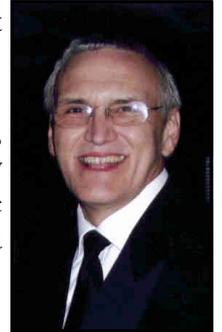




## MUSINGS

As we go into another year of ministry at New England Church, I'm excited about our newest outreach adventure in conjunction with Emmanuel House.

Our church is situated in the largest population of refugees in Aurora. Our neighbor school, Greenman Elementary, has the largest number of refugee children of any of the elementary schools in the city. Having just come from our Christmas season where we celebrated the birth of a baby to a refugee family needing shelter in the midst of their journey, I'm excited about the opportunity we have to be inclusive of our neighbors.



Emmanuel House is a program in Aurora, begun by Desiree and Rick Guzman, in response to both the refugees in town as well as those who can afford to own a home but who can't break out of the system to save money for a down payment. Emmanuel House helps them break that cycle by providing housing, where in a short period of time with reasonable rent and an established savings plan, so that they can make a down payment and purchase a home of their own. EH currently has seven facilities (ours will be number 8) which contain 19 units. They have given 20 Aurora families the opportunity to purchase a home, thus stabilizing the community, the family, and the kids in school. Check out the website site: [www.emmanuelhouse.org](http://www.emmanuelhouse.org)

Emmanuel House at New England Church, located at 15 Hawthorne Court, directly across from our Preschool door, needed some reconfiguring of space to maximize the use by families in the program. We have recreated a four-bedroom apartment on the main level, a two-bedroom and a one-bedroom apartment on the second floor, thus giving Emmanuel House additional space for incoming families.

Jim Hopp has done us proud with his skills as Project Manager overseeing the renovation at Emmanuel House. He couldn't do the job by himself, and is grateful for the many, many people who have invested many, many hours in reconfiguring the rooms to accommodate the families who will move into it; improving the infrastructure and foundation; making sure the electric and plumbing is safe; and painting and carpeting rooms. A hearty thank you to Jim and to all who helped make it happen. And thanks again to Paul and Caryl Herwick who donated the house two years ago.

We will most likely be able to meet our first family in January. We have covenanted with Emmanuel House to befriend the families that move into this house, offering our encouragement and support in any way we can. Emmanuel House will manage the property, but we will enjoy the opportunity to get to know new families as they become our neighbors for a few months. We're anticipating a summer neighborhood picnic to introduce these people to our surrounding neighbors. A committee of five people will be created to serve as a liaison between the church, the families, and Emmanuel House; Mike Imbrogno, from the Board of Finance, has agreed to chair this group; a member of the Board of Mission, and three others from the congregation will be appointed by the Cabinet to serve.

Thanks to the church for investing in the project, both financially and emotionally. I'm looking forward to the beginning of a new ministry in a new year.

*Gary*

In remembrance of Bee Murray, Regina Whitmore and Dr.

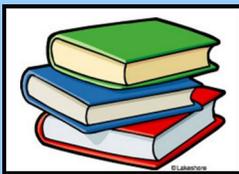
Anna Sanford's contributions to the children's ministries of New England Congregational Church, the NECC Board of Education Ministries and the West Side Reading Circle presented books to Director Jacquie May of the New England Preschool in honor of their service. Two big books for teacher use in classroom instruction were:

*What Mommies Do Best/What Daddies Do Best* and *ABC, I Like Me.*

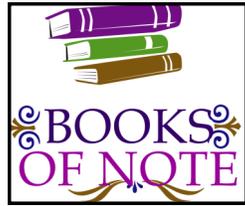
Books dealing with feelings and friendships were added for additional fun and learning:

*How Do You Feel?* and

*How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends?*



## BOOKS OF NOTE



Walking is good for you, and Emma Gatewood's walk was good for all of us because of the public attention she brought to the Appalachian trail. Emma told her family she was going on a walk and left her small Ohio hometown with a change of clothes and less than two hundred dollars. The next anybody heard from her, this genteel, farm-reared, sixty-seven-year-old great-grandmother had walked 800 miles along the 2,050-mile Appalachian Trail. Come join the New England Books of Note meeting on Tuesday, January 17 in the parlor to share impressions of your own Appalachian trail experiences along with those of Ben Montgomery's *Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail.*

## THANK YOU

THANK YOU for the suits! We had a fantastic response to the "Suits for Veterans" collection last November. We collected over 50 suits (and other dress items) for men and women leaving military service and entering the work force. It is a donation that means a lot to these people. Thank you, NECC, for the generous donations!



