

# Good News!

The Quarterly Newsletter of  
**South Chatham Community Church**

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path*



**Winter 2012**



**Volume 3 Issue 4**

[www.chatham-church.com](http://www.chatham-church.com)



**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am**

**Wed Bible Study: 6:30 pm**

2555 Main Street

South Chatham, MA 02659

**Office: 508.432.4248**

**Benefit Shop: 508.432-3719**

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Monday through Saturday**



*Roofers assessing the damage done by water penetration to the steeple. Before we can reinstall the cross repairs are necessary.*

## A Message from Our Pastor

### It's Been One Year!

Our family has been at South Chatham Community Church for officially one year. It has been a blessing and a privilege to serve this community of faith. We have all been encouraged to see people embracing Jesus as Lord, being baptized, and growing as disciples. It has also been exciting to see new families and children connecting with our church. We have been able to see people begin to thrive in Christ. Our Wednesday night Biblical Discussion and Tuesday morning women's Bible Study have really helped the spiritual development of our faith community.

The goal for the upcoming year is to see more people actively participating in the church body. Our theme for 2012 was to Thrive. It means to grow, develop, flourish – to be fortunate and successful. It's the kind of life we all want – one that impacts the world and turns us into the best version of ourselves. There's a way to experience that kind of life – Jesus said that He came to bring us life and life to the fullest! While our goal for 2013 is to continue to thrive we would like to Embrace Grace. Grace is:

**G**od's  
**R**eward  
**A**t  
**C**hrist's  
**E**xpense

Cont'd pg 3

## Winter Celebrations

### Birthdays

#### December

12 Pauline Sullivan  
13 Rick Maguire



#### January

1 Rick Vachon  
5 Jean Small  
13 Mary Belyea  
19 Laureanne Horne  
20 Ginna Smith  
24 Kay Paff  
24 Nicole Barry  
25 Sandy Burgio  
26 Mary Catherine  
30 Pam Ryan

#### February

3 Sienna Towns  
18 Dorothy Dilts

*You watched me as I was  
being formed in utter  
seclusion, as I was woven  
together in the womb. You  
saw me before I was born.  
Everyday of my life was  
recorded in your book. Every  
moment was laid out before a  
single day had passed.*

*Psalm 139: 15-16*

### Changes in SCCC Trustee Leadership



June Herold

The SCCC chairman of the Trustees, June Herold, has stepped down, effective October of 2012. June has been our Trustee chairman for several years. She has tirelessly served our congregation in this capacity, managing the church operations, and all issues related to the building, handling of church contracts, and managing the Benefit Shop for 6 months of the year (which she will continue to do.) June also was a key member of the Pastoral Search Committee, which called both our interim and permanent pastors. We will all miss working with June and her leadership as the trustee chairman. She is a highly competent, devoted worker, who has a deep love and commitment to this church and to the SCCC church body. Please take a moment to thank June when you see her for her many years of dedicated, selfless service to our church.



Dennis Ryan

Trustee and Financial Secretary Dennis Ryan has stepped up to become the new SCCC trustee chairman. We are very fortunate to have Dennis in this role with his many years of experience in building operations and management. Dennis Ryan, Treasurer Andy Paff, and David Farnham currently comprise our very capable trustee team.

**“One Year”** Cont'd from page 1

We all have things in our life that we wish we could change—mistakes, broken relationships or bad decisions that we wish we could "undo." Even though we can't go back in time, we can learn how to move forward, with renewed hope. That's grace—the opportunity to leave our past behind and start anew. To Embrace Grace means we realize God has extended his favor to us even though we do not deserve it. We in turn should live our lives extending this type of grace toward others. If we all truly embrace grace in 2013 our lives will be completely different.

May we be known as a community of faith that embraces God's grace and blesses our world with the GRACE that has been given to us.



**Rev. Colby Olson**

### **Jesus Prays For Us**

*“My prayer is not for them (the disciples) alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me...I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them, and that I myself may be in them.”*

*From John 17*

### **Paul Writes to the Ephesians**

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith. And this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

*Ephesians 2: 8-10*

### **The Great Commission**

*Then Jesus came to them and said,  
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

*Matthew 28: 18-20*



*The Unbeliever:  
A Modern Day Parable  
submitted by Laurie Bonin*



Once upon a time, there was a man who looked upon Christmas as a lot of humbug. He wasn't a Scrooge. He was a very kind and decent person, generous to his family, upright in all his dealing with other men.

But he didn't believe all that stuff about an incarnation which churches proclaim at Christmas. And he was too honest to pretend that he did.

"I am truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife who was a faithful churchgoer. "But I simply cannot understand this claim that God became man. It doesn't make any sense to me."

On Christmas Eve, his wife and children went to church for the midnight service. He declined to accompany them. "I'd feel like a hypocrite," he explained. "I'd much rather stay at home. But I'll wait up for you."

Shortly after his family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window and watched the flurries getting heavier and heavier.

"If we must have Christmas," he reflected, "it's nice to have a white one."

He went back to his chair by the fireside and began to read his newspaper.

