



Another beautiful sunset along Lynn Shore Drive, with the City of Boston in the distance!

## Stephen Ministry Incorporates A Caring Ministry

For many years now, The First Church has maintained an active Stephen Ministry Program, where lay people are trained as Christian caregivers. In several waves, each of our Stephen Ministers participated in 50 hours of training, and were equipped with some tools and skills to walk with people who are going through a difficult time. The current Stephen Ministers include Lorraine Follis (leader), Lorraine Angel, Sue Burgess, Jack Casteel, Janet Fischer, Jim Scofield, and Sharon Thomas. We receive and provide support to Pastor Ian Holland and Community Minister, Rev. Bill Simpson.

While we still offer this one-on-one caregiving ministry for those who express interest in having a dedicated Stephen Minister, we realize that there is a need for caregiving that is shorter term. Maybe you need to talk to someone to share a problem or dilemma you are facing? Maybe you need to understand the resources that might be available for some problem. Maybe you need a hand with a sudden situation, or just need to vent. Perhaps you need a ride, or a meal, or a chat over a cup of coffee or tea.

Some others in our church have stepped up to join the Stephen Ministers in this work, and we call them Caring Ministers. We have started to meet monthly for trainings, so that all the pieces will be in place by the time Pastor Ian leaves on sabbatical in April. It is exciting to announce that Dale Orzalli, David Foye, Lynn Lindsey, Bruce Mueller, and Betsy Pugh will be joining the Caring Team. They bring a number of interesting new perspectives and life experiences to our group. Please let us know if we can help you, by being in touch with Pastor Ian or Lorraine Follis, or any of those whose names are mentioned above.

**February  
2018**

**Issue 42**

## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR ITEMS**

**Communion  
Sunday**  
Sun. Feb. 4

**Superbowl  
Fundraiser  
Lunch**  
Sun. Feb. 4

**Winter Walk**  
Sun. Feb 11

**Ash Wednesday  
LENT Begins**  
Wed. Feb. 14

**President's Day**  
Monday, Feb. 19

*Remember that you  
are dust, and to  
dust you shall  
return. GEN 3:19*

## **LOOKING AHEAD to HOLY WEEK**

**Maundy Thursday**  
March 29

**Good Friday**  
March 30

**Easter Sunday**  
April 1

**Food Tables & Cuisines to be represented  
at the 34<sup>th</sup> International Food Fair on 2/3/2018**

Canadian, Tabernacle UCC, Salem

Haitian, Zion Baptist, Lynn

Filipino, St. John's Roman Catholic Church, Swampscott

Scandinavian, Community Covenant Church, Peabody

Italian, St. Pius Church, Lynn

Korean, First Baptist Malden

Dixie Diner, Choir Comforts, and Desserts, First Church Swampscott

Still to be determined, Habitat Homeowners

Others representing include Habitat for Humanity North Shore affiliate, and the DCF foster care and adoption group. **THANK YOU ALL!**



Thanks to everyone who asked about my vacation! My mother, brother, and I were in Sebring, Florida (90 miles south of Orlando) from January 13-20. It was not the warmest week, but still nice to be away. At the end of the trip, my mother and I drove up to Gainesville to visit our aunt and cousins on the (Fischer) family farm, Rocky Creek. Here we are with my cousin's horse Bentley. Bentley is a Gypsy Vanner, similar but smaller cousin to the famous Clydesdale.

**Youth to attend March 9-10 City Reach**

More on this in next month's edition, but the youth of the church will be spending an overnight in Boston on March 9-10, as part of the City Reach program. This overnight outreach program is offered 8 times a year, and gives youth an opportunity to experience homelessness from those who have experienced it. Over 20 hours, our youth and chaperones will join the City Reach staff in street ministry, offering hospitality, food, and clothing. We will be doing a few different collections, and will let you know how the congregation can participate.

**WORDS OF THANKS....**

We at *common cathedral* wish all our friends a year filled with warmth, friendship and many blessings. Thanks to you, our 2017 ended on such a high note! We are grateful for all the Dignity Cards (Dunkin Donut) that have made a huge difference in the lives of our community. It has been cold and we have been able to get the cards in the hand of those who need them most. We are so Grateful!!

- Amanda Grant-Rose and colleagues

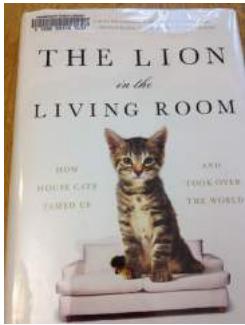
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**CAMP SILVER LAKE**

Several of our teens will return to camp in Sharon, CT that is affiliated with the UCC. It has been offering camp programs to youth ages 9 to 19 since 1957. The Executive Director, the Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer, commented on the changes that his leadership will bring. "The essentials of meeting God, being wrapped in love, surrounded by friends, transformed by grace, and growing in faith will always be part of Silver Lake."

For each of the seven weeks of summer, there are five different tracks (for various age levels and interests). The camp can enroll about 200 campers every week, which is broken down amongst the tracks. Seven youth from First Church have attended the week long conferences, and we'd love for additional youth to join them in 2018. Check out the SLC website, or feel free to contact Pastor Ian for additional information.



## THE BOOK CORNER!

Did you know that First Church has an Aging Well Book Club? At the moment they are readying *Sapiens; a brief history of humankind*. The book discussion will have two sessions, both from 2:30 to 4 PM in the church library on Thursdays February 15<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Along these lines, and if you made a New Year's resolution to read more in 2018 (as I did), Swampscott Public Library is offering a monthly challenge to read a book that has a certain theme, There will be an evening meeting each month to talk about the prior month's theme. The challenges are:

### **January's Challenge**

America: Experience it through historical fiction  
Meeting on February, Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

### **February's Challenge**

From the Savannas to Apartheid: Books set in Africa

### **March's Challenge**

Slainte! Contemporary Irish Writers

### **April's Challenge**

Intriguing Young Adult Novels: For all ages

### **May's Challenge**

Gossip or inspiration: Memoirs or Biographies

### **June's Challenge**

Quintessentially Quirky: Fun and inspiring novels

### **July's Challenge**

Hold on Tight: Spine tingling thrillers

### **August's Challenge**

Dystopia: 1984 and beyond

### **September's Challenge**

The Classics: Novels you have may missed or favorites to revisit

### **October's Challenge**

Grab your cloak and deerstalker! Delve into English Mysteries

### **November's Challenge**

True Crime: That really happen?

**AT A SPRY 100 YEARS OLD, our local library is better than ever,  
thanks to the fantastic staff and volunteers  
(some of whom are members of First Church)!**