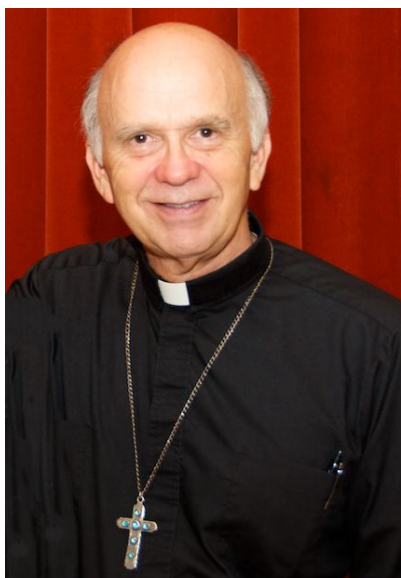


Clifton Lutheran News

December 2011 thru January 2012



From Pastor David Franks

What do we want for Christmas?

As I look back over my life I find that I can recall only a few gifts that I received for Christmas – a pair of cowboy chaps and six shooter when I was a child,

a small portable transistor radio when I was a teenager (that era's iPod), a sweater from a girlfriend when I was in college.

And now I am at that point in life when I have most of the material things I need and, even if I need something, it is much easier for me to just go out and get what I want. So the material gift aspect of Christmas, which used to be so important, is no longer of much significance.

As we age perhaps we hopefully come to take pleasure in the relational dimension of Christmas. It is, after all, a time when most of us have increased contact with each other, and a time when we at least try to be extra charitable and open. Some of this occurs at parties or at special events such as plays, programs, concerts, performances, etc. and much of it, of course, occurs at church.

The heart of the Christmas story is of the power of the infant Jesus to create community – a community that around Bethlehem two thousand years ago included the divine and human, the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak. Around this baby the Gospels say the angels sang, the shepherds gathered, the wise men bowed and the animals rested.

The true gift of Christmas is the power of Christ to create a richness and diversity of community found nowhere else. I pray that this gift, this richness of community, may infuse our Advent and Christmas observances as people of all ages, from all walks of life, of different political and social views gather around the age-old story that still has incredible power to connect us to God and to each other.

This is a gift that time cannot destroy, something we can't lose or misplace and something we can't go out and get for ourselves. It is a gift that comes from pure grace and will warm us in the New Year and for years to come.

From the President's Desk, November 27, 2011 by James Koehn

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”

The church begins another New Year as Advent 2011 began today. Wow, where did the year go? Next week is one of my favorite services with the *Hanging of the Greens* ceremony. I love to watch to kids participate in the wonderful celebration as

the sanctuary is transformed before our very eyes into a beautiful and colorful stage, where we are reminded, and where we anticipate, the birth of our Savior on Christmas Day. We will close out the calendar year with a number of wonderful services celebrating that joyous event.

Clifton Lutheran Church continues to be blessed with the Lord's love and generosity. As it happens, Christmas came early for the church this year. We were recently awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Louis M. Plansoen Trust for the purpose of replacing our fifty plus year old Sanctuary floor. We have the check in hand and have already assembled a very capable team consisting of Bill Hall, Steve Maio, Stefanie Mahr and Teresa Collins to help us plan and execute our path forward. Samples of flooring will be available for congregational inspection and approval sometime in January. Bill Hall is putting the details of our work plan together and the team will obtain estimates, timetables and logistical considerations for this project early in the new year. We are very thankful to Johanna (Joan) Young, a great friend of the congregation, for recommending us once more to her family's trust and to Pastor Dave.

It is my sincere prayer that you and your families have a meaningful and very joyous Advent season.

Blessing to All,
Jim



**Life Line Screening
January 13, 2012, All Day**

*Make an appointment to be screened for
Stroke/Carotid Artery, Heart Rhythm,
Osteoporosis and Peripheral Arterial
Disease.*

Pre-registration is required for the Life Line Screening event. Call 800-324-1851 or www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners. Use Priority Code HSC7251. Tell them you are a member of Clifton Lutheran Church and you will receive a discount!



