

# THE TOWER

FEBRUARY 2012

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***Celebrating 125 Years in Service to the LORD  
1887 - 2012***

Park Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Worshiping in Davis Chapel

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## THE CHILDREN'S TOWER

February 2012

Dear Children,

THE POWER OF LOVE (la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la), THE POWER OF LOVE . . . Oh, sorry, I was just humming a song called "THE POWER OF LOVE" by Huey Lewis & The News. Maybe you even know the song. OF COURSE you knew Miss Linda would be lovey-dovey in the February Children's Tower! This is the time for hearts and flowers and all things LOVE! Valentine's Day is just around the corner.

This February is especially a time to be talking about love even more than at any other time. AND, our Park Congregational Church Family will be pretending that it is the month of February ALL year long! Why?? Because, as our church begins the celebration of our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with our special service on February 26, at 3 PM, "the power of love" will be seen, sung, and celebrated.

For any church to have served her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for 125 years, love and only love has to have been and continues to be the reason!

Going back to the year 1887 when little children like you gathered at Elm Park, playing together, the idea of having a "Children's Church" came to be and the building of our Park Congregational Church was really the beginning of what we now call Sunday School! The beautiful plaque in our Davis Chapel has the beginning history of "the first Children's Church in the country."

Love. Yes, it was love that started it all. Love being shared among children as they played together . . . love for the children by grown-ups who wanted to have a place for the children to learn about the GREATEST love in the world . . . the love that God has for each and every one of us! It was love that built the church building. Love that was shown by the people who gave their money so long ago to build our gray stone church that was our home for so many, many years. AND, it is love that brought us to our new home in Davis Chapel where we continue to spread and share God's love as a Church Family stronger than ever!

"THE POWER OF LOVE" (la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la). Oops, there I go again! But, I just can't help it, and neither can you!! That is why you come to Sunday School every week . . . that "power of love" thing! That is why you bring your friends to church with you! That is why you sing in the Chorister Choir! That is why you care for each other and show that caring when you put your arm around a younger child who is coming to their first Sunday School class or staying overnight for the very first time at one of our Sunday School sleepovers! It is that "power of love" that helps you to understand when somebody young or old is sad and looks to you to listen to their fears or sorrows and help them to know that God cares. It is that "power of love" that makes you want to put a portion of your allowance into your church pledge envelope every week. It is that "power of love" that our Church Family has had and continues to share for the past 125 years that fills our hearts and makes us yearn to be closer and closer to the source of that love . . . GOD'S LOVE . . . the true "power of love."

When I look at my calendars at home this year, I am going to pretend that EVERY month is February! Every month will be filled with love! I will try to fill every day with love and share and show that love to others and in my own life. AND, children, if we all try to do that, we will be adding, day by day, month by month, year by year, "the power of love" to our church history that celebrates God's love within and without the walls of our Park Congregational Church . . . LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA!!!

*Your friend . . . Linda*



Jennifer Nodelman    February 7  
 Hazel Lobo            February 23

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Our Youth Group continues their weekly meetings with vitality and service. Attendance is good and ideas from the youth are plentiful. With our 125<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Service approaching on February 26, the youth will be taking the responsibility for meeting and greeting visitors both outside the church in the parking lot and inside the building, helping the visiting clergy and guests find their way to the sanctuary.

Candy sales continue to be productive and the youth are grateful for the participation from both Park Congregational and First Baptist “customers”! Watch for more fundraisers on the horizon!

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**NEW EMAILS:**

Bruce Wells            kabuwells@yahoo.com  
 Rev. Martin Perry    mwperry34@charter.net



## SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11!

The Sunday School is hosting a SPAGHETTI SUPPER on Saturday, February 11, 2012, in Gordon Hall at 6:00pm. Tickets are available in the church office, from any Sunday School teacher, or by calling the church office at 508-752-2468. Yummy food and Basket Raffle! Adults \$8.50 - Children ages 5-12 \$5.00 - Under 5 years old eat for free!

This supper was originally scheduled in October of last year, but because of the Halloween Hoopla (aka snowstorm), the supper was cancelled. If you purchased and paid for tickets sold in October, your tickets will of course be honored at the door. AS ALWAYS, a wonderful meal, dessert, and Basket Raffle will make for a delightful evening!

