

HILLTOP HERALD

January/2016

Rev. Angela V. Wells
Pastor

Deb Glancy
Moderator

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Dear Friends,

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says, ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light’ (11: 28-29).

A yoke is a wooden crosspiece that is fastened over the necks of two animals, and it’s attached to the cart or plow that they are going to pull. Imagine having a heavy burden that you have to carry, which bears down on the yoke around your neck and makes it difficult for you to maneuver your load.

Do you ever feel that way, like your burden is heavy and your yoke is difficult to support? We all carry a variety of burdens with us. For some it’s guilt or shame, for others it’s regret, sadness, fear, greed or anger. These feelings prevent us from experiencing the fullness of God’s live-giving love, and they separate us from one another.

Usually the New Year’s holiday is focused on resolutions, adding something to one’s routine or changing something, but I’d encourage you to think about giving something up. Give up your burdens to God. It can be helpful to reflect upon what brings your mood down or dampens your spirits, and then offer that up to God in prayer. When you find that feeling creeping over you, take a moment to pause, and ask God to take the burden from your shoulders. This might just help lighten your burden and that yoke around your neck.

Another beautiful thing about the yoke is that it connects two animals to each other. They both share the burden of whatever they are pulling. We too are in relationship with each other, and it’s our calling to help each other carry our burdens. So, yes, lift your burdens up to God in prayer, but take notice when God is revealed through friends, family or fellow church members. They are also in your life to help you carry your burdens.

Happy New Year, my friends, may your yoke be a little easier and your burdens a little lighter this year.

Your Partner on the Journey,

Rev. Angela V. Wells



Rev. Angela Wells

We are on BCAT! Our services are being recorded so that they can be broadcast on BCAT, our local cable access channel. You can watch the service on Mondays at 4:30pm and Sundays at 6:00pm. Please note, the only people whose faces are on camera are the choir and those who lead the worship service.

PASTOR ANGELA WILL BE OUT OF TOWN at a clergy meeting from Monday, January 4th-Saturday January 9th. She will lead worship on January 3rd and the 10th. Rev. Heather Hinton will be available for pastoral emergencies. You can reach her at 508-685-1994.

Pastor Angela will also be out of town at a wedding from Thursday, January 21st-Monday January 25th. We will have a lay preacher on Sunday, January 24th.

MUSIC NOTES

Thank you, Christmas Musicians!

Special thanks to our choirs for their music on Christmas Eve, and to Bill Beyer, Geoffrey Fong, and David Hooper, who joined us for the season. We were also very grateful to have the music of organist Aline Beck and soprano Debbie Claar on the 1st Sunday after Christmas.

January Rehearsals

The choirs will rehearse every Wednesday in January. Youth Choir will meet from 5:45pm-6:15pm, and the adults will meet from 7:15pm-9:00pm. We always welcome new singers!

Deacons' Special Music Fund

We are very grateful to the following donors who contributed to the Christmas appeal for the Deacons' Special Music Fund:

-- Kay Shute, in memory of much loved family and friends

-- Chris Stahlinski, in memory of Elaine Jones

-- Janet & Bob Knudsen, our Christmas gift to the church's music ministry

-- Joe Stoddard & Paul Mouratidis, in honor of the ministry of the Choirs

Christmas donations received after the publication deadline of *The Hilltop* will be acknowledged in next month's newsletter.

Keep in touch!

Email: music@uccburlington.org

Twitter: @uccbmusic

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

Google+: Joe Stoddard

(music@uccburlington.org)

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DIRECTOR:

When I start the process of conceiving the script that will bring the story of Christ's birth from the written page to mounting the annual Christmas Pageant, I think of all that needs to happen between October – December. How can I best serve the story this year? Who am I going to cast in all of the central parts? How can we make children feel like they are an integral part of the story? How can we make this production fit into an actual Sunday service? Is there a baby among us who can play Jesus or do we need to find a doll wrapped in swaddling cloth? Can we still have the Innkeeper and his wife welcome everyone to the Inn for a feast? Who will decorate? Who will bake, serve the meal, make the ornaments? What songs, hymns and carols will give voice to the story? Can I actually get everyone to learn their lines, and find enough time to rehearse? Who will take care of the sound system? Can we get a live Christmas tree and the list goes on. I sometimes find it daunting that so much has to

happen in such a short amount of time and then I remember what Mary states in the Pageant: It means so much to me that you still gather in my son's name after two thousand years have passed since the first Christmas. To pay tribute to the birth of Jesus in the space of two magical hours that will hopefully give people moments to savor, moments to celebrate and moments that enfold us in fellowship is why I make the effort. And then when I see how people come together, offer their talents, time, love for each other and commitment to our Christian community, I am aglow. I am grateful. I am humbled by all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes as well as those who place themselves front and center to embody the characters we have come to adore, worship and treat as role models. To all who gave of themselves to make this year's pageant possible, I embrace you warmly, appreciatively, and gratefully. My heart is full.

Blessings and Peace for a joyous Christmas,

Debbie Claar

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The Christian Education committee would like to thank Debbie Claar who wrote and directed, and all those who helped in many ways to make this year's pageant a great success! "Kudos" to Deb Raymond for organizing the great Shepherd's Pie luncheon that was part of the pageant!

Sunday School teacher Larainne Wilson adds:
Sunday School News:

We spent several weeks preparing for the pageant and it paid off. With Deb's leadership and directing abilities and the commitment of parents, we had a wonderful time bringing Jesus' story to life!

Unit 3, which we are starting in December and going through January is called "Birthing A Blessing", the goal of which is to recognize and celebrate the blessings of Jesus' birth. Then, Unit 3 takes us through Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus, which is an opportunity for the children to learn about why baptism is so special! This year, in the Season after Epiphany we will explore the ways in which the light of Christ is shown forth or manifested through the

life and work of the Christian community. The Unit is called "We have this Ministry" and the logo is in the form of an unfinished quilt. Each quilt piece shows some aspect of life related to Christian ministry. We see people singing, dancing, celebrating, communicating with, and reaching out to one another. The quilt in the logo is unfinished purposefully to remind us that Christian ministry is ongoing. The quilt also reminds us that the church is a supportive community where deep, personal, spiritual needs are recognized, valued and nurtured as well as a place where we are challenged and called to go out and serve others in the world.



YOUTH SKATING EVENT:

On January 10 after church, an outdoor skating event is planned for the church youth and their friends at the Lynnfield, MA Market Place. (Exit 43 off 128) Transportation and most costs will be covered by CE. Please sign up at coffee hour on the sheet soon to be provided!

AN UPDATE FROM THE UCC VISION TEAM- TED BRIERLEY, DEBBIE CLAAR, JANICE GRACE, DENNIS HUEBNER, RACHEL MCNEIL, CHRIS SILVA AND ANGELA WELLS

We launched the Vision Team conversations in November and we are grateful to all of you who have participated so far. Your honest and thoughtful contributions have affirmed that this process is valuable, meaningful and an opportunity to truly be the enlightened church we are and can become. We will be available after the services at coffee hour to sign up or you can email Debbie dsclaar@bu.edu or Ted tedtina@rcn.com with your choice of dates. We look forward to meeting with ALL of you over the next few months. Here are the dates and times available for January and February and thank you for your participation! When we reach out to confirm with you, we will give you the address at that time.

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	CONSIDERATIONS
Tuesday, 1/19	10AM	UCC Conference Room	
Saturday, 1/23	2PM	Debbie Claar's house	Debbie has cats
Wednesday, 1/27	7PM	Janice Grace's house	
Tuesday, 2/2	7PM	Janice Grace's house	
Saturday, 2/6	2PM	Debbie Claar's house	Debbie has cats
Tuesday, 2/9	7PM	UCC Conference Room	
Thursday, 2/11	7:30PM	Debbie Claar's house	Debbie has cats
Saturday, 2/20	2PM	Debbie Claar's house	Debbie has cats
Tuesday, 2/23	7PM	UCC Conference Room	

Meet Our New Member - Sally Willard

Sally Willard grew up near Detroit, but also lived in Virginia and attended boarding school in Pittsfield, MA. She relocated to Burlington for her job 30 years ago, arriving one week after the Blizzard of '78! Sally first attended our church about a year ago and says it had been about 50 years since she had attended any church.

