

APRIL

2009

Herald of Good TIDINGS

“Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’”

Speaking of Life

Reflections from Rev. Mark Seifried, your Interim Pastor

*This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and that has written them,
and we know that his testimony is true.*

*But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down,
I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*

John 21:24-25 (NRSV)

The citation above contains the last words from John’s gospel. After the various post -resurrection appearances of Jesus, John puts himself and the reader into the story ... into the Good News. He knows that Jesus was still roaming the Earth when he finished his writing. He knew that, if his words endured for centuries, as they have, that Jesus would still be alive and well in the world. He could never assert the resurrection any other way.

Jesus was alive and is alive and will be alive tomorrow ... or will He?

Throughout much of the world death is believed to come in three stages. The first death occurs when the body’s heart stops pumping. The second death occurs when there is nothing left of the body but dry bones. This stage usually comes a year following the first death. Many cultures move the bones from a coffin to an ossuary at this time. The third and final stage of death is supposed to occur when the deceased’s name is spoken for the last time. While I believe in the resurrection of Christ and have faith that each of us participates in that resurrection, I also see the truth and wisdom to this three -stage understanding of death.

As we ponder the resurrection during the season of Easter, let’s ponder it personally. Many of you dedicate flowers and anthems and other things on behalf of your loved ones who are deceased. And so they continue to live in our collective memories ... they are very much alive in our common life – praise be!

What about your faith? What about the Christ who still makes his presence known and talks with some of us? (Even you perhaps, if you’re looking and listening!) Does your faith live if you never mention it? Does your Savior live if you never mention His name? Does your church live if you never mention Her name? Who is responsible for that life? Who is participating in the resurrection? How will those who have never heard the Good News believe the testimony of John and Matthew and Mark and Luke if they don’t first hear your testimony?

Our life is the Good News that could fill many volumes. Your testimony bears witness to our faith. The life of our church depends on your stories. Your invitations to participate in the good news that are shared with others help the faith of others grow.

My Easter prayer for you, for our faith, for our church, for Auburn and communities beyond ...and for our Savior is that you can love the life you’ve been given so much that you speak of the wonders, the love and the salvation you have witnessed ... by name ... to all that would hear. We’re all counting on you for our very lives. We’re all participating in the resurrection. Let us speak the resurrection into life and let us speak Christ into the world.

Library Tidings
by Gloria Whitehead

There are just three weeks left in Lent. Just as the Advent Calendar kept us aware of the days before Christmas, so Palm Sunday indicates that in one more week the resurrection of Jesus will be celebrated in most Christian Churches. Pastor Mark nudged us to re-acquaint ourselves with just who we are, and in what ways we can better serve our land, its people, and ultimately, God. This spurred us to think about children and books that are in their library that “speak” of Christ’s challenge through the period which became known as Lent.

Who Is Jesus by Kathleen Long Bostrom is listed for ages 0-5 and is currently in a Sunday School classroom. The topic of death is presented in a very simple form and the whole book is written and illustrated in a delightful style. *Who Is God* and a couple of other books by this author are just as appealing.

Jesus Is Risen, retold by LaVonne Neff is suggested for ages 4-9 depending on the reading level of a youngster. It’s the life of Christ and covers Palm Sunday through the Resurrection and the print is fairly large.

A Child’s Book of Prayer, a Lorenz Book, is a book of art in itself. However, it’s also an anthology with verse that is centuries old and a source of exquisite plus quiet entertainment for all ages. We recommend that everyone, at some time, glance through this book. It will be on the table in the adult library.

Mary Alice Jones has written Bible stories for many years and among those for older children is *His Name Was Jesus*. Its style is a bit different. For example, on page 199, paragraph 3 it reads, “The women recognized them as Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, the Pharisee, two men of influence who, some said, were secretly followers of Jesus. (They were standing in front of the tomb). ‘What cowards they were!’ Mary Magdalene said. The conversation goes on and it’s agreed among the group that God could have saved Him. ‘It is past our understanding, Salome,’ someone replies. The trumpet announces the beginning of the Sabbath and they hurry home.” The presentation somewhat involves the reader in the story.

Jesus the Carpenter’s Son by Sophia L. Faks is also a more detailed explanation as to the plotting and chapter 20 reads, “The End Becomes the Beginning.”

