

First Congregational Church of Eliot
 United Church of Christ
 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
 THE ECHO |
 FEBRUARY 2018
 PASTOR: REV. DR. BETH HOFFMAN

Inviting Loving Serving



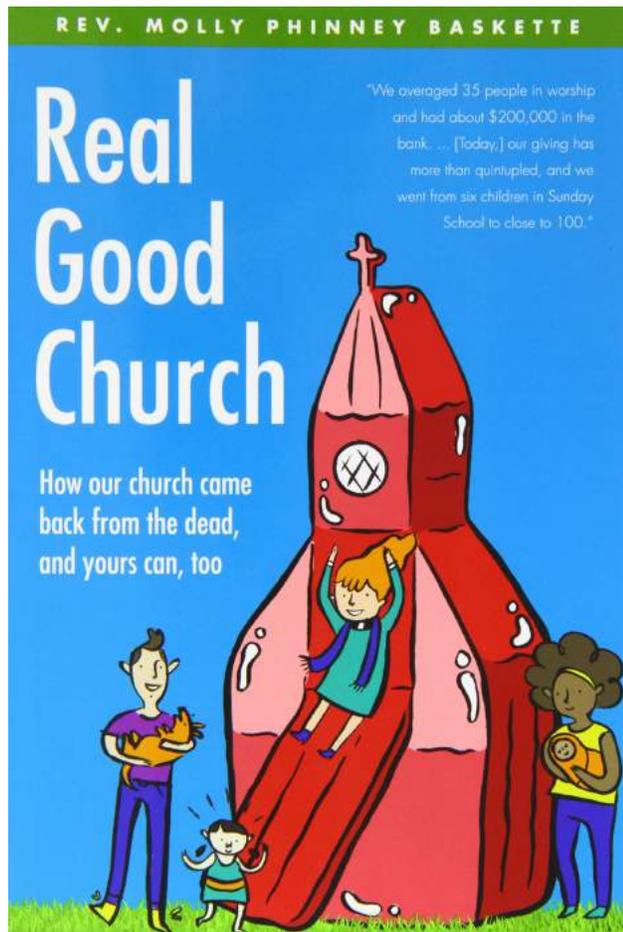
EXPRESS

JOY

FIERCELY



FROM THE PASTOR



Real Good Church: How Our Church Came Back from the Dead, and Yours Can Too by Molly Phinney Baskette, Pilgrim Press, 2014, 228 pp. \$17.00

Friends in hope,

Let me be the first to invite you to read this resource. Join me and all of your deacons and church leadership in taking on these pages and making them our own in 2018. The pastor/author worked with a church in Somerville, Mass that was fragile and uncertain and together they turn into a thriving and thrilling faith community.

This book tells the story of how they did it.

Real Good Church is not another get fixed quick scheme. It's packed with practical wisdom

acquired from hard-earned experience, and it shows the Spirit of God at work. One reviewer wrote, "The tone throughout is light-hearted and conversational, so you feel like you are carrying on a conversation with a friend in ministry. It's a great resource."

Rev. Baskette is clear that this is not a program for us to follow in our church, just copying what she did, but rather a way to empower and revitalize our own church in our own way. The book has an easy tone about it but also has job descriptions to e-mail to worship to conflict to facilities management. The appendix is rich with examples of materials used at her church that we might be interested in adopting or adapting.

As we reach forward and continue to be a healthy church that wants to be stronger, deeper in faith and servants to the community, I think this collection of ideas and successes is for us!! It may be great guide for us as a powerful church with strong lay leadership to be inspired and energized! Need help acquiring a copy? Ask Loraine Boyer, Lisa Marshall or me.

Join me in taking this book to head and heart and discover what we might dare to do in 2018. I look forward to talking with you and dreaming a bright future!

Love and peace, - *Pastor Beth*

Due to family illness, Pastor Beth will be holding office hours by appointment only for the winter hours. Don't hesitate to call her cell at 603-620-5348 or the church office at 207-439-1105 and leave a message about need and hope. She is thrilled to have time with you! Just need to schedule the hour because she is doing a lot of Boston traveling in the new year. Thank you for understanding.

