

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
**The Preston City
Congregational Church**
Gathered 1698

FEBRUARY

2013

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WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 A.M.

High School class: 10:30 A.M.

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Follow us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the March newsletter is due in the church office by **February 17th**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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From the Minister...

IN TIMES LIKE THESE

This is a verse to one of my favorite hymns:

*In times like these, you need a Savior,
In times like these you need an anchor;
Be very sure, be very sure,
Your anchor holds and grips the solid Rock!*

I've often thought of these words during times of great sadness and tragedy; 911, the school shootings in Columbine, the Virginia Tech school shootings, the shooting of Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, and now, the horrific school shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT where 20 children and 6 adults were brutally murdered. Life will never be "the same" for anyone in Newtown, or, for us as a nation. Events like these affect us and change the way we look at life.

"We live in a very different world." We've heard these words too many times following the increasing, senseless tragedies happening more and more frequently in our country.

So, how do we continue living our lives in a different, and dangerous world? As we have heard and read, the answers will vary, depending on who you ask.

For me, the answer is to remember that in life and in death I ultimately belong to God; the anchor. The Rock. For me, remembering this truth gives me faith to believe that He WILL take care of me no matter how out-of-control and evil the world becomes; I am His. Forever! This is what His Word tells us.

Those who lost their lives belong to Him again; in a better place that we cannot begin to imagine or explain. And one day, we, too, will live with Him. I understand that when terrifying events like Newtown occur, that many of those who are grieving are not ready to hear or even consider my point of view, but one day, maybe they will.

I believe you need faith *before* difficult times come into your life; faith that sees beyond this world to a new and better world. If you don't have faith, events like the ones I've mentioned may soon overwhelm you, and keep you from seeing all that is good around us. And when that happens, evil claims another victim – YOU!

Do not allow any tragedy to *pull* you away from God. Instead, let it *push* you closer to him, trusting that he will be with you in your sorrow, helping you to understand, cope, and discover that life can, and must go on.

In times like these you need more than yourself, you need a Savior.

Pray daily for others, chances are, someone is praying for you!

See you in church!

Rev. Stan

DURING THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER & JANUARY...

WE WELCOMED into the Household of Christian Faith, through the Sacrament of Baptism:

- 12/9 **Marin Elizabeth Abel**, daughter of Lisa & Christopher Abel of West Hartford.
12/16 **Eva Selena Thompson**, daughter of Lacey & Corey Thompson of Guam.
1/20 **Corey Leonard Converse**, son of Lisa & Gregory Converse of Preston.
1/20 **John David Nichols** (Adult Baptism)
1/27 **Kayla Lynn Wisniewski** and **Michelle Rose Wisniewski**, daughters of Lynn Wisniewski and Audrey Traylor.

WE CONGRATULATED the following couples who were united in marriage:

- 12/12 **Carolyn Larkin** to **Stephen George**.
12/21 **Jennifer Yonts** to **Stephen Crooks, Jr.** at The Publick House, Sturbridge, MA.

WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY to the family of:

- 12/28 **Beatrice Shaw**. Bea was a good and faithful member of our church; a woman who often worked "behind the scenes," never seeking praise or credit. She only wanted to do whatever she could for the church she loved.
1/2/13 **Phyllis Crary**. Where do I begin? There wasn't much that Phyllis didn't do for her church. Whatever she did, she did with excellence. She was a woman with many gifts and talents, and she shared them with so many people during her years among us. She was a true and loyal Congregationalist Who always kept our church "on track" and "in check" with everything we were doing – especially during the Sunday School expansion years. It was a "full house" the day her life was celebrated.

Both of these women passed within days of each other, and both will be missed greatly. We give thanks to God for their years among us.

- 1/28 **Jennie Thims**. Jennie was the sister to Winthrop "Winnie" Benjamin. She joined the church back in the 1930's and lived in Maine for many years before her passing.

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DON'T FORGET

The Annual Meeting of the church

Tuesday, February 12th, at 7 P.M.

In

Fellowship Hall

Copies of the 2012 Annual Report will be available on the Information Center table on February 10th. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting, however, only active members may vote on issues that come up that evening. Refreshments will be available starting at 6:30 P.M.

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER VIGIL

CAN YOU HELP?

From time-to-time, people/families in our congregation are in need of a home-cooked meal. Maybe it's following a hospital stay, or when a baby is born, or upon the passing of a loved one, etc. Many people have generously volunteered to take on this act of compassion in years past, and now we are in need of more volunteers when the need arises. If you would be willing to be a part of this important ministry, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128.

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LOOKING AHEAD...

The next **SENIOR LUNCHEON** is planned for Tuesday, February 12th, beginning at Noon. Be sure to sign up at the Information Center bulletin board. Space is limited to 60.

The next **GAME NIGHT** is scheduled for February 16th, from 6-9 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite game, and a snack to share with others. This event is "Free" and is a great way to meet new friends. Sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board.

THANK YOU

Please know how grateful we are to those who have already made a contribution to cover the cost of our newsletter mailings.

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TRIPS & TRAVELS...

New for 2013 and beyond...

Hawaii in April, 2013. Brochures are now available for this trip at the Information Center.

South Africa in April, 2014. Brochures for this trip just arrived. Pick one up at the Information Center.

Both of these destinations are open to the community. We can also arrange these trips for people throughout the country. Spread the word!

SOME GREAT NEWS...CONGRATULATIONS!

Hunter Bustamante auditioned and was selected to participate in the Eastern Region choir. The concert was held January 5th. He is auditioning for All States on February 2nd. Good luck, Hunter.

Hayden Bustamante has joined the 7th Regiment Drum Corp...a group of kids 14-21 with a brass line, color guard and a drum line. There is a show about 12 minutes long that they work to perfect which started in December. They compete against other drum corps across the country and will be marching in parades as well.

They will be going on their competition tour for 18 days in July and August. They'll be going to Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, and several others. Hayden is looking forward to the challenge of the drum corp. He will return just in time to start his 4th season with the NFA Marching Band as a junior.

THE RECOGNITION DINNER for everyone who works with our youth...Sunday School teachers, the Board of Religious Education, youth choirs leaders and youth group leaders is scheduled for **Saturday, March 2nd at 6:00 p.m.** Much help is needed and many items are needed for this full course turkey dinner; a sign up sheet will soon be posted in the Information Center. Speak to Coordinator Sandy Dudek to volunteer your help or if you have questions.