Adults could find both books informative. It’s still early enough to be moved by Lent into the jubilation of Easter.

May yours be blessed.

On behalf of Ben, my girls and for myself, I would like to thank our Church family for their prayers, calls, cards, visits, and offers of help. It has been, and is, a tough road, but knowing so many people care has eased the situation.

Again, many thanks for your kindnesses.

*God Bless,
Avis Britton*

Coffee Hour Hosts

4/5	~ Trustees
4/12	~ Easter (no coffee hour)
4/19	~ Music
4/26, 5/3	~ Personnel Relations
5/10	~ Prudential
5/17	~ Board of Ed

Stewardship Message

Pay It Alleluia!

After the religious authorities had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'" (Matthew 28:12-13)

"It's just my job – I don't have to like it."

"I don't care where it comes from – it's for a good cause."

"This church can't afford to be picky about its portfolio."

The tradition that Matthew's gospel was written by someone busy in April ... well, a tax collector, gains credence by his two financial notes for Holy Week. Matthew remembers the price of Judas' betrayal was thirty pieces of silver and that the soldiers were paid to stifle what they saw of the resurrection and spread the body-snatching rumor.

We regularly reflect on the ethics of *spending* money. We consider personal and church budgets. We choose "green" in home, community and congregation. We give offerings, make pledges, invest in projects. As these serious days of Lent shift to Holy Week, it is also important to examine prayerfully how we *earn*, *receive*, *accept* and *benefit* from money. Money is neither good nor evil in itself, but there are transactions that hide the holy or risk the resurrection.

Easter is priceless, certain and can never be "bought off" as these lyrics to *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* claim!

Seek we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!

Stewardship un-li-mi-ted, Al-le-lu-ia!

Ours the faith, the peace, the joy, Al-le-lu-ia!

Gifts that nothing can destroy, Al-le-lu-ia!

Lift our hearts and raise our voices, Al-le-lu-ia!

Hope has opened up our choices, Al-le-lu-ia!

As we work, invest, and pray, Al-le-lu-ia!

Easter touches **every** day, Al-le-lu-ia!

Maren C. Tirabassi is Pastor of Union Congregational UCC of Madbury, NH. Her most recent book is *God in My Life: How and Why We Share Faith Stories*.

April 2009

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



God is still speaking,

This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee

"A United Church of Christ project linking congregations with small farmers and their families through fair trade."

Coffee \$6.00/bag

Tea \$3.00/box

April 5th is the last Sunday we'll be offering Fair Trade coffee/tea during Coffee Hour.

Sponsored by the Board of Christian Outreach



April is Alcohol Awareness Month, Counseling Awareness Month, Foot Health Awareness Month, National Autism Awareness Month, National Cancer Control Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Donate Life Month, National Youth Sports Safety Month, and Occupational Therapy Month. April 6-12 is National Public Health Week, April 7th is World Health Day, the 18th is National Healthy Kids Day and the 25th is World Meningitis Day.

Now that spring is here, there are three things that need to be attended to:

1. Sunscreen to prevent burns and future skin cancer.
2. Bike helmets to prevent head injuries.
3. Tick bites. Check yourself, children and pets after being outside. If you find a tick on someone's skin: using fine-tipped tweezers, grasp the head of the tick close to the skin. Firmly and steadily pull the tick straight out of the skin. Do not twist or rock the tick back and forth while removing it. Put the tick in alcohol to kill it, then wash your hands and the site of the bite with soap and water. Swab the bite with alcohol. Call the doctor if: the tick may have been on the skin for more than 24 hours, part of the tick remains in the skin after attempted removal, the child develops a rash especially a red - ringed bull's eye rash, if the area looks infected, or if the child develops any symptoms like fever, headache, fatigue, chills, stiff neck or back, or muscle aches.

Have a safe healthy month.

God Bless!
Deborah Pranaitis
Parish Nurse

A STEWARDSHIP NOTE *

"God gives to us not to make us thankful but to make us generous and useful to Him and others."

Obviously when something good happens to us, when God seems to be pouring out blessing after blessing, we are very grateful. And surely most of us will take time to express our gratitude to God. That is a good response, of course. In less obvious circumstances, however, we often don't express gratitude for the many blessings bestowed upon us by God. Thanksgiving follows the realization that all we have was given to us by God. God gives us these things not to make us thankful, but to make us useful! It becomes clear...in fact it is inescapable... that genuine thankfulness and good stewardship are inseparably related.

