



February 2012 | Monthly

The Friendly Word

NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister

Senior Minister

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Senior Moments

I write this as I attend a course with the wonderful title of “Senior Moments.” Many of us have used that phrase “senior moment” as an excuse for being forgetful. But I believe that “senior moments” are a gift from God and nothing about which to apologize. Being a senior is not a curse but an opportunity.

The Bible has promises for elders. In Isaiah 46:4 it says, “Even to your old age I am he, even when you turn grey I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.” New Testament mentions the office of “Elder” but no position called Junior. There is a reason. We have seen more and done more and endured more than youth.

We know some “senior moments,” of the forgetfulness can come from dementia. But mostly senior moments are to be celebrated.

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Senior Moments ~ *continued*

If wisdom does indeed consist of experience from which we have learned, perhaps the older among us do have some advantage in this regard. According to Sherwin B. Nuland, M.D., Clinical Professor of Surgery, Yale University, “Studies have shown that beyond a doubt the brain, thought for so long to be hard-wired and resistant to new ideas, is in fact far more capable of influencing its own aging than has ever been known.”

I believe that gray hair and wrinkles are not to be dreaded but welcomed. One of my favorite poetic lines is from Robert Barrett Browning: “Grow old along with me the best is yet to be, the last of life for which the first was made.” Or there are the insightful words of Emily Dickinson, “We turn older with years, but newer every day.”

Yet our society celebrates youth and resists aging. The late comedian George Carlin noted that the only time in our lives when we like to get older is when we’re kids. “If you’re less than 10 years old, you’re so excited about aging that you think in fractions. “How old are you?” “I’m four and a half!” You get into your teens. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead. “How old are you?” “I’m” gonna be 16!” And then the greatest day of your life you become 21...but then you turn 30... then you’re pushing 40...you reach 50...you make it to 60...you hit 70!

But he never met my Aunt Constance. She lived the last few decades of her life in a Presbyterian retirement home in Ohio. When I would give her a call she was likely to say, “I am now 93 – and a half.”

With age we should learn a lot more about what in life is good and what is ugly. We may not have developed the wisdom be able to explain to grandchildren how to use a smart phone. But we can teach them something of how to share what is really important in life – even without a cell phone.

We have lost some physical strength and energy. But we should have learned about enduring losses youth seldom faced. Now what are we going to do with it all?

A number of years ago I was at a church which celebrated Grandparents Day. I was expected to preach on the subject. At the time I was in my 30’s. To prepare myself I spoke with a friend whose specialty was nursing home ministry. “What happens,” I asked, “to people as they age.”

He noted that folks tend to either become more gracious and expansive and kind or they become more grouchy and withdrawn and bitter. That is when I came up with the sermon title of: Are You Growing in Graciousness or Grouchiness. I was never again asked to preach on the subject.

Now twice as old as when I preached that sermon I think it is true. As we age we either grow in being grouchy – focusing on our troubles and making known our complaints; or we become more gracious, showing kindness and generosity and encouraging others.

The Psalmist wrote (90:12), “Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” Are you growing in wisdom or whininess? Age brings us closer to the eternal. II Corinthians 4:18: “We look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.”

The conference leader pointed out to us the line for seniors in the hymn: Amazing Grace: “There’s no less days to sing your praise that when we first begun.” We have fewer days on earth, but no fewer days with God.

Like all things in life senior moments have benefits and liabilities. The question becomes, will you accept this gift from God? Will you grow in grouchiness or graciousness?

Dr. John

Christian Education Corner

February can be a cold gloomy month if we let it! However, February has Valentine's Day and the Super Bowl to give us a little diversion. We also have the opportunity to participate in "Food for Thought" Bible Study on Sunday, February 12th right after church. This is a chance to reflect with others on what the scriptures will be on the next Sunday. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

We will also be having our Christian Education Committee meeting after church on Sunday February 19th. All are welcome to join us and help to plan upcoming events including our Vacation Bible School.

I do need to share just one thought on our recent trip to Mexico. While in Mazatlan, I met author Deborah Rodriguez, who has written "Kabul Beauty School" and "Cup of Friendship." Both books are based on her experiences in Afghanistan and provided me with some great insights. Debbie is originally from the United States where she worked for a year as a Correctional Officer in a prison, and we had some great conversations on prison ministry and empowering women. I of course bought both her books and hope to use one for the Women's Book Club at the Barnstable County Correctional Facility. She currently lives in Mexico and operates a Beauty Shop. The spirit works in mysterious ways if we remain open!

