



# MARKINGS

JANUARY 2015

A publication of  
South Acton  
Congregational  
Church

35 School Street  
Acton MA 01720  
978-263-2332  
info@southactoncc.org  
www.southactoncc.org

The Rev. Katrina Wuensch

Welcome to South Acton Congregational Church. The foundation of our beloved church rests on God's unconditional love and boundless grace. We seek to know God and follow the teachings of Jesus.

We welcome people of every race and culture who are young and old; single, married and divorced. We welcome people of every physical, mental and intellectual ability; sexual orientation and gender identity; every educational background and economic circumstance. We believe diversity enriches our faith community.

## From Katrina...

It seems so strange to have "2015" at the top of the page. I am now old enough that I have vivid memories of writing "1988" on the top of my school papers. (I can remember this because the 8's seemed so hard to form nicely, and there were two of them!) Where have the years gone?! We are well into the new millennia, and our lives are so very different than what they were twenty years ago. In fact, they are very different than they were ten years ago! The pace of life, our ability to access information, the nature of our work – so much has changed so rapidly. Where are our anchor points? Where are our constants? Where do we find a sense of grounding and presence? Perhaps it is from the home we have lived in for a long time, or our spouse or partner of many years. Perhaps it is our surroundings: the same hillside or meadow

that we see every day on our way to work. For many of us, I suspect that it's our rituals that provide us with a sense of constancy and meaning – even something as seemingly trivial as our cup of coffee every morning in our favorite mug, in our



favorite chair, can provide our minds and souls with structure and reassurance. And so with our church rituals – the cycle of the seasons, our songs of Christmas and Epiphany, our

sharing of communion. These traditions can be touch-point rituals for us that ground us, even when the rest of the world seems to swirl ever faster around us.

May we find strength and comfort in grabbing onto these rituals. And may they shape our lives towards hope and faith. Because all rituals shape us, so let us choose them wisely! Many blessings to you all as we move through the Twelve days of Christmas, celebrate Epiphany, and then rest in Ordinary Time before entering Lent. Join us, and be grounded in God!

Katrina



*Write it on  
your heart  
that every  
day is the  
best day in  
the year.*

**Ralph Waldo  
Emerson**

## From the Diaconate

It seems that the deacons have established a tradition. While we have our December meeting, we decorate cookies that are then delivered by the deacons to members of our congregation we think can use some cheer or just a friendly visit and a reminder that they are part of the loving SACC family. We also had our traditional caroling, pot luck and barn dancing extravaganza. Thank you to all who cooked, caroled, ate and danced. The pageant was wonderful. Thank you to the children and to Dulcey and all others who were

involved. And thank you Ed for another beautiful concert. And now the shortest day of the year has come and gone. The waiting is over, and days are beginning to lengthen! And Christmas Day is behind us. The parties, the visiting, the frantic last-minute shopping, the opening of gifts are done – hopefully even the residual trash has been gathered and disposed of. Whew! Almost a whole year before we have to start again. But wait! As Christians, we have just marked the birth of our faith, and the Good News is that

Christmas has a deeper, ongoing significance for us to embrace every moment, every day, all through the year. As we move into a new year, let us reflect and resolve to hold onto the true meaning of Christmas. I pray that you feel Christ’s love and peace throughout the New Year and that you pass this on in all you meet.

I wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Blessed 2015.  
Jane Logee  
Diaconate Chair

## Youth Mission Trip

Yes, we are planning a youth mission trip this year, to be held during the February school

vacation. The dates will most likely be **Tuesday, February 17 through Saturday,**

**February 21.** Stay tuned for details on our destination!

## Nursery “Subs” Needed

Do you love kids? Are you able to give one or two Sundays a year to be with our smallest and cutest members? If so, please contact Jill Pierantozzi to join our “Nursery Sub List” [jillpierantozzi@yahoo.com](mailto:jillpierantozzi@yahoo.com).

Our fabulous Nursery Teacher, Jill Theberge, occasionally cannot be with us due to illness/conflict, so we need some folks who can do “back up” duty for her on short notice. Jill will

also take 4 weeks off in Feb. after the birth of her child, and we’ll cover those Sundays with volunteers. Please let us know if you can help!

# Worship in December

December 28: All-ages Service, Hymn Sing.

January 4: Epiphany Sunday, Communion, Katrina preaching

January 11: Katrina preaching

January 18: Curt Logee preaching

January 25: Karen Landry preaching

February 4: Katrina preaching, Communion



## Spiritual Planning Group

Our faithful and visionary team continues to meet twice a month to continue planning our vision of a Spiritual Center at SACC. Our meetings are always the 2nd Wednesday of every month at

7:00 p.m. and the 4th Sunday at 8:45 a.m. The meetings this month will be **January 14** and **January 25**. Have questions or ideas or concerns? Feel free to speak with any member of the

planning group: Patti Babcock, Steve Hadden, Martha Rounds, Sallie Brainard, Robin Comeau, Nancy Tarquinio, Michele Abroff or Katrina.

## Budget Meeting - Feb 1

It's time for our annual budget meeting! All SACC members are encouraged to stay after church on Sunday, February 1 for our congregational meeting. At this meeting we'll

hear a report on the 2014 budget, and view, discuss and vote on the 2015 proposed budget, and also attend to any other fiscal matters. Don't miss it! This is OUR church, and

these our decisions we make together with OUR money to do God's work in the world!

## Outreach Meeting

We had a very well attended and energetic meeting in November to gather ideas and plans for further outreach and mission that we can do together. We will meet again on Sunday,

**January 25** aft worship. Everyone is invited! If you have an idea for service or outreach or social justice that you'd like us to do as a church, bring it to the meeting! If you have ques-

tions or ideas, please be in touch with Sean Osborne or Patti Babcock.

***"Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word"***  
**Goran Persson**



*"Your success  
and happiness  
lies in you.  
Resolve to keep  
happy, and your  
joy and you shall  
form an invincible  
host against  
difficulties."  
Helen Keller*

# One Hour Circles Are Back!

**January 11, 2015 after church or January 25, 2015 before church (9:00 AM)**

Mark your calendars! The Pastoral Advice and Support Committee (PASC, currently Becky Hadden, Joan Fischer, Judy Hodge and Martha Rounds) invites everyone to participate in one of the circles. You will have two opportunities in January to give needed feedback about your experience of wor-

ship at SACC. The circles will provide Katrina and lay leaders with current, reliable and valid information which will strengthen our ministry and mission. You might be surprised to learn that your neighbor thinks we are not spending enough time in quiet contemplation when you think the prayers drag on for so long you start ruminating about what you're going to have for lunch

rather than the nature of your relationship with God. Two years ago we had a series of circles and we made significant changes in our service as a result of listening to you. The circles not only give great feedback to Katrina, they are opportunities for learning, reflection and growth for all of us. Please consider making attending one a priority.



## Thursday Coffee with Katrina

Join Katrina and other SACC folks every **Thursday morning from 9:30am until 11:00am-ish** at the Boston Bean House in Maynard Center. There is plenty of metered on-street parking, or you can park for free in the lot behind the stores, opposite the movie theater. Come on by! Drop

in and share your thoughts, ideas, concerns or just enjoy the fellowship. Please note that there will be **no coffee on New Year's Day, January 1** – we'll return to the **Bean House on January 8!** (Remember that you can also make an appointment to speak with Katrina confidentially;

just call the church office to arrange a time.)

