

January, 2012

Comma-tose

The week between
Christmas and New Year's Day
lies suspended,
a welcome comma
in the run-on sentence
of time
in which I don't want you
or anyone else
to bother me.
No offense.
It's not about you.

The week between
is like a dream
in which I'm dancing
but can't remember
which foot goes where
so I find a necessary seat
away from the party.
Does looking back
make the glass half-empty
any more than looking forward
makes it half full?

It's the week between
empty and full
past and future
when doing nothing much
is about right.

If making peace with the past
is a function of grace,
then remembering it accurately
is a form of confession,
and accepting the future
becomes an affirmation of faith.
Which makes

The week between
Christmas and New Year's Day
a prayer
of preparation
and thanksgiving.



Peace to you,



Mike Dunfee



TO BE REMEMBERED
IN OUR PRAYERS

Ed Devine at home
 Carol Boscow at home
 Marcia Sprague Gantshar at Norwell Knoll
 Betty Luce at home
 Margaret Allen at Life Care Center
 Betty Carchia at Cardigan Nrs. Home
 Jim Jenkins, Mary Jenkins father-in-law
 Paul Gunn, battling cancer
 Dave Muise, Huntington's disease (Nancy Archibald's son-in-law)
 William Higgins, colon cancer (Nancy Spear)
 Ryan Hathaway, leukemia (Maureen McCarthy)
 Linda Pallota (Maureen McCarthy)
 Jeanne Fay, lung cancer (Dot Sime's sister)
 Bill Van Note at home
 Dottie Fiori, ALS (Marge Manning)
 Mark Eikenberry, Colon Cancer (Jane & Jack Warner's Nephew;
 Rob Moore, liver cancer (Joy & Howie Kreutzberg);
 Kevin Ballantine, Leukemia (Barbara & Bill DeMers grandson)
 Brian Oldenberg in Iraq;
 Neil Pallotta in Afghanistan (Maureen McCarthy)
 Benjamin Hodgkins in Afghanistan (Bob Hodgkins' son)



**TOGETHER IN WORSHIP
IN DECEMBER**

December 4 – 119
 December 11 – 148
 December 18 – 199
 December 25 – 35



FOR JANUARY

01/26 Ann & Rudi Gerhard (20)



FOR JANUARY

01/02 Serena Berkelaar Green
 William Morse
 Kathryn Hodgkins
 01/05 Brian Healey
 01/06 Barbara Sabean
 Alec Doty
 01/07 George White
 Susan Daileader
 01/08 Rich Ferguson
 01/10 Jack Mathisen, III
 01/11 Kendall Anderson
 Jonathan McNeilly
 01/13 Tom Hall
 01/14 Kim Trudeau
 01/15 Cynthia Lambert
 Colleen Mathisen
 01/18 Ellen McDeevitt-Humphries
 01/19 Evie Beveridge
 01/20 Mike Dunfee
 01/21 Bob Gowdy
 01/24 Ethel Cedarleaf
 John Berton
 01/26 Ken Depperman
 Janet Brooks
 01/27 Emily Richard
 01/28 Isabelle Berton
 01/29 Judy Niland
 01/31 Alison Sprague

Special Congregation Meeting
January 22nd
Sale of Parsonage

Based upon the recommendation of the Property Ministry Team, Council has voted unanimously to recommend to the FTCC membership that we sell the church's parsonage on Williamsburg Lane.

The highlights of the reasons supporting sale are:

- Having a parsonage is no longer a requirement to attract new clergy.
- Net income from rental of the property over expenses has been minimal.
- Managing an off-sight property is a distraction.

In preparation for a meeting of church members on Sunday, January 22nd, a fact sheet will be available beginning January 8th followed by an information meeting following service on January 15th.

