



Markings

A publication of South Acton Congregational Church

FEBRUARY 2017

From Liz

Planning for Lent

Lent is forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. If you count them, you'll see that's too many days—technically Sundays aren't part of lent. (I was very good at remembering this detail when we gave up things for lent as a child.)

Forty days comes from the years Moses wandered in the wilderness, and the days Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. It's a reflective time. In our "Tussling with Jesus" class we will be reflecting on who Jesus is, and at least one week we'll tussle with what it means that Jesus "saves" us. From what? How? We'll tussle on that together.

Many churches have a weekly Lenten study, let me know if you'd like one and I'll set it up.

Because of the strength of our mindfulness program,

the Deacons and the Music/Worship Planning team have been thinking about experimenting with "mindful" worship for Lent—March 5 to April 2.

This might mean that the call to worship might be some silent time. I think I will do the children's moments on the different types of prayer. We might do a lectio divina on the scripture. Sermons could include some time for reflection and silence. Perhaps for prayers of the people we would call them out and respond with singing. Communion might include some silent reflection. The music might be simpler, repetitive, and reflective.

We've also thought about focusing on beauty during this season. One Sunday we could focus on the image of Jesus as a shepherd and

enjoy the stained glass window. We'd love other artwork—do you have quilts, weavings, pictures you'd like to share? Ed will bring one of his pictures one week.

All of this will be done with lots of explanation, the times of the silence won't be too long, and we'll give ideas of what to *do* during the silence. The goal is to be welcoming of this new idea.

The worship planning meeting for Lent is on February 19th. Come to the meeting if you have opinions, or let one of us know if you'd like input. Palm Sunday and Easter will return to our usual format.

-Liz

From The Deacons

The word ordain means to invest officially (as by the laying on of hands) with ministerial authority and on February 12th we will be hosting the Ordination Service for our own Korte Yeo. This service will mark the end of a lengthy journey for Korte and the start of a new one as he has been called as the Designated

Minister to the Chaffin Congregational Church in Holden, MA. The Ordination service starts at 3:00 and it would be really great if as many people as possible could show up to show their support for Korte at this important event for him. There will be refreshments served after the service and we may be

asking for help with that once we have a better idea of how many folks will be there.

As always, if there are any issues or needs you wish to bring to the attention of the deacons you can contact your assigned deacon (see below) or let me know at DeaconChair@SouthActonCC.org

Last Name

A & B Amber Klauer
C & E Sarah Bradbury
D, F & G Bob Van Meter
H thru K Judy Hodge

Last Name

L thru N Laurie Thibodeau
O thru S Angela Aaronson
T thru Z Steve Hadden

Congregational News

By the time you read this, we may have already had our Congregational Budget meeting.

We will be approving the 2017 budget and discussing whether we want a part-time or full-time minister. Stay tuned for updates in the next Markings. In our time of transition, the board along with the Personnel

Committee has developed a revised Church Administrator position to encompass some of the work that has been done by a group of volunteers to make our church office more cohesive. We have been so fortunate to have Pam Hays as our Church Secretary for the past 10 years or so and we appreciate all that she has done for us. Thank you Pam!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or anyone else on the Board.

Pam Rogers
Congregational Board Chair

*Other Members of the
Congregational Board:
Jim Willis, Russ Bosbach, Joan
Fischer, Peter Babcock, Bee Baker,
Gina Ghioldi*

An Invitation from Liz

I'd really love to bring a group to this event. Brian McLaren is a national name in how to create church in new ways, and the workshops are always excellent at this. Can I entice some of you to come?

Please let me know if you will plan to attend and which workshops you would be interested in so we can submit all registrations together. If we submit 5 or more registrations together we receive a discounted rate. Please let me know ASAP as sometimes the workshops fill quickly. You can see the workshop descriptions in the brochure that is available by clicking on the link below.

Liz

Super Saturday **March 18, 2017**

Super Saturday is a collaborative effort of the Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island Conferences, UCC, with presenters and attendees from each conference.

New Location!

Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA

Join us for a full-day of worship, workshops and networking. All are welcome! Super Saturdays are growing in popularity - register early to reserve your spot! For more information, visit www.macucc.org or click the link below.

[Super Saturday](#)

[Click Here for a Super Saturday Brochure](#)

Special Guest:

Brian McLaren

Author, Speaker, Activist

Brian D. McLaren is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for "a new kind of Christianity" - just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good.



Visit Brian's website: Brianmclaren.net

Mindfulness at the Center at SACC

Wednesday January 11 there was an amazing meeting at The Spirituality Center at SACC. Steve Hadden and Patti Babcock had created a Mindfulness group back in June, and we were about to restart it. We were thrilled that five people from the Acton community had registered to take part.

We set up thirty chairs and were pleased when the video started at 6:45 and ten people, about half from the previous group, most of the folk who had registered, and three SACC members began watching the video about the science of mindfulness. Several folk slipped right after the video started, and then a few more. By the time the video ended we had 22 participants—three from SACC, nine new people, and 10 who returned to see the whole series again.

We practiced ten minutes of mindfulness and then turned our chairs into a circle. What brought you here? We asked.

