

STEEPLE VIEWS & NEWS

January 2012

Out of the Depths

I quote from an age old film
where John Barrymore says to
his stage struck protégé,
“The sorrows of life
are the joys of art.”
So out of dismal despair
comes a book or a play,
a classic that’s destined
to live forever.



Ernesta Marchand

THE REV. CHRISTOPHER TATE, ASSOCIATE MINISTER

ALEXANDER CONSTANTINE, MUSIC DIRECTOR

LISBETH LLOYD, MUSIC EDUCATOR

JESSICA STANCIU, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

(203) 869-9311, Fax (203) 862-8624

E-mail: info@2cc.org

Our Website: www.2cc.org

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

139 EAST PUTNAM AVENUE

GREENWICH, CT 06830

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship at Second Church Chapel - 8:30 a.m. - Sanctuary - 10:30 a.m.

January 1 - Communion Sunday - Chris Tate will be preaching.

January 8 - Rev. Lynne Kramer will bring the message.

January 15 - The message will be given by Chris Tate.

January 22 - **Jazz Worship** with the Eric Mintel Quartet.

January 29 - Rev. Charles L. Wildman, Interim Conference Minister, UCC will be preaching.

Spiritual Development **Bible Study & Community Life**

Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. The study will be held in the Parlor every Wednesday.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. will meet on January 4 and January 18 in the Parlor.

First Thursday Prayer Group will meet on the first Thursday of every month at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Prayer requests can be sent to Phyllis Jacob, Pjacob5465@aol.com, and she will forward the request to the Prayer Team members. If you are interested in joining this wonderful group, please come to our group meeting. We would be very happy to have you.

Men's Bible Study - We meet on the third Saturday morning of each month in the Parlor at 7:30 a.m. Coffee and bagels.

2012 Pledges

If you haven't yet made your pledge for 2012 please do so before the end of the year to enable the Council to finalize the budget. Thank you.

Women's Fellowship **Program and Luncheon** **Jim Steen's Guide to** **Retirement Planning**



Tuesday, January 10, 10:45 a.m.

A recent study reported that over half of all Americans consider themselves to be "financially fragile," and a huge percentage of today's Baby Boomers are in danger of running out of money. Our own Jim Steen, financial consultant and author of Money and Me!, will discuss what we need to know about our own finances, and what steps we can take to avoid future financial problems. For lunch, we will be treated to a Souper Bowl Party.

Please call Ernesta Marchand to sign up at 914.937.0803

Babysitting will be available during the program and luncheon; if you wish to utilize this service, call the church office before January 3 and make a reservation.

2011 Donations

2011 is quickly coming to an end! It would be helpful to the church office if pledge payments could be completed prior to Christmas. For your tax records, payments must be received in the church office or postmarked by **December 31**. Please be sure to clearly mark on your check to which year the funds should be applied (2011 or 2012 if you are prepaying). Stock donations are a great way to complete a pledge. Your broker will send the stock to the bank of the church, where it will be liquidated. Because of privacy laws in stock transactions, your broker may not designate your name. Please advise in writing of your intention to pay this way or if you have done so in the recent past. Please be advised that we have changed our bank, therefore you need to contact Catherine Colucci at Catherine@2cc.org for detailed instructions if you are going to donate stock.

From the Music Educator *Lisbeth Lloyd*

As 2012 begins, the lyrics of "Everybody Rejoice" from the Broadway Show, The Wiz, keep playing over and over in my mind.

"Everybody look around, 'Cause there's a reason to rejoice you see, everybody come out, And let's commence to singing joyfully, Everybody look up and feel the hope that we've been waiting for, Can you feel a brand new day?"

