

**FEBRUARY**  
**2018**



*What's new at*  
**THE OLDE WHITE CHURCH**

*Love in Action*



---

Greetings Friends in Christ!

We are about a month into the new year, and this is the time when we can really tell if those “resolutions” we may have made are sticking, or if they might be put back on the shelf for next year. A new year’s resolution seems like something we are supposed to do, though I am not really sure why, other than it is simply what one does for the new year.

This month, we begin our Lenten Journey together. Perhaps that familiar feeling of the need to “give something up” begins to creep into our minds. There is a long and lovely Lenten history within the church with many different reasons as to why this tradition may have translated to how we understand it now. Maybe our grandparents had a Lenten practice that trickled down generations. Maybe we learned a tradition in a church we loved. Maybe we discovered a way to move through Lent, combining many ways that those around us have in the past. However we arrived, the question that I would like us all to answer honestly is, “Is my journey through Lent one that truly strengthens my relationship with God, or am I doing simply what it seems like I am supposed to do.” I suspect that, much like new year’s resolutions, we move into Lent with a prescription of what to do during this time.

I would like to suggest that we take a moment, individually and as a church family, to decide together to begin a new journey this Lenten season. We are at a place in our church family where I believe we are truly ready to transition. Transition is not the same as change; there have been many wonderful changes here at The Olde White Church. Transition is much different: changes alter the situation, but transitions move our very disposition in life. This Lenten season, let us decide as a family to learn what transition truly means, and open ourselves up to the movement of God in our lives and in the life of this amazing church.

***“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing, you may discern the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”***

***- Romans 12:1-2***

Blessings in Christ,

*The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick*

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

- To Rev. Dr. John Wilson for leading worship on Sunday, January 21 while Pastor Holly Norwick was out of town.
- To all Committee Chairs and volunteers who prepared and forwarded their 2017 Reports to the Church Office. It was very much appreciated!

### Dunkin' Ministry

Our Dunkin' Ministry meets each Thursday evening. We invite all of you to come and have coffee with Pastor Holly Norwick each Thursday evening from 5:00 – 6:00 pm in the brand new lounge area of the Wilbur Avenue, Swansea Dunkin' Donuts. All are invited.



**Update on Snowstorms:** In case of a major snow storm on a Sunday morning, we will try our best to post a message on our phone line, on FaceBook, and on our Website. Please check any of them for updates. Thank you!

**All are invited to the Annual Meeting of First Christian Congregational Church that will take place on Sunday, February 11 immediately following morning worship.**

**Annual Reports are available in the church office or you may call Deb Gray at 508-673-7179 if you would like a hard copy mailed to you.**

**Thank you!!**

### IN OUR PRAYERS:

- **Nancy Richards**, who is back home at 500 Swansea Mall Drive B125, Swansea, and MA 02777, recovering from a car accident. She is looking for part-time temporary help with light housekeeping, meal prep, errands, and companionship. She would appreciate meals that are able to be dropped off as well. For more information, please call Nancy at 508-567-5518.
- **Lloyd Kenyon**, who underwent a wrist replacement and is recovering.
- **John & Charlotte Carlson**, who are concerned about their grandson, Aiden. John & Charlotte have moved to 75 Roy Street, Fall River, MA 02721.
- We are asking for well wishes and prayers for **William James, Madeline James' son**, who had double bypass surgery on December 8, 2017 and is home recovering. His address is 175 East Mt. Pleasant Street, Livingston, NJ 07039.
- **Dorothy Norman** is now living at Clifton Assisted Living, 444 Wilbur Avenue, Apt. 320, Somerset, MA 02725 and her phone number is still 508-673-1895.
- **Bob & Jane Eddy**. Jane is currently at Clifton Rehabilitation Center, 500 Wilbur Avenue, Somerset, MA.
- **Pat Hayden**, who is currently at The Residence at Cedar Dell, 628 Old Westport Road, Room 164, Dartmouth, MA 02747. Her number is 508-636-2586.
- **Bets and Gerrit Sanford** are both at Clifton Assisted Living Community, 444 Wilbur Avenue, Somerset, MA 02726 and they are receiving calls, cards, and visits.
- **Ken and Nancy Bosworth, Donna Wood, Rosemary Marshall, and Jen Hurley**
- **Dorothy O'Neil**, who has moved to Buckley Health Care Center, 95 Laurel Street, Greenfield, MA 01301 and would appreciate cards and well wishes