Sally studied economics at Wells College in Aurora, NY. As a webmaster, she develops and maintains web sites for her clients. She and Donna Ferro are in the process of enhancing our church's website. In addition, Sally currently serves as the first female Moderator for the Town of Burlington; was a Town Meeting Member for 17 years, including lengthy stints as chairperson of the Capital Budgets committee and the Land Use committee. Side note: Sally was tapped to fill Bob Knudsen's seat on the Land Use committee when he and Janet moved to Woburn.

In her spare time, Sally plays golf and serves as Treasurer for an investment club for women that began in the mid '80s.

Sally's wife Eileen grew up in Lancaster, PA. She is a controller for a company that provides wireless electricity. Sally and Eileen have two dogs: a border collie/Australian shepherd mix named Bandit and an Australian shepherd named Jake. Both dogs have won titles in dog agility competitions.

And New Member - Dick Rockwell

Dick Rockwell moved to Burlington this past March. Before that he lived in Lexington for 12 years. He and his wife Jane have three daughters. Kristen owns an Oriental rug store in Pittsburgh, PA; Sarah is an ordained minister in W. Manchester, NH; and Anne is an esthetician in Essex, MA.

Dick grew up in Pittsburgh, but has lived in many places, including Chicago, Brookside, New Jersey, and Harvard, Mass. He says that in his travels he has moved his family 9 times and belonged to 6 different churches.

Dick studied English Literature at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. While in school, a friend from his fraternity introduced him to New England during ski trips and visits to Cape Cod. Dick fell in love with Yankee history, the Green Mountains, the Atlantic, the four distinct seasons, and antiques, and found a job that would bring him to Massachusetts. He describes his career as "eclectic." He sold automated packaging equipment and medical imaging equipment, and owned and operated a bookstore in Pittsburgh, among other things! He is now retired, but does volunteer work at Atria Longmeadow Place in Burlington.

Dick's hobbies include fly fishing, listening to music, photography, feeding wild birds and walking. Tops on his list are fly fishing and snowshoeing with his 15-year-old grandson, Luke, who lives in Rockport. Dick claims that Luke is a fantastic ice hockey player.

Although Dick currently has no pets of his own, he enjoys dog sitting twice a week for his friend's Cairn terrier, Sadie.

Dick started attending our church right after moving to Burlington and liked it right from the start! He cited Paul and Jane Raymond's warm welcome, Angela's book study, and the Vision Team process as three highlights of his UCC Burlington experience, so far. He is very interested in helping to start a Men's Bible study and would like to meet people who might share that interest.

MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A MEDITATION PRACTICE

Do you feel burdened by life's stresses? Are you feeling burnt out after the holidays? Do you aspire to have a more peaceful or more spiritual life? Join the meditation circle!

Beginning on January 10th Deb Claar and Janet Knudsen will lead a meditation group on Sunday mornings before service. Sessions will include short guided meditations and discussion. No prior experience with meditation is required. Meetings will take place in the office at the far end of the hall in the Montessori School. Arrive and get acclimated at 8:45 a.m. The door will close promptly at 9:00 when our silent meditation begins. Participants attending choir rehearsal or who have other pre-service commitments may depart at 9:45. Those who wish may stay for continued conversation. See Deb or Janet if you have any questions.



BOARD OF MISSIONS

ROSIE'S PLACE

We will be volunteering in Boston on January 6th and May 7th to prepare, cook, serve and cleanup for lunch at this homeless shelter for women.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Jan McSheffrey at afdove@verizon.net

Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

RED WAGON



The last Sunday of the month we take a collection of specific items needed at the Burlington Food Pantry.