What we **EXPRESS** to God about what has been given to us is called "Thanksgiving." What we **DO** with all of it is called "Stewardship." It is to love God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength. After all, is that not the way Christ loves us?

Prayer: *Gracious God, keep reminding us that we are not only to be grateful to You, but to submit ourselves as faithful stewards on Your behalf. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

In His Name,
The Stewardship Committee



Hello Spring. We had a long cold winter, but it is finally over.

The month of March was a very busy one at *Here We Grow* Preschool. Many new faces were seen in the classrooms since it was Parent Volunteer Month. The children had moms and dads who helped for a day and a few parents that were brave enough to do a science experiment. Many of our parents spent time by reading a story at the end of sessions. The staff and children enjoyed having them with us.

Neal Primeaux spent two days taking class and individual pictures of the children. Thank You to the Board of Christian Ed for allowing us the use of a Sunday school room for the individual pictures.

Our third and final fundraiser was done in March. The families of *Here We Grow* sold just over \$7,000 of Yankee Candle items which then gave us a profit of about \$2,800.00. This money is used for the field trips taken during the school year.

We had a planned visit from the Auburn Police department for finger printing the four year olds. All results go to the parents. Another visitor was Renee from the Auburn Public Library. She did a nice presentation for the children about the proper way to visit the library. She also told the children the different parts of a book and ended with a nice story.

Looking to April, *Here We Grow* will be on break during Holy Week and then one week later for spring vacation, we can't wait. Here's hoping for pleasant weather. We will be having Easter parties on April 2nd and 3rd with a visit from the Easter bunny.

As of the end of March, *Here We Grow* has openings in the 2-day sessions which is for 3 year olds, with all 3-day & 5-day sessions full. The staff is proud to know that families feel we are the best around.

Until next month, I hope everyone is well and enjoying the beautiful spring weather.

Dawn Murphy,
Here We Grow Preschool Director

Our next church supper is planned for
Saturday, April 18th at 5:00 p.m.
On the menu: Roast Beef Dinner
Adults \$10 Children \$5

Chef: Bob Murray
Servers: Prudential & Scholarship

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all your prayers and the
best wishes I have received—they're
much appreciated.*

Don Woodcock

June 20th Plant Sale & Community Yard Sale

We are planning a June plant sale/yard sale. We will be looking for plant donations, so please begin to divide and pot your perennials. We will **not** be storing yard sale items. Instead we will be offering tables for rent at \$10 each where you can display **your** sale items. Any profits beyond the table rental is yours to keep! This will afford many an ideal location to sell their goods while supporting the church at the same time.

We will also be having a chicken barbeque that day which should help to draw more people. Look for more information to come in next month's *Tidings* and future church bulletins.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646.

ORDER YOUR EASTER PLANTS NOW

We are only able to accept Easter plant orders through April 5th. Remember, on Easter Sunday there will be a special insert in the bulletin noting who the plant is in honor of and who it's from. This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one while decorating our church sanctuary at the same time. Just complete an order form (available in Fellowship Hall and one was included in last month's *Tidings*). You may drop the form off at the church or mail it to: First Congregational Church, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501.

Please submit your order form with payment no later than April 5th.

Estate Planning?

Have you included the church in your will or estate planning? Please prayerfully consider if the Lord would have you remember your church when completing your will.

"One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us."

Gordon MacDonald, American Pastor & Teacher

The Auburn Woman's Club is pleased to present
BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

The program will feature William Graham, a regional renowned creator of floral arrangements.

Beautiful Things will be held at the North American Martyr's Parish Hall on Wednesday, April 30, 2009 at 7 o'clock. Refreshments will follow the program.

Tickets (\$12) must be purchased in advance.

All proceeds will benefit the Auburn Woman's Club Scholarship Fund. For further information, please contact: Barbara Carr (508) 832-3985 or Ann Marie Wisialsko (508) 832-3083.

Happy Birthday to:

Ernie Smith - April 9th
Haydn McPherson - April 10th
Bob MacLeod - April 27th

Happy Anniversary to:

Ben & Avis Britton who will be celebrating their special day on April 27th.



