

# HILLTOP HERALD

**FEBRUARY  
2019**

Rev. Angela V. Wells-Bean  
Pastor

Chris Silva  
Moderator

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Dear Beloved Ones,

I'll be honest, I am not usually into poetry. I appreciate it as an art form, but it's not usually my go-to source of art when I am seeking inspiration. My reasoning for this is that I am simply too impatient to appreciate poetry. I don't take the time to understand how the words melt together to form a deeper meaning. I am usually in a rush, I need the message given to me straight.

But there is one poet who forces me to slow down, Mary Oliver. Each of her words leans into the next one and I find myself not wanting to stop reading her poetry. She says, *"Poetry, to be understood, must be clear... It mustn't be fancy. I have the feeling that a lot of poets writing now, they sort of tap dance through it. I always feel that whatever isn't necessary should not be in the poem."* The subject of much of her poetry is nature, and I find myself drawn closer to God's presence when I read her beautiful poems. I am telling you about her because sadly, she passed away on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Oliver won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize and was known as being our country's best-selling poet. She spent most of her life living in Provincetown and was inspired by New England's rocky shores and stormy winters. For her, paying attention to nature was the springboard for the sacred. These wintry, dreary days with little sunlight and less warmth can feel like they drag on forever. So, I'll share with you a poem that helped me appreciate the snow a little bit more. It's called *The Storm*:

*Now through the white orchard my little dog  
romps, breaking the new snow  
with wild feet.*

*Running here running there, excited,  
hardly able to stop, he leaps, he spins  
until the white snow is written upon  
in large, exuberant letters,  
a long sentence, expressing  
the pleasures of the body in this world.  
Oh, I could not have said it better myself.*

Since she passed away, it's fitting for us to remember her poem *When Death Comes*, here is an excerpt:

*When it's over, I want to say: all my life  
I was a bride married to amazement.  
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.  
When it's over, I don't want to wonder  
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.  
I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,  
or full of argument.  
I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.*

If you like these two poems, I'd encourage you to read more of her work. "Devotions," is a book that was published in 2017 and it's a section of her most-loved poems from across all her publications. It is a great place to start.

In the meantime, I hope that you're able to slow down and draw closer to God in these long, dark, wintry days.

With Love and Gratitude,

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean



**286<sup>th</sup>**  
**Annual Meeting Warrant**  
**Sunday, February 3, 2019**  
**Snow Date: February 10, 2019**

- Article 1 To approve the minutes of the 285th Annual Meeting and Special Congregational Meetings held in 2018.
- Article 2 To accept the Annual Reports of the Church Officers, Boards, and Committees.
- Article 3 To consider and vote upon the slate of Church Officers, Boards, and Committees as presented by the Nominating Committee.
- Article 4 To hear special reports on WISE for Mental Health, Community Engagement Group, Church Sign, Sabbatical Grant, and Solar Panels.
- Article 5 To consider and vote upon the 2019 Operating Budget as presented by the Board of Finance & Stewardship and recommended by the Parish Council.
- Article 6 To consider and vote upon empowering the Parish Council to spend up to \$5,000 from the Endowment Fund in case of an emergency.
- Article 7 To consider and vote upon the 2019 Church Goal as recommended by Parish Council.
- Article 8 To hear any other business that may legally come before the Congregation.
- Article 9 To hear and consider remarks for the good of the Parish.



**POTLUCK LUNCHEON FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING**  
**February 3rd**

If you can make a main dish, side dish, salad or dessert for our Annual Meeting Luncheon, there is a sign up sheet at coffee hour!

Refreshments will be provided by Finance and Stewardship



**WISE MEETING**

Our next WISE for Mental Health meeting will be on **Monday, Feb. 4th at 7pm** in the conference room. We are making great strides on planning some things which will help our congregation engage with the topic of mental health. All are welcome to join us!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE FLOWERS FOR  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP?**

Forms and signup sheet are located on the bulletin board in the  
Interconnect Hallway.

**THE COST IS \$30 PER BOUQUET**

Fill out the form and leave it with Bobbie. Be sure to say who they  
are in memory/celebration of, are you keeping them after the  
worship, or can they be delivered to someone in need?



In the last month articles have been in the Hilltop and blast, giving you the news that we are falling short of our 2019 budget needs. The Finance and Stewardship committee and Parish Council believe it is extremely important that you all understand that we have scrutinized the budget. With the few exceptions noted below, most committees are requesting a flat budget from last year. So why are we short?

