

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

JANUARY
2014

Pastor Betsey Polglase

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

Mon. – Thurs.:9:30-12:30

Pastor's email:

pastorbetsey.ccchurch@gmail.com

Church Office

Contact Information

Phone 860.228.9306

Office Hours:

Mon. – Fri.:9:30–1:00

Church email:

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colcch.org

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

There have been signs over the past couple of years, but I have chosen to ignore them, or, if acknowledging them, have put off taking much definitive action. "I can't today." "I'll look into it on my day off." A couple of times I looked into what I might do, but never followed through. Then something in November pushed me forward.

I am not sure what, exactly, was the last straw, maybe my brother-in-law's heart attack, although I didn't see the connection at the time. On one of those days off, I finally went and signed up to be a member of a gym, lined up a morning of introduction to the equipment, and signed on with a trainer, at my daughter's urging. Among a number of reasons for taking this action is the realization that a primary problem for many clergy is lack of physical wellness, including obesity, although it is hardly limited to this profession/calling. In seminary, self-care was stressed by professors who were experienced clergy.

I have returned to my long held belief that God created me - and each of us - to live fully. Our bodies, then, are holy. What we do or don't do, we do to God's creation. Unless we take care of our bodies, we will not be able to live as fully as God desires. The old adage rings true: "use it or lose it." While age and illness can take a toll, limit us well beyond our liking, we do need to do what we can to take good care of ourselves physically as well as spiritually. No one else can do that for us.

The more I have thought about this, the more I see a correlation with caring for the house of God, our place for worshipping God, the physical church. As each of us is a part of the Body of Christ, each part must be kept strong and healthy, as best we are able. We also need to take care of the Church, our particular church being part of the greater church. To provide a structure in which to worship, the windows and doors, the furnace and the electrics, the phone and the internet, the bathrooms and the elevator, the musical instruments and the staff and committees must be kept working well to serve the needs of the people who serve God and the world. The community of worshippers needs to be nourished, exercised, and cared for both physically and spiritually.

So, you see, my New Years resolution began a couple of months early, the non-conformist in me. I hope you will support me in my efforts. I also hope you will let me know how I can support you. Together we can support each other, forming a stronger church body. We can also dedicate time and money to supporting the functioning of this church. (No, this is not an early start to our stewardship drive. Stewardship is all year long, actually.) We can all be stronger, physically and spiritually, as we live as the Body of Christ in 2014.

May God bring you all blessings, peace, and spiritual and physical fitness in the New Year.

Faithfully your,

Pastor Betsey

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

JANUARY 5

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeters: Millie Ramsey, Kim Foss, Jack & Charlotte

Sabine, and Laura Combs.

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

JANUARY 12

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeter: Millie Ramsey

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

JANUARY 19

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeter: Millie Ramsey

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

JANUARY 26

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeters: Millie Ramsey

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

COMING EVENTS

For our **COFFEE HOUR** contributions of finger foods are encouraged. **Donations in the Coffee Hour basket** helps fund the coffee, milk, sugar and paper goods. Thanks for supporting this ministry.



EVERY MONDAY BIBLE STUDY CLASS
7PM -8:30PM/Lounge

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH
CHURCH BREAKFAST
8AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

Saturday, January 18TH
Church School Teachers Meeting 10AM – 12PM
Lounge

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
January 15TH

If you are unable to meet this deadline, your submission can be included in the following Newsletter.

The Steeple Chimes *Columbia Congregational Church*

January 2014



LAY READER – Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by 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

JANUARY – Millie Ramsey

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

JANUARY – Doug Erickson

GREETERS AND USHERS

JANUARY 5 - **Deacons:** Millie Ramsey, Kim Foss, Jack & Charlotte Sabine, and Laura Combs.

January 12 – Volunteers needed

January 19 - Volunteers needed

January 26 - Volunteers needed

PARISH NOTICES

The return of Pledge Cards to support the budget for 2014 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 2014 budget.

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 craftsperson resource guide for WAIM please see Anthony White, Sr. for survey form.

FOOD PANTRY IN URGENT NEED OF FOOD: The Church is collecting food for the Soup Kitchen and the Columbia Food Pantry. **Items especially needed: Soups, Pastas and Cereals.** If you would like to contribute, please leave items in the basket found at the front of the sanctuary or deliver directly to the Soup Kitchen.

January 2014

Worship Schedule JANUARY 2014

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Worship notes
Jan 5	Isaiah 60:1-6		Epiphany
	Matt. 2:1-12	"Where is the Child"	communion
Jan 12	Isaiah 42:1-9		
	Matt.3:13-17	"New Things"	
Jan 19	Psalm 40:1-11		
	1 Cor. 1: 1-9	"God's Faithfulness"	MLK, Jr
Jan 26	Psalm 27:1, 4-9		
	Matt. 4 12-23	"Extend the Invitation"	

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~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

We rejoice in the beauty of the Lord. Let us all celebrate the wonders of His Love.

The beauty of a child is immeasurable and we celebrate the children of our Church for their beauty. They reached out and showed how special they are with their gift of the Christmas pageant. We celebrate their singing and chiming and the smiles they put on our faces their presentation of "Just a Little Christmas" was awesome and everyone left feeling joy in their hearts. This is a true gift.

