



## CLIFTON LUTHERAN NEWS

MARCH 2010



From Pastor David Franks



Hanging from the ceiling of the sanctuary at Clifton Lutheran is a large model of a colonial era sailing ship. Having a ship in the church is an old custom in several European countries, for from very early times Christ's church has been symbolized by a ship. Indeed, the main seating area of the sanctuary is often called the nave – from the Latin word *navis*, meaning ship – partly due to the keel shaped design of the vaulting or ceiling.

And as I thought of that ship symbol it occurred to me that it was apt for illustrating the experience we face at Clifton as we continue our voyage of faith. We are very much like the crew of a sailing ship on an immense sea of time and circumstance. And the crew of a sailing ship we must constantly deal with the wind – favoring winds and adverse winds.

A favoring, or what is sometimes called a running wind, is one that moves us ahead toward our goal, an adverse or head wind is one that hinders us or slows us down. We at Clifton have both favoring and adverse winds.

Our most reliable favoring wind is, of course, the word of God as we encounter it in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and are made new and refreshed by it by the power of the Spirit in worship and in the sacraments. This everlasting Gospel, elucidated in the ancient creeds and in the historic creeds and confessions, is the driving force of our life together. It is the energy which moves us as a community through calm and tumultuous seas. It is eternal and will never fail us wherever we may be.

Our next favoring wind is the faith and commitment of our people, those whom the Holy Spirit has called, gathered, enlightened and sanctified as the people of God gathered into the community of Christ called Clifton Lutheran. It is my firm belief that all of you have answered the silent call of the Holy Spirit in your own way and each of you has greatly enriched the life and ministry of Clifton Lutheran. We are especially blessed with leaders, from council to worship to music, of all different ages that are devoted, talented, wise and resourceful. None of us claims perfection; we are all works and saints in progress and, as the Apostle Paul so aptly put it “we have this treasure (the Gospel) in clay pots.” You and I may be clay pots, but we are God's clay pots and God has seen fit to entrust his ministry to our humble care.

**From Pastor David Franks – (cont'd)**

Another running wind that aids us in our mission journey is our location and facility. It has served past generations well and continues to do so in our generation. It is truly a house of the Lord - centered on and declaring in its style and symbols the faith which gives us life. The recent renovation has made it far more welcoming and increased its utility enormously. It is a sacred space, a border between the eternal and the temporal, an oasis where our souls are refreshed.

Yet there are also adverse winds, winds that seem to impede and limit us and call for creative and imaginative tacking strategies to keep moving ahead.

One of those adverse winds is the increasing secular wind of the time, sometimes manifesting itself as indifference to things religious or spiritual, sometimes as a kind of bland blending of all things spiritual and disregard for what is dismissively called ‘organized religion’, and sometimes as outright antipathy to any hint of the supernatural or non-rational, to wit the recent upsurge in militant atheism. A glance around might reveal that many if not most of our neighbors are not involved in a faith community and, in fact, a recent survey featured on Yahoo identified Massachusetts as the fourth least religious state in the union, bested only by New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. We are truly living in the mission territory of a post- Christian age.

Another head wind to our numerical growth is the fact that Marblehead and most of the surrounding communities are not increasing in population but are, by and large, built up. The high cost of living has made us lose a number of young families. The driver of membership increase in many churches is the demographic of population growth – they are located in areas that are expanding, where new dwellings are being constructed, etc. and new people and families are moving in. That is not the case on the North Shore. We are also located very close to other churches, such as St. Andrews, St. Michaels and St. Stephens which have similar beliefs and liturgical styles to us, resulting in all of us appealing to the same pool of likely church members. Additionally we are situated in an environment with a substantial Jewish population and carry the name, Lutheran, which is not a well-recognized “brand” in New England.

Another wind, sometimes favoring and sometime adverse, relates to finances, a wind that demands the attention of most local congregations of every faith. As mentioned before, Clifton has been blessed with generous givers and wise leaders who have so far managed to balance the available resources with the need to keep the life and the ministry of the congregation current and moving forward. But it has not been easy, and it calls continually for a skillful mix of revenue sources and some very skillful tacking.

