

**JANUARY
2018**



What's new at

THE OLDE WHITE CHURCH

Love in Action



Greetings Friends in Christ!

What a fantastic year here at The Olde White Church! 2017 was filled with many blessings that we can look back on and celebrate. We have many new family members, we forged many new relationships here at the church and in the community around us, and we continue to find new and exciting ways to worship and fellowship together! The Spirit is alive and well within the hearts of this amazing congregation and I am genuinely excited to see what 2018 has in store for us!

As we move into this new year together, let us take a moment to really think about what a beginning might mean. Beginnings can be both an exciting and a daunting occasion for many of us. Some of us will create (or renew) a New Year's resolution; we will choose a change that we want to make in our lives and we go for it! Some of us have brand new beginnings this year that was not our choice to have. Perhaps this is our first year without someone we love, perhaps this is our first year in a new place, perhaps this is our first year at a new church.

2018 has come, and it has brought with it newness and change for each and every one of us. Along with the excitement and the anxiety over new beginnings, isn't it wonderful to know that there is something in our lives that can never change? Isn't it comforting to know that we have something over which earthly time and space has no governance? This gift, my friends, is the love that God has for each and every one of us. God's love dwells within our very souls, regardless of year, time, or circumstance. It is a love that eludes conditions, and overpowers prejudice. It is a love unscathed by the transitions of our lives. It is a love that is wrapped around every fiber of our being.

2018 is a gift yet to be unwrapped, a mystery yet to be explored; but the good news for us, is that we do know one thing for certain; the love of God that was given to us even before time itself, is waiting there, like it has been each new year past and will be each new year to come. So, celebrate with me! Celebrate the love of God that is waiting for us just each moment of this new year!

Blessings in Christ,

The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

- To All Participants in the Christmas Concert on December 12. A special thank you to Gregg LeMay for co-ordinating the event and Gerry LeMay for the wonderful decorations.
- Deb Allard and our children for our Children's Christmas Sunday, and a thank you to all who participated in the Christmas Morning Lively Service and the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service.
- Everyone who dedicated a poinsettia plant, and a special thank you to Karen Rebello for decorating the sanctuary with the poinsettias.
- Gregg LeMay, All the Choirs, and Catherine and Nathan Reilly for the beautiful music during our Christmas Services.

Congratulations to

**Davis & Kaitlyn Mendes
on the Baptism of
Wyatt James Mendes
on Sunday, December 10, 2017 in the sanctuary.**



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!

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.
- **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.

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

Happy Valentine's Day

Olde White Church

1st Annual

Valentine's Day Dance

February 10th 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.



**Thank you to Seth, Jack, Jess, Meg, Karen & Bob
for helping to clean the sanctuary!!**



Joyce & Bob



**Christmas Services were enjoyed by young & old alike!!
What a treat to watch the Children participate in the Worship service!!**



The Heart of Christianity

Rev. Dr. John Wilson will be leading a four week discussion of the book, *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg. Borg writes, "What is the heart of Christianity? What does it mean to be a Christian today? In this book, I describe two quite different answers to this question. The first an earlier version of Christianity; the second an emerging vision. Both are present in the churches of North America today, deeply dividing Christians. We live in a time of conflict and change in the church."

The four week discussion will take place on January 14, 21 & 28 and February 4.

We will begin with a light lunch in Fellowship Hall at 11:45 am, and meet from noon to 12:45 pm. YOU WILL NEED TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE BOOK AHEAD OF TIME and read the first three chapters. Copies of the book are in the office for a cost of \$10.00. For more information or questions, please speak to John Wilson.

CARE TEAM UPDATE

The next Care Team Meeting will be on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at Chris Roy's home, 77 Edwards Avenue, Swansea, MA. The Care Team would like to thank Deb Allard for her service to our Team.

SOUP MINISTRY

Greetings friends and family of The Olde White Church! Thank you very much for the continued success of the Soup Ministry! January's soup offerings are a Squash Soup and a Tomato Soup, and they will be available after service on Sunday, January 28. I will deliver to anyone that cannot make it to service following fellowship.

All orders are due by Thursday, January 25. Again, thank you very much for the amazing experience. You may email me sschwarzenbach77@gmail.com or call me at 413-387-2117, or talk to me at church.

Forever Yours in Fellowship
Chef Shaun

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. 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 15 people
- *providing the Dunkin' Ministry
- *providing an Advent Bible Study each week of Advent
- *providing a Service of Comfort
- *providing a Christmas Eve Lively Service
- *providing a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- *caroling for the 350th Swansea Town Christmas Celebration
- *attending 6 church committee meetings
- *performed the baptism of Wyatt James Mendes
- *officiated the funeral service of Shirley Dugan-Rorie
- *participated in the wake and officiated the funeral service for Stephen Nichols
- *helping with soup delivery
- *participating in Christmas Caroling
- *leading the Greater Fall River Council of Churches meeting
- *enjoying meetings with local colleagues

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

January 2018 Church School News:

Happy New Year Friends in Christ,

What a busy and joyous advent season we've had! Thank you for your ongoing encouragement and support of Godly Play. I also wish to thank the many adults who supported the rehearsals for our very successful pageant. The youngest angels stole the show ☺. I want to thank Toosie and Susie Hardy who committed their time and love of music with our junior bell choir. Pageant Sunday was special for all. We have begun our Winter Program with the Holy Family and Advent preparation of Christ's birth and we continue with a journey through the mystery of Parables. A Godly Play information meeting will be announced.