The experience was overwhelming. The new people came for the same reasons we had—curiosity, anxiety, pressure at work, stress at home. But those who returned came because of SACC. “This group has been my support system in the last thirty weeks” one man said. “I couldn’t do my private meditation without this group’s support” said another. “This is my family.”

The people of SACC have created a program where people in the community feel welcomed, feel supported, feel loved to be exactly as they are. This is ministry at its finest.

The Mindfulness program has found something that people in Acton and metro west need, and has met that need. In response, people have come out to be part of the The Center at SACC. If there is anything that defines Christian community, this is it.

Christian community is not defined by what the people attending believe, nor by whether people have been changed, and certainly not by whether the people decide to come to Sunday worship. Christian community is the place where people are accepted the way they are, and are offered the help they seek.

The Center at SACC is off to a great start. What can you imagine comes next?

-Liz

A Letter from the Campbells

Dec. 30, 2016

Dear SACC Friends,

It was so great to have had a chance to see many of you when we stopped by the contra dance a couple of weeks ago. Thank you for always welcoming us with such grace.

We enclose two contributions to SACC for 2016, one is a “general” gift to the church and the second is a “thank you” to the SACC Movers for all the help and hard work in assisting my Mom, Eleanor Macaulay with two moves, one in October, one in December.

We are very grateful to all for their time and help. Wishing you all a blessed 2017.

Sandy, Seth & Leslie Campbell

Worship in February

February 5

Communion Sunday

Matthew 5:13-20

Don't hide your light, be a salty church

February 12

Matthew 5:21-37

Reconcile with others/Forgive others

February 19

Matthew 5:38-48

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

February 26

Transfiguration Sunday

Matthew 17:1-9

Do not be afraid when you see God

From the Search Committee

On Sunday January 29th, the Search Committee made a detailed presentation to the congregation regarding SACC's decision to move forward with a full time, or part time Pastor. This presentation included our thoughts on what an 80% Minister's duties would include, and also how we foresee the role of a full-time Minister, expanding those duties to include an emphasis on Outreach and Revitalization.

Our presentation was based on many hours of discussion, and review of

the information received from the Interim Team's surveys and church meetings. Input from Pastor Liz was invaluable to our discussions.

Our committee's unanimous recommendation was for a full-time Minister. To accomplish this, it is necessary for SACC to use a portion of our Investment Funds, over a minimum 5-year period, to financially support the new Minister.

After much discussion, and many questions, South

Acton voted unanimously, to approve our recommendation. The Search Committee will now move forward to complete our Church Profile, reflecting our goal to hire a full-time Pastor. Our heartfelt thanks go out to our congregation for their thoughtful participation in this important decision.

*Your Search Committee,
Patti Babcock, Katie Bradbury,
Curt Logee, Judy McKendry,
Kendra Magyar, Sean Osborne,
Isabelle Thourot*

Cleaning Teams for February

2/4 Tom Porcher's Team
2/11 Angela Aaronson's Team
2/18 Jane Epstein's Team
2/25 Judy Hodge's Team

Cleaning Team Organizer Needed

from Becky Hadden

Cleaning Team scheduling is such an easy job; I do it every year (maybe 20 years) without much effort—but also without much creativity or enthusiasm. I would love it if someone would come forth to take over this scheduling job. All it takes is a little computer work to set up the schedule and an email to everyone. What really takes effort and I am not successful with is the bringing in of new people and enlivening the whole endeavor. We do indeed save the church thousands of dollars pretty simply. Please be

thinking about whether you could take over this job of Cleaning Team Organizer. I would be very grateful and you would find yourself having a new but not overwhelming challenge. Ask me more if you're interested. I can tutor you—you'll be amazed!!!

You all know that the cleaning teams' faithful effort has kept our church in lovely condition for years. I never worry or fret. They are all as responsible as the day is long!!! This is a great program where we all take

responsibility for the cleanliness of our dear SACC. Thank you to everyone who participates for always monitoring the cleaning materials, adding your own sometimes, letting me know when little problems arise, cleaning floors and refrigerators, and taking away the trash. I love the way everyone has his/her own pet cleaning peeve that addresses all the possible dirt collectors and makes them clean again

“Mental Health Stability in College”

Panel Presentation, February 13

According to a 2012 survey done by NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 73% of college students reported having a mental health crisis while in college. Many colleges are not prepared to help effectively but some institutions are addressing this need with care and innovation. What are some mental health- friendly signs to look for in a college?

On Monday February 13, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, at Bedford High School, NAMI

Central Middlesex will offer a panel presentation entitled “Mental Health Stability in College”. Panelists will be a former student sharing her personal college story and administrators from three area colleges- Boston University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Middlesex Community College. These professionals will address such topics as what some colleges are doing to intervene and support students who have mental health difficulties and what

happens if a student has to withdraw for a period of time. There will be a question & answer session following the presentations. The event is free and open to high school and college age families in Middlesex County and surrounding areas. It is co-sponsored by Bedford High School. No registration required. Call Jennie at 978-692-2908 with questions or inquiries about potential cancellation due to weather.

South Acton Congregational Church
35 School St. Acton, MA 01720 (978) 263-2332 info@southactoncc.org www.southactoncc.org