Let us not forget to thank those who helped make the pageant so wonderful. Lynn Sharpe our director, Nancy Douton our chime director, Terry Tangarone and Wendy McDonald for their assistance in directing, Andrea Stone costume coordinator, Wendy Tomlinson for her assistance with costume, Anne Robinson for her assistance with rehearsals and to our confirmand's, Chloe Weston and Sydney Lambert, who helped by being part of the pageant. Also we thank the parents for their help with costumes and assuring the children made it to rehearsals and to the Board of Christian Education for the wonderful and delicious luncheon during Coffee Hour. Rejoice!

Blessings to all for a happy and healthy new year!

Jean

January 2014

ELEVATOR REPLACEMENT FUND STATUS

As of the end of December 2013 we have received donations of \$10,352 towards the total of approximately \$19,000 needed for the elevator replacement. This is an unbudgeted expense which, due to safety concerns, was approved by Church Council and ratified by the church membership. We need everyone's help in covering this expense. A basket will be on the piano on Sunday's to accept all donations. Checks made out to the church should include "elevator fund" on the memo line.

January 2014

REFLECTION ON STEWARDSHIP

The After-Tax Blessing

Excerpt from *2 Corinthians 8:1-7*

"For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means..."

Reflection by Lillian Daniel

Early in my working life, I met with a financial planner. It seemed absurd since we were deeply in debt. We had nothing to save, let alone invest. But a wise friend had said this was just the time for such advice.

He reviewed our budget. We had been making progress with our credit card debt but there was more to shovel out from under. We had also recently become tithers, giving ten percent of our income to the church. The two felt connected in my mind. We had made progress on the debt while growing in generosity. But I was embarrassed to tell that to a financial planner. I knew he was going to tell us to give less away, and to pay off the debt as soon as possible.

So when we got to the subject of charitable giving, I told him we were tithers. "Tithers, huh?" he said. "Is that ten percent of *after-tax* income or *pre-tax* income?"

"After tax, of course," I said. After all, we were tithers, not fanatics.

"After a long awkward pause, I asked, "So what do you think of that?"

"It's fine," he said, "if all you want is an *after-tax* blessing!"

Then he laughed heartily and joyfully. Turns out, he was a member of a UCC church himself. His philosophy of financial planning had extreme generosity at its core. God had clearly sent a prophet our way, and he had issued us a challenge.

Prayer

Generous God, please take my worries about money and put them on your shoulders, so that I do not carry them alone. Grant me a generous spirit, and the means to give beyond my means. Amen.

About the Author

Lillian Daniel is the senior minister of the First Congregational Church, UCC, Glen Ellyn, Illinois. She is the author, with Martin Copenhaver, of *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: the Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers*

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The **Advent Workshop** was fun, wasn't it? Well there are some things we will need for next year:

Birch or other smooth-barked logs 4 to 6 inches in diameter. We need 5 to 8 feet all told. These will be cut into slices for more Advent wreaths.

Christmas decorations you no longer need...plastic greens, small ornaments, things that can be taken apart to decorate the advent wreaths and other Christmas crafts.

Please contact a member of the Board of Christian Ed or Jackie Kittle if you can help.

Church Fair needs:

We are still collecting those white plastic tags that hold bread or roll wrappers together. We didn't get quite enough last year.

Crayons...old and/or broken, anyhow....unwanted crayons.

Altoid tins.

Those little rounded Y shaped clips that keep pump bottles from squirting lotion or hand soap all over your grocery sacks on the way home. You remove them to use the lotion and never know what to do with them afterward.

We will be happy to sell these things back to you at next year's fair when we are done with them.

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Family and Friends
Get Together Breakfast
Come and linger for a while.

Saturday, January 11, 2014

8:00A.M to 11:00A.M

Columbia Congregational Church

Parish Hall, Route 87

"C'mon people now, Smile on your Brother,
Everybody get together. Try and love one another
right now." Youngblood, Kingston Trio, J. Collins

Breakfast Buffet Menu: Belgian waffles, omelets, eggs, toast,

Bacon, sausage, ham, potatoes, juice, milk, coffee, tea,

Fruits, homemade muffins & coffee cakes

Suggested free will offering: \$8.00 per person

\$24.00 - 2 adults and 2 children

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CARE TEAM – Looking for a rewarding, caring volunteer activity? How about serving as the coordinator for our church Care Team? Please see John Polglase for details.

GREEN TEAM – We are looking for members to serve on our Green Team. The focus of our Green Team is to empower and motivate people to make a difference environmentally. If you are passionate about our environment and are willing to share your efforts with our congregation, please see John Polglase to volunteer.

The Board of Christian Concern is running a program called FLOWER POWER. We are offering a wide variety of bulbs for sale and 50% of the profits come back to the church. You can review all of the bulbs on our website or contact Dixie, Holly, Denise, Tony or John Polglase to place your orders. The funds raised will go to help support our mission work with “Simply Smiles” Wounded Warriors, Restavec and others. Thank you for participation in this effort.

John Polglase

Chair BOCC

January 2014

SIMPLY SMILES COFFEE IS BACK!

Simply Smiles Coffee is available in the Parish Hall. Purchase of the coffee helps support Simply Smiles missions in Oaxaca, Mexico and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota. For more details on the mission, see their website <http://www.simplysmiles.org>

FOODSHARE VAN

The mobile FoodShare Van now has a stop at the Baptist Fellowship Church on Route 6 in Columbia. **The van will be stopping every other Thursday from 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm in the lower church parking lot.** Upcoming distribution dates: Please be sure to circulate the word to people you know. The program needs a minimum of 50 people participating. **The FoodShare Van will continue to stop at the Andover Congregational Church on Route 6 every other Wednesday.** Please bring your own grocery bags.

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The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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