I have sometimes thought of our financing as a three legged stool; one leg is the annual pledges and unscheduled giving, another leg is sources such as the Sprint rent and, lately, things like Got Books income, while a third leg is other income, mostly rent from the parsonage and also transfers from savings and endowment. If there is a serious decline in any of those three areas, then the headwinds increase and our creativity must increase.

Yet we sail on, carrying the precious cargo of the Gospel that our forbears did. We sail on and can rest in the fact that the Apostle Paul, if he came to worship with us today, would hear the same Gospel he preached two-thousand years ago – and see it embodied in the same Baptism and Lord’s Supper. It is a Gospel that always creates faith and gives life wherever it is proclaimed in word and deed. Our strategy of sailing might have to change but still, by the grace of God, we sail on in the faithful knowledge that “he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” The voyage is filled with adventure and peril, but God is faithful and his favoring wind will bring us safe into his harbor.

# From the President's Desk



*Jim Koehn*

Time, Talent, Treasures....

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as Council President in 2009 and as I reflect on my first year, I can think of no better place to worship than with the wonderful community of believers that we have found at Clifton Lutheran Church. We are blessed with a wonderful spiritual leader and a congregation who generously gives of their time, talents, and treasures.

2009 has been a difficult year for many members of our congregation and for indeed many Americans; illness, family tragedies, financial upheavals, the loss of a job. Our faith is being tested. But I've seen how God works in my own life, and the lives of those I am lucky enough to worship with every Sunday. CLC has an incredible membership whom the Lord has blessed with abilities, skills and passions that complement our needs wonderfully. But that shouldn't surprise us. We ask Him to "give us this day, our daily bread" and He answers our prayers. He's given us volunteers, lay leadership, and professional spiritual and musical leadership and talent to meet our every need. He has given us the wisdom and passion to ask difficult questions and address challenging issues within our faith community.

The church leadership has begun to work on three major areas of our church life, namely *prayer, scripture, and dialog*, that will help us share and experience the "passionate spiritually" that lives within each of us. We've initiated active *dialog* with wonderful Temple Talks through our Social Services, invited outstanding musical guests to worship with us, and encouraged all to share their "Faith Journeys" both orally and as part of our newsletters each month. We continue to have an active fellowship calendar. We've provided opportunities to learn and grow in our faith and

through *scripture*; small group bible sessions, book reviews, and even a hymn sing. We will, in the near future, have an opportunity to study the way in which we talk to God through *prayer*.

Finally, CLC is richly blessed with a wonderful, intelligent and dedicated spiritual leader in Pastor Dave, as well as the incredible musical talent and leadership of Vic Dal Pozzal. In addition, we are very lucky to have the energy, talents and tireless support of Barbara Conlon who has done a superb job in her first year as Church Secretary/Office Manager.

***God is Good, All the Time!***

God Bless You Always,  
Jim Koehn  
Council President

## Sunday School Notes

### To all Sunday School Parents:

If you have registered your child for a class please make every effort to get them to Sunday School. If circumstances have changed and your child will no longer attend, please let us know, or if your child cannot attend temporarily due to illness or another commitment it would be helpful for us to know beforehand. Email addresses for the teachers are in the directory or contact Barb J at [bleejan19@aol.com](mailto:bleejan19@aol.com) Thanks for any help you can give to keep the important Sunday School ministry vital!

# Briefly



*Just a reminder...* Pastor

**First Communion Class...** You might have a youngster who is ready to take their First Communion. We plan to have a class in the not too distant future so please contact Pastor if you are interested. We at Clifton have no firm rule about the necessary age to take communion, but we leave it to a decision made by the pastor, the youth and their family

Franks may be most easily reached in the church office Monday through Friday, 10am to 3pm (with some exceptions) and by use of the answering machine. Saturday and Monday are usually his days off. Pastor may be reach by email at [dlfranks1@earthlink.net](mailto:dlfranks1@earthlink.net) or by phoning the office 781 631 4379 during his office hours.

**Continue the Journey...** We are still looking to fill some positions on the Council and other leadership positions.

*Council Secretary  
Delegates to the Synod Assembly in early June*

If you are interested in learning more about these positions please contact me or any Council member.

Thanks to Sarah and Bill Walker for accepting the Stewardship ministry!