A flyer for a Valentine's Day Dance. The background is pink with a repeating pattern of red hearts and white roses. The text is in a cursive font.

*Happy Valentine's Day*

*Olde White Church*

*1<sup>st</sup> Annual*

*Valentine's Day Dance*

*February 10<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 10pm*

*sponsored by*

*The Deacons Samaritans Fund*

*Music by Shaun*

*Come young and old and enjoy a fun-filled  
night of dancing and romance!*

*Your generous donations will go to*

*The Samaritan Fund.*

*Babysitting available.*

## **Super Bowl Sub Sunday**

**The Deacons will prepare submarine sandwiches and sides for the congregation to take home for their lunch or their Super Bowl Party!!**

This is a fundraiser sponsored by the Deacons to raise funds for the general operating budget of the church. Donations only!!



**This year, Lent begins as we observe Ash Wednesday, February 14. Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick will be at the church from 8 am - 5 pm offering Ashes to any who wish to come and receive! The doors will be open, just come up to the sanctuary and have a moment with her. Whether a member of this church, another church, or no church - all are welcome to receive.**

### Ash Wednesday Service

Somerset Baptist Church  
363 High Street  
Somerset, MA

Dinner at 6 pm  
Worship Service at 7 pm

We are all invited to gather together with our brothers and sisters for worship and ashes ceremony along with several other churches in the community.



## Journey in Ministry

Greetings Friends in Christ!

My journey in ministry here at The Olde White Church is so exciting and rich that I want to share it all with you! You already know that I am in the office Tuesday - Thursday, and of course, on Sunday mornings; but some of the most powerful moments of ministry can happen outside of the office. I would like to share with you the amazing opportunities of ministry that I have with our family, our friends, our community, our denomination and beyond! Come along and enjoy my journey of ministry with me...

This month was full of amazing moments of ministry. Though I was away on vacation for a part of the time, there were still opportunities to engage in ministry! In addition to my office hours, management of our four social media sites, preparation/writing time, and worship this month I had the honor of...

- \*visiting with more than 10 people
- \*providing the Dunkin' Ministry
- \*attending several church committee meetings
- \*leading the Greater Fall River Council of Churches meeting
- \*leading the Committee on Ministry Meeting
- \*enjoying meetings with local colleagues
- \*being able to visit my father

My church family is a part of my ministry everywhere that I go. I hope to be able to bring some of that joy back to all of you!

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick





## What Is A Sabbatical?

The sabbatical is a notion rooted in scripture. In Genesis, God worked for six days creating the universe and its inhabitants, and then rested. Throughout the Old Testament God instructs people to follow this pattern: work and rest. Jesus also departed from the norm many times to seek renewal and strength from God. The sabbatical tradition as we now experience it began in the universities at the time when the university was part of the church. The idea was that the university professors needed one year in every seven to become students again and to refresh their spiritual calling. That tradition is alive and well in secular as well as church-related universities today. Unfortunately, it is not as alive or well in the churches, and most pastors never receive a sabbatical. But friends, we have turned a corner in the life of this church! For the first time in our long 338 year history, our pastor is taking a sabbatical.