Issue	Impact on Budget	Approximate \$
Revenues are down. Combining loose offering and pledges our expected donations are down overall.	Reduced revenue	-\$4,556
With the well deserved retirement of our volunteer landscaper and the inability to find replacement volunteers, we have needed to contract this service.	Increased expense	+\$3,000
Our wonderful Pastor has had a very joyous year. She has gotten married and is expecting a child in mid-2019. While both of these things are blessings, they increase our expenses: Increased benefit premiums The cost to cover her parental leave	Increased expenses	+\$8042 +\$5,220
In recognition of our dedicated, high performing staff, Parish Council has proposed a nominal 3% increase in salaries and impacted pastoral expenses.	Increased expense	+\$,2246
<b>Total of increased expenses plus reduced revenue</b>		<b>\$23,064</b>
Parish Council has budgeted for additional revenue from fundraising. It is our expectation/hope to hold more, highly successful events. This is an extremely aggressive goal, one that we will need considerable effort from the congregation and their friends to help us achieve.	Increased revenue	+\$2,250
<b>Current Budget Projected Short Fall</b>		<b>\$20,814.00</b>

As we communicate these discouraging 2019 figures, we have wonderful news to share about the 2018 budget. As this congregation often does, our committees, members and attendees rallied and we are finishing 2018 with a surplus of greater than \$10,000. This leads to two questions: How did we end up with such a large surplus in 2018? While the budget has lots of line items of plus and minuses, the short answer stems from two factors:

- We had a good winter and plowing was under budget by \$4,800. (This is New England. We cannot plan on it **not** snowing. )
- Our pledges and loose offerings were more than \$14,000 more than budgeted based on committed pledges.

The second question is, if we had a surplus last year why are we still conducting a second mile campaign for 2019? As a matter of fiscal responsibility/best practice we should be endeavoring to plan for a balanced budget. As you prayerfully reflect on this second mile request, remember that we had a surplus in 2018 primarily because people gave more than their official pledges said they would. We are asking everyone if they can commit to the same/true amount that they gave in 2018 for 2019-- and maybe a little more.

Please know you are a beloved child of God and this congregation regardless of what you decide to do in response to this plea.

Bless you all.

*The Finance and Stewardship Committee*

**Save the Date!**  
**Tell Your Friends!**



The United Church Congregational of Burlington will be holding its first  
***“Howl at the Steeple”***

on Saturday, March 2, 2019

Have you ever been to a dueling piano bar like Howl at the Moon?

If you have you know how much fun these sing-along, laughter filled evenings can be.

If you haven't been to one, come and see what our version is like.

This fundraising event is sure to be a *howl* of a time to raise money for the church's ministries.

*Organizer: Gail Ciano*

*MC: Deb Glancy*



***As you think about what you can bring? Also please consider what this church has brought to you, your family and those you care about. Here are just a few of the church's ministries***

<i>Nursery care</i>	<i>The Christmas Pageant</i>
<i>Sunday school</i>	<i>Lovely music</i>
<i>Adult Christian education</i>	<i>Coffee hour fellowship</i>
<i>Confirmation of our teens</i>	<i>Moving sermons to inspire and anchor us in today's troubled world.</i>
<i>Interfaith events</i>	<i>A lovely historical building to pray and meet in (that needs heat, lights and lots of maintenance)</i>
<i>Green Team events</i>	<i>Community outreach</i>
<i>Pastoral care for bereavement and other difficult times</i>	<i>Connections with housebound and those in need of prayers and company</i>



## JAZZ AND CHOCOLATE - FEBRUARY 16th 7PM

We will host the Tenth Annual Evening of Jazz and Chocolate on Saturday, February 16, 2019 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Sewall Hall.

Indulge in a sumptuous buffet of decadent homemade chocolate desserts while enjoying the sultry sounds of jazz vocalist Lydia Harrell, accompanied by the accomplished and animated pianist Steven Higgs.

Harrell won first prize at the Second Annual Duke Ellington Jazz Vocal Competition in Manhattan, and was a fifth place finalist in the 2013 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition. She was selected from over 200 vocalists by Sony Music Latin to provide lead vocals for the 2013 Bob Marley tribute album, "Is This Love." She is a frequent performer at many Boston area restaurants and jazz clubs, including the Custom House, Scullers, Ryles, the House of Blues, and the Acton Jazz Café.