At our annual meeting, we will introduce all those who have joined the church this past year. If you are interested in joining with our ministry, please contact Gary.

## FILM SERIES



January 13: *The Lunchbox* (2013)  
 In this film from India, a lonely housewife decides to add some spice to her stale marriage by preparing a special lunch for her husband. But the delivery goes astray and winds up in the hands of an irritable widower, thus beginning an unusual friendship. Presenter: Maureen McKane

# Annual Meeting



Please mark your calendar and be sure to attend our NECC Annual Meeting. The date is Sunday, January 29, following the second service. A catered lunch will be served in Friendship Hall followed by our meeting.

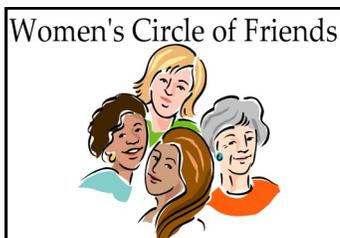
This event offers New England family members a chance to assess the activities of the past year and understand plans for the coming year.

# Men's Fellowship

Texas Hold'em Poker Night, Men's Fellowship. Friday, January 27, 7:00 pm at Chestnut House (19 South Chestnut Street) next to the church. Enjoy a fun night of men's fellowship and some good-natured competitive poker. If poker isn't your thing, please join us anyway for some laughs and fellowship. An RSVP would be helpful but not required. Email Mike Daly (mike@newenglandchurch.org) or sign-up in the church office. Invite a friend too!

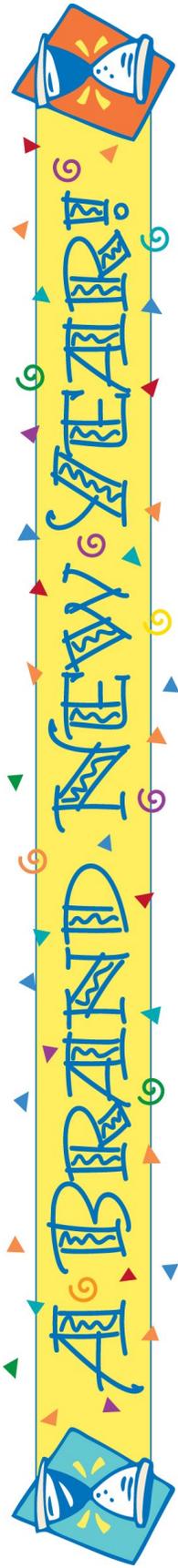


# Women's Fellowship



It is Bunco time again!! All women of the church are invited to join us on Saturday, January 14 for breakfast at 9:30 am, followed by Bunco. If you have never played Bunco, no worries, as it is a simple game to learn! Bring a breakfast dish to share and join us for a fun time. Please sign up in the church office.





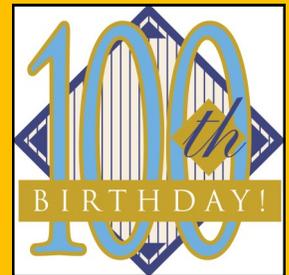
## SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGER RESULTS



2016 was another good year for the New England Men's Group Salvation Army Bell Ringers. We had 39 ringers from 5:00-7:00 pm on December 5 at 27 different locations. This is the 18th year we have participated in the Army's Red Kettle drive. Our New England ringers contributed \$1812.50 to the \$3414.19 collected at our assigned locations that day.