We have been asked to donate the following:

Vegetable Oil
Coffee
14 oz dish soap
Disposable razors
Bars of soap

Please bring items to worship on January 31st and we will bring them forward during the service.

POTLUCK AND KAROKE



Come out to the church on January 30 for an easy night of fun and fellowship. We will gather at 6:00pm and stay until we are done. Bring a prepared dish. Whether you want to sing or laugh or both is up to you. There will be a signup sheet, but you are welcome to come whether you sign up or not. That's the fun of potluck!

TRUE NORTH HOURS



Pastor Angela's office hours will resume at the True North Coffee Shop on Tuesday, January 12th from 4:00-6:00 and Thursday, January 14th from 9:00-11:00. Please note that the Thursday hours have shifted one hour earlier, this will be the new schedule for the foreseeable future. All are welcome to stop by for caffeine and conversation!

HOLIDAY SERENADE!

Once again we were delighted to host the HOLIDAY SERENADE, the third year, with the multi-talented musicians from Berklee College of Music. This year we featured the CHARLIECHORDS, with 17 members to entertain us on Sat. Dec. 5. They sang a cappella, solos, performed piano duets, soprano sax solo and a guitarist solo. They filled our ears with amazing voices, tunes and songs. A great time for those that attended. Thanks Sam Moffet/Group director and Ryan LaForest/Business manager.

Many thanks to all who made this possible from the UCC. Transportation drivers Conrad Fong and Dave McNeil, Janet Knudsen, all the cookie bakers, Tina Brierley, Rachel McNeil, Marj & Berg Zamanian, Laura Nowell and Bobbie Killilea. We sold an assortment of Christmas cookies and made \$117 and ticket sales \$561. We grossed \$678 for church operations. Yours truly, Shirley Fong/Organizer.



Poinsettia Plants Given in Memory/Celebration of:

The Bastos Family	Joseph Bastos
Aline Beck	All my Loved Ones
Richard & Karen Butler	Our Parents
Calandrelli & Huebner Family	Rindy & Mark Edward Huebner
Joyce Carpenter	Bob my loving Husband
Carpenter Family	Our many Loved Ones
Costa Family	Loved Ones
Rollie & Lucy Damiani	Our Parents
Nancy Davis	Loved Ones
Eby Family	Loved Ones
Donna Ferro/Deb Glancy	Jean Bray
Fong Family	Aunt Lily Liu, family, friends, neighbors
Marion Braley-Freeman	Family and Friends
Garside Family	Our Son, Timothy
Barbara & Pam Hayes	Robert Joseph, husband and Rob Jay, son
Keyser Family	Hilda and Byron Campbell
Bobbie Killilea	My Hilltop Ladies, present and past
Killilea Family	Family, Friends, and those we so dearly miss!
Phyllis Knopp	Josephine Flyod & Jean Goodwin
Knudsen Family	Randy Nowell
Landin Family	Esther L. Genetti and Helen S. Macurdy
Lynch Family	Loved Ones
McNutt & Ierardi Families	Don McNutt
Jan & Carol McSheffrey	Charlie & Ruth McSheffrey
Ginger Mungillo	Husband, Andrew and parents
	Jim & Alice Garrett
Barbara Naddaff	Loved Ones
Laura Nowell	Husband, Randy
Shute Family	Much Loved Family and Friends
Claire Simas	Mother, Jessie Miller
Stahlinski Family	Our parents and grandparents
Staten Family	Alice & Fred Staten
Joe Stoddard & Paul Mouratidis	Apolonia Samsel & Aspasia Mouratidis
Anne Stafford	Husband, Doug and Son, Doug
Lee & Lynn Tirrell	To Celebrate our Family
Pam & Don Walker	Family and Friends

JANUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES

6 Nelson Eby	19 Erin Killilea
7 Ali & Peter Wisniewski	20 Penny Marsh
8 Kathy Olney	20 Ruth Reddig
9 Denise Reicher	22 John Heald
14 Bob Anderson	26 Sara Goodrich-Byers
16 Suzanne Trefethen	28 Tom Killilea
18 Bob Marsh	28 Jan McSheffrey
18 Beverly Maher	31 Kristin Duran



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT AND HOLIDAY DECORATIONS GIVE AWAY

On Wednesday, December 9th, a pantry volunteer, Jan Costa, Ted & I filled 12 tables in the basement of St Marks Church with donated items. St Marks is adjacent to the Food Pantry so during food pick up times that day, People Helping People pantry clients were invited to pick items for free. At the end of the day, items left over were donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

This was truly a day filled with Christmas spirit and giving. Pantry clients were very appreciative of all that was being given. A sincere Thank YOU to all who generously donated items for this worthy cause.

Blessings,

Tina Brierley

PEOPLE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Anne Stafford's son, Bill and grandson's Tyler and Zach
Bill Hitchcock's daughter, Isabella, and her grandmother Carol
Dorothy Murdoch's daughters and her granddaughter (updated)
Nancy Todd's Mom
Lucy's cousin Brad Standley
Rose Porter
Kim Munch
Kelly Sievert
Dot Drinkwater
Frank and Ruth Reddig
Dot Talalas
Everett Langley's brother George
John Heald's sister Susan & Mom
Aimee Tredeau's friend Amanda
Barbara Moran's friend Heather

Janet Knudsen's friend Helen
Kerry Beyer
Nancy Playle
Joe Stoddard's parents Joseph & Lillian, and Aunt Jacqueline
Bobbie's sister Karen
Jessy McNeil's mom
Carolyn Hart's cousins, Marie and Tim
Ginger Mungillo's son, Jim Mungillo
Paula Surette, friend of Kristin Duran
Susan Eby's neighbor, Janet
Jan Blandino
Joyce Carpenter and her grandnephew baby Logan
The people of Syria, Iraq, Sudan, the Central African Republic and all places where war and violence persist.



JOYS!

Congratulations to Susan and Nelson Eby on the birth of their first grandchild. Granddaughter Veronica was born on December 7th to Stephanie Eby and Chris Hurd. Proud Auntie Jennifer is tickled pink! God Bless and Best Wishes!

CONDOLENCES

Tom & Bobbie Killilea and family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and nice words extended to them on the unexpected passing of brother-in-laws Bob Killilea and Joe Chaves. Please keep Bobbie's sister Karen Chaves and their family in your prayers.

Worship Participation Schedule

January 3
10:30am

Communion Prep: Jessy McNeil
Lay Leader: Laura Nowell
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Ushers: Dave-Volunteer
Mark & Donna Flecchia
Greeters: Jan McSheffrey-Volunteer
Nursery Coverage: Marcia Rich-Bev Maher
Flower Deliverer: Not needed today
Collector: Ken Baker
Coffee Host: Chris Stahlinski
Bakers: Chris-Bev Maher-Kay Shute

January 10
10:30am

Lay Leader: Janet Knudsen
Head Usher: Conrad Fong
Ushers: Conrad, Ginger Mungillo, Chris Stahlinski-Volunteer
Greeters: Jean Baker-Volunteer
Church School: Larainne Wilson-Volunteer
Nursery Coverage: Sheri Wilson-Janet Knudsen
Flower Deliverer: Barbara Nadaff
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Coffee Host: Susan & Nelson Eby
Bakers: Susan

January 17
10:30am

Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
Head Usher: Chris Stahlinski
Ushers: Chris-Jane Raymond-Anne Miller-volunteer
Greeters: Ginger Mungillo
Church School: Larainne Wilson-Volunteer
Nursery Coverage: Sheri Wilson-Jan McSheffrey
Flower Deliverer: Marge Zamanian
Collector: Barbara Moran
Coffee Host: Barbara Moran
Bakers: Barbara-Lynn Tirrell-Janine Towle

