

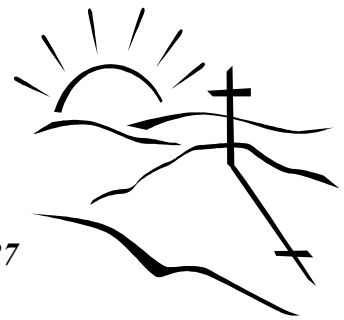
Good News!

The Quarterly Newsletter of
South Chatham Community Church

Standing together with one spirit and one purpose Phil 1:27



Spring 2012



Volume 3 Issue 1

www.chatham-church.com



Sunday Service: 10:00 am

Bible Study: Wed. 6:30 pm

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Just What are
Those Kids Up To?

Page 4

A Letter from Our Pastor

The Challenge!

**"If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.
So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." (Romans 14:8).**

The question that we need to ask ourselves is who or what are we living for? To know that Jesus died on a cross and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for our sins and to purchase a place in heaven for us is not enough. We need to believe it in faith. If a poll were taken and the question asked was, "How much of your life is occupied by Jesus?" to those that claim Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives, how many would actually say, "my life is all about living for Jesus, no matter what!"

If you took part in that poll realistically, what would you say? I think a lot of us would say he is a top priority or the top priority, but if we were to be completely truthful, many of us would have to say He is the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th priority in our lives.

It is important to do a reality check and evaluate our lives and the direction in which we are headed. Do we devote time with God on a daily basis (i.e. reading of the Bible, praying, talking about Jesus with others, etc.)? How is our time spent?

If an invisible person were to follow you for a week and then evaluate your life, would they know you are a follower of Christ? Would this invisible person see your devotion to Christ (by your verbal and non-verbal actions)? Would they discover that you know the talk, but do not walk the walk? Where would they put Jesus on your priority list? Would they conclude that you know your Bible and pray, but you do not know the personal Jesus? What would they discover? Really, who are you, and what is your life about?

(Continued on page 3)

Spring Celebrations

Birthdays

*Let them praise the name
of the Lord, for he
commanded and they
were created.*

Psalm 148:5



March

10 Carol Sandy
12 Heather Baker Deveau
13 Bob Baker
13 Kirsten Deschamps
19 Brian Deveau
20 Jane Eldredge
23 Tyler Deschamps
27 Rachel Luna

April

12 Paul Emery
30 Gordon Baker

May

3 Laurie Bonin
5 Susan Hesse
10 Joanne Leach
11 Stephen Hart
19 Amy Baker Carlson
22 Elaine Creighton
30 Pierre Bonin

We Mourn the Loss

of three sisters in Christ

Lillian Eldredge

December 17, 2011

Cita Meyer

February 20, 2012

Janet Gage

February 20, 2012

*We thank God for the presence of
these remarkable women in our lives.*

*"Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of Compassion and
the God of all comfort"
2 Corinthians 1:3*

The Favorite Scripture of Ryan Leach

*"For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life."*

John 3:16

The More I Know, The More I Grow...

Recently Bret Saylor was reading Scripture during our worship service. He read beautifully and, at times, the emotion welled up in him and in those of us listening. As Bret stepped down, the Pastor stepped up and commented, "Sometimes just reading the Word pierces the heart."

It was one of those Truth moments – simple and profound.



Our Writers & Contributors

**The Children, Sandy Burgio,
Pierre & Laurie Bonin,
Stacey Olson, Jo Vachon,
Ann Eldredge, Jane Eldredge
Pam Ryan, Colby Olson**

The deadline for the Summer issue is
May 31, 2012

(It's never too soon to start
thinking about it!)



A Letter From Our Pastor (“The Challenge!” continued from page 1)

Many of us choose to live by our own selfish and self-seeking desires. The way we live our life now determines our future. What is most important in our lives?