Your kids will thank you for going on a **Marriage Encounter Weekend!** Worldwide Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where husbands and wives can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend can make! The next UCC Marriage Encounter weekend is April 17-19 at Christian Conference Center in Alton Bay, NH. For more info or to register, contact Bruce & Lynne Hildreth at Hildreth4@comcast.net.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications are now available in Fellowship Hall, and in the church office for anyone interested in applying for a scholarship.

Applications are due by April 15th.

From the Church Historians . . .

The following is an excerpt from a ledger that was stored in the Town Hall basement. It outlines step-by-step decisions made by our men in building our meetinghouse and forming our town.

George DuHamel & Paula Lubin
Church Historians

LEDGER 1773-1786

Att. This present meeting of the inhabitation of the South Parish in Worcester & towns adjacent held the Eight Day of April 1776.

1ly chose Mr. Charles Richardson moderator for S'd meeting.

2ly upon the partical voted to hear furer.

3ly voted to chus a committee to supply the pulpit. Chose Cap't Joseph Phillips, Mr. Petter Hardy, and Mr. John Hart
Charles Richardson
Modirator

Aytttest. Record from minets

Samuel Eddy, Parish Clark

Worcester Sa. To Gershom Rice Jun'r Collector.

In the name of the government and people you are hereby required fourthwith in the usal way & manner to notify & worn the free holsers and other inhabitation in the South Parish in Worcester & the Towns adjacent belonging thereto qualified as the law Directs to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Meeting house in S'd parish on tussy the twenty fourth Day of May, Instant, at one of the clock in the after noone to act on the following articals at the request of charles Richardson & nine others.

1ly to chuse a moderator for S'd meeting.

2ly to see if the parish will chuse a committy to Revue the Boundarys Round the Parish with Towns adjoining thereto —

3ly to see what the Parish will do requiring the land upon Jonas Bancroft's Estate for taxes to pay the minister in

Sutton & act thereon as they Shall see cause —

4ly to see if the Parish will give instructions to the committee for preaching or act any other way relating their to as they shall think proper.

The fift article at the request of others.

5ly to know the minds of the Parish whether they will hear Mr. Frost at the request of a number of the inhabitation of the parish.

Where of fail not & make Returns to one of us on or before the time appointed for S'd meeting.

Given under the hands and Seals this sixteenth Day of May one thousand seven hundred seventy six.

By vortu of this worrent I have notified and worn the freeholders & other inhabitation by positing up a true copy of this warrant at the meeting house in S'd Parish to met the time and Place mensond.

Gershom Ric

Joseph Phillips

John Hart

Committee of the Parish

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On February 28, the Jr. Youth Group participated in Olympic Park for the Special Olympics at Auburn High School. Jacob, Haydn, Lillian, Rebecca and I were there from 8:30 -3:30. We were joined by Amanda and Andrew Gemme, Randy and Jen Bohn, as well as a couple of our friends from Pakachoag Church each for a two hour shift. We were lucky to have Randy "volunteer" to tape the basketball game with the Gemmes acting as scorekeepers. My family and the other Jr. Youth Group volunteers were primarily down running the games that were donated by Dawn and the Here We Grow staff for the weekend. We all learned something about ourselves and others that day. The athletes had a great time and taught us a lot about sportsmanship and how to play the game without focusing on the score.

Although we had to cancel the 30 hour Famine, Tori Stockhaus staged her own famine for the weekend with Lori as her partner - way to go, ladies! We are still hoping to participate in this worthwhile program in the future. The program is way more than just going without food for 30 hours and I feel it would bring a new perspective to everyone who attends.

The Jr. Youth Group met on March 22 for pizza and a movie and some time just to chill and relax with new friends. Again, anyone in 5th -8th grade is invited to attend.

On Palm Sunday we will be having another family activity. An Easter egg hunt and craft will be on the agenda as well as some refreshments. I invite ANYONE interested to attend; remember, we are all part of the church FAMILY.

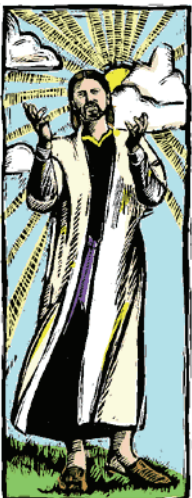
Hope to see the tulips popping up soon.