## What's The Purpose of a Pastor Sabbatical?

In general terms, a sabbatical strengthens and further develops a pastor's ability to serve the church. The results of the sabbatical are transformative for both the pastor and the church:

- **New Perspective.** Perhaps most significant, your pastor will gain a new understanding of the world in which your church ministers. This will deepen her own insight and positively affect her preaching and her service.
- **Spiritual Renewal.** One of the easiest places to dry out spiritually is in the pulpit. A pastor is constantly talking and teaching about the spiritual life. But because it is so much a part of her conversation and work, maintaining and developing her own spiritual needs seems less important. So it is easy to neglect. A pastor sabbatical can be a time to renew spiritual disciplines that got lost in the busy-ness of life.
- **Rest.** Pastor sabbaticals are not vacations. However, intense stress as a result of a vocation where one is “on-call” 24 hours a day - needs more than a week or two to break away from. It will take your pastor a month just to allow her body to release the stresses of that level of high-demand, every day ministry.
- **Education.** Whether or not she actually earns any sort of degree or certificate, her sabbatical will be educational. She will learn from her travels, from her research, from new relationships, and from quiet times alone with God.
- **Renewed Passion and Vision.** All of the above results lead to this. Your pastor will return from her sabbatical with a clearer sense of mission and the renewed energy to work toward accomplishing it.

## What Happens To Us?

During Pastor Holly's sabbatical, The Reverend Doctor Kathleen Henry will be stepping in to serve The Olde White Church part-time. She has served this church before during the interim time before Pastor Holly arrived and is very excited to be with you again. You may even see her on Sundays once in a while as she has popped in to worship with us. She is a regular in the Thrifty Shoppe and participates in our community events when she can. During her time here, Rev. Dr. Henry will care for each of you, fan the Spirit that is alive and well here at The Olde White Church, rejuvenate your church life, support leadership as it explores its strengths, and continue to foster the relationship between us and Pastor Holly in her absence. Sabbatical coverage is a unique calling that requires many different spiritual gifts, all of which Rev. Dr. Henry has honed over the years. Much of her career has been providing Interim and Sabbatical coverages for churches and she is the best around! We are so blessed to have her!

## **What Happens To Pastor Holly?**

Pastor Holly has been planning her sabbatical with us for well over a year. She will begin her sabbatical April 2, 2018 (the day after Easter) and return on July 1, 2018. During this time, she is eager to be able to travel, reconnect with personal relationships, rest, and seek alone time with God. She is also planning to complete her Coaching for Clergy Training and become a credentialed Clergy Coach and begin to transform her dissertation into a book to be published.

Take a minute and talk with her about her sabbatical! Ask lots of questions! Explore what God is doing next for her and for us!

Sincerely,  
The Executive Council  
First Christian Congregational Church

---

## **FELLOWSHIP NEWS....**

Worship hour and then fellowship hour sounds like a great Sunday morning! Celebrating our faith and celebrating our church family is part of a recipe for a successful church.

Attendance has increased at fellowship time but we have had an increase in participation for bringing food to share.

Many thanks to Deb Allard, Christine Roy, Charline Brodeur, Louise Slowe, Deb Desjardins, Joanne Noyes-Carey, Deb Lotz, Gwen Donald, Steve LaBossiere, and Rev. John Wilson who makes sure we have our favorite deviled eggs each week.

Thank you,  
Sara

P.S. There are many beautiful – and useful- dishes and containers on the kitchen shelf that do not belong to the church. Please check the counter as you enter the kitchen to see if one of them could be yours.

Oh! There is a pair of black gloves that someone lost – are they yours!?!?



## **SOUP MINISTRY**


Greetings friends and family of The Olde White Church! Thank you very much for the continued success of the Soup Ministry! The soup offerings of a Squash Soup and a Tomato Soup will be available after service on Sunday, February 25. I will deliver to anyone that cannot make it to service following fellowship.

All orders are due by Thursday, February 15. Again, thank you very much for the amazing experience. You may email me [sschwarzenbach77@gmail.com](mailto:sschwarzenbach77@gmail.com) or call me at 413-387-2117, or talk to me at church.