Peace,

Marilyn



Musical Meanderings

As I wrote in the January newsletter, I am featuring a "composer of the month" whose birthday falls on that month. For February, I have chosen the much loved composer George Frederick Handel, who was born February 23, 1685.

He was born in Halle, Germany. His father thought he should have been a lawyer, but his mother smuggled a clavichord into the attic where George could play when his father was asleep. At 17, he enrolled at Halle University to study law, but after the death of his father, he jumped at the chance to become organist at Halle cathedral. From there, he honed his skills and travelled to Italy, where he composed some operas and about 100 cantatas. He was very popular!

Handel travelled to London in 1710, where he became an even bigger hit than he was in Italy. He became the first musical director of the newly formed Royal Academy of Music. He began writing one opera after another, and travelled all over Europe to find suitable singers for the lead roles.

Not much is known about Handel's love life. He never married; although it was rumored he had an affair with one of his star sopranos.

Handel wrote the oratorio *Messiah* in just under three weeks. It was first performed in 1742 with 700 people packed into a theater built to hold 600. In the advertisement, women were asked not to wear hoops in their skirts and men were asked to leave their swords at home. It was a huge success, and the story goes that the king was so moved by the Hallelujah Chorus that he stood up.

George died on Good Friday in 1759 and was buried in Westminster Abbey among all the poets.



The Friendly Thrift Shop

This beautiful time of the year brings us winter Robbins and Cardinals with their pretty musical songs that they sing as they fly along the winter sky.

Happy Valentine's Day Everyone!

We're in need of gently used, Wind-breakers, books, linens, towels, games, musical CD's, children's clothing, coffee mugs and spring clothing.

During this entire month of February, we'll be having a 50% sale on all of our men's and women's winter slacks. So come on in and check out our specials and bring a friend along.

We'd like to thank our entire staff of special volunteer's for their help. Thanks so very much.

Many blessings,
Wendy Mc Kay



Women's Fellowship ~ Come and be inspired...

Our meeting will be held on February 6th in Baldwin Hall at 1pm. Please remember to bring your Women's Fellowship yearbook with you to make the proper changes for the 2012 season.

Last year I attended a Church Women United function and Katia Dacunha was the keynote speaker. I was so very moved by her story of triumph over trials and inspired by her journey of faith. I asked her to

please share her story with us and she agreed to.

We invite all (non-members, friends and husbands too) to come and experience this journey.

There will be light refreshment and fellowship following the program in the Parlor.

Elise Terry

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life John 14:6

Valentine Cookie Sale

Last year's Valentine Cookie sale was such a great success, that we are having another sale on Sunday, Feb. 12th during Coffee Hour. Last year we were sold out in only ten minutes, so we hope to have more cookies available this time. Each large bag of homemade cookies is sold for \$10.00, and includes a great variety of samples from our wonderful Federated Church cooks! Remember that they can be frozen for a later date, or shared for a special Valentine gift. All money raised goes to our general fund to help with our yearly budget. We hope if you are asked to bake, that you will respond as positively as last year. If you want to volunteer in advance, please let Geri or Betsy know, and we will be happy to add your name to the list.



Altar Flowers

As of Feb. 1st, the price of flowers placed on the altar will now be \$50.00 due to the rising cost of the flowers and delivery by the florist. The previous price of 45.00 has been in effect for many years, so the rise in price is not unexpected.

We hope you will continue to sign up to donate flowers in honor and memory of your loved ones. Please contact Betsy Hendricks if you have any questions.



Scripture Readings for February

Birthdays and Anniversaries for February

*Presentation of the Lord

February 2, 2012 ~ Malachi 3:1-4, Psalm 84 Psalm 24:7-10, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

*Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 5, 2012 ~ Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

*Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 12, 2012 ~ 2 Kings 5:1-14, Psalm 30, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Mark 1:40-45

*Transfiguration Sunday

February 19, 2012

(Last Sunday before Lent) ~ 2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

*Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2012 ~ Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2012 ~ Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15



Pam Chase ~ 1

Nathan Jenkins ~ 2

Ed LaVallee ~ 8

Shirley Cook ~ 9

Dorothea Bass ~ 10

Susan Gilchrist ~ 11

Barbara Levesque ~ 15

Bill Dame ~ 16

Barbara Bucchianeri ~ 18

Susan Donald ~ 22

Susan Yarusites ~ 25

Elise Terry ~ 27



Phil & Sherrie Scudder ~ 1

Jim & Sylvia Walker ~ 4

George & Barbara Levesque ~ 14

Ron & Geri Brown ~ 17



*Kathi Amato
Principal*

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Dear Members of Hyannis Federated Church,

On behalf of the staff, students, and families of the Hyannis West Elementary community I would like to say thank you for your donations of sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves. It was overwhelming! Most of our students are in need of those items and benefited greatly from your generosity. The smile on their faces when they slip on a new pair of mittens or a new hat is priceless. Now they are able to play outside without worrying about having the appropriate clothing.