Pastor Holly and I have planned for children to learn more about our adult church service through kiddo participation in the full sanctuary service EACH COMMUNION Sunday, the FIRST SUNDAY of each month. Children will participate in the Children's Message in addition to learning the parts and flow of the worship service while learning expectations for quiet engagement. Children will be helping in various capacities such as the offering and lighting candles as their participation progresses. As usual, children will come to the front of the sanctuary at the beginning of each service. Instead of going down stairs following the Children's Message, children will remain in the sanctuary either sitting with their family or with Miss Deb and Miss Jill. To keep children's hands and focus engaged during the remainder of the service we've provided learning boxes to help them work and learn the subtle expectations required for quiet engagement and reflection. There is also a large basket of books in the front of the children's area (small basket has toddler board books). Children will each take a box that contains materials, a clipboard and a book wherever they sit. They will return learning boxes, clipboards and books to the front pews following the service. Please be sure your child takes her/his work home as boxes do not have names. Sunday January 7th will be our first practice with this new routine. Thank you for your support and patience.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE BELOW:

Jan. 7: Epiphany/Communion/Children remain in church during the full service

Jan. 10: Holy Baptism

Jan. 17: Parable of the Good Shepherd

Jan. 24: Parable of the Good Samaritan

Jan. 31: Parable of the Great Pearl

In Continuous Gratitude for all you do.

In Christ,

Deb Allard, CE Director

PLEASE HELP US TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS FOR 2018!!

We are going into a New Year and we have so many new members, we are always updating the church's records with current e-mails, phone numbers, and mailing addresses. If you have a new address, e-mail, or phone number, please fill in the form and send it to the church office. Also, if you are a newer member or friend, please make sure to forward your contact information to the church office. Thank you!!!

Name _____ Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

We are always looking for people who would like to receive their monthly Newsletter electronically. Please forward us your e-mail and we will be able to add you to our electronic mailing in order for the church to save on postage. Thank you for your help!!

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	3 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 4 Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm Chimes 7-8pm	4 Dunkin' Ministry with Pastor Holly at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 – 6 pm	5 AA 7 – 8:15 pm	6 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 1
7 Worship Service 10:00 am 11:30 Choir Rehearsal	8 Deacons 6:00 pm at Church	9 Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	10 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 4 Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm Chimes 7-8 pm	11 Dunkin' Ministry with Pastor Holly at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 – 6 pm E-Council at 6:30 pm at Church	12 AA 7 – 8:15 pm	13 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 1
14 Worship Service 10:00 am Property Committee Meeting 11:15 am The Heart of Christianity 11:30-12:30 pm 11:30 Choir Rehearsal	15	16 Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	17 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 4 Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm Chimes 7-8 pm	18 Dunkin' Ministry with Pastor Holly at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 – 6 pm Finance Meeting at Dunkin at 6:15 pm <u>Year End Reports Due To Office</u>	19 AA 7 – 8:15 pm	20 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 1
21 Worship Service 10:00 am The Heart of Christianity 11:30-12:30 pm 11:30 Choir Rehearsal	22	23 Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm Newsletter Items Due to Church Office	24 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 4 Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm Chimes 7-8 pm	25 Dunkin' Ministry with Pastor Holly at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 – 6 pm	26 AA 7 – 8:15 pm	27 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 1 Care Team Meeting at Chris Roy's Home at 9 am
28 Worship Service 10:00 am The Heart of Christianity 11:30-12:30 pm 11:30 Choir Rehearsal	29	30 Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	31 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 – 4 Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm Chimes 7-8 pm	<p>**Church Office Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 – 2:00 pm**</p> <p>**Pastor Holly's Office Hours are Tuesday thru Thursday from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm*</p>		

First Christian Congregational Church

The Olde White Church

1113 GAR Highway
Swansea, MA 02777



**JANUARY
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

Website: www.theoldewhitechurch.org

Facebook: [FirstChristianCongregationalChurch ofSwansea](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	January 14, 21 & 28 February 4 from 11:30 – 12:30 following worship
Deacons Meeting	Monday, December 8 at 6:00 pm
Executive Council Meeting	Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 pm at Church
Property Committee Meeting	Sunday, December 14 following worship at 11:15 am
Finance Meeting	Thursday, December 18 at 6:15 pm at Dunkin' Donuts
Care Team Meeting	Saturday, December 27 at 9 am at Chris Roy's Home
Super Bowl Sub Sunday	Sunday, February 4
Valentine's Day Dance	Saturday, February 10 from 7–10 pm
Annual Meeting	Sunday, February 11 following worship