Forever Yours in Fellowship  
Chef Shaun



# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Dunkin' Ministry with Pastor Holly at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 – 6 pm	<b>2</b> AA 7 – 8:15 pm	<b>3</b> Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 1
<b>4</b> Worship Service 10:00 am  11:30 Choir Rehearsal  Super Bowl Sub Sunday  The Heart of Christianity 11:30-12:30 pm	<b>5</b>  Deacons 6:00 pm at Church	<b>6</b>  Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	<b>7</b>  Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 4  Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm  Chimes 7-8 pm	<b>8</b>  Dunkin' Ministry with Pastor Holly at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 – 6 pm	<b>9</b>  AA 7 – 8:15 pm	<b>10</b>  Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 1  Valentine's Day Dance 7 – 10 pm
<b>11</b> Jr. Handbells 9:30 am  Worship Service 10:00 am  Annual Meeting of The Olde White Church following service	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	<b>14</b> Ashes given by Pastor Holly from 8 <u>am – 5 pm</u> Thrifty Shoppe <u>9:30 – 4</u> Quilt Club <u>1 – 3 pm</u> Ash Wednesday Service at Somerset Baptist Church Dinner @ 6 pm Service @ 7pm	<b>15</b>  Dunkin' Ministry with Pastor Holly at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 – 6 pm  E-Council at 6:30 pm at Church	<b>16</b>  AA 7 – 8:15 pm	<b>17</b>  Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 1
<b>18</b> Jr. Handbells 9:30 am  Worship Service 10:00 am  Property Committee Meeting 11:15 am  11:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>  	<b>20</b> Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm  Newsletter Items Due to Church Office	<b>21</b> Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 4  Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm  Chimes 7-8 pm	<b>22</b>  Dunkin' Ministry with Pastor Holly at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 – 6 pm	<b>23</b>  AA 7 – 8:15 pm	<b>24</b>  Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 1
<b>25</b> Jr. Handbells <u>9:30 am</u> Worship Service <u>10:00 am</u> 11:30 Choir <u>Rehearsal</u> Soup Available for distribution	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	<b>28</b> Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 4  Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm  Chimes 7-8 pm	<b>**Church Office Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 – 2:00 pm**</b>  <b>**Pastor Holly's Office Hours are Tuesday thru Thursday from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm*</b>		

# First Christian Congregational Church

## The Olde White Church

1113 GAR Highway  
Swansea, MA 02777



**FEBRUARY  
2018**



*First Christian Congregational Church  
The Olde White Church  
"A Church Where Faith is Active in Love"*  
1113 GAR Highway  
Swansea, MA 02777  
508-673-7179

Email: [swanseawhitechurch@meganet.net](mailto:swanseawhitechurch@meganet.net)

Website: [www.theoldewhitechurch.org](http://www.theoldewhitechurch.org)

Facebook: [FirstChristianCongregationalChurchofSwansea](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianCongregationalChurchofSwansea)

Twitter: @Pastor\_Holly

The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick, Pastor

Worship Service and Sunday School at 10:00 am  
Coffee and fellowship following worship

### Church Office Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 – 2 pm

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 9 -2 pm

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

**All are Welcome!!**

Dunkin' Ministry at Dunkin Donuts on Wilbur Avenue	Every Thursday from 5 – 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Every Tuesday from 7 – 8:30 pm
Tone Chimes	Every Wednesday from 7 – 8 pm
The Heart of Christianity Bible Study	February 4 from 11:30 – 12:30 following worship
Super Bowl Sub Sunday	Sunday, February 4
Deacons Meeting	Monday, February 5 at 6 pm
Valentine's Day Dance	Saturday, February 10 from 7–10 pm
Annual Meeting	Sunday, February 11 following worship
Ash Wednesday, February 14	Ashes at Church from 8 am - 5 pm; Somerset Baptist Church Dinner at 6 pm; Service at 7 pm
Executive Council Meeting	Thursday, February 15 at 6:30 pm at Church
Property Committee Meeting	Sunday, February 18 at 11:15 am
Soup Delivery	Sunday, February 25