January 24
10:30am

Lay Leader: David Hooper
Head Usher: Mark Flecchia
Ushers: Mark-Donna-Samantha-Nicole Flecchia
Greeters: Anne Stafford-Volunteer
Church School: Larainne Wilson-Volunteer
Nursery Coverage: Sheri Wilson-Sue Eby
Flower Deliverer: Bill Livezey
Collector: Marcia Rich
Coffee Host: Jan McSheffrey-Carol Downing
Bakers: Jan-Carol-Bobbie

January 31
10:30am

Lay Leader: Michael Lewis
Head Usher: Everett Langley
Ushers: Everett-John Heald
Carol Downing-Kendra Griep
Greeters: Sue Eby-Volunteer
Church School: Larainne Wilson-Volunteer
Nursery Coverage: Sheri Wilson-Mark Flecchia
Flower Deliverer: Sue Trefethen
Collector: Ginger Mungillo
Coffee Host: Jane & Paul Raymond
Bakers: Jane-Jean Baker-
Jessy McNeil

If you cannot participate in Worship or Nursery contact: Donna Flecchia at 781-272-4756

If you cannot host/bake contact Jane Raymond at 781-272-9647.

February 7 Communion Prep: Kay Shute
Jan McSheffrey
10:30am Lay Leader: Deb Raymond
Head Usher: Janine Towle
Ushers: Janine-Conrad
Deb Glancy-Donna Ferro
Greeters: Claire Simas and
Volunteer
Nursery: Paul Raymond and
Donna Flechia
Flower Deliverer: Cindy Phillips
Collector: Ann Onthank
Coffee Host: Parish Council
Luncheon: Potluck

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>Montessori School Mon-Fri 8-6pm</p>					<p>1  Happy New Year!</p>	2	
<p>3 10:30a Communion</p>	<p>4 3:30p Irish Step No Body Sculpt 7:30p Trustees 8:00p AA</p>	<p>5 No True North Pastor Hours No Body Sculpt 7:15p Deacons</p>	<p>6 Rosie's Volun- teers to Boston 1p C4C 5:45p Jr Choir 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir</p>	<p>7 No True North Pastor Hours No Body Sculpt</p>	8	9	
<p>10 8:25a Meditation 10:30a Worship Church School Noon Music Committee Mtg Youth Skating Event-Lynnfield</p>	<p>11 3:30p Irish Step No Body Sculpt 8:00p AA</p>	<p>12 10a Missions 4-6p True North Pastor Hours No Body Sculpt</p>	<p>13 1p C4C 5:45p Jr Choir 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir</p>	<p>14 10-noon True North Pastor Hours No Body Sculpt</p>	15	16	
<p>17 8:25a Meditation 10:30a Worship Church School Noon Confirmation Class</p>	<p>18 Martin Luther King Day! Office closed! No Body Sculpt 8:00p AA</p>	<p>19 10am Vision Meeting 4-6p True North Pastor Hours No Body Sculpt 7:15p PC</p>	<p>20 1p C4C 5:45p Jr Choir 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir</p>	<p>21 10-noon True North Pastor Hours No Body Sculpt ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</p>	<p>22 HILLTOP Deadline for Feb Articles</p>	<p>23 2p Vision Meeting</p>	
<p>24 8:25a Meditation 10:30a Worship Church School</p>	<p>25 3:30p Irish Step No Body Sculpt 8:00p AA</p>	<p>26 4-6p True North Pastor Hours No Body Sculpt</p>	<p>27 9:30a Hilltop Folding 1p C4C 5:45p Jr Choir 7p Scouts 7p Vision Meeting 7:15p Choir</p>	<p>28 10-noon True North Pastor Hours No Body Sculpt</p>	29	<p>30  Karaoke/Potluck Night</p>	
<p>31 8:25a Meditation 10:30a Worship Church School Red Wagon </p>			<p>Annual Meeting and Luncheon on February 7th following worship! All are welcome!</p>				

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested



Happy New Year!

JANUARY 2016

