

# Lamplighter

Carlisle Congregational Church



## Being in “Three Wise Men and A Baby” by Emily Crompton

Being in Three Wise Men and a Baby was a very exciting experience for me. I feel very privileged to have been a part of this musical. We had many fantastic actors and actresses from our church, such as Casey, Brady, and Mitchell McKee, Jennifer, James, and Michel Xavier, Laura & Joey Antognoni, Kirsten & Laura Bieren, Caitlin, Zac, and Brittany Brown, Caroline & Lisbeth Crompton, Katie and Carrie Ruh, Sam & Julia Seitz, Jordan & Christopher Thompson, David Gordon, and many more from outside our church. Three Wise Men and a Baby was the second musical I've been in, my first was Esther Ordinary Faith where I was a

soloist. I like to sing and act, one of the reasons why I enjoyed this musical so much.

The play practices were always fun and lively with Pastor Weibley. There was never a dull moment. We would usually begin practice with doing exercises like singing “bubble gum”, “double bubble gum”, and “triple double bubble gum”. Those exercises are supposed to help you pronounce the words clearly while speaking on stage and singing. Pastor Weibley taught us how to use our voice the right way while singing, and helped us learn to speak our lines slowly, loudly, and clearly. Through the weeks

of practice, it was great watching the musical Three Wise Men and a Baby really pull together and become the fabulous musical we performed December 2nd.

I appreciate all the hard work Pastor Weibley, Mrs. Pichulo and lots of others did to help make this musical possible. Everyone who was in the musical did a great job and did lots of superb work memorizing lines, songs, and solos. The band did a beautiful job playing the music for the songs. And, thanks to all the people who came and watched us perform this musical!!!

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Play Finale. (Photo by Barbara Ortler)

## Memories of Mrs. Johnson by Irene Blake

*This piece about Anna P. Johnson was written for a church function where we celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am submitting it as written, in the present tense, because those of us who knew and loved her will always think of her in the present tense.*

ANNA PEARL MACPHEE JOHNSON

Anna P, Mrs. J., Ann, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Trouble, there are many names by which we refer to our friend Mrs. Johnson, but she has only one last name for all of us, "Dear". This makes us all one family in her eyes, and indeed we are, and honored to be. David Dear, Irene Dear, Bonnie Dear, and even Pastor Greer Dear. Think about it, as we are one family in the church, so we are one in the hearts of each other.

Mrs. J. has taught me many things over the years. Yes it is possible to live in a black and white world. Although I fall far short of it, she knows and lives the difference between right and wrong and does not compromise on her beliefs and says so loud and clear.

Mrs. Johnson has taught me to enjoy cut flowers in the house. I always used to prefer flowers outside where they grow, but have come to follow and love her example of

keeping a vase of flowers in my house. And everyone enjoys them.

Anna P. has a great deal to teach about hospitality. She always housed the missionaries when they were in town, and stood up in front of the church one Sunday morning and told us all that we "should be standing in line to do the same". How many of us have received a call on Saturday saying, "Do you want to come to breakfast?" Who could refuse an invitation. And what a breakfast it was too, from fruit cup to pancakes and little wind up toys.

Ann has a wonderful long term memory. She can recite poetry, relate how her father made butter from their own cows, and volumes of ice cream too. She rode horseback to teach school while still in her teens and has stories about that too. She still can tell about her twin Ruby losing her leg in a farming accident at a very young age, and all of the gory details about that too.

No job was too big or difficult for her, Pan-

cakes for three hundred on the Fourth of July, no problem. "What do you mean you don't think you are capable of taking that job over? Just get started".

Missionaries? Send them on, send them to me, send them out into the world, send them money, send them prayers. Black and white.

Money? Budget your money so that when you need it, it is there, "Dear".

Car trouble? Use mine.

Today, Anna P. has lost her short term memory and although she still retains the past and all of its details, she doesn't always have a first name for "Dear". But "Dear" we are, and dear is she. We all love her and I am sure that she knows it.



## Easter Sunrise Service by Irene Blake

*For many, many years, our church was privileged to hold our Easter sunrise service on Mrs. Johnson's property. It was a rural setting where you see the sun come up from a hill on the horizon. The experience was not always comfortable but it was always a convocation of Easter and its meaning. -Ed.*

My knees are knocking, I can see my breath, the moon is shining brightly yet there is the beginning of light in the east, and there are over 50 people here. What are we doing? Most people are still sleeping. Its Easter Morning and we are gathered together on the lawn at Mrs. Johnson's house as we have been doing for 27 years.

