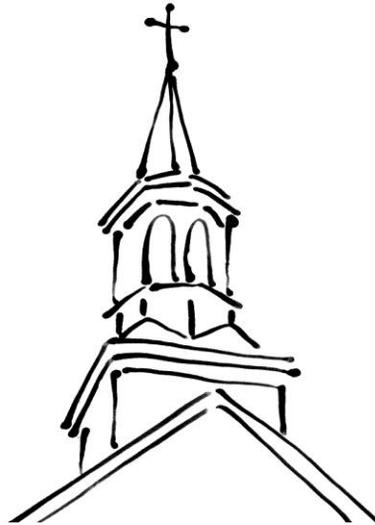


# THE TOWER

JANUARY 2014

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Park Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Worshiping in Davis Chapel  
111 Park Avenue  
Worcester MA 01609  
Telephone: 508-752-2468

E-mail: [parkchurchucc@juno.com](mailto:parkchurchucc@juno.com)

Website: [www.parkcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.parkcongregationalchurch.org)



[www.facebook.com/ParkCongregationalChurch](http://www.facebook.com/ParkCongregationalChurch)

The Rev. Dr. Gary R. Shahinian, Minister

Telephone: 508-756-5667

Cell: 508-451-8785

Fax: 508-753-7354

E-mail: [shahinian.bogosian@juno.com](mailto:shahinian.bogosian@juno.com)



Dear New Year 2014!

In case you do not know us, we are Park Congregational Church, 127 years old and going strong!

Being the new kid on the block, you have a lot to live up to, as 2013 was another wonderful milestone in our Park Congregational Church history. It was a year in which we, again, lived up to our motto, “Our Past Has Inspired Our Future.” Being unfamiliar with our past, you, baby New Year 2014, might ask for some details. Not an easy task as we have so much history to relate to you if we are to go back 127 years! Well, maybe the simplest way might be to reflect upon our Christmas Cantata Sunday Service and Christmas Eve Service this year in Davis Chapel. Ah, yes, a good beginning point . . . Davis Chapel.

After calling 80 Russell Street, Worcester, our Park Congregational Church home for 121 years, we moved our Church Family to the First Baptist Church at 111 Park Avenue, Worcester, and now call Davis Chapel our new home. Such a wonderful blessing the LORD provided for us as we were given the opportunity to share our Christian faith with our brothers and sisters in Christ from First Baptist Church! Now back to Davis Chapel. The Cantata choir is assembled. The Acolyte Joshua Lindquist lights three of the Advent candles. Pastor Gary welcomes the congregation, followed by a duet by Jennifer Nodelman and Arthur Pelletier singing “Do You Hear What I Hear?”. Brittany Fisher, Jannelle Lindquist, Josep Rose, and James Rose, Youth Group members, light the fourth purple candle on the Advent wreath.

A prayer of thankfulness is offered and it is time for the Cantata, “HOW GREAT OUR JOY,” to begin. Gordon Wilson, Cantata narrator, takes his place on the pulpit. The Park Church Choir enters from the hallway. Our wonderful, faithful choir, under the direction of our Organist and Choir Director David Rose, slowly processes toward the altar. Our motto comes to life! “Our Past Has Inspired Our Future” as we see the choir being led by Jessica Baronas and Arianna Deneault, the newest young ladies from our Sunday School to join the Adult choir. Art Pelletier, Joan Pierce, Jennifer Nodelman, Christine Wilson, and Ann Lavallee follow. Trailing behind are Josep and James Rose, two members of our Youth Group. Justin Rose turns the pages for his

father's beautiful accompaniment. Our young people have been inspired by the dedication of the choir members who have offered their voices to serve the LORD for many years! Applause fills the chapel at the completion of the Cantata, and David and the choir take a bow. Now it is time for the Sunday School and Church Family to gather in the Lee Room for "Lunch With Santa" offered by the hard work of Dee Dorsey and Lisa Lindquist with help from several "elf" parents and Christian Education members! As always, Santa is never disappointing and a wonderful time is had by all!

It is a little before 11:00pm on Christmas Eve and our church folk are gathering into the David Chapel . . . old people and young people, old members and new members, family, friends, and visitors. The chancel is adorned with beautiful red, pink, and white poinsettias. There are more plants of the season than ever before! Candelabras are waiting to be lighted to bring the glow of this holy night to life. Soft musical reminders of the reason for our gathering surround the worshipers. Quietly and reverently, the Acolyte, Samantha Proulx, processes down the aisle and lights the many candles on and about the altar introducing the beautiful voice of Jennifer Nodelman singing "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," truly revealing the reason for our service of worship.

As the Call to Worship has been given, the Christ Candle on the Advent wreath is lighted by three generations: Dee Dorsey, Lisa Lindquist, and Joshua Lindquist. After the congregation joins together in a prayer of thanksgiving to the LORD, Pastor Gary begins the service of Lessons and Carols followed by another reminder of the reason for this midnight service . . . the celebration of the birth of our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ! The baby born in the manger! The Messiah!

In the darkness, the light from the Christ Candle spreads throughout the congregation from one candle to the next until the entire chapel is glowing, reflecting the faces of our wonderful Park Congregational Church family. Those who represent the past, those who represent the future, all representing welcomers in joyous anticipation of you, the New Year of 2014, another year of total commitment and willingness to answer the baby Jesus's call to follow and serve Him with gladness and celebration!