A LENTEN EXPERIENCE
 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ELIOT
 SUNDAYS 10AM FEBRUARY 18-MARCH 25



Were
 You
 There?

A SUNDAY SERIES FOR LENT

WERE YOU THERE IN THE SHOUTING CROWD?

WERE YOU THERE AS A SPECTATOR

WERE YOU THERE AS A CONFESSOR?

WERE YOU THERE AS A SYMPATHIZER?

WERE YOU THERE AS HIS FAMILY?

WERE YOU THERE AS A DEMONSTRATOR?

The Clergy
 Association of
 Kittery, Eliot and
 South Berwick
 offer...



**HEART
 BROKEN**

Midweek Worship LENT 2018

2/14	FPFC South Berwick	Brad Hirst
2/21	Second Christian	Scott Mower
2/28	St. Mark's	Linda Hirst
3/7	St. Raphael's	Dawn DiManna
3/14	Meetinghouse Village	Brian Gruhn
3/21	First Cong'l Eliot	Bill Humphrey
3/31	Eliot UMC	All Clergy

"Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your hearts and not your garments, and return to the Lord your God"

HEART BROKEN: A Lenten midweek worship series

A Christian heart is a heart that is broken for God and God's People. A heart that has been broken through any means – love, loss, abuse, war, natural disaster... can be healed, and becomes stronger, more valuable and more beautiful for the experience.

There is a Japanese approach to ceramics called Kintsugi, which means "golden joinery." Kintsugi takes broken pottery and fixes it by filling the cracks with adhesive and then dusting them with gold. Where most repairs seek to camouflage damage, Kintsugi highlights and makes beautiful the very imperfections that we would usually seek to hide. The broken vessel is thus more beautiful for having been broken and made anew. **Rending our hearts, breaking them open, God comes in.**

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper February 13

5-6:30pm

First Congregational
Church of Eliot
1361 State Road
Eliot, ME



*Sponsored by the
Fundraising
Committee*

You are invited to share this wonderful meal of pancakes with all the fixings! We gather between 5pm and 6:30pm and enjoy the fellowship of a good ole family meal together. Please come and enjoy this fabulous meal before our Lenten journey begins! \$5 suggested donation. Any monies collected will go towards the ministries of the church. Thank you!

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVANTS

Fellowship Hour

4 Loraine Boyer and Diane Burbank
11 Paula Caswell and Joan Pelkey
18 Julie Pelkey and TBA
25 Marcia Goss and Sherry
Goodnough

Ushers

4 Peggy Gray and Robin Wheeler
11 Rob and Sonya Quinn
18 Linda and Walter Gove
25 Lauren and Tyler Small

Nursery

We always have a caregiver available for our littlest ones in the fellowship Building and all ages are always invited to stay for full worship.

Church School Adventures
FEBRUARY IS LOVE! LOVE! LOVE!
Dayle and Brennan Shiverick

Liturgist

4 Jeff Pelkey
11 Sonya Quinn
18-George Salzer
25-Loraine Boyer

Deacon of the Month
Loraine Boyer

Sanctuary Steward
Linda Gove



BIRTHDAYS we have on record. Do you know someone who has a birthday this month?

Please notify us!

