

Mason Congregational Church May 2017

Please visit: www.masoncongregationalchurch.org or call us 878-1684

Sometimes Spirits Need Shelters by Maren Tirabassi

“Do not quench the spirit.” 1 Thessalonians 5:12-20

Ellie adapted and adjusted to limitations caused by aging, redefining loss as opportunity. “I can’t stay at home--how exciting to meet new folks in the assisted living facility. My children live in other states--isn’t Skype awesome? My pastor retired, but the interim (when plied with pumpkin bread) has amazing stories. My part-time job requires more vision than I have, but I can volunteer. When Fickle, my Jack Russell terrier, died, I found the perfect volunteer job walking dogs and cleaning small animal cages at the SPCA.”

For five years Ellie was settled. She avoided bingo and gossip at Plymouth Grove, but the new pastor was acceptable, and Ellie was indispensable at the SPCA. She was a model of “Thessalonian” life that Paul commends—never idle, full of contagious joy, prayerful and thankful. Then the “quencher” happened. Ellie lost the use of her legs and suddenly discovered how much of her life was based on mobility.

Then the SPCA director asked Ellie if she would be willing to sit on a small chair inside four of the shelter cages where new dogs were so timid and traumatized that they were virtually non-adoptable. No walk. Just sit. For an hour visit with each one, Ellie sits and talks and scratches ears, if the dog is willing to approach her. Four hours a day, six days a week, she, in the words of Paul’s letter, “encourages the fainthearted, helps the weak, and is patient with all of them.”

Prayer: God, thank you for all the small and precious stories of unquenchable spirits. Help me recognize them, share them and live into my own. Amen.

Maren C. Tirabassi is Pastor of Union Congregational UCC of Madbury, NH. She is the author most recently of [*The Shakespeare Reader and Other Christmas Tales*](#).

Upcoming Events

- **God’s House needs spring cleaning! May 6 from 9-12**—Are you ready with your cleaning paraphernalia or your rakes? You will be rewarded with lunch, and the best of workers to help you! Come one, come all, please.
- **Community Supper May 11, 2017 5:30 to 7pm** Good company, warm Fellowship Hall, and of course good food. Know of a neighbor who has just moved in? Invite them to dinner—the easy way! And, offer your help, extra hands are always needed. Washing dishes, picking up the chairs, or preparation. We always meet the following Thursday at 7pm for planning the next supper.
- **Mission: Nashua Soup Kitchen, May 13.** Call Kathy Chapman to let her know if you plan on coming since we can’t bring too many, but need enough! Meet in the parking lot of the church at 3pm for carpooling to the Nashua Soup Kitchen. Usually we are back by 6:30pm. Call 878-4993 or email Kathy at chapman.kathy@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer. We need a minimum of 8 people.

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- **May 19 Women's Conversation 2 pm to 4 pm.** This is a casual gathering of local women around coffee/tea, and friendships old and new. The topics vary, the hilarity is always a part of whatever is going on, and the welcoming is very consistent. This month we will have a discussion about www.diningforwomen.org to see if anyone might like to try out this way of helping women around the world, while having food and fun! Drop in and share!
- **Living Room Coffee House May 20th.** Doors open at 6:30, Music begins at 7. There are warm drinks, food, and music lovers: just mix and enjoy.
Lee & Roger are prolific songwriters of blues-infused alternative pop, featuring clever, emotional lyrics and catchy melodies layered on foot-tapping, head-bopping rhythmic backdrops. Seasoned performers, the duo have released 7 CDs between them and perform regularly with their full band, cleverly called The Flair Band. **Scott Matsumoto** is a finger-style guitarist who covers a wide range of styles; everything from Michael Hedges to Tommy Emmanuel. The musical collaboration with Scott and Flair grew out of several jam sessions and their mutual appreciation for Belgium ales. Always inspiring, as is the music they perform together! (www.flairsongs.com)
- **SAVE the DATE: June 17th Saturday 7pm in beautiful Mason Church Sanctuary. Fundraiser for local Food Pantry in Greenville.** Hyroya Tsukamoto will be performing. He is a one-of-a-kind composer, guitarist and singer-songwriter from Kyoto, Japan. Get ready for an innovative, impressionistic journey filled with earthy organic soundscapes that impart a mood of peace and tranquility. Tickets are \$10, children under 11 are \$5, children under 4 free! Contact Steve Tamulonis for tickets 878-4947, or email him tamufam5@gmail.com
- **Reaching out** The Deacons and Reverend Veronica have reached out to a Muslim community in Fitchburg to invite them to visit us in Mason. The purpose is to find common ground with those who are different from us. Several of the families, men and women and children came to worship service in April, and a grand group of 5 women, 2 teenagers, and 3 children came to our Conversations with Women. It was an excellent time of sharing, learning about each other's religion, and telling our 'women stories.' We will be looking for other ways to connect and share. We have been invited to their celebration of the end of Ramadan which falls in late June. Let Rev Veronica know if you would be interested in going.
- **Lending Library Books and Music** Notice the fine bookshelf in Fellowship Hall that has books for lending—all nicely organized, and alphabetized by a church angel. Steve Tamulonis has contributed some CDs for lending/listening. Please sign them out, and return in a reasonable time. Enjoy this mission/blessing.
- **Prayer shawls still needed, free yarn available.** Spend some mud season time by joining the knitters of Mason Church in prayerful knitting. Let us know if you need yarn or pattern. If you know someone who needs the warmth and prayers of a shawl please contact: Susan Suokko at Usercat2@comcast.net or 941-920-0270 or Michelle Scott 878-1680