Many THANKS to all our bell-ringers, as well as to Jim & Jan Mamminga, who opened their home and prepared a delicious BBQ dinner. The Salvation Army is enormously grateful for our part in this annual fundraiser which we intend to continue in 2017.

Are you or anyone you know in our congregation turning 100+ this year?  
 If so, please call the church office to let us know!  
 Thank you!



## Christmas Angel Project Update

The Christmas Angel project was a huge success thanks to all of you that selected and purchased gifts for an 'angel'. We were able to provide gifts for 65 students at the Greenman and Dieterich Schools. Thanks for your generosity; you have given many children a happy Christmas. *...and they will know we are Christians by our love.*



## Upcoming Concert

There is an exciting concert at New England Church on Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 pm given by AnDréa James, Soprano, and Fareed Haque, classical guitarist. Fareed Haque is a modern guitar virtuoso. Steeped in Classical and Jazz traditions, his unique command of the guitar and different musical styles inspire his musical ventures with tradition and fearless innovation. In this concert series, he is joined by AnDréa James, soprano, whose versatile and expressive voice has been enjoyed in operatic, oratorio, choral, and folk performances throughout the US and Europe.



This current collaboration, born of their shared interest in classical Latin music, has inspired them to select and arrange gems from the Spanish repertoire. This program will include original arrangements of works by Granados and Obradors, which bring guitar and voice together in ways that are ancient but never old. With precision and passion, this concert brings fresh life to traditional folk and classic art songs alike.



The concert is free and open to the public. Please invite your friends to this exciting concert.

## Youth Art Showcase

“Winter Garden 2016 of Youth Art” showcases artwork of Aurora students. The work of five students of Greenman school, including one Kids Hope USA participant, is on display. The exhibition is hung on the 3rd floor of the David L. Pierce Center, 20 E. Downer PL. and is free. The center is open 10:00 am-4:00 pm Wednesday through Saturday and runs through January 21.



There are still two places available for the trip to Ireland September 16-30, 2017. If you are interested, let Gary know. There are brochures in the literature rack by the office, and you can find it on the church website; click on the Travel with NECC toward the bottom of the home page.



'Conversations with Gary & Mike'- Join us at Ballydoyle Irish Pub in downtown Aurora for conversations on the subjects you wish to discuss. Everyone buys their own food and drink.  
**LUNCHTIME**  
 at 11:30 am:  
 Monday, January 2,  
 Tuesday, January 10,  
 Wednesday, January 18,  
 Thursday, January 26.

January, 2017  
Vol. 1

# Tiny Tidings

## CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

<b>January 1st</b>	New Years Day- No Church School
<b>January 8th</b>	Introduction to Bells (Cathy)
<b>January 15th</b>	Lost and Found Parables-Sheep
<b>January 22nd</b>	Lost and Found Parables-Coin
<b>January 29th</b>	Using My Talents

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE

This year, several church school children participated in singing a special song during the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve service lead by AnDrea James. Many of the church school children practiced for several Sundays to perfect this song to ensure it was just right and it was certainly loved by all.



**THANK YOU** to Mrs. James and the church school children and families for helping start a new tradition here at New England Church.

## RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

The first half of the Church School Year was a great success!

We are blessed to have so many wonderful parents and volunteers to make the Church School lessons go so smoothly. Our New Year's lessons will begin with a wonderful introduction to the hand bells.

Many of you may recall seeing and hearing the bells being played during our church services.



Cathy Jepson, our hand bell director will be leading all classes on January 10th through a fun introduction on how to hold the bells and the sounds that each make. Remember, our church has an amazing children's hand bell group that meets immediately after the 10:00 AM service until 12:00 PM each Sunday. The children's hand bell group is a great way for our children to learn how to read music and have fun connecting with other church friends. If your child is interested in joining the hand bell group, please see Cathy Jepson for details.