There are a few things I have discovered as a follower of Christ:

- 1) We are weak and God makes us strong.
- 2) On a daily basis, we need to ask to be filled and renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Apart from Christ we have nothing and with him we are everything.
- 4) If Jesus is not the top priority, we need to change our life immediately.
- 5) The focus of every minute of everyday must be on Christ.
- 6) It is important to be lead solely by God and His purposes.

Could you imagine if all people that profess Jesus as Lord of their life would truly “live to the Lord?” We would be people that instantaneously change this world. The challenge that is presented in this passage of Scripture (Romans 14:8) is to live our lives fully and completely devoted to the Lord. Is Jesus truly the Lord of your life? Does he reign on the throne of your heart? Why or why not? What separates you from this relationship with God?

To belong to the Lord means every aspect of our life is turned over to him and we are devoted to his objectives for our life. God has incredible plans for our lives. It is a matter of total commitment. The challenge is before you, it is time to choose your direction.

May we live in the power
of the resurrection!

Pastor Colby Olson



INVITE PEOPLE TO CHURCH!

After conducting a massive survey Thom Rainer wrote, “Ninety-six percent of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if they are invited. Perhaps we need to pause on this response. Perhaps we need to restate it. More than nine out of 10 of the unchurched said they would come to church if they were invited.



***Change is in the air.
Winter is becoming Spring.
Death is becoming Life.
I am becoming less like me.
And more like Jesus.***

Original Watercolor by Sandy Burgio

Answered Prayer

...But Jesus called to them saying: Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16

“Heavenly Father, Abba: We have been in prayer for two years, asking you to bring help to our Children's Ministry. We prayed for you to bring people to our church with a passion for teaching our children about you. You responded by bringing Colby to us to pastor our Congregation, and Stacey to organize and teach our Sunday school. We thank you for Stacey's heart and love for children, and her willingness to pour it out onto the children of our church, as she teaches them about our hope in you Lord. This has been an awesome answer to our prayers Lord, and we thank you for your continuous protection of and provision for, the needs of our church.”

-Kay Paff 2/19/2012

On Sundays, the Holy Spirit is moving mightily in our church. He's in the Sanctuary touching hearts through the words of Pastor Olson and the music of our Praise Team. He's down the hall where Children's Church is in session led by the pastor's wife, Stacey Olson.

This vibrant teacher has, in record time, organized and jump-started our children's ministry. Stacey's academic and work experiences have prepared her well. She has a BS in Early Elementary Education; teaching experience in preschool, first and second grades; she's taught in private, Christian and public schools and in church schools. Add to that her passion for what she does and you have a group of youngsters who have a wonder-filled future ahead of them with Jesus Christ as their center.



The Circle of "Growth" on Sunday March 4, 2012



*Mackenzie, Nicole & Delaney
Bower
Sunday, March 4*

Our Mission

by Stacey Olson



Our mission is to partner with families in reaching kids and helping them become fully devoted followers of Christ. I want the kids to see how God's Word fits into their lives, be excited about the Bible, learn how to talk to God, build friendships, and encourage one another.

This month's theme is: **Growing**...*Growing in our faith*, preserving the "fizz" in our faith...*Growing in the Word of God*...*Growing in our love for God and people*. We will be doing hands on bible activities that will help them with the bible concepts.

My prayer is for these kids to go out and make an impact in their schools and community, sharing God's love with others. I am excited to be teaching the children at South Chatham Community Church *and look forward to see what God has in store!*

Children's Chuch

That's what the little sign said.
It had been carefully printed in a child's hand
and tacked onto the door
to the Christian Ed room.
*"Welcome to the children's ministry.
Good things are happening in here,"*
it seemed to say.
(Later in the day the missing letter appeared)

Learning the Truth That Comes from God's Word



This is a bulletin board that the children put together. As they memorize scripture verses, the verses are placed on the leaves of the flowers. When they were asked what was meant by the phrase **"Rise and Live for Jesus,"** they responded:

"Do not follow bad people." -**Kelsey Olson**

"Do not listen to bad people...