With His guidance we serve,

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education



Nathalie I. (Vitale) Yale, 92, formerly of Claire Drive, died Wednesday, March 4th in Windham Terrace, Windham, NH. Her husband, George R. Yale died in 1996. She is survived by several nieces and nephews. She was also predeceased by her brother, Francis R. Vitale. She was born in Lynn, MA, daughter of the late Albert E. and Susie I. (Stoddard) Vitale. She graduated from Danvers High School.



I
am the
RESURRECTION
and the
LIFE.

He who
believes in
me will
LIVE,
even though
he dies.
John 11:25

Prior to her retirement, Mrs. Yale was an administrative assistant for Pappas Realty Trust in Auburn for 20 years. Previously, she worked at the Essex County Agricultural School in Hawthorne, MA. She was a member of our Church and past member of the Auburn Republican Town Committee, where she served as the vice chairman and finance chairman. She worked as the town coordinator for several statewide election candidates and was elected as a delegate to four state conventions.

A graveside service for Nathalie was held on Wednesday, March 11th at Hillside Cemetery, Auburn.

Please remember Nathalie's loved ones in your prayers.



WORKDAYS

May 2, 2009: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Primary site: Cottage Hill Academy, Baldwinville, MA
 Additional sites may be added as needed
 (visit www.wamsucc.org for updated information on sites)

Cottage Hill Academy:

Cottage Hill Academy is a staff secure residential program designed to serve adolescent girls ages, twelve through twenty. Cottage Hill Academy serves girls referred from the Massachusetts Department of Social Services, Department of Youth Services, Department of Education, and Department of Mental Health. [Http://www.youinc.org/Programs/Residential/CottageHill/CottageHill.htm](http://www.youinc.org/Programs/Residential/CottageHill/CottageHill.htm)

Our mission is . . . To assist non-profit human service agencies in maintenance and clean up of their property and to assist homeowners who are unable to care for their homes.

What to expect . . . There will be a large number of adult, senior high school and middle school participants. There will be jobs for skilled and unskilled workers. We will work hard and have a good time.

Volunteers: For WAYS to work smoothly, we need a good balance of people and skills:

- Experienced construction people (professional & non -professional)
- Adults and teens familiar with this kind of work
- Adults and teens who are willing to be instructed in simple tasks.

Tools: Participants will be asked to bring tools and reusable materials based on the site to which they are assigned.

Food: Lunch, snacks, and drinks will be provided.

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Sponsorships: Each high schooler and adult is asked to raise a *minimum of \$20.00* from family, friends or members of their local congregation. Materials are expensive, so the more sponsorship we receive, the better we can assist our agencies and homeowners.

We would like each middle school youth group to consider a financial contribution to help defray the cost of materials needed for the work at our sites. Please plan a contribution that is manageable for your group.

Please return money and form to: Jen Bohn by April 12th

Youth Name

Parent Signature

Phone #

From the Choir Room

The Passion Story, told in song, will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 5th.

Anthems that take us through The Passion include:

Who Is Jesus
The Olive Garden
Come, Kneel at the Cross
Tears Slowly Fall
And He Died

Three anthems from the Choir's CD *Called to Discipleship* will be presented during Lent/Easter:

I Surrender on March 22nd
Upon A Sinner's Cross on March 29th
 and *Glorify the Name* on April 12th.



Joyful Noyse, with the adults, will present *May You Have Peace* on Easter Sunday.

On April 26th Michael Schillinger and Rich McPherson will lead us with guitar only (no organ!) for one of our hymns. They did this at the 5:00 service on Christmas Eve, and it was so beautiful we decided to try it again.

I have put all of the Music Tributes on schedule for the year. Upcoming Tributes include:

4/12 *May You Have Peace*
Glorify the Name
 4/26 *Child of the Universe*
 5/3 *From the Day You Were Born*
 5/10 *Child of God*

Please let me know if you'd like your Tribute at a special time!

Blessings,

Heather Moore
 Minister of Music

Joyful Noyse Schedule

4/5	11:15 a.m. rehearsal (with adults)
4/12 (Easter)	No early rehearsal <i>Peace I Leave with You</i> (with adults)
4/19, 4/26	11:15 a.m. rehearsal
5/3, 5/10, 5/17	11:15 a.m. rehearsal
5/24, 5/31	11:15 a.m. rehearsal
6/7	Children's Sunday/Joyful Noyse Recognition <i>Beach Party - Surfin'</i> <i>the Scriptures</i>

From the Nominating Committee

As the newest member of the Nominating Committee, particularly after having served 3 years prior as a Deacon, I am often asked to explain the responsibilities associated with the Diaconate. Given the 4 vacancies that currently exist, there seems to be a feeling the commitment of time has little flexibility and the responsibility is overwhelming.

