

Baptist *bulletin*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WEST ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH | JANUARY 2019

Pastor's Word

Happy New Year! January brings a fresh start. Christianity offers the good news that we can start over, again and again. Whenever we need to shake off the old ways, and step forward with a more determined and sincere faith, God is right beside us, ready with the mercy of forgiveness and the strength of encouragement.

Are there any new spiritual practices which you would like to try? Are you pleased with your prayer life? West Acton Baptist Church is full of resources for you to strengthen your spiritual walk with Christ. Come to worship. Attend Bible study. Take time to pray for the weekly prayer concerns emailed right to your inbox. Meet with me for conversation about your spiritual life.

Are there bruised places in your heart which you would like to heal? Are there friendships that need attention, kindness and more of your time? Take inventory of your family relationships – are there broken places which need some attention, some forgiveness on your part, some prayer? Remember that healing does not necessarily mean reconciling. Our task is to let go of resentment, anger and bitterness; even in situations where God wants us to be kept safely distant from a difficult family member. I am available to pray with you and for you about relational and emotional healing.

Are there physical changes you would like to make in the new year? Perhaps now is the season to de-clutter your living space or to decorate a prayer corner. Are you caring for your body (the Temple of the Holy Spirit) with exercise and healthy food? Have you engaged in creative work: painting, knitting, scrapbooking or woodworking?

Jesus teaches us that the greatest commandment of all is to love God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. (*Mark 12:30*) As we celebrate the beginning of 2019, let us find fresh new ways to love God in our physical activity, in our friendships, and in our spiritual life.

Please call on me if I may be of service in helping you to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ in the New Year.

Rev. Cindy Maybeck
Short-term Acting Pastor

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If you have any pastoral needs, please contact
Rev. Cindy Maybeck
774-258-0258 or email:
cmaybeck@gmail.com

West Acton Baptist Church
592 Massachusetts Ave.
Acton, MA 01720
978-263-5902
wabadmin@verizon.net
www.westactonbaptistchurch.org

Preaching Schedule

January 5

Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12
"Arise and Shine"

January 13

First Sunday After Epiphany
Luke 3:21-22
"Baptizing the Beloved"

January 20

Martin Luther King Sunday
Mark 10:46-52
"Eyes to See"

January 27

Luke 13:10-17
"Stand and Rejoice"

Finance Team

Thanks to everyone who has committed to support WABC in 2019 with your pledges. The Finance Team is currently working on the 2019 Budget to be presented at the annual meeting Jan 27th. Currently we are looking at a substantial deficit. Prayers that we are able to move forward in 2019.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Finance meeting on Sunday, January 27th following worship. We will have a potluck meal following the meeting.

Rev. Cindy's Spirit Story

"How might I bring the Gospel to more people, God?" I asked. And God called me to create Spirit Story ministry. I learned how to tell the Gospel by heart in the Academy for Biblical Storytelling

www.nbsint.org



I do not "memorize" the scripture; rather, I learn biblical stories by heart. I think of memorization as a cognitive, intellectual exercise. In my process of internalizing the biblical story, I engage in study (exegesis) and prayer. I practice telling the scripture out loud by moving around in space, experimenting with different gestures, body postures, facial expressions, and tones of voice. By practicing a passage, I use my intellectual, physical and spiritual resources. When I tell scripture by heart, I hope to externalize and communicate a specific prayerful moment between God and me. If you were to learn a text to tell, it would look and sound like a spiritual moment between God and you. Each telling by each person in every setting is distinctly unique. And in telling and listening to others telling biblical stories, I learn more deeply about God's word. Each year, several hundred people gather at the Festival Gathering of the Network of Biblical Storytellers, which is where I find much inspiration and many new ideas.

Worship services in local churches, association meetings, churchwomen's gatherings, and clergy groups are natural settings to share my ministry. And I am indebted to colleagues and friends who have invited me to tell biblical stories from Toronto to Florida and from Truro to Buffalo. I plan to experiment with including biblical stories in some personal storytelling in secular settings this winter. Can we tell the biblical story in a way that is invitational to some without being offensive to other religions? I think the key is to tell it with love and openness. How do you share the Gospel with others?



Discipleship Team

Nursery Care for children ages 0-2 is available in the lower level during worship, provider Olivia Bruneau.

Preschool Sunday School for children ages 3-5 meets during worship in the lower level, teacher Stephanie Dodge.

Elementary Sunday School for children in grades 1-6 meets following the sermon in the DEN, teacher Lori Bruneau.

PLEASE NOTE: During our meeting we voted to no longer have Sunday school on Communion Sundays. Childcare for ages 0-5 will still be available.

Youth Group for children in grade 6-12 meets at 6pm on the 3rd Tuesday each month in the DEN, leader Nancy Dodge. NEXT meeting January 15th.