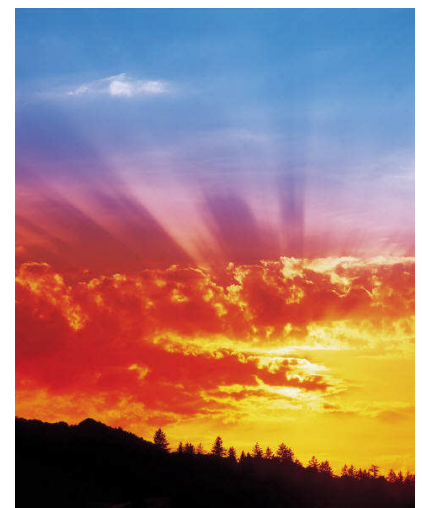
Ever since Mrs. Johnson turned 90, we have been quietly saying, "This is probably the last year that we will gather here." Mrs. Johnson is now 97, and still we gather, at the home of someone we love to celebrate the risen savior that we love. Maybe this really is the last year that we gather here, but that's OK, we know that we will meet again.

Past years have known snow, rain, and heat, each a beautiful reminder of God's wonderful creation, and a time to remember that he is risen. We have little children too young to

walk, sleepy toddlers and others youngsters. We have young married, and teenagers. We have older married couples, fathers, mothers, grandparents, aunts, uncles and just good friends. All one church family, all celebrating Easter morning together in the early hours. Mrs. Johnson who used to say, "Of course you may come to my house, dear", now sits in the window not always sure what is going on. But we are family and all called "dear" by her and dear we are to each other. We are a wonderful and blessed church family.

After the sun has risen, and the service celebrated, we all return to the church where the young people of the senior high group have prepared breakfast for 65 or 70. How wonderful that before we go to our homes, our families, and our separate Easter meals, we get to spend time with our fellow believers and celebrate at sunrise, all together, wearing our regular old

but warm clothes, standing in the damp grass, but knowing that we are all together in praising the Lord.



## The Return of “R & R” by Terry Tracy

Ron and Ruth Kay were married in our church. (Keith was one of two officiating pastors.) Their story winds around, but eventually comes back home to us.

Ruth grew up in D.C. Her parents were active in a church there. When they moved up here, she began attending our church and then headed for Penn. State, her father’s alma mater (Her parents favored Gordon for Ruth). Not surprisingly, Ruth realized that Gordon was a better choice. Ruth came back home again and attended our church on weekends. Without a large college and career group here, Ruth found herself drawn to Park Street for a Bible study. Bible studies at Park Street for college and career types were not coed at the time. But one Bible study was “renegade” and coed. Ron and Ruth attended that one. That’s where they met, fell in love, married, and the rest is .... but there’s much more history. Ruth and Ron settled into Grace Chapel, a more convenient college and career group. Ron helped with Boys Brigade there.



After graduating from Gordon, Ruth taught in Acton until the birth of Abigail and later Rebecca challenged that commitment. Ruth’s parents were active here. Her Dad taught adult Sunday School. Her mother was active in Joy Bible Study and in counseling younger women. Ruth babysat for the Greers and sang many solos in our church.

Ron grew up in Lancaster, N.H. His parents began attending an Episcopal church when

Ron was in Junior Hi. In high school Ron played soccer, baseball, was involved in track and on the ski team. He went to college at UNH, graduated and went on to graduate school at NYU. This was interrupted by a stint in the air force. Through the influence of a friend Ron became a Christian.

Ron worked for many years at Digital. He has run 18 Boston Marathons with a best time in 1975 of 2:34:45. Ron also provided the maple syrup for our last pancake breakfast: a marvelous addition. He does the whole process: sap to syrup. Naturally, the Mass. maple producers nabbed him to head their Maple Sugar Booth at the ‘Big E’. Today Ruth works at the Imago School in Maynard and Ron works at Intel in Hudson

We are so proud and happy to welcome them back for more history.

## A Day in the Life of the Cromptons by Barbara Ortler

Upon arrival at the Crompton home, about 9:30 AM I found all the Cromptons, Linda (mother), Paul, Bryan, Emily, Caroline, Lisbeth, Tia (Keti) and Keti in the living room, learning and reciting a passage from the Bible, Phil. 2:5-11. When they saw me they asked if I had come to interview their Christmas present, hamster Jack. (Jack’s name, incidentally, stands for Just Another Crompton Kid). I was given a run down on his activities: eats, sleeps. That’s about it. I decided to follow the Crompton family for the day, instead.

Upon phoning for an appointment with the family earlier in the morning, Linda told me a ‘parade of bells’ by the two sets of twins was in progress before breakfast. She only hoped that the chores had been done!

Each child has a computer print-out book with a schedule outline of chores, school work assignments, music



lessons and activities for each time of day and each day of the week. The place bustles in the morning with chores getting done when beds are made, teeth brushed, laundry taken care of, vacuuming done, dishwasher emptied, floors mopped, toilets cleaned. An additional simple chore for the Kets is token feather dusting which helps them to feel they have an important part, as well. They also are assigned to spot clean the dining room floor, while the older twins spot clean the kitchen floor.

