

# Congregational Connection

# April



## Pastor's Column

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made him, like him we rise, Alleluia.  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!  
From hymn "Christ our Lord is Risen Today"

Don't you love it when we sing this together at the beginning of our Easter service? How joyous it is, heralded with our beautiful choir voices and trumpet and the rest of us singing with gusto--children, youth and adults alike-Alleluia!

What does this 3rd verse mean to you? "Soar we now where Christ has led." The disciples were scared to soar where Christ led -- at first. But when he showed up in the upper room, he did not tell them to stay in the room, lock the door and create a holy huddle amongst themselves. He said: "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

As Easter people in this 50 days of the Easter season, how are you and I being "sent?" Like we did in Lent, let us ground ourselves in prayer, read the scripture passages of this time of the Easter season, share our faith with others, and try on these questions: Jesus, what is your will for me when you say you are sending me? How am I being sent with love and your risen spirit? How is our church being sent as the body of Christ? Here I am, send me. And let us soar together in your name.

"Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!"

Blessings and love,  
Gretchen



## From the Desk of the Deacons

We hope you enjoyed the "Listening" worship series and music offered during Lent. Please share your feedback on our Lenten series with a Deacon or Pastor Gretchen.

Our Palm Sunday service with noisy triumphant entry welcomed in Holy Week services, with Maundy Thursday's somber Tenebrae service, Good Friday's prayerful afternoon vigil and a joyful Easter Sunday service followed by an exciting Easter Egg Hunt. Many thanks for filling 4 beautiful Easter baskets that were delivered to our shut-ins and for ordering Easter lilies and tulips that brightened the altar on Easter Sunday.

On Sunday, April 29th, the Deacons will hold a "meet and greet" after worship for anyone who wishes to join the church. We are planning a New Member service on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th. Please let Nancy or Bettyanne know if you are interested in joining our church.

Go in Peace,

Your Deacons (Donna Eliasson, Nancy Haley, Tara Haley, Bettyanne Lang, Ray Matusciewicz, Cheryl McMillan)



## Notes from the Music Director

THANK YOU, EASTER MUSICIANS --- We were so fortunate this year to have the North River Brass Ensemble on Maundy Thursday and trumpeter Matt Putnam on Easter Sunday, together with the combined talents of the Herring Run Festival Chorus and our own Easter Kids' Choir.

And don't forget Sheila Muldoon Kinch, who provided beautiful violin accompaniment for our choir's new Lenten anthem, "O God, How Deep How Broad, How High" on March 18, and soloist Jerry McDonough, who continues to grace us with his booming voice during Sunday offertories.

Thank you to all for your contributions to our growing music ministry.

SHARON CONCERT BAND APRIL 9! --- The incomparable Sharon Concert Band will welcome spring (and the continuing Easter season) in a big way on the afternoon of Sunday, April 8.

Enjoy our restored stained-glass windows in a glorious 3 p.m. concert that's sure to delight the eyes as well as the ears.

The band's appearances are becoming an annual tradition, and it's a great way to celebrate the arrival of spring with your whole family.

Admission is only \$10 for adults, \$20 per family.

SOUTHEASTERN PHILHARMONIC MAY 4 --- The annual Barbara Knapp Memorial Concert is always a great way to end our Music at Sanctuary Hall season. This annual program of popular classics and classic pop always includes some crowd-pleasers, from patriotic tunes to Broadway show pieces to movie soundtracks.

Plan now to attend this spectacular event. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for coffee and dessert. Music will start at 8. Admission is only \$15 adults, \$10 for those 62 and older and students with ID, and \$25 per family. To hear a concert of this quality in Boston you would pay up to five times as much.

This is a major fund-raiser for our church in memory of Barbara Knapp, a longtime member of our church and choir and a violinist for the orchestra. Barbara taught many in our congregation, including our own Samantha Mortland!

If you want to know more, call 781-974-3503.

Victor DeRubeis, Director of Music

[vderubeis@yahoo.com](mailto:vderubeis@yahoo.com)



## Church School News

Alleluia He is Risen! Our Easter worship experience was so inspiring with children leading us into worship with their singing, trumpets playing, choir singing, music to keep close to our hearts as we

journey and an inspirational message about our hope for the future. The younger children were treated to an Easter Basket that was filled with scripture-based items and we learned about the meaning of each when we went to our classrooms. The morning closed with an Easter Egg hunt for the children to show them that we rise-up as Easter people and rejoice on this special day.