02/02 Ann Bailey

02/13 Donna Collins

02/13 Faith Follum

02/13 Sylvia Walcott

02/17 Ellie Sanborn

02/18 Nancy Hundley

02/19 Andy Wormwood

02/21 Heidi Roberge



FEBRUARY 2018

First Congregational Church of Eliot, UCC

www.eliotucc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8am Exercise 4-7 Bluegrass	2 8am Exercise	3
4 10am Worship	5 7pm Craft Group	6	7 1-7pm Banjo Lessons	8 8am Exercise 4-7 Bluegrass	9 8am Exercise	10
11 10am Worship	12 7pm Craft Group	13 5-6:30pm <i>FAT Tuesday Pancake Supper</i>	14 11:30am Sr. Citizens 1-7pm Banjo <i>7pm Ash Wednesday Service at Federated in South Berwick</i>	15 8am Exercise 4-7 Bluegrass	16 8am Exercise	17 ECHO ITEMS DUE
18 <u>Lent I</u> 10am Worship 11:30 Finance	19 7pm Craft Group	20	21 1-7pm Banjo <i>Lenten service at 2nd Christian in Kittery 7pm</i>	22 8am Exercise 4-7 Bluegrass	23 8am Exercise	24
25 <u>Lent II</u> 10am Worship 11:30 C. Ed.	26 7pm Craft Group	27	28 1-7pm Banjo <i>Lenten service at St. Mark's 7pm</i>		 <p><i>The Season of Lent</i></p>	

LADIES CIRCLE

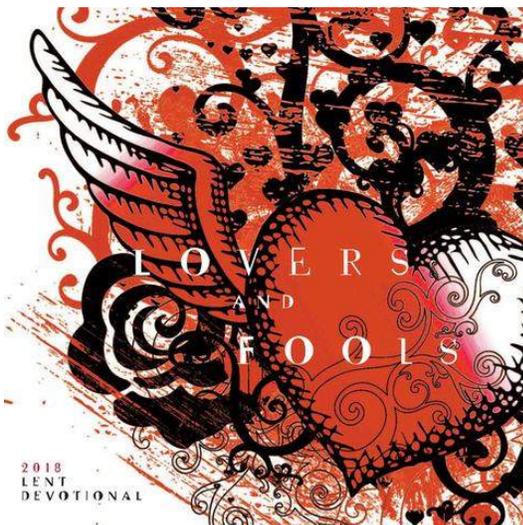
Only 9 ladies met January 3 for a lunch of Hot soup made by Jane Spinney and delicious dessert made by Sue Bicknell. Ladies brought in many cans of soup. The church is hoping for over 200 cans again this year.

The church will be leasing a new copier and the ladies voted to pay \$100 a month for the first year to cover the fee. Ladies Circle will next meet on February 7th at 11:30 . We are to bring our own sandwich and dessert will be provided by Doris Grover.

We will be putting together small bags for the Ladies at Footprints for Valentine's Day. We are to bring in small items to put into the bags. If the weather is bad and we have to cancel, we will plan to meet on Monday February 12th at 9:30 to put the bags together.

MONDAY NIGHT CRAFT GROUP

The Monday Night Craft Group had a Pot Luck supper on January 8. Only 6 came, but great food was enjoyed. Many ideas were shared about the past fairs and new thoughts about the upcoming fair in November. Monday Night Craft decided they would not meet again until February 5th.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hey Friends! We are looking for creative souls to help design bulletin boards and update classroom spaces as we head into the new year. Who is with me?

We are also so excited to do the SUPERBOWL SUBS on the first Sunday of the month. Our students and supportive adults will help us put those together. Have you placed your order to support the CE program Thanks!

We loved MUSIC MONTH with Loraine Boyer , Josh and Rachel Roberge and now we are excited for LOVE MONTH with Dayle and Brennan and Shiverick. Such a great theme for all of us!

Now is the time to start brainstorming our options for night time VBS or weekend VBS and see what we can come up with? Come talk to me about your hopes and ideas. Nothing is too crazy!!! And Keep collecting the pennies! When we get to 4,000.00 Pastor Beth is going to kiss a farm animal. What one will it be?!!

We are offering a new learning option for adults during Lent using the **UCC daily devotional LOVERS and FOOLS** for the season. The thoughtful collection of brief readings, is one for each day, to guide us on our way through Lent which begins on Valentine's Day to, Easter which arrives on April Fools Day. . Pastor Beth will convene a conversation of the booklet on Wednesdays at noon 12-1PM. starting February 21. Join her in her study. If you want to have a booklet, each copy \$6.00 and Lisa Marshall will have them for purchase. We will also offer an option for conversation about the readings. Let Pastor Beth know if you want to be a part of the online conversation. Email her at bhoffman@metrocast.net.