**Publicity...** If you have church information that you would like to see publicized, please contact Joyce Lofmark, Publicity Chair at [w.lofmark@comcast.net](mailto:w.lofmark@comcast.net) or you can contact me at [infoclc@verizon.net](mailto:infoclc@verizon.net) and I will get the information to her.

**We're on Facebook now!...** Check us out at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). Type in Clifton Lutheran Church in the search area and click onto our page. We're looking for suggestions to make our page more exciting, so if you have any ideas, or pictures, or anything you think might help, email them to me at [infoclc@verizon.net](mailto:infoclc@verizon.net).



***Please help me get the word out to you...*** I'm still not getting information in a way that I can keep the congregation informed of important changes. Many times the information I need is said in passing to Pastor, however, it is never quite brought to my attention so that I can relay it to you all, nor make the appropriate corrections to our directory, bulletin inserts and newsletter. It is of utmost importance then, that any news of a change to your status, or need to be added to our prayer list, be sent to me in an email. Please email me at [infoclc@verizon.net](mailto:infoclc@verizon.net) ~ Thank you for your help with this matter.



## ***Projects for the Secretary..***

The church office is more than happy to assist with, and complete, church related projects that members bring in. We ask however, that you contact the secretary in advance to determine her availability to

work on your project. Since she has many projects running simultaneously that have time sensitive deadlines, all projects must be coordinated into her schedule. Thank you for your consideration with regard to this matter.



**Deadline for Newsletter Items..** Please give all newsletter Items to Barbara via phone 781-631-4379 or email at [infoclc@verizon.net](mailto:infoclc@verizon.net). The deadline for newsletter articles for the Month of April is **Tuesday March 16.**



**Let us Email your Newsletter to you...**  
In this challenging economy, we, like everyone else, are trying to curb expenses and keep our operating costs down. One way we can do that is by emailing this monthly newsletter to you. If you would like to help us save, please email me your current email address. You can reach me at [infoclc@verizon.net](mailto:infoclc@verizon.net). Thanks in advance for helping us out with this cost cutting savings. ~ Barbara

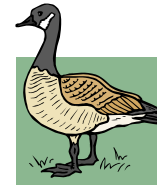


*Flower Reminder...*

Thank you 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.

## **Learning Human Relations from Geese**



*Contributed by George Dearborn from an article written by Charles Dickson for American Legion Magazine*

Observers of the ways of nature have often reminded us of how much we can learn from the animal world. Such lessons range from the emotional to the technological. We are aware of the intense caring of the mother bird for her young, but did you also know that we developed the bathysphere, or diving bell, from watching the actions of the water spider?

Nature has provided a classroom throughout history from which humans can learn how to cope both with their physical world and with each other. Perhaps no more powerful analogy of the latter has been given to us than in the actions of geese, the web-footed frequent flyers who migrate as far south as Mexico in the winter and as far north as the Arctic Circle in the summer. Geese display a God-given common sense approach to life which can well be emulated by humans. Here is the first in a five part lesson in human relations we can learn from geese.

**Geese Fact No. 1:** As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an updraft for the bird following. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds a greater flying range than if one bird flew alone. The Air Force learned from this and often employs it in military maneuvers.

**Human Lesson No. 1:** When people share a common direction and sense of community they can get where they are going quicker and more easily. That's because they have learned to travel on the

strength of each other. Successful organizations have learned that a spirit of teamwork, in which all workers pull in the same direction, makes it easier to achieve goals. This holds true not only for business corporations, but for families, for churches and for athletic teams.

## ***ANNOUNCEMENT***

*January 2010*

### **SUTTON HOME FOR WOMEN**

Incorporated in 1899

The **Sutton Home for Women** in Peabody has been active for over 100 years and after significant improvements, the time has come to reopen the home to residents.

We have established an alternative living arrangement for women who may need a lifestyle change, or a place to reside during job relocation, or a pleasant home setting for women who no longer want to live alone.

Retired women may like to take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy their retirement free from the responsibilities of managing a home. We could possibly appeal to women who are buying a home and/or moving and need a place to stay on a short term basis. We are very open to discuss each individual's needs and requirements.