A few minutes later, he was startled by a thudding sound. It was quickly followed by another, then another. He thought that someone must be throwing snowballs at his living room window.

When he went to the front door to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They had been caught in the storm, and in a desperate search for shelter had tried to fly through his window.

"I can't let these poor creatures lie there and freeze," he thought. "But how can I help them?"

Then he remembered the barn where the children's pony was stabled. It would provide a warm shelter.

He quickly put on his coat and boots and tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on the light.

But the birds didn't come in.

"Food will bring them in," he thought. So, he hurried back to the house for bread crumbs, which he sprinkled on the snow to make a trail into the barn.

To his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs and continued to flop around helplessly in the snow.

He tried shoing them into the barn by walking around and waving his arms. They scattered in every direction – except into the warm, lighted barn.

"They find me a strange and terrifying creature," he said to himself, "and I can't seem to think of any way to let them know they can trust me."

"If only I could be a bird myself for a few minutes, perhaps I could lead them to safety." Just at that moment, the church bells began to ring.

He stood silently for awhile, listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas.

Then he sank to his knees in the snow.

"Now I understand," he whispered. "Now I see why you had to do it."





# Believer's Baptism

## The Old is Gone. The New Has Come.



Eight additional members of our church family were baptized by Pastor Colby in the same way in which Jesus was baptized by his cousin, John the Baptist. The first 6 enjoyed a beautiful, warm September afternoon at School House Pond in Chatham. Two additional believers fought the elements in Nantucket Sound at Ridgevale Beach on a blustery, cold October afternoon. On both occasions, the Holy Spirit filled the hearts of those being baptized and those bearing witness.



## “Good Morning, My Precious Friend”

by Sandy Burgio

For over 6 years, almost every day, those were the first words that I would say to my dear friend, Linn, diagnosed with stage 3 colo/rectalcancer in February 2004. It was a friendship that began 30 years ago as neighbors in NJ who then became traveling buddies, playmates, and, basically, two pals having a youthful “good old time”. Our already rich friendship turned into a richer story of love, courage, and a faith in God, tested and refined through her almost unimaginable physical and emotional suffering.

With great peace and joy, Linn passed from death to eternal life on August 17, 2010, having touched the lives of thousands of people, many of whom she had never met. How blessed I was that our paths crossed so long ago. (Thank you, God!). Her faith in God never wavered, but only grew stronger by the day. She came to realize that her suffering was serving God in a special way, staying alive as long as she could to demonstrate and strongly share the grace and mercy of God in our lives, regardless of our circumstances. She accepted that ministry with incredible strength and dignity as she came to understand it more fully. I will never forget the day that she was made aware that her rare and risky intestinal transplant was a life or death decision. She said to me, “Sandy, it’s a WIN-WIN decision...think about it...if the transplant surgery is a success, it may give me some more time on earth to enjoy my family, friends, Idaho (where she eventually lived), and God’s beautiful creation. But, if not, and God brings me to my eternal home, just think of where I’ll be!!!!” She always had a sparkle in her eyes when she spoke about Heaven, so I can only imagine how happy she is! Every day, when she was strong enough to write, she would journal her thoughts, most often composed from her Bible readings, or from something else that she may have read or heard that touched her heart. She shared it with me all the time.

About a month after Linn’s death, I received a box from her family. On the top of a pile of treasures, unique to our friendship, were two of Linn’s journals that her family knew I would appreciate having and would absolutely treasure. I’d like to share one of her entries, which began the New Year in her journal of 2006. I wish I could tell you whether she wrote it herself or read it somewhere. Either way, the wisdom is clear. I know that Linn would be so thrilled that I am sharing her journal with you...

*I am the New Year.*

*I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.*

*I am your next chance at the art of living.*

*I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.*

*All that you have sought and didn’t find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.*

*All the good that you tried for and didn’t achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.*

*All that you dreamed, but didn’t dare to do,*

*all that you hoped, but did not will,*

*all the faith that you claimed, but did not have – these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose. I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Trust the Lord for our future and step out in faith...*

*Linn Ward’s journal entry  
January 1, 2006*



Two Buddies Enjoying  
A Beth Moore Bible Study Together



## Child Dedication

Sunday September 16

photo by Andy Paff

*Jesus said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"...and he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10: 14,16*



*The Neal family dedicates their Children to God:  
Lydia, Maya-Lou, Hayden and Kyler*

### Sticking Out All Over\*

The story is told of a young boy who approached an evangelist after a revival tent meeting. "Excuse me, sir?" the little boy said politely.

"You said everyone should ask Jesus into his heart, right?"

"That's right, son. The evangelist squatted down so he could look the boy in the eye. "Did you ask him in?"

"Well, I'd like to," the boy said, shuffling dirt with the toe of his shoe before returning his gaze to the evangelist. "But I got to figurin'...I'm so little and Jesus is so big – he's just gonna stick out all over!"

"That's the point, son," the evangelist said with a smile. "That's the point."

Jesus said in Luke 6:45, 46:

"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart...for out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."