Keep Learning, Church!- **Lydia Hoffman**

CLEANING OUR SPACES and PLACES

As we search for a new sexton (the person who cleans the buildings of our church) the Property Board would like you to know of the best practices and procedures that we would benefit from. **We are unable to afford someone who could be hired to do all these tasks but we are hopeful that a new sexton will take on some of the duties while we as a congregation can take on others. Is there something you could volunteer for every so often?**

Thank you to John Marshall and Mark Hoffman. And kudos to Loraine Boyer and Lisa Marshall who have taken up the immediate slack left by Carrie Wood's resignation. Ms. Wood gave notice saying she needed to spend more time with her six children.

How can you help? Help us be good stewards.

FELLOWSHIP HALL NEEDS

Weekly

Empty all trash cans (kitchen, offices, classrooms, & bathrooms) and replace bags

Put trash in white outside bin, pick up any stray trash in or around bin

Vacuum entry hall carpet

Vacuum upstairs hall and classrooms

Vacuum main office and pastor's office

Vacuum downstairs hall and carpeted classrooms

Dry mop function room, entry hallway, and kitchen
Wet mop function room, entry hallway, and kitchen

Monthly

Polish function room floor, wax as needed

Weekly or As Needed

Keep boiler room tidy

Remove cobwebs in all areas

Clean both bathrooms off entry hall, and clean upstairs bathroom

Cleaning toilet bowl with cleaner Under the seat and seat cover

Thorough cleaning of bathroom fixtures

Clean and wipe down towel dispenser, soap dispenser, sink, and toilet surfaces

Wet-mop bathroom floors with floor cleaner

Replace supplies as needed

CHURCH BUILDING NEEDS

Weekly

Vacuum all carpeted surfaces (Sanctuary, Narthex, back hallway)

Vacuum back stairway

Vacuum front (indoor) stairway and downstairs hallway to thrift shop

Vacuum sanctuary floor under pews

Remove cobwebs in all areas (ceiling and floor level)

Clean bathrooms – Includes cleaning toilet bowl with cleaner, under the seat and seat cover, thorough cleaning of bathroom fixtures, cleaning and wiping down the sink surfaces, wet-mop bathroom floors

Empty all trash cans (narthex, choir room, bathrooms) and replace bags

Put trash in white outside bin, pick up any stray trash in or around bin.

CLEANING OUR SPACES and PLACES (Continued information)

Inspect pews for dirt and debris and clean / vacuum as necessary. Check behind and under cushions.

Monthly

Dust all horizontal surfaces such as tables, bookshelves, windowsills, etc

Weekly or As Needed

Keep choir room tidy

Sweep or vacuum choir room

Remove cobwebs in all areas

Clean both bathrooms

Cleaning toilet bowl with cleaner

Under the seat and seat cover

Thorough cleaning of bathroom fixtures

Clean and wipe down towel dispenser, soap dispenser, sink, and toilet surfaces

Wet-mop bathroom floors with floor cleaner

Replace supplies as needed

Extra needs that would never be sexton responsibilities but still need attention.

Purchasing of cleaning supplies, paper products, trash bags, etc.

Window cleaning

Kitchen cabinets, counters, and appliances

Building exterior, outdoor steps, parking lot, sidewalks, and grounds

Snow and ice treatment and/or removal

HELP WANTED

The First Congregational Church of Eliot, 1361 State Road Eliot, Maine is in search of a custodian to assist in the cleaning of our buildings. The job would focus on help keeping our facilities in a neat, clean and orderly condition.

Responsibilities would include general cleaning (vacuuming, dusting, mopping floors) of the interior of the church sanctuary, fellowship hall and include trash removal and cleaning the bathrooms.

Custodian would report to the Property Board leadership and work in relationship with the congregational schedule and office manager.

Hiring contingent upon background check.

Custodian would be welcome to set flexible hours and be independent in weekly work.

Rate:

5-6 hours per week

\$15.00 per hour.

Paid monthly

Please call 603-620-5347