The good news is ... the **Sutton Home** will be opening this Spring. Furnished and/or non-furnished rooms will be made available for rent to those meeting certain criteria. Wholesome home-cooked meals, housekeeping, and laundry are just a few of the basic services being provided - with heat and electricity included. Our intent is to also provide social activities to all residents at the **Sutton Home** through collaborative efforts with other organizations that provide social events, trips and transportation. Our main goal is to help keep everyone safe, happy, healthy and active while "**capturing the comforts of home.**"

Our location is ideal. We are situated in a private setting with a large beautiful yard only one block away from the downtown area. Residents will have

the benefits of the numerous amenities being offered in the heart of the city with the convenience of returning home to a peaceful environment away from the hustle and bustle of the city. One could say it's the best of both worlds !

Why not ride by to see the beautiful setting of this Victorian home. Private tours will be given to those interested. Current plans are to have the home ready for occupancy by April 1, 2010 where ten rooms will be available. Tell your friends and family about us as they may know of someone who would find the **Sutton Home for Women** the ideal place to call their new home. Please contact us for further information if you are interested.

We are located at 7 Sewall Street. You can take Main Street to Pierpont, then right onto Sewall Street **or** from Washington Street, take Pleasant, left on Molten and left onto Sewall Street.

Please let us know of your interest as we will be establishing a waiting list for private consultations. Questions and inquiries should be directed to Barbara at 978-531-0815 or [barb.amos2@gmail.com](mailto:barb.amos2@gmail.com).

The Sutton Home for Women is a licensed not-for-profit organization.

### ***SERVICES PROVIDED AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES***



#### **Oil Burner Tune-ups**

Pete Calahan is a Massachusetts licensed, NORA certified oil burner technician. A clean oil burner is an efficient oil burner and will save you money on maintenance and oil consumption. It will also emit fewer pollutants into the air. Pete will clean and tune up your oil burner for \$95.

He can be reached at [petcal60@yahoo.com](mailto:petcal60@yahoo.com) or 781 254 3388.

# MARCH NEWS



## March Birthdays

Prouty, Katherine	March	1
Vesely, Sande	March	1
Dovidio, Pam	March	12
Ernst, Madi	March	15
Calahan, Peter	March	17
Duly, Patricia	March	17
Finch, Patricia	March	19
Franks, Pastor David	March	25
Tracey Anderson	March	30

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### Visions of a Welcoming Church

2010 East Central Mission Area Assembly  
Saturday March 6, 2010  
10am to 2:30pm

Peace Lutheran Church  
107 Concord Road  
Wayland, MA 01778

Bible Study, workshops, and worship will explore ways to deepen and extend our welcome to all of God's children.

Registration is at the door beginning at 9am.  
Lunch will be provided – free will donations accepted

Questions: Greg & Vicki Bassett  
[G\\_bassett@comcast.net](mailto:G_bassett@comcast.net) 508 562 0596



## Anniversaries

Bill & Patricia Finch	March 19
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## Lenten Vespers

Lenten Vespers will be held at the church on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 during Lent

**CLIFTON LUTHERAN CHURCH - March 2010**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
	<b>1</b> Genesis discussion group 7:30 pm	<b>2</b> Boy Scout Meeting 7pm <i>KH</i>	<b>2</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm  Lenten Vespers 7:30pm	<b>4</b> <i>Bell Choir Rehearsal</i> 6:30-pm  <i>AA 7-8pm KH</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Sunday School Confirmation 9am  Worship 10am Sanctuary	<b>8</b> Genesis discussion group 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> Boy Scout Meeting 7pm <i>KH</i>	<b>10</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm  Lenten Vespers 7:30pm	<b>11</b> <i>Bell Choir Rehearsal</i> 6:30-pm  <i>AA 7-8pm KH</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Sunday School Confirmation 9am  <i>Worship 10am Sanctuary</i>	<b>15</b> Genesis discussion group 7:30 pm	<b>16</b> Boy Scout meeting 7 pm <i>KH</i>  Council Meeting 7pm	<b>17</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm  Lenten Vespers 7:30pm	<b>18</b> <i>Bell Choir Rehearsal</i> 6:30pm  <i>AA 7-8pm KH</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Sunday School Confirmation 9am  <i>Worship 10am Sanctuary</i>	<b>22</b> Genesis discussion group 7:30 pm  Pack 79 Meeting 8pm	<b>23</b> Boy Scout Meeting 7pm <i>KH</i>	<b>24</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm  Lenten Vespers 7:30pm	<b>25</b> <i>Bell Choir Rehearsal</i> 6:30pm  <i>AA 7-8pm KH</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Sunday School Confirmation 9am  <i>Worship 10am Sanctuary</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Boy Scout Meeting 7pm <i>KH</i>	<b>31</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm  Lenten Vespers 7:30pm			

