



# Meetinghouse Crier

March 2011

Franklin Church  
31 Meetinghouse Hill Rd  
Franklin, CT 06254  
860-642-7887  
[www.FranklinChurchCT.com](http://www.FranklinChurchCT.com)

## **WOE!!**

Wouldn't it be lovely if Christianity always worked the way we want it to? I mean, we all have an idea in our minds of how we would have worked things out were we the Creator, don't we? How many of us would eliminate all the negatives and focus only on the positives? Here's a better question... how many of us think that God actually does that? WHAT? You mean to say that God isn't always positive? Didn't Christ dying on the cross serve to *accentuate the positives* and *eliminate the negatives*? I am afraid not, my friends.

When we think of Jesus, we tend to think of only the positive things he said and did. But most of us don't realize that a large percentage of his sayings were quite *negative*. In fact, there's a section in the book of Matthew where Jesus addresses *religious leaders* no less, with a list of seven negatives, commonly referred to as the "seven woes". Jesus delivers a warning of **woe** to the people who fit in the following categories. You can look it up in Matthew chapter 23 and read the actual language, but here's the gist of it...

- You disrespect the less fortunate and make a religious showing to cover it up.
- You lure people into your circle of influence and they wind up even more corrupt than you.
- You don't know God's word, and you lead others as if you do... you're both lost.
- Your major focus is on minor issues, and on major issues, you fail.
- You keep up appearances while your personal life is corrupt.
- You act spiritual to cover up sin.
- You pretend to have knowledge from a lengthy spiritual past, but really, you have learned nothing of God.

OUCH!! Doesn't it smart when the Word of God hits home like that? But there's a reason for it... God wants us to be in a state of self-examination- all the time- and bringing up negatives is necessary for that. If this particular "shoe" from the Word of God "doesn't fit", that's fine; move on. But don't be afraid to try it on for size. It might be for you! And if you don't like Jesus on the subject of *looking at ourselves in search of negatives to be eliminated*, try this other philosopher... *The unexamined life is not worth living.* **Socrates**

Pastor



**Here are the dates** that Franklin Church will be attending the joint Lenten Services with the churches of the Lebanon Clergy Association.

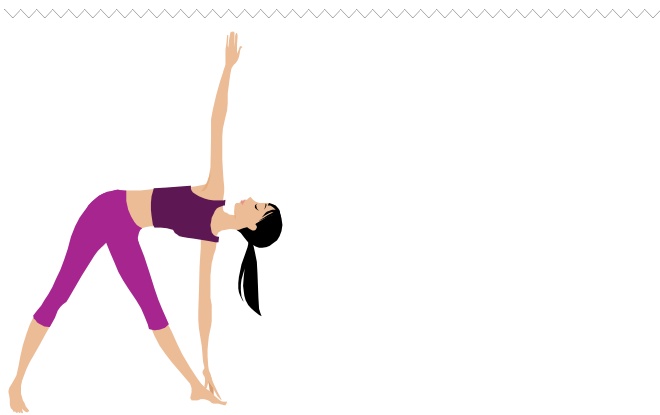
3/23, Service at Goshen Cong - Fr. Ben (Catholic church) preaching.

4/6, Service at Franklin - Mark Turcio (Goshen church) preaching.

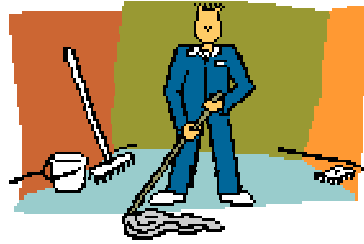
4/15, Service at Goshen - Peter Haddad (Franklin church) preaching

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Luncheon at Lebanon Senior Center, 3/22. Lebanon Clergy Association members will be addressing End of Life issues, in a conference type setting entitled, "A Gift For Your Family".



*"Weigh to Win"*  
Getting in shape this year?? Learn how to stay in shape with Marilyn, Wednesdays 6:15-7PM.



## 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 Makes Light Work



Our weekly woman's study group will present: "A Woman's Heart" by Beth Moore, beginning on Monday March 14<sup>th</sup> 6-8PM. 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!  
*See you there!!*