Tickets for an Evening of Jazz and Chocolate can be reserved by calling 781-272-4547. The cost is \$15 per person. To learn more about Lydia Harrell and hear some of her jazz renditions, visit [www.lydiaharrell.com](http://www.lydiaharrell.com).



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE March 6th at 7:00pm

Friends,

It's time to re-center, draw near to the heart of God. The season of Lent is almost upon us and I invite you to help us mark the start of this sacred season by attending our annual Ash Wednesday service. I pray that we will leave that service feeling centered, renewed, reminded that we are beloved. Come for the quiet. Come for the pause. Come for the beautiful music. Come for the sacred experience. Come to be anointed with ashes. Come to be reminded that you a perfectly imperfect child of God. Come join us on **Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00pm**.

With Love,  
Angela

### NOTES FROM OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

**JOIN PASTOR ANGELA AT  
TRUE NORTH COFFEE SHOP  
IN BURLINGTON ON ANY OF  
THE FOLLOWING DATES IN  
FEBRUARY:**

Tuesday, Feb. 5th: 4pm-6pm  
Thursday, Feb. 7th: **Cancelled**.  
Tuesday, Feb. 12th: 4-6pm  
Thursday, Feb. 14th: 9am-11am  
Tuesday, Feb. 19th: 4pm-6pm  
Thursday, Feb. 21st: 9am-11am  
Tuesday, Feb. 26th: 4pm-6pm  
Thursday, Feb. 28th: 9am-11am



### February Rehearsals

The Adult Choir will meet at 7:15 pm on February 6, 13, and 27. There will be no rehearsal on Wednesday, February 20. The Children's Choir will meet from 12pm-12:30pm on February 3, 10, and 24. There will be no rehearsal on Sunday, February 17. Both groups welcome new voices!

### Lent and Easter Singers Wanted

The snow may still be on the ground, but it's not too early to think spring! Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6 this year. We would love for new singers to join us for Lenten services, Easter services, or both. Easter this year is Sunday, April 21.

Watch *The Hilltop* for announcements of rehearsals in March, and make plans to join us for a joyous spring!

### Keep in touch!

Email: [music@uccburlington.org](mailto:music@uccburlington.org)

Twitter: @uccbmusic

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs](http://www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs)







## MISSIONS UPDATE!

### RED WAGON

The last Sunday of the month we collect non-perishable items to help stock the shelves of our local pantry. On **February 24th** please bring to worship:

2 lb boxes of sugar, cereal,  
and boxes of instant oatmeal

### ROSIE'S PLACE-BOSTON

Thank you to those who traveled into Boston on January 9th to prepare, cook, serve and clean up after providing lunch for those homeless ladies and their children. We appreciate the donations of toiletries and books to add to their library. Keep your eyes open for our next date to volunteer!



### CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE Wednesday afternoons 1pm Church conference room

C4C will continue to meet at the regular time and place for February and March Except for February 13 and March 13 when the conference room is being used for a clergy meeting. We are enjoying making warm hats and shawls to add to our supply and also thinking about items to make for the Fair next fall.

\*\*\*\*\*

Susan and Nelson Eby will be on Sabbatical this year. They are going to travel to Taipei for two months so that Nelson can do research at the Academia Sinica in Taipei. They leave February 18<sup>th</sup> and return April 15<sup>th</sup>. Later on in the spring they will travel to Capetown, South Africa where he will do research at The University of Capetown. Dates for that trip have not been set yet. Susan will still have the same e-mail account and both a lap top and iPad with her. Please keep in touch at [mmoosie@hotmail.com](mailto:mmoosie@hotmail.com).



### LOWELL TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER (LTLC)

Thanks to all who donated used clothing and special thanks to crafters for a cause C4C for the many hand knitted hats, scarves and wrist sleeves. Please keep the donations coming.

Most needed.....we have a constant shortage of winter coats, boots and gloves. See the bin outside the church office if you can donate used clothing.

### GIFT CARD ORDERING:

The newest store available on the gift card list is "Total Wine and More". They are right here on Cambridge St in Burlington – in the Target/ Panera/Michaels shopping center. They have an enormous selection of reasonably priced beer, wine and liquor – and the rebate on their gift cards is 7%. Think of what you spend on alcohol in a year – how nice if, at no cost to you, 7% of your total went to the church! Our next group order for gift cards will be on March 17<sup>th</sup>, with delivery by March 24<sup>th</sup>.

