



Green Street Baptist Church

Church Office: 781-665-7331

www.greenstreetbaptistchurch.com



February 2016

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Dear Friends,

We will soon be coming to Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. Many of us remember a time in our lives when neither of the two was observed in our traditions, but over the years that has changed and both are much more widely observed.

Neither have Biblical roots although both make Biblical connections. The use of ashes on Ash Wednesday most likely took its inspiration from the use of Ashes in the Old Testament when such were used as a mark of penitence and often connected with practices of fasting and prayer.

While there is no Biblical period called Lent it has been connected to Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. Those forty days were in preparation for his ministry. The forty days of Lent then become preparation for the celebration of the resurrection.

Both are opportunities for us to reflect upon our lives, upon the goodness of God and upon the faithfulness of Jesus whose commitment to fulfilling his mission is an example, and a call, to all of us.

At Green Street we will begin the period of reflection and penance with our traditional **Ash Wednesday service on February 10th at 7PM.** I hope you can be with us for it is not only a time for individual self-examination and commitment, but a time when we can be supported by those in our worshipping community.

Please also note our Lenten luncheons and programs when we will gather for a time of fellowship, learning and discussion. One of the sessions will give us an opportunity to hear about some exciting work being done by one of our American Baptist Missionaries. Two of the sessions will be devoted to exploring two of the characteristics we use to talk about our Creator; the Will of God and the Forgiveness of God. Then on Palm Sunday we will gather in the evening for our traditional "Night of Music." On Maundy Thursday we will gather in remembrance of the very first supper that we now call The Lord's Supper. We will have an opportunity deepen our understanding of the meaning of that simple, yet profound, meal that has been central to Christian worship for centuries. More information on these programs will be forthcoming.

I look forward to our journeying together through this Lenten period and then to our celebration of Easter.

Blessings to all,

George

George H. Sinclair, Jr.
Interim Pastor



CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING - Sunday, February 28 at 12:15PM

The Annual Meeting for presentation of reports, the election of officers, boards and committees and such other business as may come before it will be held as indicated above.

UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES

JANUARY TRUSTEES MEETING HIGHLIGHTS by Buck Locke, Chairperson

Steve Morrow, our Treasurer, gave an impressive report for the end of 2015; we were within \$200 on expenses versus the budget. How close can you get in putting together a 12 month budget! Now for the coming year we have a budget to present to the annual meeting and Dave Hamilton, our Financial Secretary, urges everyone to get their pledges in to finalize the budget!

The Property Committee Chair, Lee LaPerche reported on finishing up the Ward Room and the new organ installation. Ah yes, it is winter and after a thorough search we have a new snow removal team. Much thanks to Joe Hamilton for his work last year but now he is focusing on his school work! Steve will get cost estimates for bringing sound from the sanctuary to the nursery.

The last major topic of discussion was safety led by Debbie Sheridan. In case of a heart attack we plan on purchasing an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). George Lovett is investigating an appropriate AED and Debbie will focus on the training issues. Additional discussion was on emergency evacuation plans.

SEARCH COMMITTEE by Ann Barr, Chairperson

The Search Committee continues to meet at least monthly in person and several times per month via email. Committee members have reviewed close to one hundred potential candidate profiles and have invited several candidates to apply. We have not conducted interviews as of yet but have formulated a list of interview questions based on the input from the church family's needs and interests. While we anticipate applications from potential candidates, we continue to discuss the most recent batch of pastoral profiles we have received through Rev. Robert Middleton's office. Although Rev. Middleton is retired as of this writing, we anticipate a smooth transition as Rev. Marlene Gil begins her service as interim of Pastoral Search and Pastoral Placement director of TABCOM. We ask for your continued prayers and patience as we continue this very important task on behalf of our church family.



Missionary Marilyn Raatz visiting Green Street on February 21

On the second Sunday of Lent, Marilyn Raatz will be leading us in worship and sharing her sermon titled "Committing to Love". A luncheon and a presentation will follow the service. Marilyn serves with International Ministries and was first called to Africa in 2007. There she promotes Peace & Justice by raising young leaders as they prepare to enter the workforce. She hopes to continue encouraging deep personal and community understanding of and renewed commitment to Psalm 85:10, "Mercy and truth have met; justice and peace have kissed."

Winter Weekend XIX

WW XIX was a wonderful time enjoyed by 19 of us in the serene setting of Alton Bay in NH. Mike Harvey led us on a study about prayer. We enjoyed a great study, along with lots of time for fellowship. There were plenty of games going on in the Youth Center, some skied, some shopped and some just relaxed. A wonderful time for all.

Thanks to Steve Morrow for being our photographer and Scott Thompson for bringing along his guitar and leading 3 hymns for our Sunday worship.

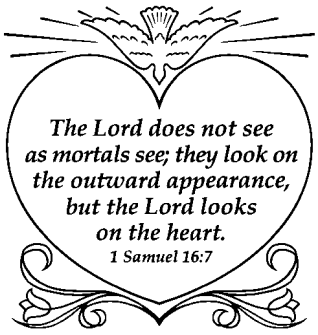



Put it on your calendar now, next year's dates are Jan 27-29, 2017. It will be our twentieth Winter Weekend. Wow! Be sure to join us for Winter Weekend XX!



Melrose Food Pantry Request for February

Pantry of Hope: Cereal, Olive Oil, Peanut Butter

A Servant's Heart: Corned Beef Hash, Hamburger Helper, Mac and Cheese, Pasta Side Dishes, 2 lb. Canned Ham

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		<h1>February 2016</h1>					
	1	2	3 7:00 Bible Study	4 12:30 Open Hearts	5 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Group	6	
7 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Today's Scripture 11:00 Worship	8 7:00 Diaconate	9 7:00 Search Committee	10  7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	11 12:30 Open Hearts 6:30 CTNG: Strum's	12 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Group 7:00 MOGS Annual BU Hockey Game	13	
14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Today's Scripture 11:00 Worship	15 	16	17 7:00 Bible Study	18 12:30 Open Hearts 6:30 CTNG: Strum's	19 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Group	20	
21 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Today's Scripture 11:00 Worship 12:15 Marilyn Raatz Luncheon	22	23	24 7:00 Bible Study	25 12:30 Open Hearts	26 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Group TBD "Movie Night" Carol Burnett Show	27	
28 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Today's Scripture 11:00 Worship 12:15 Annual Meeting	29	Birthdays 2—Will Tetterton 6—Emmett Bright 8—Ward Hamilton 12—Kathy Harlow 13—Connie Rice		15—Donovan Riccardi 15—Ken Strum 19—Ingrid Long 19—Anne Nocito 23—Lori Bidgood	23—Rob Harlow 23—Donna Swales 25—Johanna Hamilton 25—Britt Johnson 25—James Nocito	Anniversaries 6—Elaine & Jim Lally 14—Wendy & George Lovett 