**The Lutheran White Lie
Cake Submitted by Joanne
Evans**

Have you ever told a white lie?

You are going to love this, especially all of the ladies who bake for church events:

Alice Grayson was to bake a cake for the Lutheran Church Ladies' Group in St. Louis, but forgot to do it until the last minute. She remembered it the morning of the bake sale and after rummaging through cabinets, found an angel food cake mix & quickly made it while drying her hair, dressing, and helping her son pack up for Scout camp.

When she took the cake from the oven, the center had dropped flat and the cake was horribly disfigured and she exclaimed, "Oh dear, there is not time to bake another cake!" This cake was important to Alice because she did so want to fit in at her new church, and in her new community of friends. So, being inventive, she looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake.

She found it in the bathroom - a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and then covered it with icing. Not only did the finished product look beautiful, it looked perfect. And, before she left the house to drop the cake by the church and head for work, Alice woke her daughter and gave her some money and specific instructions to be at the bake sale the moment it opened at 9:30 and to buy the cake and bring it home.

When the daughter arrived at the sale, she found the attractive, perfect cake had already been sold. Amanda grabbed her cell phone & called her mom.

Alice was horrified - she was beside herself!

Everyone would know! What would they think? She would be ostracized, talked about, ridiculed! All night, Alice lay awake in bed thinking about people pointing fingers at her and talking about her behind her back.

The next day, Alice promised herself she would try not to think about the cake and would attend the fancy luncheon/bridal shower at the home of a fellow church member and try to have a good time. She did not really want to attend because the hostess was a snob who more than once had looked down her nose at the fact that Alice was a single parent and not from the founding families of St. Louis, but having already RSVP'd, she couldn't think of a believable excuse to stay home.

The meal was elegant, the company was definitely upper crust Mid West and to Alice's horror, the cake in question was presented for dessert! Alice felt the blood drain from her body when she saw the cake. She started out of her chair to tell the hostess all about it but before she could get to her feet, the Mayor's wife said, "what a beautiful cake!"

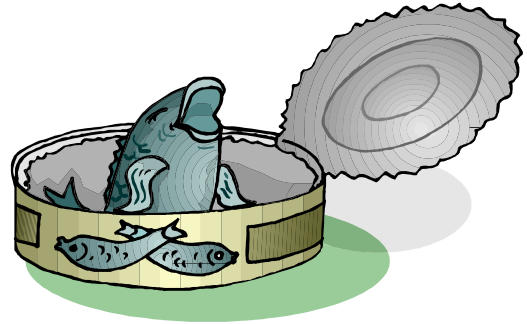
Alice, still stunned, sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (who was a prominent church member) say, "Thank you, I baked it myself..."

Alice smiled and thought to herself,
"God is soooo good."



December & January Anniversaries

Stan & Sande Vesely	December 23
Charles & Laurie Pollard	January 19
Garry & Linda Watzke	January 28



Marblehead Food Drive

We will be having a food drive for the Marblehead Food Pantry beginning January 1st and ending January 29th. Please bring canned stew, tuna fish, peanut butter or anything extra that you might have. Bags will be available in the narthex.

Clifton has been recognized by the Food Pantry for our many years of support as well as for supplying food when the holiday gifts dry up. Thank you very much for your continued support.



December & January Birthdays

Michael Fields	December 2
Mandi Magistrelli	December 3
Joanne Evans	December 9
David Slepian	December 10
Joyce Lofmark	December 12
James Nye Sr.	December 12
Nora Gergely	December 17
Ali Janavaris	December 17
Doug Hurd	December 23
Nathaniel Koplien	December 27
Charles Pollard	December 27
Stefanie Julien	January 2
Lynda Franks	January 7
Linda Koehn	January 8

Edwin Baez	January 9
Keith Gally	January 11
Tim Slattery	January 12
Jake Pickell	January 13
Jordan Coan	January 14
Dan Genis	January 16
Theresa Byors	January 16
Siri Anderson	January 18



The Legend of the Poinsettia
Submitted by George Dearborn

Inspirational Quotes

Do you have an inspirational quote that you would like to share? Submissions can be sent to infoclc@verizon.net or stop by the office and drop it off with the secretary.