More information will be coming!

## NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!

The Heifer Project was one of our Sunday School topics for the 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks of January. Kendra Griep presented information on Heifer and talked about the animals we could donate for a nominal fee.

The students brought in change from their own piggy banks, and we played some games that they could win coins to donate. The students thoughtfully selected bees for Guatemala. They were impressed that honey lasts forever and also liked the fact that bees pollinate. They did so well with their collecting, they are also donating chicks!

### COMMUNION



Beginning on Sunday January 6, part of the Sunday School lesson was about communion, culminating with 'practicing' by having actual communion in Sunday School.

The Sunday School class is joining the congregation for communion February 3 and then each month following.

**Goal:** For the children of our congregation to participate in an integral part of our service and faith.

**Logistics:** On communion Sunday only:

-Instead of the children staying in church for the first 15 minutes of the service for Children's time, the children will go directly to Sunday School. Just before the beginning of the communion portion of the service, the children would come up with the Sunday School teacher and assistant to participate in the Service. The kids will sit in the first row of back section of the church.

### **INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS**

Intergenerational activities are meant for all ages to attend.

Some activities are broken into age groups & some are all together.



### **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23 AT 5:30 PM—Sunday School Overnighter!**

We will camp out in Sewall Hall Saturday night through Sunday morning. We will have a light dinner together around 6PM. We will play a game, then watch the movie Wall-E (presented by the Green Team). WALL-E is a computer-animated science fiction film that follows a solitary trash compactor robot on a future deserted Earth.

-Overnight kids should bring sleeping bag or bed roll, pajamas, tooth brushes & tooth paste & a flash light if they have it.

The Jesus group (kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup> grade) will leave after the movie.

The God group will play a few more games then lights out. We will have a light breakfast & then parents can pick kids up at 8 AM.

There will be ***no Sunday school on February 24*** as we will probably all be tired from our adventure!

I am looking for 2 adults to stay overnight with us (Not God group parents). Please contact Deb Raymond, 857-373-9156.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**March** Escape Room. Date to be determined.

**April** Church cleanup

**May** Bike to Lexington Center

## JOYS \* PRAYERS \* CONCERNS

Riley Watkins  
 Betty Knowles and friend Janet Hurley  
 Joe Stoddard's husband Paul  
 Rev. Angela and Andy-Expecting!  
 Ron Downing  
 Bill Proctor  
 Shirley Garside  
 Jean Bastos  
 Chris Stahlinski's Sister  
 J. Beyers (Relative of Kate)  
 Lucy and Rollie Damiani's  
 brother-in-law Vito "Chickie" Bucco  
 Dave Williamson  
 Deb Glancy's Aunt Rosemarie  
 Rev. Elizabeth King  
 Jan Blandino  
 Tom Killilea  
 Aimee Tredeau's friend Amanda  
 Nancy Todd's Mom  
 Anna Karwan's Mom

Anne Stafford, her son Bill,  
 grandsons Tyler and Zach  
 Marion Braley Freeman and her niece Beth  
 Bobbie Martino  
 Barbara Garland  
 Conrad Fong  
 Steve Fennelly  
 Ann Onthank  
 Jessy McNeil's brother Mel and sister Grace  
 Henry Knopp  
 Bobbie & Tom's friends John, Joy, Ed, Vicki  
 Dot Drinkwater  
 Ruth Reddig  
 Everett Langley's brother George  
 John Heald's sister Susan & Mom  
 Ginger Mungillo's son, Jim

***Our Deepest Sympathy*** to Beth Hatcher, a friend of UCC, on the sudden passing of her Dad, John Thomas. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

### HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!



1	Craig Baker
1	Ted Brierley
2	Gordon Brown
5	Mark Flecchia
7	Karen Crossman (Beck)
7	Kellsee Lynch
7	Christopher Cahoon
10	Kelly Forbush
10	Sue Staten-Kassirer
11	Frank Ayer
13	Amy Todd
14	Karin Keyser
15	Elaine Carpenter
16	Virginia Mungillo
19	Donna Flecchia
22	Robert Knudsen
24	Julia Lynch
27	Lynn Tirrell
27	Sharon McDonough
27	David Williamson
27	Carolyn Hart