May the LORD continue to bless our Park Church Family as we live our motto, "Our Past Has Inspired Our Future!"

With blessings in Christ and a Happy New Year to all!  
Pastor Gary and Miss Linda



**MOVIE MATINEE ON JANUARY 19 WILL  
FEATURE *LILIES OF THE FIELD***

“Oh! Why couldn’t they have asked me to build a bathtub?” So says Homer

Smith, a traveling handyman, when asked by a group of Eastern European Roman Catholic nuns to build them a much needed church in the desert. Sidney Poitier delivers an Academy Award-winning performance in this story of courage, conflict, and devotion. Don’t forget to bring your brown bag lunch. We meet in the Roy Room following the worship service. The movie begins at 11:30am. The film is approximately 90 minutes long and is suitable for children and youth.

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**Heartfelt Thanks TO OUR PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY**

*“Thank You” hardly expresses our gratefulness to our Park Church Family for the love-filled, ever so generous gift you presented to us during the Christmas Eve Service. It is our hope that you know that each one of you holds a special place in our hearts as we, all together, form our Park Church body of Christ.*

*May God continue to bless you in your lives and may the coming New Year be filled with joy in your hearts and love in your lives!*

*Pastor Gary and Linda*

## Thank You to . . .

**LINDA ELBE (SHIRLEY'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW) AND STELLA BARTEAU (LINDA'S MOTHER)** for knitting winter hats and giving them to Park Church so that we could pass them on to those in need. Some hats will be taken to Worcester Fellowship when the Confirmation Class prepares lunches for them and attends their worship service in back of Worcester City Hall later this month and some will be given to our fine veterans at the Massachusetts Veterans Shelter in Worcester.

**OUR PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CHOIR** for their Annual Christmas Cantata. The beauty of the choir in chorus as well as in solo was outstanding! Thank you, David Rose, for producing such a lovely musical presentation.

**SANTA CLAUS AND ALL HIS ELVES** (some "secret ones" also), who planned and presented "Lunch With Santa" for our entire Church Family! Such a fun and delicious afternoon!!

**ALL WHO PURCHASED CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF Y.O.U., INC.,** making Christmas brighter for many children because of YOU!

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP FOR THE LOVING AND THOUGHTFUL CHRISTMAS GIFTS** to Pastor Gary and Miss Linda!

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### **BIBLE STUDY IS READY TO BEGIN A NEW TOPIC**

Our group will be finishing the Letter to the Colossians at our next meeting on

Thursday, January 9, and will be starting a new topic. There seems to be interest in reading a historical book about Jesus, such as Bill O'Reilly's *Killing Jesus* or *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by Reza Aslan. If you have a suggestion, please speak to Pastor Gary as soon as possible. It would be helpful if the books were in the hands of the participants by that meeting. This would be a good time for new members to join us. Speak to Pastor Gary if you would like to attend.

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS:**

Liz Cape  
Holden Nursing Home  
32 Mayo Drive #224  
Holden MA 01520

Charlotte Thalin  
Thompson House  
80 Maple Street #209  
PO Box 1117  
Brattleboro VT 05302

Priscilla Rea  
David Gifford  
52 Country Club Blvd #513  
Worcester MA 01605

\* \* \* \* \*



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 6 Jaquilyn Bohn
- 9 Jacob Cogoli
- 10 Mark Dorsey
- 13 Betty Connor
- 14 Jessica Baronas
- 16 Shirley Elbe
- 16 Jocelyn Bohn
- 17 Priscilla Rea
- 22 Julie Rumrill
- 23 Brittany Fisher
- 28 William Ness
- 29 David Benoit, Jr.

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**IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!!!**

To stay safe, avoid riding in motor vehicles, because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents. Do not stay at home because 17% of all fatal accidents occur in the home. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all fatal accidents occur to pedestrians. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all fatal accidents involve these forms of transportation. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals, so, above all else, please avoid hospitals. But, you might be surprised to learn that only one death in 100,000 occurs in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given time is at church! And Bible Study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible Study is even less. So, attend church, especially Bible Study. It could save your life!!!

## THE CHILDREN'S TOWER

January 2014



Dear Children,

As I sit here at my computer pondering all the thoughts I would like to offer to you for the coming of this New Year, the most overwhelming thought that keeps coming to mind is that of *thankfulness*.

Thank you for a GREAT YEAR! Thank you for a GREAT YEAR of coming to church each and every Sunday. Thank you for a GREAT YEAR of learning your lessons and appreciating your wonderful teachers, Pastor Gary, Miss Dee, Miss Lisa, and Miss Holly. Thank you for a GREAT YEAR inspiring your Park Church Family by your smiling faces and caring gestures. Thank you for a GREAT YEAR of loving and caring for one another, not just on Sundays, but all the week through as you text and facebook one another . . . it is possible maybe even via telephone???(Oh, Miss Linda! Best get a grip!)

Thank you for your commitment to Jesus Christ as you follow His calling in your daily lives, making decisions that are sometimes hard, but bring joy to your lives as you see God's will revealed in your good choices.

Thank you for each one of you for being in MY LIFE and may the year 2014 bring our Park Church Sunday School and Youth Group even closer together as we hold fast to our faith and watch our faith come into action in all the days ahead in this New Year!

THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR and God bless you in the year ahead!

*Your friend . . . Miss Linda*



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