*\*An excerpt from Joanna Weaver's book:  
"Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World."*

# Scenes From A Perfect Late October Afternoon

The SCCC Family Fall Festival drew a large crowd for a fun-filled afternoon of games, activities, a bounce house and a fantastic Clam Chowder lunch! Many thanks to the committee and volunteers who made the day an amazing success. Photos by **Emily Sosa**



*Our servers, Dennis and Rick*



Squash Bowling,  
one of 10 fun Activities  
Created by **Nicole Bowers**



*Karen, Our Master Chef*



*Stacey, Our "Crafty"  
Children's Ministry Director*



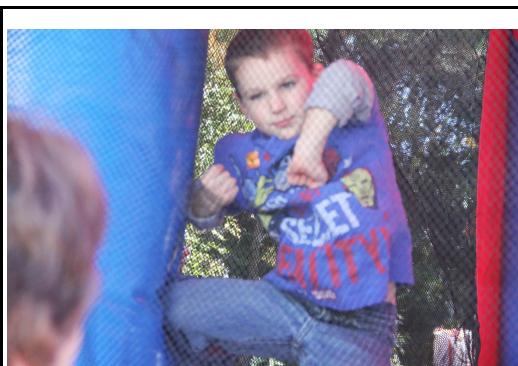
*Carmen and Lauren in Disguise*



*Tim Resets the Pins, Again!*



*Carol Ames, a wonderful  
(and happy!) addition to  
our Church body*



*Lincoln, in the Bounce House*



*Diane, thrilled to be part of  
the clean-up crew*



## December 31

As this year draws to a close, receive My Peace. This is still your deepest need, and I, your Prince of Peace, long to pour myself into your neediness. My abundance and your emptiness are a perfect match. I designed you to have no sufficiency of your own. I created you as a *jar of clay*, set apart for sacred use. I want you to be filled with My very Being, permeated through and through with peace.

Thank Me for my peaceful Presence, regardless of your feelings. Whisper my name in loving tenderness. *My Peace*, which lives continually in your spirit, will gradually work its way through your entire being.

*Isaiah 9:6; 2 Corinthians 4:7; John 14:26-27*

From "Jesus Calling" A daily devotional given to the men who attended the breakfasts last summer by **Charlie Huntington**

### God's Fun World

by Carmen Sosa – age 9

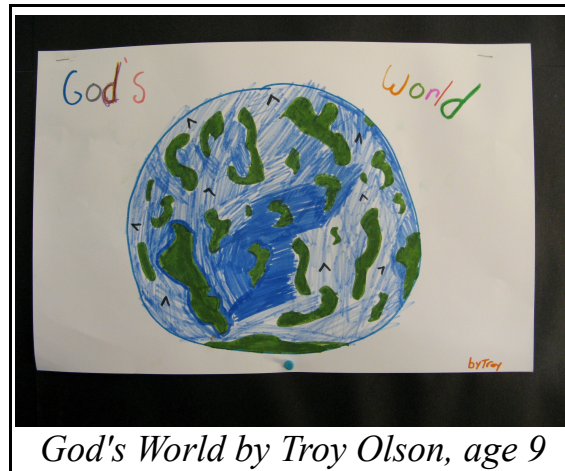
God loves earth  
God loves sky  
God loves us and apple pie.

Butterflies go across the sun  
Flying through the air.  
Socks go up and down  
going as a pair.



Flowers are so beautiful  
They shine like the sun.  
Wind blows leaves off the trees  
Seems like they like to run.

Slip, slide across the ice  
Sliding all around.  
Our hands go up  
Our hands go down  
They even touch the ground.



*God's World by Troy Olson, age 9*

### Our Writers & Contributors This Issue:

Kay Paff, Laurie Bonin, Carmen Sosa,  
Emily Sosa, Andy Paff, Colby Olson,  
Sandy Burgio, Troy Olson,  
Charlie Huntington, Pam Ryan

The deadline for the Spring issue is  
February 24, 2013

(It's never too soon to start thinking about it!)  
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**South Chatham Community Church  
P.O. Box 52  
2555 Main Street  
South Chatham, MA 02659**

**Attention: Pam Ryan**

Place  
Stamp  
Here

To:



**Philippians  
1:3**



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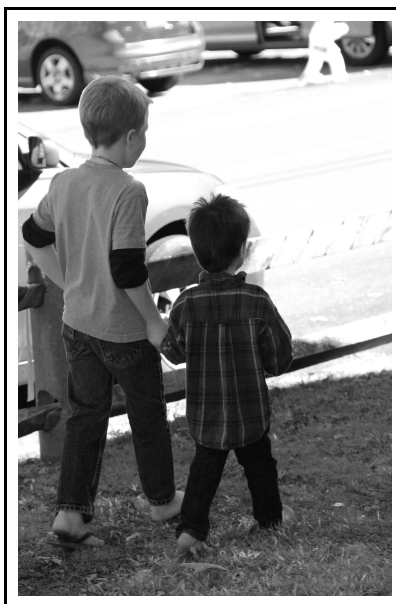


Photo by Emily Sosa