Members of the Diaconate do hold a very responsible position. Members meet once a month in order to coordinate any of the specifics needed within the liturgical schedule with the Minister, to assist the Minister in whatever way possible, and to discuss the upcoming month, specifically any and all worship activities. Outreach for those members of the congregation who are homebound or disabled is yet another function.

Collectively there is a commitment as is outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws but there is also the flexibility associated with a genuine collaborative effort of ALL the Deacons. There will always be personal commitments and time constraints. Members consistently help one another and fill in for one another in order to meet all of the required duties.

Although it is important to recognize the responsibility, it is also important to understand what an impact giving has on you as an individual. To give is to receive back in so many ways . . . a simple thank you, an expression of gratitude, or an understanding hug are often expressions far more meaningful than words can convey.

This ministry is very special beginning with the sanctity and peacefulness of this Church as the altar is readied for services each week. The preparation of the Baptismal Font allows us to reflect on our Christian beliefs as we stand ready to assist the Minister with the Baptism ceremony. It is the weekly contact with the congregation, the welcome to a visitor, or an inquiry made when you become aware of family illness or crisis that brings meaning to serving as a Deacon. There is an expression, "Once a Deacon always a Deacon." This IS absolutely true. A Deacon simply does what needs to be done prior, during, and after each service.

A Deacon who was instrumental in making me feel welcome as a newcomer to this Church community was Ben Britton. Ben epitomizes an unwavering strong faith foundation combined with experience, kindness and an astute knowledge of all the duties and responsibilities having served many terms as a member of the Diaconate. When Ben stepped down as an "official Deacon," he remained vigilant to anything needing to be done - be it the lighting of candles, escorting a newcomer, or simply a handshake expressing a genuine welcome.

When I served as the weekly greeter, Ben would often stand with me, knowing I would otherwise be alone. We would chat and greet together. If there was anything needing an answer, Ben was always available and, yes, very much "on duty."

The Nominating Committee would like to fill the 4 remaining positions on the Board of Deacons. Should you wish to consider these positions, please see Kay Shapter, Michele Schillinger or this writer.

For the Nominating Committee,
Pat Bukoski

Interfaith Hospitality Network Program

The First Congregational Church will host homeless families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network Program once again this year.

The week will begin on Sunday, July 12th through Sunday, July 19th. Any help you may be able to give during this week will be appreciated.

Everyone has been wonderful with meal preparation and play time with the children.

We will need overnight chaperones who spend the night at the church. This often presents a challenge particularly during the summer. If you could commit to one night as a chaperone, it would assist in providing the necessary coverage.

Thank you for all you have done in past years.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (508) 798 -8765.

Pat Bukoski

HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Passion Story (the story of Jesus' crucifixion told in song) will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 5th at the 10 a.m. Service

Maundy Thursday is April 9th ~ 7 p.m. Service

Good Friday is April 10th ~ Our Church Sanctuary will be open from 12 noon until 3 p.m. for meditation

Auburn's Ecumenical Service will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church from 12:15 to 1 p.m. on Good Friday.

Easter Sunday is April 12th ~ with our Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m. at Hillside Cemetery and two worship services - 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. at the church

~ **All Are Welcome** ~



**Church Camping
Weekend**

**June 19th - 21st
at Oak Haven
in Wales, MA**

We are looking to gauge the level of interest in our annual church camping weekend. (We only had 3 families last year.) We will be going a week earlier than usual due to the 4th of July falling on a Saturday this year. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan on joining us as I need to contact the campground soon with the number of sites we will need. Please note that once you make the commitment to go, you will be responsible for the payment even if for some reason you are unable to make it.

Thanks for your cooperation,
Lori Stockhaus

*TIDINGS is a monthly
publication of*

**First Congregational
Church**
128 Central St.
Auburn MA 01501

Phone: (508)832-2845

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 6
Auburn, Mass

April 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		