Stop Battling Against Injustice

One of my favorite quotes is from author Tom Peters: “Celebrate what you would like to see more of.” It is a simple quote but reveals a profound approach to life.

These days, the number of difficult issues that need to be addressed can be immobilizing. There is so much that we need to change in this world. So much that is frustrating and unjust.

Many people ask: Where do we start? How do we go about this?

While our instinct is to battle against injustice, the motivation most people use to do so leaves them exhausted. This is understandable because they are basing their actions on opposition rather than celebration.

This is counterintuitive, I know. Celebration is something you do when something has been overcome. It is the end product, so to say, and is seen as frivolous, really. The serious work of bettering the world happens when bad things are fought against and stopped.

I think that’s using the wrong math. It isn’t about stopping bad things, it is about multiplying good things.

In my view, this is the core of Christ’s message. It is also something that brought confusion to those around him. “Why isn’t he talking about overthrowing the Romans? Instead he keeps going on about loving friend and foe alike. He heals people, which is great, but shouldn’t we be organizing a revolt?”

For Jesus, the more you multiply the good, the less power the bad will have. Injustice can’t be suppressed as much as it can be overwhelmed by its opposite.

The bottom line is that when you fight against something you will eventually become depleted. When you fight for something you will always be energized.
Melrose Alliance Against Violence (MAAV) Community Mentoring Program Seeking Volunteer Mentors

MAAV’s Community Mentoring Program provides guidance and support to middle school students in both a group setting and one-to-one basis. We are currently seeking mentors aged 21 and older for a group that will begin in early 2019. The commitment is roughly 4 hours per month. Activities include game nights, photography projects, community service outings and guest speakers. Training and supervision are provided and group meetings are facilitated by a licensed social worker. To learn more or apply to be a mentor, please email Mentoring@maav.org, visit our website at www.mauv.org or call Alison Bryer, Program Coordinator at 781-662-2010.

An Easy Way to Help Out on Sunday Morning - Be a Volunteer Teller!

We are currently looking for volunteer Tellers immediately following the Sunday Service. If you are looking for a way to volunteer but don’t have a lot of spare time this would be perfect for you.

Tellers are volunteers who collect, count, record donations received at a church service. Tellers perform their duties immediately following church service. You receive training and direction from the finance deacons. It usually takes approximately 20-30 minutes to perform and you will be with other tellers.

You can volunteer for the same Sunday each month i.e., 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or you can volunteer to fill in as needed. Any help would be most appreciated.

If you are interested, please contact me at 781-710-2978 or email tobrien@enesystems.com.

Thank you!

--Terrie O'Brien

Wonderland Fair

Friday November 30th, 6pm - 8pm
Saturday December 1st, 9am - 2pm

This annual fund raiser is a great opportunity to work with others in the congregation to support our church’s ministry and to build friendships along the way.

Fine jewelry and small jewelry boxes are always in demand, along with vintage collectibles (china figurines & miniatures.) See Phyllis Lanni and David and Lois Gauvreau with your contributions. Sam Lynch will be accepting your costume jewelry - bling!

Offerings for the Silent Auction table often include tickets to events, weekend getaways, artisan creations, and unique objects.

It is fun to pick a theme for Basket table. Choose a proper container (decorative box, tray, bin, basket), and fill it with items. “Elves” will organize your basket and wrap with cellophane and festive bow and tag. (Must be delivered to church by Sunday, November 25).

Congratulations to Kim and Ryan Krueger on the baptism of their daughters, Emily Ann and Caitlyn Adele. Proud grandparents are Ann and George Ahlin.
Sessions on anxiety and depression in children, teens, and young adults

Lynn Lyons, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, provides sessions on dealing with anxiety/depression in children, teens, and young adults. Provided in an easy to listen to and entertaining manner, she gives helpful tips for parents in helping their youth deal with anxiety.

Interested parents can consider:

- October 24th, 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Lynnfield Middle School, 505 Main Street, Lynnfield for parents and teens on “Interrupting the worry cycle.” (free)

- A webinar “Teens, Anxiety, and Depression: Active Strategies to Move Teens Forward.” This is a six hour online training (to watch whenever you choose) and costs $157.