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 3 10:30am	<b><u>Annual Meeting</u></b>	
	Communion Prep:	Sally Willard-Volunteer needed
	Lay Leader:	Deb Glancy
	Head Usher:	Marcia Rich
	Ushers:	Marcia Rich-Volunteers needed
	Greeter:	Wynelle Scenna
	School:	Deb Raymond
	Nursery:	Kristen Watanabe-Jan McSheffrey
	Flower Deliverer:	Janice Grace
	Collector:	Wynelle Scenna
	<b><u>Potluck Luncheon</u></b>	<b><u>Congregation &amp; Finance &amp; Stewardship</u></b>
February 10 10:30am	Lay Leader:	Carol Downing
	Head Usher:	Dave McNeil
	Ushers:	Dave-John Heald-Everett Langley-Paul Raymond
	Greeter:	Volunteer needed
	School:	Deb Raymond
	Nursery:	Kristen Watanabe-Sarah Goodrich-Byers
	Flower Deliverer:	Cindy Phillips
	Collector:	Barbara Moran
	Coffee Hour:	John Heald and Everett Langley
	Bakers:	Shirley Fong-Karen Welch
February 17 10:30am	Lay Leader:	Mark Flecchia
	Head Usher:	Chris Stahlinski
	Ushers:	Chris-Wynelle Scenna-John Getsinger-Marcia Rich
	Greeter:	Kay Shute
	School:	Deb Raymond
	Nursery:	Kristen Watanabe-Bev Maher
	Flower Deliverer:	Marge Zamanian
	Collector:	Carol Downing
	Coffee Hour:	Barbara Moran
	Bakers:	Sally Willard-Marge Zamanian
February 24 10:30am	Lay Leader:	Sally Willard
	Head Usher:	Everett Langley
	Ushers:	Everett-John Heald-Chris Stahlinski-Conrad Fong
	Greeter:	Janice Grace
	School:	Deb Raymond
	Nursery:	Kristen Watanabe-Paul Raymond
	Flower Deliverer:	Anna Karwan
	Collector:	Marcia Rich
	Coffee Hour:	Gail Ciano
	Bakers:	Carol Downing-Lynn Tirrell
March 3	Communion Prep:	Dave Ieradi
	Lay Leader:	Marcia Rich
	Head Usher:	Paul Raymond
	*Ushers:	Paul – Volunteers needed
	Greeter:	Ginger Mungillo
	School:	Deb Raymond
	Nursery:	Kristen Watanabe-Mark Flecchia
	Flower Deliverer:	Nancy Davis
	Collector:	Wynelle Scenna
	Coffee Hour:	Chris Stahlinski
	Bakers:	Nancy Todd-Karen Welch

# February Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Montessori School M-F 8-6pm					1	2
3 10:30a Communion- School Noon Annual Meeting/Luncheon Noon Youth Choir	4  7:30 AA 7:30 Trustees	5  4-6p True North Pastor Hours 7:15p Deacons	6  1p C4C  7-9 Scouts 7:15 Choir	7 NO True North Pastor Hours  6:30p SLAA	8	9 Montessori Open House (snow-date March 16)
10 10:30a Worship- School-Love Offering Noon Youth Choir Noon Missions Mtg	11  6:15p CE 7:30 AA	12  4-6p True North Pastor Hours 6:30p RAI	13  1p C4C  7-9 Scouts 7:15 Choir	14  9-11a True North Pastor Hours  6:30p SLAA	15	16 7:00p 
17 10:30a Worship- School Noon Youth Choir Noon Green Team Noon Called to Care	18 PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY  Office Closed  7:30 AA	19  4-6p True North Pastor Hours 7:15p PC	20  MARCH HILLTOP ARTICLES DUE! 1p C4C  7-9 Scouts 7:15 Choir	21  9-11a True North Pastor Hours  6:30p SLAA	22	23  5:30pm Sunday School Overnighter
24 10:30a Worship- School-Red Wagon Noon Youth Choir	25  7:30 AA	26  4-6p True North Pastor Hours 6:30p RAI	27 9:30p HH folding  1p C4C  7-9 Scouts 7:15 Choir	28  9-11a True North Pastor Hours  6:30p SLAA		

UCC  
6 Lexington Street  
Burlington, MA 01803  
Address Service Requested



**FEBRUARY 2019**