



The Meetinghouse Crier
February 2011
Pastor: Rev. Peter J Haddad
Franklin Congregational Church
(founded 1718)

How are you doing on your resolutions?

I hate New Year's resolutions, don't you? I've blown two of them already! I am glad that God knows we are weak of resolve, and has done two eternally significant things about it.

First, He sent His Son, Jesus. Our weakness - typically resulting in sin - is what separates us from God. That problem - insurmountable for us - was solved with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This solution made the way possible for all who believe, to come to God.

The **second** thing God did was really quite wonderful too! When Jesus rose and ascended into Heaven, He said He would send the Holy Spirit in His place. Look at one of the things the Holy Spirit does...

"I pray that he would give you, according to his glorious riches, strength in your inner being and power through his Spirit, and that Christ would make his home in your hearts through faith." (Eph3:16-17a).

WOW! We can have the strength of Holy Spirit on the inside, rather than just trying to keep resolutions in our own strength.

It can be difficult though, even with that, to live the way God wants us to live... and there is great temptation to get discouraged. But look...

"... we are not discouraged. No, even if our outer man is wearing out, our inner man is being renewed day by day. This light, temporary nature of our suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory, far beyond any comparison, because we do not look for things that can be seen but for things that cannot be seen. For things that can be seen are temporary, but things that cannot be seen are eternal". (2Cor4:16-18)

Let us, as this scripture encourages, work to focus on things eternal. Trying to fight earthly battles with earthly strengths alone, usually leads to failed resolutions. Instead, focusing on things eternal, and with the eternal strength that God gives us in our inner being, we can overcome anything!

Pastor



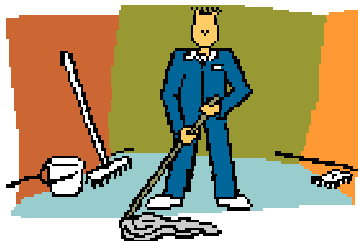
Sleighrides anyone?

If, we ever get enough snow (yeah, right!!) Sandy Staebner of Blue Slope Farm has offered to do group sleigh rides for us. Contact Sharon Haddad who will be happy to coordinate with Blue Slope for us. In the absence of snow, we could have done invigorating wagon rides out into the woods to see nature's winter activities, but since that's not an issue, let's do some sliding together! Then, when we have a thaw, we can take a wagon ride too!

For more information contact Miss Sharon



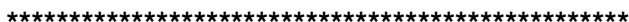
Getting in shape this year??
Ask Marilyn about "Weigh to Win"!



KEEPING OUR CHURCH CLEAN

Please take a turn at cleaning the church. There is a sign up sheet/calendar in the Fellowship Hall, so you can help out at your convenience. If enough people help out, each one will only work every two or three months!

Many Hands Make Light Work



Contributors Wanted:

If any members have any materials they would like considered for entry into the *Meetinghouse Crier*, our newsletter, then please submit them to Pastor Peter at...
pastorpeter@FranklinChurchCT.com



Keep your eyes open for a start date for our women's study, "A Woman's Heart" by Beth Moore. Study materials are available through Lynda Chapman, and are \$15/pc. Be sure to get them in advance so you'll be ready to go!