Homeschooling begins after the Scripture time. Linda shows me some Bible words neatly copied by the Kets. Emily and Bryan are in the school-room doing assignments while Caroline has a piano



lesson with Paul. The Kets show me some loose teeth, then settle down to a semi-quiet time with Play-Doh at their little table.



Linda is on the couch helping Lisbeth with reading in a delightful Froggie book.

School activity continues from 10 AM on as Emily practices her French Horn, Lisie is happy to have a “little” break (her emphasis on “little”) and then a piano lesson with Paul, and Carrie sits with Mom for her reading lesson time in a Froggie book.

Following this, Linda works with the older twins on addition-subtraction drills, phonics, and story writing while juggling table-setting and some preparations for lunch. Paul and Bryan prepare for a science lab physics pro-

ject, demonstrating frictional force, which they first review and then set up in the living room, using sand in a bowl, a board plank, a ruler, liquid soap and a rubber band.

The Kets joyfully wield the broom to sweep up Play-Doh remains. They love cleaning up!



Then it's their turn, with Linda's help, to practice various "O" sounds and trace the letters in their work-

books. They love doing schoolwork!

After 11 AM Lisie and Carrie have a little free time before doing math with colored bars of differing number values from the Basic Ten Number Concept set. Emily is now in her bedroom reading and studying. Paul and Bryan continue with the science lab

project.

Lunch time, and Linda has produced an amazing lunch of broccoli, baked beans, salad and chicken portions. Keti says the prayer. With lunch over, orders are given to various ones to clean up the table and family room. Linda, meanwhile, is preparing to leave with Paul for Middlesex Community College to register him and Bryan for a couple of courses in American History and Writing Composition.

The household soon quiets down after Linda and Paul leave. The younger children relax and watch an old video of "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe". Bryan practices his clarinet and Emily does a math assignment on the couch.

On a typical day Linda takes time to relax about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Today was an exception.

After Linda and Paul return, I prepare to leave. Linda gives me a quick rundown of

what will happen the rest of the day: Linda takes Bryan to Lowell High School for a District rehearsal; Linda goes out later to Curves to exercise for about 45 minutes; Dave comes home about 5:45 PM; dinner; then Dave, Paul or Linda read to the little ones; Dave goes over math or science with Paul, Em, or Bryan; Paul practices violin; and sometimes there's a time of Bible reading in the evening.

After the children are all in bed, Dave and Linda treat themselves to ice cream - careful not to clink the spoons!



## What Is A Christian? by Gretchen G. McKee

Many people call themselves Christian. Every week there are innumerable churches filled with folks who call themselves such. Others may never, or rarely, attend church, but call themselves by the Name. To some it means attending church and being busily involved in the work of the church, while others consider themselves Christians because they've been baptized or confirmed. To still others it means that they've been "born again". Let's hear how the Word of God defines a Christian.

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 1:1

In this verse of Scripture we have an extraordinary definition of what it means to be a Christian. A saint! A Christian is a saint! We may be embarrassed by the term because, if we are honest, we know what we are in ourselves ... but the individual who has placed his trust in Jesus Christ .. the one who can humbly bow before Him in submission, trust and love ... the person who agrees with

God's evaluation of him as a vile, helpless sinner, is called a saint. This term is not referring to a scholar or a super Christian. It refers to a Believer .. ordinary people who have put their trust in Christ. This designation of "saint" comes to us not by our merit, but totally because of Who Christ is and what He has done in us and for us.

The Christian ... the saint ... is a set apart one by God and for God. The saint is one who has been washed, who has been cleansed outwardly and inwardly by the redeeming blood of the Lamb. The saint is indwelt by, possessed by, the Holy Spirit ... set apart for good works foreordained by God the Father. The Christian recognizes that in himself there is no good thing, but in Christ he is a "new creation". His sins have been forgiven and he has new life "in Christ" and as such, he lives differently. He is in the world but not of it. He also knows that when he sins, there is One Who will forgive and justify when there is humble repentance. The Christian knows that Christ is his Beloved Mediator before the throne.

Paul addresses this epistle to the saints and to "the faithful". To be a Christian is to exercise faith. The Christian is grounded in his faith, loyal and unwavering. His faith stands strong when reading an article or a book that denies the Deity of Jesus Christ, and his faith holds even in the face of persecution. Rather than deny Him he would willingly die. The faithful will not tolerate anything that demeans God and His principles. He will not endure filthy talk and coarse jokes; he will force his gaze away from those things he knows defiles him and insults his Lord. The Christian .. the saint .. the faithful, lives differently. He is sensitive to how he speaks, what he watches, what he listens to and he is careful of his companions and his entertainment. The reason is because he knows he has been bought for a price and he cannot treat lightly the blood of Christ. Because he loves his Lord, he is mindful of His presence. The saint lives under the eye of God and his desire is to please and honor Him.