Listen to Jesus & follow him." -**Joshua Leach**

"Don't be mean to people. Love God" -**Christopher Leach**

"Do not let other people take over your life." -**Troy Olson**

"Live for Jesus.

Do not let Satan get a hold of you." - **Joey Vachon**

"to love God, to pray, to worship." -**Tyler Deschamps**



*Kelsey Olson & Joey Vachon
Friendships form*



Joshua



Tyler

Irene Hamjian Steps Down From Long Standing Leadership Position



Irene Hamjian has been fully involved with our church for many years. She has worked tirelessly behind the scenes greatly impacting the church.

On January 15, 2012, her resignation from the board of deacons was announced during the worship service. It was met with both sadness and great gratitude. "We will miss her quiet, discerning spirit," Kay Paff stated, "her unflagging support of her pastor and fellow deacons, her servant's heart, and her Christ-centered approach to both service and leadership. Her love for the Lord and others is an example to all of us. Her presence at our Deacon Board meetings will be deeply missed."

Behind the scenes, Irene has sent and continues to send beautiful handmade cards to people in need, knit prayer shawls, bake delights for our Fellowship hour, oversee the mission program and tend to the Benefit Shop prayer list. She may not be a deacon anymore, but she will never stop being the loving essence of our church.



*The Praise Team lifts our hearts to the Lord:
Sue, Bret, Judy and Dennis*



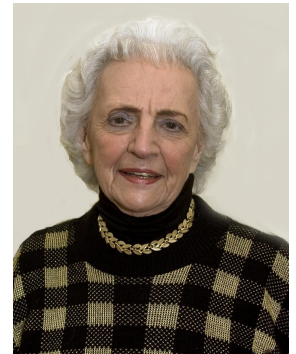
*Welcome to **Laureanne and Bill Horne**
We're happy you are here!*



*Welcome back
Josephine Wilburn
We missed you!*



***Sandy & John Burgio** are moving
permanently to South Chatham!!!*



*Rain, sleet or snow
Sally Powles delivers the
Church mail., runs the
Benefit Shop on the busiest
day of the week, bakes
delicious treats for us...
and much more!*



Twinkies and Root Beer

submitted by Laurie & Pierre Bonin

A young boy wanted to meet God. And so, He packed his favorite treats, Twinkies and root beer, and set out on his journey. After a short while, he saw an old man sitting on a park bench. The boy sat down next to him and offered him a Twinkie. The lonely man gratefully accepted it and smiled at the boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there together all afternoon eating and smiling, silently.

As the skies began to darken, the boy got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man and gave him a hug. In return, the man gave him the biggest smile ever!

When the boy opened the door to his house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God...and he has the most beautiful smile I've ever seen."

Meanwhile the old man, radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his father's face and asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God... and you know, he's much younger than I expected!"

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring – All of which have the potential to turn a life around.

God puts people into our lives for a reason!

A Prayer for Family and Friends

submitted by Ann Eldredge

Father, God, bless all my friends and family
in whatever it is that You know
they may be needing this day.
May their lives be full of Your peace,
prosperity and power as they seek to have a
closer relationship with You.
Amen.

"...The Lord Will Hear When I Call to Him"*

submitted by Jo Vachon

When you pray for others,
God listens to you
and blesses them,
and sometimes, when
you are safe and happy,
remember that someone
has prayed for you. *Psalm 4:3

God Has Blessed Us With Our Families

submitted by Jane Eldredge

There's a special kind of closeness that only families know,
That begins with childhood trust and deepens as you grow.
There's a special kind of happiness in sharing little things
The laughter, smiles and quiet talks that daily living brings
There's a special kind of comfort in knowing your family's there.
To back you up, to cheer you up, to understand and care.
Of all the treasures life may bring, your family means the most
And whether near or far apart, that love will hold you close. -Unknown



South Chatham Community Church
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South Chatham, MA 02659

Attention: Pam Ryan

Place
Stamp
Here

To:



Philippians
1:3

View our newsletter in full color
on our new website:

www.chatham-church.com



Welcome Olson Family!