## CHURCH SCHOOL PARENTS/VOLUNTEERS

The Church School is in need of



volunteers to help teach for 2017. Please stop by the Church School hallway to select a couple of Sundays that are convenient for your schedule. The lessons are completely prepared for you with detailed instructions to ensure you success while you teach.

**Thanks** for making the Church School a success!

## BIG THANKS

Many of you may recall the beautiful Christmas tree in the sanctuary this year. The church school children did an amazing job creating the ornaments that hung so delicately on the sturdy branches. A **BIG** thanks goes to Lesley Myers for assisting in the creation of these artistic ornaments during our annual ornament workshop. Not only were the ornaments fun for the children to make, but they were stunning hanging on the Christmas tree.

**THANK YOU AGAIN!**



# HANGING OF THE GREENS



THE SANCTUARY STARTS WITH NO DECORATIONS.



BY THE END OF THE SERVICE THE SANCTUARY IS BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS.

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NECC Senior High Youth Ministry Fundraiser – to support the summer work tour

# SUPERBOWL

## Pizza & Lasagna Sale

Made fresh just for you by the youth!

Orders available Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_ 12" Cheese Pizza \$8.00

\_\_\_ 12" Pepperoni Pizza \$10

\_\_\_ 12" Sausage/Pepperoni Combo \$10

\_\_\_ 12" Sausage Pizza \$10

\_\_\_ 12" Create Your Own Pizza \$10  
(circle your favorite ingredients)

\_\_\_ 12" Create Your Own Pizza \$10  
(circle your favorite ingredients)

pepperoni sausage olives tomatoes

pepperoni sausage olives tomatoes

green pepper onion mushroom

green pepper onion mushroom

Special Instructions:

Special Instructions:

\_\_\_ Giant Cheese Lasagna \$12  
*Serves 6 to 8*

\_\_\_ Giant Italian Meats Lasagna \$15  
*Serves 6 to 8*

\_\_\_ Giant Veggie Lasagna \$15 (mushrooms, onion, peppers)  
*Serves 6 to 8*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ and/or phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost: \_\_\_\_\_ *Checks made out to: NECC, memo note: youth fundraiser*

\_\_\_ Pay now (when ordered) \_\_\_ Pay later (when I pick up my order)

\_\_\_ NO PIZZA, BUT HERE IS A DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOWARD THE YOUTH WORK TOUR TRIP

\_\_\_ IN ADDITION TO THE PIZZA ORDER ABOVE, HERE IS AN ADDITIONAL DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Thank you very much for your support!





**New England Congregational  
Church-UCC**  
 406 W. Galena Blvd. Aurora, IL. 60506  
 Phone: 630.897.8721  
 Fax: 630.897.8744  
 Email: [office@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:office@newenglandchurch.org)  
*A Caring Church for Thinking People*

Visit us on the web  
 at  
[www.newenglandchurch.org](http://www.newenglandchurch.org)

## Joys & Concerns

Hospitalized:  
 Vera Hobart

Deaths:  
 We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of  
 Jane Ruth, Ernie Brownell and William King.



## Our Staff & Church Officers

*Senior Minister:* Gary L. McCann  
*Assistant Minister:* Joe Dunham  
*Minister of Education & Mission:* Mike Daly  
*Office Administrator:* Shelley Lund  
*Preschool Director:* Jacquie May  
*Director of Children's Ministry:* Audra Darché  
*Chancel Choir Director:* Jon Warfel  
*Children's Choir Director:* AnDréa James  
*Children's Choir Accompanist:* Beth Ann Miller  
*Organists/Pianists:* Marilyn Parolini, Arlene Thurow  
*Handbell Director:* Cathy Canfield-Jepson  
*Wedding Coordinator:* Nancy Richmond  
*Nursery Care:* Jenni Moses, Susan Kleinwachter  
*Custodian:* John Hett  
*Building Maintenance:* Todd Jones  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
*Moderator:* Bob Lundquist  
*Moderator-elect:* Cheryl Vonhoff  
*Treasurer:* Andy Sprau  
*Clerk:* Judy Lopez