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### AND THAT HE HAS DONE!!

On Sunday, February 12, our Sunday School-sponsored NEADS DOG, "Benny," will be meeting his Park Church Family and First Baptist Church friends! "Benny" will be with his "family" at morning worship along with NEADS supervisor Doreen Sheridan and his puppy trainer Erin. Another NEADS dog will accompany "Benny" which helps him to "focus, Benny, focus" . . . our mantra for "Benny" during his months and months of training! And FOCUS "Benny" has done! Fellowship will follow morning worship in the Lee Room where both Park Congregational and First Baptist folks will be able to learn more about "Benny" and the NEADS program.



**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

To . . . Dee Dorsey for making lovely royal purple collection plate covers! These covers, embossed with crosses, will add to our morning worship. Bless you, Dee, for your fine handiwork!

To . . . Judy Devoe for cleaning up (and we mean cleaning) the new Deacons closet outside Davis Chapel. The proximity of the closet to the chapel is wonderful and will assist the Deacons tremendously as they care for the chapel altar and prepare for Holy Communion. The Deacons gave their previous space in the cabinet across from the Lee Room kitchen to the Sunday School for storage.

To . . . Terry Fisher and Kathi Rose for volunteering to help with the Sunday School classes during the absence of Miss Lisa, who will be having hip surgery later this month. Miss Lisa will be missing several weeks and Miss Dee might also be absent from teaching her class as she helps Miss Lisa during her immediate rehab period.

To . . . John Belanger and Mark Dorsey who constantly answer our calls for custodial help and provisions. Not only do they help in any way, but do it generously! John and Mark . . . you're the best!

To . . . Shirley Elbe who arrives early on Sunday morning (sometimes even before Mark!) to help Miss Emily (Smith) prepare the 8:30am breakfast for those who come for the morning meal before First Baptist's "Bible and Bagels" and Sunday School classes.



**AN ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE WILL BE HELD IN DAVIS CHAPEL  
ON FEBRUARY 22 AT 7:00PM**

Holy Communion will be served, ashes will be imposed on those who desire, and Pastor Gary will deliver a message. Start your Lenten pilgrimage in the right way by attending this important service.

**THANK YOU TO PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

. . . for your financial support that allows us to be a vocal Christian presence of reconciliation in an age of division. I am honored to serve as the new Executive Director, building on a strong foundation of many who have come before me. We think I may be the youngest Executive Director in the Council's history! In this time of transition, your steady financial support is especially valuable. Please keep me in your prayers, and know that you are in mine.

In the Peace of Jesus Christ,  
The Reverend Laura E. Everett

Executive Director, Massachusetts Council of Churches

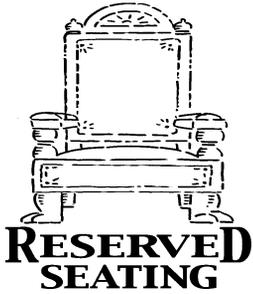
[Note that Rev. Everett is a United Church of Christ clergy. It is a tremendous honor that the leader of the Council of Churches in our Commonwealth is a member of our denomination.]

**CONGRATULATIONS**

. . . to Rev. Laura Everett on her being elected to the position of Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches (see above note). Laura will be attending our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Worship Service on February 26.

. . . to great-grandmother Betty Connor, grandmother Mary Lowell, and mother and father, Jennifer and Ted Jordan, on the birth of Aislynn Elizabeth. She is the first daughter and third child of the Jordans, who also have two sons, Aidan and Logan. May God continue to bless this family!

. . . to grandmother Terry Fisher, aunt Brittany Fisher, and father and mother, Eddie and Kasha Freehart, on the birth of Olivia Rose. She is the first child of the Freeharts and first grandchild of Terry. God's blessings on this new family!



**PLAN NOW** to reserve your seating for our LENTEN SERIES & LUNCHEONS, which will begin on Sunday, March 4, in the Lee Room. Episodes from the hysterical and ever so meaningful *The Vicar of Dibley* and *Everybody Loves Raymond* (back by popular demand) will be shown and discussed. AGAIN, by popular demand, Miss Emily (Smith) will prepare and serve her wonderful meals for us! Yummy!! A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside Davis Chapel or call the church office to reserve a place so that Miss Emily prepares sufficient food.

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