It was once the custom in Mexico for the villagers to leave a gift for baby Jesus in their church on Christmas Eve.

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS:

Volunteers interested in serving Dinner on **December 29, 2011** at the Lifebridge Homeless Shelter at 56 Margin Street Salem, MA may contact Sarah Walker at swalker6@msn.com.

In one small village, a little boy who had no gift to bring prayed to God for a way to show his love for the infant king.

Worship Service at Clifton Lutheran Church begins each Sunday in the Sanctuary at 10 am.

God, in his mercy, looked down on the boy and answered his earnest prayer by causing a flower to bloom where he knelt – a flower so brilliant and fair.

Pastor Franks may be reached in the church office Monday through Friday, 10am to 3pm at 781 631 4379 or by email at dlfranks1@earthlink.net.

The miraculous flower was formed like a star with leaves that were red and bright, and the boy's previous gift has come to be known as the "Flower of the Holy Night."

AA Meetings are held in the CLC Hall Thursdays from 7-8pm.

Flowers: Thanks to all who have sponsored flowers for the altar in memory or honor of a loved one. When you make your payment, please remember to write flowers in the memo section of your check and deposit it in the wooden box at the rear of the Narthex. Please do not put payment in the collection plate. The cost is \$20 for two vases. ~ Thank you.

Publicity... If you have church information that you would like to see publicized, please contact Joyce Lofmark, Publicity Chair at wlofmark@verizon.net.

December 2011 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
				1 7pm AA	2	3
4 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	5	6 7pm Boys Scouts 7pm Choir	7 6pm Handbells	8 7pm AA	9	10
11 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	12 3:30pm Newcomers Club Holiday Party	13 7pm Boys Scouts 7pm Choir	14 6pm Handbells	15 4pm Brownie's Meeting 7pm AA	16	17
18 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	19 6:30pm Cub Scouts	20 7pm Boys Scouts 7pm Choir 7:30pm Council Meeting	21 6pm Handbells	22 7pm AA	23	24 11:00pm Worship
25	26	27 7pm Boys Scouts 7pm Choir	28 6pm Handbells	29 7pm AA	30	31

Serving in Worship	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
Pastor	Dave Franks	Dave Franks	Dave Franks	Dave Franks
Music Director	Vic Dal Pozzal	Vic Dal Pozzal	Vic Dal Pozzal	Vic Dal Pozzal
Assistant Minister	Mike Wade	Garry Watzke	Linda Watzke	Linda Koehn
Communion Asst.	Carol Lloyd	Mary Hall	Pat Duly	Jim Rude
Ushers	Sam Pickell Joe Turcotte	Jim Nye Abigail Nye	Jim Koehn Pete Ernst	Bill Finch Dan Smith
Altar Guild	Sally Skinner	Karen Pickell	Sande Vesely	Susan Angrisano
Greeter	Prouty Family	Barbara Janavaris	Robin Calahan	Matt Dovidio
Acolyte	Alyssa Nye	Sam Pickell	Madilyn Ernst	Melinda Wilson

January 2012 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
1 10am Worship	2	3 7pm Boys Scouts 7pm Choir	4 6pm Handbells	5 7pm AA	6	7
8 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	9	10 7pm Boys Scouts 7pm Choir	11 6pm Handbells	12 7pm AA	13 8am Lifeline Screening	14
15 10am Worship	16 6:30pm Cub Scouts	17 7pm Boys Scouts 7pm Choir 7:30pm Council Meeting	18 6pm Handbells	19 7pm AA	20	21
22 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	23	24 7pm Boys Scouts 7pm Choir	25 6pm Handbells	26 7pm AA	27	28
29 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	30	31 7pm Boys Scouts 7pm Choir				