Bob Gowdy, Moderator



FTCC Financials

July 2011 – Nov 2011

Income	\$142,014	\$3,641 under budget
Expenses	<u>149,136</u>	On budget
Net Loss	<u>\$ 7,122</u>	

Notes: Pledge income slightly under budget through November.
Wayne Morrill, Treasurer

Reflection of "Hope"
by Elizabeth Naylor

Hope is....

A sunrise over the ocean.

Crossing your fingers as your first turkey roasts on Thanksgiving.

Standing with your soulmate and saying I do.

Watching your baby take her first steps.

Buying a new car even though you have just been diagnosed with cancer.

Putting one foot in front of the other when you aren't sure of how long you can keep standing up.

Fighting through the pain because you know it will be better tomorrow.

A birthday party for your daughter when for months your one goal has been to live long

enough to watch her turn three.

Buying a new hairbrush for the hair that hasn't grown back yet.

Fighting a horrible disease for others even though a cure sits far in the distance.

Believing in something greater than you, even when what is happening seems wildly unfair.

Being brave and courageous.

A starry sky.

(Shared with the Congregation as an Advent Wreath Reflection on November 27th)

Reflection of "Peace"
by Bill Richter

I think that "peace" means something very different to each of us. For some it means peace of mind, for others inner peace, spiritual peace or world peace. For me as a child, "peace" was a central idea in my family home. I was taught to resolve any conflict peacefully, avoiding a fight at any cost. In fact I have only been in one fight in my life. It was the sixth grade and I remember how upset my Dad was when I told him about it.

He and his brothers were brought up as pacifists. My grandfather, Herman William Richter, was a Harvard graduate and a conscientious objector in World War I. He was a brilliant man who was a chemist, inventor and educator. In fact, many of his inventions are still in use today. We've all shaken an aerosol paint can and heard the marble inside. He invented that!

As a pacifist he simply could not bring himself to take another person's life for any reason, no matter how much he disagreed with the enemy or his presumed ideology. For this he was jailed briefly and ostracized as a German sympathizer because Richter is a German name. After the war he spent the next four decades attending and leading meetings on pacifism.

My father, Robert Lincoln Richter, was a CO in WWII. The national sentiment at the time was that all able men and women go to war. He could not. He was called a coward. In fact, he was the bravest man I have ever known. He served alternative service, riding cattle boats across the Atlantic to service the troops and working in granite quarries under terrible conditions. He served his country, without veterans benefits, proudly and honorably.

But peace is something we all search for. I find a special peace in the sacred space of this sanctuary and especially in the music we make here. Equally I find peace in the company of my family. Those are my peaceful times. Just as we search for Hope, Love and Joy, my quest for true peace is ongoing. I hope each of us can recognize our own personal peace and appreciate that a life without it is unimaginable.

(Shared with the Congregation as an Advent Wreath Reflection on December 4th)

Reflection of "Joy"
by Cathie Minich

Christmas time -- more than other times of year I find that I take a good look at my life and I am truly grateful for how blessed I am.

My husband and I have four children, two boys and two girls ages 8, 6, 6 and 20 months who bring us a lot of joy, often times overwhelming amounts of joy. Watching them grow up and experiencing all their firsts: first words and first steps, losing a first tooth, riding a two wheel bike, learning to swim, skate and ski are the things my life is all about these days. Spending special time with them: reading with my children, spending a day at the beach, taking a walk together, baking in the kitchen, snuggling up to watch a movie together, enjoying a night by the fire and playing peek a boo with my youngest son are some of my favorite things to do.

Yesterday I took my twins to see the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" for the first time. It was playing on the big screen at the movie theater in the harbor. This is one of my favorite movies of all time. I always make sure I catch it on TV at least once a Christmas season. Usually it is in the wee hours of Christmas Eve while Pete and I are doing last minute wrapping or assembling toys for Christmas morning.

But I decided yesterday why I like it so much. Number one the movie shows you that you don't have to accomplish something really fantastic to make a positive impact on others lives. Small acts of kindness and simply doing the right thing in your life, brings joy to the lives of others.