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- **The Damery Family** Marlene had a cochlear implant on April 25. There is a considerable period of adjustment after this surgery. Send encouragement via cards or email: 768 Ashby Rd, New Ipswich, NH 03071 or mrsdamery@gmail.com
- **Tom Fallon and Edie need your prayers.** Tom is going thru yet another treatment. You can email or mail them a card. PO Box 394, Peterborough, NH 03458 or email: ehfallon@aol.com
- **Curt Dunn** and Karin Eisenhaure. Thanks to Karin for faithful fulfillment of church secretary duties of bulletin coping/collating and other chores. Thanks to Curt for his insightful comments, and conversation.
- **Joe and Jennie Walsh** and Joshua, Jonathan and Joseph are always in our hearts and thoughts. We were delighted to see Jennie, Joshua, and Jonathan at the Installation. Call, write, or email them with your news! Their address is: 50 Clinton Ave, Chelmsford, MA 01824 [978-256-6700](tel:978-256-6700) jwalsh13197@gmail.com (NOTE: new email for Jennie)
- **Cindy Tibbetts** Cindy and Jim are in Milford, but also in our thoughts! She may need rides to church when Jim or her parents can't do this. **Give Cindy a call at 249-9399.** Address: Cahill Place, 486 Nashua St. Milford 03055 Note: correct phone number from last month
- **Laila Washburn** Our oldest member, and one of our most special! Laila Washburn, c/o Brett Kivela, 25 Will Road, New Ipswich 03071. Although visitors are welcome from 10am to 7pm, it is good to call first. 878-3065
- **Gretchen Brown** has limited mobility these days, and loves visitors. You can call ahead 878-1481 or stop by. Gretchen is on a special diet in an effort to alleviate her chronic pain. It is gluten free, and sugar free. Please call Wally and Gretchen at 878-1481 or Michelle if you need help with cooking ideas or details 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com
- **Cynthia and Jeff** are going up to their camp early this year. They send their greetings to all, and promise to be back in late fall! Nothing quite like our beautiful New Hampshire summers.

Do you know someone who needs spiritual support or other support, of the pastor and deacons?

Please call, your church family may be able to help. Leave a confidential message for Pastor Veronica Walsh Don at 603-878-1684 or on her personal phone at 603-213-6368.

From Alice Parker on how music and songs affect all of us... "What we miss when we don't have song is the means of creating a community, of creating a whole out of a group of people. And it doesn't matter if it's a group of people in an old folk's home that can't really sing anymore, or if it's a kindergarten classroom, or a nursery school classroom, (or *Mason church on a Sunday*) or a bunch of seventh-grade boys who can be fairly hard to get to function as a unit.

Wherever they are, if you get them on a song, you can establish a kind of group feeling that is really — well, it's exemplified at its most marvelous after a perfectly wonderful concert when the last note is sound, and you get that silence in the room, which is a silence of completion, which is opposite from an anticipatory silence. But it just means that everyone — it's as if all of our inner ions have been scheduled to be moving in the same direction at the same time."

Find the complete interview with Alice Parker on Krista Tibbetts' **On Being.org**. You can listen there, or download the podcast.

Come experience Mason Church worship service, complete with Songs!