Since the unanimous election of Max Grant as our Senior Minister in November, there has been a tangible excitement growing here at 2CC. The brightness of hope and wonder pervading the Christmas Season has carried into the New Year. Although 2011 was a challenging year in many ways, there were also many blessings. I am moved to share some of the Youth Choir special moments of 2011 that have given me reason for gratitude. At the Thanksgiving Community Concert held at St. Michael's Church, our Youth Choir sang a beautiful rendition of "All Good Gifts" from Godspell. What was most touching were the comments made by many of the other church's choir directors, ministers, priests and rabbis. All of these people were moved both by our children's singing and our 2CC children's kindness and consideration for others. Our Youth Choir members exude kindness, both toward one another and also when interacting with others. The week before Thanksgiving, I had introduced our Cherubs and Novices to the concept of 'Random Acts of Kindness.' These younger children responded with many acts of kindness as they reached out to cook, clean and help set tables for the holiday, as well as helping relatives who had special needs. Our Music Program here at 2CC constantly encourages good Christian family values in addition to creating uplifting music. I am so pleased that in 2011 our Youth Choir Alumni enjoyed their experiences singing with Youth Choir so much that many of them returned to sing with us on Christmas Eve.

As we celebrate Christ's birth at the beginning of another New Year, may Christ's light shine from our hearts and may we feel the joy of Christmas each and every day throughout 2012. Happy New Year Everyone!

January Highlights:

January 4, 11, 18, 25, Wednesdays Youth Choir. The beginning of the year is the perfect time to start something new. Why not try singing in the Youth Choir as one of your New Year's Resolutions? Contact Lisbeth@2cc.org or call 203.869.9311 ext. 128 if your child is interested.

January 8, 9:30 a.m. in Room 16 in the Church School, WEE SING FAMILY HOUR for parents with children 5 months to 5 years of age.

January 21, Youth Choir (grades 5-12) join five other Choirs from the Greenwich Community to sing a wonderful night of Broadway Show Tunes at Temple Sholom, 300 East Putnam Avenue. Concert begins at 7:00 p.m.

January 29, all the Youth Choirs will lead the morning 10:30 a.m. worship service. Rehearsal call will be 9:00 a.m.

Eric Mintel Quartet

Saturday
January 21, 7:15 p.m.

"An Evening of Outstanding Jazz"
Followed by a brief reception where we will
"meet and greet" the quartet.

Eric Mintel, pianist and composer, formed the Eric Mintel Quartet in 1993. He is a composer of orchestra and choral music and performs his composition, "Millennium Suite," (for orchestra and jazz quartet) with various symphonies throughout the country. The quartet's choral concerts feature the rarely heard sacred choral music of Duke Ellington performed with various choirs throughout the country combining jazz and choral music.

Eric has performed at the White House for President Clinton, in 1998, and been interviewed and featured in Down Beat Jazz Magazine. In June 2005, Eric was a featured guest on Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz on NPR, and recently the quartet opened for Dave Brubeck at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. In November 2005, Eric released a 3 CD boxed set of his jazz on the QTV Television network. With over ten concerts at the Kennedy Center and Eric's willingness to bring jazz to different regions, this exciting performer continues to connect and communicate with audiences of all ages throughout the country and the world. (See ericmintelquartet.com) Eric will also be performing at our 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, January 22. Join us!

Telephone Extensions & Email Addresses

Rev. Christopher Tate	125	chris@2cc.org
Alexander Constantine	129	alexander@2cc.org
Lisbeth Lloyd	128	lisbeth@2cc.org
Jessica Stanciu	131	jessica@2cc.org
Gloria LaDestro	120	gloria@2cc.org
Catherine Colucci	122	catherine@2cc.org
Meg Stewart	123	meg@2cc.org
Tony Izzi	124	tony@2cc.org

The Director of Children's Ministries Message *Jessica Stanciu*

We have much to do in January with the 2CC kids! The Gospel Light curriculum we use has changed its format a bit and I think it is great! Children can learn in the way that they learn best, whatever way that may be. There are many supplemental resources for the curriculum, such as visual aids like poster packs and kid talk cards, which will nourish the children's relations to God and to one another in his love. Also, there are family activity pages that can be put on the refrigerator, which will help take the lessons home for the entire family, and continue the discussion during the week.