Also growing up watching this movie, I realized that I looked at George Bailey's life and I thought -if I could get married and raise a family in a friendly little town like Bedford Falls then life would be just perfect. And guess what – it pretty much is. I have four beautiful children, a drafty old fixer-upper of a house, and friends and neighbors that are kind and caring and mean the world to me. Some days I truly can't believe I am lucky enough to have ended up living in a town like Scituate.

I don't need a guardian angel or a vision from God to appreciate how wonderful my life is. My life is truly blessed and for that I am joyful. My wish for all of you is to be able to enjoy the blessings of your own lives and spread the joy of the Christmas season throughout the year.

(Shared with the Congregation as an Advent Wreath Reflection on December 11th)

Reflection on "Love"
by John & Linda Eaton

Linda and I were married after our junior year at the University of Maine. It has been 46 years, this past August. We have built and sustained our love around themes like kindness, acceptance, forgiveness, sacrifice and, of course, stubbornness and humor. Those words are like chapters in our journey from friendship to love and on through the joy and worry of raising three children.

I don't know about you, but for me, learning what it means to love and be loved has been a long, slow and not always easy process. As I wrote this reflection, I realized my journey of learning to know, and believe in, God's love has also been long, uneasy and filled with trial and error.

I was also struck by the thought that celebrating a wedding anniversary is not unlike rejoicing in the birth of Jesus. Both events offer the opportunity to give thanks for the gift of Love. No matter our mistakes "in thought, word and deed," no matter that we "have left undone those things we ought to have done," we can decide to accept the gift of Love. On a wedding anniversary, or at Christmas, we can decide to recommit ourselves to learning to love and be loved, to recommit to the ongoing process of knowing and believing in God's love for us.

This advent, I am reminded that in some way that I don't really understand, my love with Linda has strengthened my relationship with the Holy One. "It seems that, for better or worse, what we might know of Jesus and His extraordinary message of love, we will know through our relationship with ordinary people, like you and me." (Peter Gomes)

This is what I am thinking about love.

Love is a very big word.

Love is a very powerful force, in our lives, and in the world.

There are no dimensions to love, no limits to love.

It is high and wide and deep.

Loving and being loved, like giving and receiving, are intertwined one with the other.

Love is not about perfection. I love myself, even with my imperfections. I love my children, even with their idiosyncrasies.

We have a son in his forties, and he has some disabilities, both intellectual deficits and mental illness. And I am able to love this son.

We love our families, our friends, and also our mother earth, and all of creation. There is so much to love in this world.

As a child, I looked for love, and I found God.

As a little girl, I could not imagine a world being created without love.

In my child's heart, I believed that there must be love in this world because how could God create a world without love. That would be impossible, I thought.

And now, at Christmastime, the giving and receiving of love continues, as we ponder God's love, and God's creation of Jesus.

And, it is wonderful.

(Shared with the Congregation as an Advent Wreath Reflection on December 18th)

Schedules and Assignments January 2012

I purposely left out the first Sunday in January (New Year's Day)

	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Preaching	Rev. Mike Dunfee	Rev. Mike Dunfee	Rev. Mike Dunfee	Rev. Mike Dunfee

Music	Senior Choir	Senior Choir	Senior Choir	Senior Choir
Liturgist				
Greeters & Ushers	Marshall Litchfield, Marty Morrill, Peter Leavitt, Peter Stanley	Diane & Mark Roder, Martha & Mike Holland	John Berton, Sally Salvador, Adam Naylor, Nelson Beveridge	Anna McCarthy, Maureen McCarthy, Pooja & Warren Cowing
Acolyte				
Servers				
Coffee Hour	Dana Blanks	Jana Richard	Sue Lowrance	Lisa Shiltz
Flowers	Joy & Howie Kreutzberg	Karen & Peter Rhoten	Joanne & David Ball	Needed
Special Events			MAINSRING	