NEXT **Discipleship Team meeting** is on Sunday, January 6th following worship in the DEN.

The WAY and the Sunday School Children celebrated on Sunday December 23rd with a **Christmas Party** which included decorating cookies, playing a candy cane game.

Guess the Christmas Song Answers:

1. Boulder of the Tinkling Metal Spheres
JINGLE BELL ROCK
2. Singular Yearning for the Twin Anterior Incisors
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS MY TWO FRONT TEETH
3. Righteous Darkness
O HOLY NIGHT
4. Loyal Followers Advance
O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
5. Far Off in a Feeder
AWAY IN A MANAGER
6. Array the Corridor
DECK THE HALLS
7. Red Man En Route to Borough
SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN
8. Delight for this Planet
JOY TO THE WORLD
9. The Dozen Festive 24 Hour Intervals
THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
10. Frozen Precipitation Commence
LET IT SNOW

Tuesday Bible Study

Rev. Maybeck will teach the concluding session of *Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah* on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Chapel. Please read chapter 4 in the Resource Book.

Newcomers are always welcome, pick up a book in the church office.

Gratitude: A Spiritual Practice

Rev. Maybeck will teach a new Bible study session with a focus on the biblical practice of gratitude. We will begin with the story of Jesus healing ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19), explore individual and communal psalms of thanksgiving, and discuss how the practice of gratitude may strengthen and transform one's spiritual life. We will share in song, prayer, and stories. Class meets every other week in the Chapel on Tuesdays 6:00 – 7:30 pm, January 22, February 5 and 19. Bring a Bible and a sense of humor.

Coffee Fellowship

The Discipleship Team is responsible for setting up a schedule for Coffee Fellowship on Sundays. It can be very difficult to get volunteers in a timely manner so we have decided to have each Team take a Sunday. If you/your team members feel they cannot take this on, please contact the office; a monetary donation in lieu of providing refreshments would be greatly appreciated.

This Month's Schedule is:

January 6	Discipleship Team
January 13	Worship Team
January 20	Finance Team
January 27	Pastoral/Personnel Relations Team



Mission Team

- We are scheduled to host the February 6th Community Supper. If you would like to volunteer to serve, please contact Ruth Thatcher.
- Please bring non-perishable items for the Acton Food Pantry on Sunday, January 13th.
- Please keep all who have been called to do missions in 2019 for our Lord and Savior in prayer.
- We are encouraging gifts for Loving Hearts fund. Please think about a gift if you feel so moved to do so.

WABC Women

- Our **Annual Women's Meeting** will be held on Friday, January 11, 2019 at 11am in the DEN. We will also celebrate everyone's birthday throughout the year. A free will offering Birthday donation will be taken.
- **Valentine's Day** cards will be made & mailed to our shut-ins on Friday, February 8th at 10am. Soup, beverages & dessert will be served, bring your own sandwich.
- We will highlight the **Love Gift** during the month of February, boxes and envelopes available.
- **WABC Women's Calendar of Events** will be available after January 14th. It will also be on the WABC Women's page on the church website.

January 11th is **Human Trafficking Day**. This day is set aside to recognize Human Trafficking around the world. Please visit the website to see what is being done to help eliminate it at www.abwmbreakthechains.org.

Celebrations

January Birthdays

John Deng	January 1	Alice Cummings	January 4	Rev. Cindy Maybeck	January 17
Ty Lamb	January 29				

January Anniversaries

NONE

Fundraising

Coffee - We place an order for coffee the first Monday of every month. You may fill out an order form from the back of the sanctuary or fill out the form on our [website](#). The cost is \$11/lb for Regular – Whole/Ground/Medium/Dark and \$12/lb for Decaf Whole/Ground/Medium/Dark. The coffee is Fair Trade & Organic and is roasted & shipped within 24 hours. Our church gets \$3/lb for every pound we sell. Once you taste this coffee you'll never want anything else. NEXT orders going in at 9am on **Monday, December 31st & February 4th**.

Amazon - Don't forget to click on the Amazon.com link on our [website](#) so that we earn 4-6% of everything you purchase during that visit. **Please spread the word to your friends and family** by telling your them to click on the Amazon.com clipart on our website! If you forget, Amazon may prompt you for AmazonSmile, here is our direct link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6067819> Your click does make a difference!! Last year, we took in almost \$350, keep clicking!

RADA Cutlery - We have a continuous internet Fundraiser through RADA Cutlery. Please use this link to purchase items directly from RADA. Share the link with your friends, family & Facebook!! Rada Cutlery is 100% American Made – raw materials and construction and has made & sold over 150,000,000 knives since 1948, earning the reputation for remarkable cutlery, service, and value.

https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=837262.422f8&utm_source=refersion&utm_medium=influencers&utm_campaign=837262.422f8