions and providing simple suggestions on how to become a Society Founder will be made available as part of our celebration on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, a brief question and answer period will follow in the lounge for anyone interested. The handouts will also identify ways to obtain information more privately if that is desirable.

On Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>, the initial annual dinner celebration of the Legacy Endowment Society will be held to induct all founding members.

Everyone is welcome to join the celebration on the 12<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you will plan to be part of the celebration on April 29!

February 2012

## A NOTE FROM THE HISTORIAN

If you have a copy of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet that you no longer want, would you please donate it to the Church Library. Thank You!

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### **BACK BAY MISSION TRIP: APRIL 15-21, 2012**

Our second trip to Biloxi, Mississippi is coming soon!

**Web site:** [www.backbaymission.com](http://www.backbaymission.com)

**Work needed:** Disaster recovery work helping families rebuild their homes and lives following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

**Minimum Age:** 14 years

**Cost:** \$75.00 per person registration fee, airfare, and one week of your time.

**Educational Components:** Back Bay Mission staff provides education regarding issues of poverty, justice issues in disaster and the church's role in enacting social change.

If you or anyone you know may be interested in going please contact me. You do not have to be a member of our congregation to go with us. (228-1324 or [Lmess72@yahoo.com](mailto:Lmess72@yahoo.com))

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**When you bring cans and bottles for the Bell Choir, please be sure that the cans and bottles are empty of liquids, and in their original shape.  
Thank You!**

February 2012

**“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you show love to one another.” John 13:34-35**

We seek to be a loving and caring church community, contributing our time, our resources, and our love to help and support each other in times of need. This is the goal of our Care Team.

We have a group of approximately 12 members of our congregation that have signed up to offer their help with transportation, meals, short term chores, or just a presence offering concern and fellowship. These volunteers do not replace Pastoral visits or calls.

Should you or anyone that you know need a little TLC from our Care Team, please contact Dixie at **860-228-8480** or **email [dixiesilvestri@hotmail.com](mailto:dixiesilvestri@hotmail.com)** New volunteers are always welcome.

February 2012

**The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR**

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