## REMEMBER IN PRAYERS

Kenneth Adler	Sande Vesely's uncle hospitalized after a bad fall
Brigitte Aronhime	Parsonage resident recovering from auto accident
Audrey Bannan	Barb Janavaris' aunt suffering from many health issues
Norman Card	Friend of Vic Dal Pozzal with multiple health issues
Nancy Carlson	Friend of Karin Ernst suffering from leukemia
Sharon Carlson	Bill & Pat Finch's daughter-in-law's sister with brain tumor
Nathalie Dearborn	At JRC in Swampscott
Kathleen Finch	Daughter-in-law of Bill & Pat Finch who has pneumonia
Tom Ford	Friend of Tonya Nye battling lung cancer
Josephine Gosselin	Christine Gally's grandmother in nursing home/health issues
Shirley Graver	Friend of Joanne Evans recovering from a stroke
Angie Herman	Sandy Maio's cousin – pray for peace and comfort during a life threatening illness
Teddy Haughton	At Landmark at Oceanview in Beverly
Audrey Hufnagel	Member at home
Ray Julien	MS and Parkinson's – at Essex Park Rehab in Beverly
John Kazes	Family friend of the Nye's battling cancer
Linda Koehn	Recovering from throat surgery
Joan Little	Friend of Teddy Haughton who is recovering from throat surgery
Frances McCool	Aunt of Barbara Janavaris who is suffering from breast cancer
Robert Paulmann	Sande Vesely's cousin who is battling Sarcoma – a rare form of cancer
Laudis Pena	Edwin's grandmother who is fighting breast cancer
Terry Pollard	Chuck Pollard's uncle suffering from lung cancer
Linda Watzke	Recovering from major cardiovascular surgery



**Remember with prayers, calls, cards or visits those hospitalized homebound or recovering from surgery:**

**Audrey Hufnagel (at home), Teddy Haughton (now at Landmark at Oceanview in Beverly), Nat Dearborn (now at JRC in Swampscott), Barbara Johnson (at Twin Oaks Nursing Home, Danvers) and Ray Julien (at Essex Park Rehab in Beverly).**

**If you need addresses see your directory or email**

**[info@verizon.net](mailto:info@verizon.net)**

**We want to strengthen our ministry to our members who are ill, confined or unable to drive.**

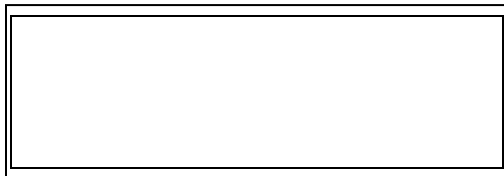
**If you might be interested in serving as coordinator of the Member Support Team please let me know**

Clifton Lutheran Church  
 150 Humphrey Street  
 Marblehead, MA 01945

The Congregation Council

President	Jim Koehn
Vice President	Steve Maio
Secretary	Mary Hall
Treasurer	Sally Skinner
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	Mike & Louise Wade
Worship Team	Vic Dal Pozzal Pr. Dave Franks Linda Koehn

# MARCH 2010



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

## February Worship Ministers

	March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
Assistant Minister	Mike Wade	Bill Walker	Garry Watzke	Linda Watzke
Communion Assistant	Barb Janavaris	Bill Finch	Bill Finch	Barb Janavaris
Ushers	Bill Finch Jim Koehn	David Wilson Edwin Baez	Teresa Collins Daniel Collins	Ken Anderson Steve Duly
Altar Guild	Nora Gergely	Pat Duly	Sally Skinner	Bonnie Magistrelli
Greeters	Robin Calahan	Barb Janavaris Ali Janavaris	Matt Dovidio Nick Dovidio	Maio Family
Acolyte	Joe Walker	Sam Walker	Melanie Wilson	Abigail Nye Alyssa Nye