During the Lenten season our children have learned about Repentance: which means telling God you're sorry for doing something wrong and asking him to help you change. Forgiveness: which means God wipes away your bad ideas when you say you're sorry. Salvation: which means Jesus made sure we will live forever in heaven. Grace: which means salvation is free, a gift of Love from God and we do not have to earn His gift. Our goal with the children is to teach them a lesson each week that they in turn can bring home to share with their family, we hope and pray that your families have grown together on their faith journey.

Prayer Pals

Our Church School children will be praying again family to family, so keep all of the children in your prayers as we navigate through this time of turmoil and change and pray for goodness and kindness in their lives. We also pray for the adults and teachers that care for the children each week and thank them for their dedication. That wherever love, kindness and fairness exist, that God is there!

Church School Supt., Kerry Mortland Seek Joy!



**Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Committee is busy making plans for our Annual Strawberry Festival and Craft Fair to be held on Saturday, June 16th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

The Church will sponsor the Strawberry Shortcake Table once again. It's time to stock up on strawberries! If you are able to purchase strawberries, we ask that you wash, slice and freeze them. The frozen strawberries can be dropped off at any time at the Church and stored in the freezer on the stage in the Chapel. We appreciate your donations of strawberries and whipped cream to support the Strawberry Festival.

The Flea Market table welcomes any furniture, kitchen gadgets, children's toys and other items you no longer can use or want. Now is the time to clean out those cabinets, closets and basements and bring your items to the Church on Friday night, June 15th. The Thrift Shop will also be open for business, and they accept gently used clothing and other items to sell.

As always, there will be a Snack Bar and Bake Table at the Festival, and volunteers are needed to help out at all of the Church tables. There are plenty of opportunities for everyone of all ages to pitch in and enjoy the fun and fellowship that we share on this busy day.

Table space is available to arts and crafts vendors. The price for a 6' table and 2 chairs is \$30.00. The Church will supply the table and chairs, and vendors may bring their own. There are vendor forms available for anyone interested in setting up a table. A check for \$30.00 must be mailed to the Church office prior to the event. There is also a 24-hour cancellation policy where we must be notified at least 24-hours prior to the Fair for reimbursement.

We are working on some ideas for a raffle item and will provide details next month.

We hope to see everyone at the Strawberry Festival and Craft Fair on Saturday, June 16th. This is a great day to bring family, friends and neighbors to share in the fun, eat some delicious Strawberry Shortcake and browse the tables.

We thank you for all your help in making this Church event a huge success.

The Stewardship Committee



**Interfaith Social Services**

The annual walk for Interfaith Social Services is now the Stop the Stigma 5K! On Saturday April 28th the walk/run will be held in Squantum starting/ending at the Kennedy Center.



**Gillette Stadium Volunteers**

Here is the upcoming schedule of events. Be sure to sign up with Donna at Coffee Hour if you'd like to attend any of these or the 10 Patriot events (dates-tbd) this season:

4/6	Fri	7:30	Revs Soccer
4/21	Sat	2:30	Super Cross
5/28	Mon	1pm	NCAA Lacrosse
8/25	Sat		Kenney Chesney
9/15	Sat		Ed Sheeran



**Soup/Sandwich/Scripture**

The next Soup and Scripture will be April 17. The reading is Luke 24: 36b-48.



**Upcoming Pastoral and Preacher Coverage**

- April 8th - Pastor Gretchen
- April 15th - Pastor Gretchen
- April 22nd - Rev. Gary Marks
- April 29th - Pastor Gretchen



**Birthdays**

Curtis Ellett	April 1
Alan Dwyer	April 2
Norm Fulton	April 5
Rosie Mae Railey	April 6
Nancy Haley	April 5
Cheryl McMillan	April 8
Judy Beth Matusiewicz	April 11
Emilio & Alex Valentin	April 15
Darian Ramirez	April 16
Patricia Noonan	April 19
Judy Holman	April 23
Joanne Haley	April 24
Kerry Mortland	April 28



**In Our Prayers**

Chickie  
Michael B.

Tom Arthur  
Dave & Lynn

Jack	First Responders
Servicemen & women	Kelly Cassier
Cheryl Thornton	Linda & Mike R.
Victims of floods	Franco Pelliccia
Natalie Lyon	Muriel Smith
Dave	Shirley
Bette	Wendy
Frank	Kathy & Andy
Chris & Dick	Mark
Michael F.	Dick Ward
Jim Beulins	Rose Dority
Mike R.	Chris G.
Richie	Andrew
Gigi	Dan V. & Maria M. engagement
Don Kettles	Mary
March for Our Lives participants	



### **Notes from the Office**

Please have your May newsletter submissions to me by April 18th. Thank you!  
-Sara