The lessons we learn in church school aren't just lessons that stay with your child for one day or even one week. My wish for them is to take these lessons and call on them when they need them in life, even if that is 20 years from now. Whether it be life worries, school bullies that they encounter, or hard exams, our church school lessons are reinforcing that God is with us always, everywhere and every day. Take a look at some of the themes we will cover in the month of January:

- *Jesus in the Temple*
- *Jesus' ministry Debut - and introducing John the Baptist*
- *Following Jesus' example and relying on God when tempted*
- *Casting all anxiety on him because he cares for you*

During every lesson we will be playing games, dancing and singing to music, doing fun activity sheets, along with learning the story in a style that fits every learner. Below are some verses you can read at home with your children. Help them find it in the Bible or give the challenge for them to find it on their own. Ask them what they think these verses mean. We will be reading the verses below and more during the month of January.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers."
1 Timothy 4:12

"Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and mind." Matthew 22:37

"For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."
Isaiah 41:13

I can't wait for more fun together in January! If you would like to teach one of our classes, all you have to do is give me a call or email, 203.869.9311 ext 131 or jessica@2cc.org. Thank you and see you soon! Blessings to you.

From the Music Director

Alexander Constantine

Part of the joy in starting a New Year is looking forward to a new beginning. The good Lord has blessed us with a new shepherd, who will be joining us next month. What joy! I have had the pleasure of having lunch with Pastor Max, and I can tell you that there are great things awaiting our community! His support of the music ministry, his love of music and his concern that we maintain the same highest of standards for our music department is both very welcoming and very affirming.

I have had the honor of working with a variety of pastors, ministers and priests, since beginning my music ministry at the age of 15 (I had to ride my bike to my first church position!). I have always made it my goal to merge my talent and knowledge as a music minister with the vision of the presiding pastor, and in doing so, I have been blessed with a variety of opportunities to allow my ministry to be blended into the worship service in a way that enhances the worship and supports the vision of the pastor. I am especially thrilled to collaborate my efforts with Max's vision. In the time we spent together, he inspired me in a way that I wanted to start jotting ideas right away! We all have so much to look forward to in the New Year. Let the celebration begin!

Happy 2012 to all! Blessings to you and to yours!

Offering Envelopes for 2012

Using offering envelopes is a matter of personal preference. Envelopes are used by donors who make an annual pledge and by those who do not pledge but give when they are able to do so. They provide additional privacy, the option to make cash donations, and serve as a reminder to keep up with donations to the church. If you would like to have one assigned to you, or if you have previously received envelopes you no longer use, please call Gloria in the church office. The offering envelopes for 2012 are available in Fletcher Hall.