More information can be found at: www.lynnlyonsnh.com

Yes on 3 (mission moment for October, 14 2018)

-by Jim Oosterman, Betsy Garrett, and Rob Durant

How many of you have seen the Yes on 3 signs around town? Yes on 3 refers to Question 3 on the November 6 ballot, asking if you agree with the transgender anti-discrimination law. If you do, you would vote yes. In other words, a vote of yes means to affirm protections for transgender individuals against discrimination.

The ballot question is written in a confusing way, and the fear is that an uninformed voter may not know what the question is really asking. That is why the signs are so important.

At last Tuesday’s meeting, our Board of Deacons unanimously voted to support this referendum and to display our church’s support to vote Yes on 3 with a sign on our lawn. Our congregation has committed itself to being Open and Affirming, and as such we affirm the essential humanity of all people. Our mission statement says: “Our faith calls us to speak out in the face of prejudice and exclusion and to express our faith in word and deed for justice and acceptance for all people.”

Question 3 asks voters to affirm that we want to keep the law prohibiting discrimination of transgender individuals. A repeal of the anti-discrimination law would deny the protection of essential human rights to transgender individuals. Our designation as an Open and Affirming Church does not allow us to stay silent—we have an obligation to take a stand. We are letting people know Yes on 3 is a vote to affirm basic human rights for everyone.

There are several upcoming events in our community regarding this issue.

On Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 7 pm, the Wakefield Human Rights Commission and the UU Church of Wakefield will host a panel discussion with SpeakOut Boston called “Our Stories, Our Lives” at the Wakefield High School, 60 Farm Street.

On Tuesday October 23 at 7 pm, Melrose First United Methodist Church, 645 Main St. will host “Understanding the Transgender Experience,” with a panel that includes three transgender individuals and the parent of a transgender child.

Melrose Organizes for Real Equality (MORE), in partnership with the Melrose Public Library is hosting a community book discussion of Becoming Nicole by Amy Ellis Nutt on Thursday November 8 at 7 pm at the library. Becoming Nicole is the true story of a transgender girl and her family. Several copies of the book are available on the display table at the library. Sign up on the library website.

For more about the Yes on 3 campaign, please visit the webpage at www.freedommassachusetts.org/

FCC supports Bread of Life

On Sunday, October 7, 18 FCCers participated in Bread of Life’s 26th Annual Walk & 5K Run (though none of us ran). The three mile walk began and ended at Pine Banks Park on the Melrose/Malden border.
Winter Wonderland Fair  
November 30th, 6-8pm  
December 1st, 9am-2pm

The week leading up to the fair requires volunteers to complete the final preparations. Many hands make light work. Please mark your calendars now!

- **Decorate the Church:** Friday Nov. 23rd, 9am-noon
- **Raffle Baskets Assembled:** week of Nov.25th-29th
- **Set up:** week of November 25th
- **Gingerbread House Assembly:** Tuesday, Nov. 27th and/or Wed. Nov. 28th, 6:30-8:30
- **Break down and Clean up:** Saturday December 1st, 2pm

Before the holiday season begins an assessment of your “stuff” can be a healthy sorting exercise. Call it downsizing, weeding out, or sharing treasures your contributions to the Fair Tables are invaluable. As you sort, please keep in mind:

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<tr>
<td><em>Toys</em></td>
<td>Kara Lazalere</td>
<td><em>Books</em></td>
<td>looking for an organizer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Decorations</td>
<td>Janet Runge</td>
<td>Collectibles</td>
<td>David Gauvreau</td>
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<td>Jewelry</td>
<td>Lois Gauvreau and Phyllis Lanni</td>
<td>Baked Goods</td>
<td>Circle 4</td>
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<td>Silent Auction</td>
<td>Jim and Lisa Oosterman</td>
<td>Themed Raffle Baskets</td>
<td>Martha Williams</td>
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*please wait until church fair week to contribute

**Children’s Room** (organizer: Sallie Klemm) contains gingerbread houses and holiday crafts that are ready-to-decorate. These draw from families from the wider community.

*Please sign up now to help support these opportunities!*