The question we must ask ourselves is, are we truly separated, are we essentially different from the world? Life in our present cul-

ture presents ever increasing temptations because there are now ever so many and varied methods of presenting in exciting ways, all that is opposed to God ... ways that say, "There's nothing wrong in this; don't be a prude." All around us the world presents its enticements, its ideas and pleasures. Yet it's not always the blatantly "worldly" things that can pull us away. Any involvement, any activity, any distraction that takes us away from the Word and time in the Lord, will

weaken our walk with Him. When we are not walking closely to Him .. and that does take discipline .. we more readily fall into the sins of self, those things that we do and say and think that come so naturally to our sinful nature.

Think ... Examine ... Pray ... Study ... Confess ... in order that we may live in a manner that exalts our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May we live unto Him and not unto

self ... and may we WANT to. If that desire is not there, we have to ask ourselves some very serious questions .. that we not be deceived. Let us ask that He would show us how HE sees us, knowing that our view of self is highly distorted. Pray for willingness to repent and change in order that the Church .. the Body of Christ in Carlisle, would be beautiful in His sight.

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## Peace Seminar by Terry Tracy

On Saturday, January 21st, the entire church will participate in a 'Making Peace' seminar. The Making Peace seminar as described in the book "Making Peace" by Jim Van Yperen is a wonderful, positive opportunity that offers a forum for discussion of differences and a chance for our behavior and attitudes to be compared to Biblical principles. It gives us a chance to love each other with the fail-

ings we all possess and grow out of them with each other's help.

However, there is no guarantee of success. If our leadership is weak or we don't come into the seminar with a willingness to listen to God's leading, there may be a negative outcome.

This entire book militates against a gloss-

ing over of problems and emphasizes the importance of good leadership in creating reconciliation. This seminar can help us deal with our differences, love one another and celebrate everyone's presence in our midst. Please pray for our leadership and all of us as we look forward to this seminar.

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## The Conclusion: Christian Perfection

### Terry Tracy

Our God perfects us for his pure glory.

Therefore, there's not need to worry:

If we seem less perfect than our fellow believer,

Our Savior and God is the real Achiever.

Real perfection comes in a process  
that strips self support with a force that's relentless.

The goal is pure love for God and for others.

His love and His will are our only treasures.

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# January 2006

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

9:30 Women's Bible Study  
7:00 Tech. Meeting  
7:30 Choir  
7:30 Littleton Bible Study  
7:00 Paul Compton Piano Recital  
Metanoia Ministries Seminar  
9:00-4:00

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

12:30 Communications Mtg  
6:30 Prayer Meeting  
6:30 Y'NO  
6:30 Sr. High Youth  
7:30 Choir  
7:30 Littleton Bible Study  
7:30 Iron Men

29 30 31

6:30 Sr. High Youth  
9:30 Women's Bible Study

**Note:** These event listings represent the best information available when published. Please consult your Sunday bulletin for the latest information.

# February 2006

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4

7:30 Choir  
7:30 Littleton Bible Study

2:00 Seamus Liam Greelish  
Shower

5

6 7

8 9

10

11

12:30 First Sunday Meal

7:30 Choir  
7:30 Littleton Bible Study

7:30 a.m. Iron Men

12

13 14

15 16

17

18

7:30 Choir  
7:30 Littleton Bible Study

Michelle Weiner Shower

19

20 21

22 23

24

25

7:30 Choir  
7:30 Littleton Bible Study

26

27 28

**Note:** These event listings represent the best information available when published. Please consult your Sunday bulletin for the latest information.

# March 2006

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4

**Note:** These event listings represent the best information available when published. Please consult your Sunday bulletin for the latest information.

7:30 Choir  
7:30 Littleton Bible Study

7:30 p.m. Iron Men

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12:30 First Sunday Meal  
4:30 Sleepover Counselor Orientation

7:30 Choir  
7:30 Littleton Bible Study

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

7:30 Choir  
7:30 Littleton Bible Study

5:00 p.m. Sleepover starts  
11:30 a.m. Sleepover Ends

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

7:30 Choir  
7:30 Littleton Bible Study

26 27 28 29 30 31

7:30 Choir  
7:30 Littleton Bible Study

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**Knowing, Loving and Living the Word in  
God's World For His Glory.**

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.KnowLoveLive.org>

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We at Carlisle Congregational Church are a community of faith, working to accomplish our God-given purposes in being called together at this time, in this local church, for His glory. In this changing world, the One we worship does not change. We invite you to join us in worship, fellowship, and service to our great God.