Building community partnerships adds to the success of a school and we are thankful that you chose to recognize our school, address a need, and make a lot of our children warm, safe, and happy.

Sincerely,

*Kathi Amato
Principal*

February 2012

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			<p>1. 5:30 pm – Bell Choir 6:30 pm – Senior Choir (S)</p>	<p>2. 10- 3:00 pm – Friendly Thrift Shop</p>	<p>3. 10- 3:00 pm – Friendly Thrift Shop</p>	<p>4. 10 - 1 pm - Friendly Thrift Shop</p>
<p>5. 9 am – Senior Choir 10 am - Worship Service 11:30 am – All Committee (BH) 6:30 pm- Overnight of Hospitality (FH)</p>	<p>6. 10 am - Staff Meeting (P) 1 pm – Women’s Fellowship (BH)</p>	<p>7. 10-2pm - Crafty Corners - Bring lunch, coffee provided.</p>	<p>8. 5:30 pm – Bell Choir 6:30 pm – Senior Choir (S)</p>	<p>9. 10- 3:00 pm – Friendly Thrift Shop</p>	<p>10. 10- 3:00 pm – Friendly Thrift Shop Youth StreetReach (FH)</p>	<p>11. 6:30 am Youth StreetReach (FH) 10 - 1 pm - Friendly Thrift Shop</p>
<p>12. 9 am – Senior Choir Rehearsal 10 am - Worship Service 11 am - Valentine Cookie Sale 11:30 am - Food For Thought (P)</p>	<p>13. 10 am - Staff Meeting (P) 3:30 – 4:30 pm – Sing Along (Mayflower Place)</p>	<p>14. 10-2pm – Crafty Corners  6 pm – Ladies Of The Night</p>	<p>15. Newsletter Articles Due 5:30 pm – Bell Choir 6:30 pm – Senior Choir (S)</p>	<p>16. 10- 3:00 pm – Friendly Thrift Shop</p>	<p>17. 10- 3:00 pm – Friendly Thrift Shop</p>	<p>18. 10 - 1 pm - Friendly Thrift Shop</p>
<p>19. 9 am – Senior Choir Rehearsal 10 am - Worship Service 11:30 am – Christian Education Meeting (BH)</p>	<p>20. 10 am - Staff Meeting (P)</p>	<p>21. 10-2pm - Crafty Corners</p>	<p>22. 12 pm - Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 pm – Bell Choir 6:30 pm – Senior Choir (S)</p>	<p>23. 10- 3:00 pm – Friendly Thrift Shop</p>	<p>24. 10- 3:00 pm – Friendly Thrift Shop</p>	<p>25. 10 - 1 pm - Friendly Thrift Shop</p>
<p>26. 9 am – Senior Choir Rehearsal 10 am - Worship Service, Sunday Sch. 11:30 am – Healing & Reconciliation Service 6:30 pm - Overnight of Hospitality (FH)</p>	<p>27. 10 am - Staff Meeting (P) 3:30 – 4:30 pm – Sing Along (Mayflower Place)</p>	<p>28. 10-2pm – Crafty Corners 6 pm – Ladies Of The Night</p>	<p>29. 10 am – Women’s Fellowship Board Mtg. (P) 5:30 pm – Bell Choir 6:30 pm – Senior Choir (S)</p>			

Build your life on the foundation of gratitude; the frame out of self discipline; the walls out of service to others; the roof out of prayer; build a garden around your life of peace.

Happy remodeling!

The Federated Church of Hyannis

320 Main Street
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**Vision Statement of
The Federated Church of Hyannis**

*Our vision for The Federated Church of Hyannis is of an inter-generational, inter-cultural, faithful Christian church, committed to maturing discipleship that cares for its members, reaches out to the community, and serves as a beacon of hope to all.
(Drafted in the spring of 2003)*

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- Thrift Shop is open: Thursdays & Fridays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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