			JANUARY			2012
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 NEW YEARS DAY COMMUNION 10:30 am Worship Service 11:30 am Coffee Hour	2 <i>(Church Office Closed)</i>	3 9:15 am Women's Fellowship Board Meeting - FH	4 Act II 10:00 am - 5:00 pm 11:00 am Bible Study - Parlor 4:00 pm Youth Choir - BH 7:00 pm Evening Bible Study - Parlor	5 Act II 10:00 am - 1:30 pm 11:00 am First Thursday Prayer Group - Chapel 7:00 pm Chancel Choir - BH	6	7 Act II 10:00 am - 1:30 pm
8 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Wee Sing 10:30 am Worship Service Rev. Lynne Kramer Preaching 11:30 am Coffee Hour 12:00 pm Pacific House 12:00 pm YOUTH GROUP "God's Divine Coffee House" Project Rehearsal - Sanctuary 4:00 pm YOUTH GROUP (6-8)	9 5:00 pm Pacific House 7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Cottage	10 10:45 am Women's Fellowship Program and Luncheon <i>"Jim Steen's Guild to Retirement Planning"</i> 7:30 pm Council Meeting - FH	11 Act II 10:00 am - 5:00 pm 11:00 am Bible Study - Parlor 4:00 pm Youth Choir - BH	12 Act II 10:00 am - 1:30 pm 7:00 pm Chancel Choir - BH 7:00 pm Round Table	13 5:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal 7:00 pm YOUTH GROUP Annex Event (6-8)	14 Act II 10:00 am - 1:30 pm 4:30 pm Gibbons/Forti Wedding
15 8:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Worship Service 11:30 am Coffee Hour	16 7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Cottage <i>(Church Office Closed)</i>	17	18 Act II 10:00 am - 5:00 pm 11:00 am Bible Study - Parlor 4:00 pm Youth Choir - BH 7:00 pm Evening Bible Study - Parlor	19 Act II 10:00 am - 1:30 pm	20 6:30 pm Cub Scouts - FH 7:00 pm YOUTH GROUP Annex Event (9-12)	21 Act II 10:00 am - 1:30 pm 7:30 am Men's Bible Study - Parlor 7:00 pm Community Concert at Temple Sholom 2CC Youth Choir performing 7:00 pm Eric Mintel Quartet <i>"An Evening of Jazz"</i>
22 JAZZ SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Worship Service Eric Mintel Quartet 11:30 am Coffee Hour 12:00 pm Pacific House 12:00 pm YOUTH GROUP Rehearsal - Sanctuary 4:00 pm YOUTH GROUP (6-8)	23 5:00 pm Pacific House 6:30 pm Confirmation Class - FH 7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Cottage	24	25 Act II 10:00 am - 5:00 pm 11:00 am Bible Study - Parlor 4:00 pm Youth Choir - BH	26 Act II 10:00 am - 1:30 pm 7:00 pm Chancel Choir - BH	27 6:00 pm Youth Group Ski Trip (9-12) 1/27-1/29	28 Act II 10:00 am - 1:30 pm
29 8:30 am Worship Service 9:00 am Youth Choir - BH 10:30 am Worship Service Rev. Charles L. Wildman Interim Conference Minister, Connecticut Conference, UCC Youth Choir Singing YOUTH GROUP Returning	30 7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Cottage	31				



January 2012

It's happened again! Happy New Year!

Questions or comments? Call me (Chris) @ 203.829.1336 (cell), e-mail @ chris@2cc.org, or message me on Facebook (Christopher Tate).

Google Calendar link:

https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=tatecg%40gmail.com&ctz=America/New_York

Remember: Check the Google calendar for the most up-to-date activity information. **Please note the grade/age level also.**

Sunday, Jan. 1
NO MEETING — New Year's Day

Sunday, January 8, 22 - "God's Divine Coffee House" Meeting/ Rehearsal, grades 6-12, 12:00-1:30pm

Sunday, January 8
Middle School Youth Meeting (6th-8th, 4:00pm — 6:00pm)

Sunday, January 15
NO MEETING — MLK Weekend

Sunday, January 22
Middle School Youth Meeting (6th-8th, 4:00pm — 6:00pm)

FRIDAY, January 27 - SUNDAY
January 29 - Senior High Ski Trip (Grades 9-12 + **CONFIRMATION**)
We will leave for Stratton Mtn. on Friday evening, and return Sunday evening. For details, consult the weekly update e-mails, which have the relevant information. If you do not receive the weekly youth activities update e-mails, please contact Chris at chris@2cc.org to get on the list!

A New Year Brings New Adventures

I am looking forward to a super fun Winter! We are considering some additional dates for a college visiting trip, we have some soup kitchen trips planned, and our God's Divine Coffee House project will go up in March. I also hope to have a lock-in (or two?) for Middle School students to get some good "bonding" time in. If you have any particular trips or events you'd like to do, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Finally, a thought to consider in this new year:

"We can do nothing, we say sometimes, 'we can only pray'. That, we feel, is a terribly precarious second-best. So long as we can fuss and work and rush about, so long as we can lend a hand, we have some hope; but if we have to fall back upon God... ah, then things must be critical indeed!" — A.J. Gossip

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THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST THING THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS STABLE!

As always, dates/times listed here are subject to change. Check the Google Calendar for the most up-to-date calendar information, and additional information on the youth program.