Serving in Worship	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Pastor	Dave Franks	Dave Franks	Dave Franks	Dave Franks	Dave Franks
Music Director	Vic Dal Pozzal	Vic Dal Pozzal	Vic Dal Pozzal	Vic Dal Pozzal	Vic Dal Pozzal
Assistant Minister	Garry Watzke	Bill Walker	Mike Wade	Ross Dobson	Linda Watzke
Communion Asst.	Carol Lloyd	Pat Duly	Barbara Janavaris	Mary Hall	Bill Finch
Ushers	Steve Duly Ken Anderson	Dan Smith Bill Finch	Pete Ernst Jim Koehn	Fox Prouty Chris Prouty	Robin Rude Ted Quinn
Altar Guild	Karen Pickell	Susan Angrisano	Pat Duly	Nora Gergely	Sally Skinner
Greeter	Pat Duly	Robin Calahan	Matt Dovidio	Vesely Family	Joyce Lofmark
Acolyte	Melinda Wilson	Drew Gally	Melanie Wilson	Sam Pickell	Madilyn Ernst



Remember in your prayers...

Valeria Baez	Alex and Edwin's child.
Maureen Clark	A friend of Stephanie Mahr battling breast cancer.
Steve Hyde	Fighting liver cancer, a friend of Vic Dal Pozzal.
William Hazelette	Son In-Law of John & Nora Gergely, fighting liver cancer & pancreatic cancer.
Johanna Young	Health Issues.
Pat Finch	Cardiac procedure.
April Allen	Leg and back problems.
Jeff Schlachtenhaufen	A friend of Joanne Evans who is battling pancreatic cancer.
Dan Smith	Recovering from Orthopedic surgery.
John Calnan	Friend of Barb and Ali's undergoing radiation.
Mike Sullivan	Recovering from a heart attack.
Barb Whittaker	Multiple health issues.
Mary Lou Berg	Health issues.
Liesl Fields	IBC – Inflammatory breast cancer.
Nat Dearborn	At the JRC in Swampscott.
Terry Tucker	At the Renaissance Gardens at Brooksby.
Audrey Hufnagel	Limited mobility.
Papa Calnan	Friend of Barb and Ali with foot health issues.
Susan Rowley	Jim Rude's niece-fighting recurring cancer.
Norman Card	Friend of Vic DalPozzal with multiple health issues.
Ray Julien	MS and Parkinson's.
Angie Herman	Sandy Maio's cousin- battling serious illness.
Cole Lundquist	Fighting cancer.
Michael Carnevale	Friend of Sande Vesely serving overseas with the U.S. Marines.
Doris Slattery	Recovering at home.
John Baumann	Friend of Bonnie Magistrelli, undergoing radiation.

Contact the church office at (781) 631 4379 to add or delete names from this list.

Please help us keep it current. Thanks.

Clifton Lutheran Church
150 Humphrey Street
Marblehead, MA 01945

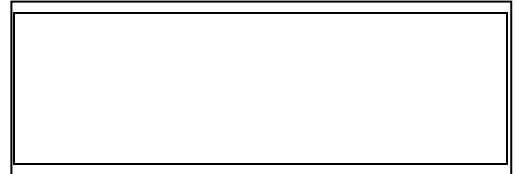
The Congregation Council

President	Jim Koehn
Vice President	Steve Maio
Secretary	Lori Dobson
Treasurer	Nina Dal Pozzal
Financial Secretary	Karin Ernst
Education/Youth	Barbara Janavaris
Member Relations	Tonya Nye
	Lori Pollard
Property	Teresa Collins
Publicity	Joyce Lofmark
Social Service	Bonnie Magistrelli
Stewardship	Sarah & Bill Walker
Worship Team	Vic Dal Pozzal
	Pr. Dave Franks
	Linda Koehn

Synod Assembly
Delegates



December & January 2011



Clifton Lutheran Church is a welcoming, multi-community congregation of people, gathered by God and nurtured in worship by Word and Sacrament, in order that each of us has the opportunity to grow in faith amidst the chances and changes of this life, belong and be valued, and serve among the hopes and hurts of our world