



# *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!'"*

## **Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ**

### **211th ANNUAL MEETING**

**June 19, 2010**

**DCU Center, Worcester, Massachusetts**

**Provoke one another . . . to love and good deeds**

The theme of this year's Annual Meeting, "Provoke one another . . . to love and good deeds," encourages our deep commitment to the community of the United Church of Christ. As always, and more importantly in these challenging times, we need one another to do the work of Jesus in the world.

Our meeting this year will be one day filled with opportunity for talking together, sharing a meal together, doing business and filling our spirits with worship. We have moved to a one-day format after much searching, discussion and reflection on your evaluations, conversation among the Board of Directors and input from staff. Many participants said that a two-day commitment of time and financial resources made it less likely that they could take part in the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee, along with the Board of Directors, has made a commitment to keep the Annual Meeting both financially accessible and faithful to the business that needs tending to.

Two storytellers from the Network of Biblical Storytellers, Maude Carpenter and Christine Rothe, will "provoke" the body at the meeting through story. Our meals together will provide valuable time to talk with each other and meet new people. A marketplace will engage the gathering in mission, education and resources for ministry.

A rousing worship service featuring the preaching of Rev. Quinn Caldwell, communion and the choir of Second Congregational Church in Winchester will conclude our time together on Saturday afternoon.

Last year's meeting at the DCU Center in Worcester gave us the opportunity to meet all in one place. Many of you appreciated the opportunity to be together both for business and worship.

Should you choose to travel a day ahead, the Hilton Garden Inn, adjacent to the DCU Center, is again providing a special rate for early reservations and offers our own registration page link to their website for easy access. Go to <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/BEDWOGI-UCHRIS-20100618/index.jhtml>

I look forward to seeing you in Worcester on June 19th.

Patricia Gnazzo Pepper  
Chairperson, Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Register for the annual meeting online at [macucc.org](http://macucc.org) where you can also download a registration form. (Forms are also available in the church office or call Denise at 508-832-2845 to have one mailed to you.)



Happy Spring! Happy Easter!

April is Alcohol Awareness Month, Foot Health Awareness Month, Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month, National Cancer Control Month, National Autism Awareness Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Donate Life Month, National Youth Sports Safety Month, National Facial Protection Month, Occupational Therapy Month, and Sports Eye Safety Month. April 7th is World Health Day, and the 5th - 11th is National Public Health Week.

Now that the warmer weather is here, please be careful. Use helmets to protect yourselves when riding bikes, skateboards, etc. Also, use the protection gear that is recommended. Drivers, please be careful of the children that are now out playing, riding bikes, skateboards, etc.

It is the season of new life. Go out for a walk, sit out and enjoy the outdoors for awhile every day, listen to the birds, enjoy God's beauty. Use sun protection, the rays are going to be getting stronger.

The closet for medical equipment seems to be changing often. I brought in 4 walkers one day and the next day, 2 were gone. I'm glad that they're not just sitting there. Please take things if you need them. If there isn't something there that you're looking for, check back soon.

Debbie Pranaitis  
Parish Nurse

P.S. The Norovirus is here!! Please remember to take precautions with good hand washing techniques.

*It is a great healer when you know your church family has you in their prayers. My health is slowly improving and I'm looking forward to being at services when spring arrives in full fashion. Thanks to each one of you for your expressions of concern, encouragement and love.*

*Blessing on each one of you,  
Donald Slongwhite*

*Also, Carolyn and I appreciate your congratulations in honor of our 66th wedding anniversary. We are blessed.*

Our next church supper is planned for Saturday, April 17th at 5:00 p.m.  
On the menu: Roast Beef Dinner  
Adults \$10 Children \$5  
Chef: Bob Murray  
Servers: Prudential Committee & Sampson Family

**Coffee Hour Hosts**

- 4/4 ~ Easter (no coffee hour)
- 4/11 ~ Trustees
- 4/18 ~ Music
- 4/25, 5/2 ~ Personnel Relations



**EMERITUS SUNDAY**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 25th, as Rev. Ken Knox returns to the pulpit for Emeritus Sunday.

## Stewardship Message

### In Faith and in Doubt

“Eight days later...” John 20:26

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



The disciples told Thomas the unbelievable news that Jesus, whom they had all seen crucified, was alive! And, of course, Thomas did not believe it! He might have thought his friends delusional or mad with grief. He might have thought that some colossally cruel practical joke had been played on them by the authorities. Whatever he thought, clearly he could not buy what they were selling. So he might have left them, sadly and with great despair.

But we are told that a week later he was still hanging out with them. A week! Even though they were ecstatic with joy and he was deep in disbelief, he stayed with the community, and they remained available to him. Then Jesus appeared again and the one who doubted found faith.

Thank God Thomas had a place and a group of people with whom he could abide in the night of doubt and sadness. They carried him through until his relationship with Jesus was restored and strengthened. Is not that still the role of the church? We maintain our buildings and hold our worship services and prayer meetings and Bible Studies and community events and host support groups of all kinds so that we can hold each other in faith and in doubt. We are there for each other and for our neighbors in all circumstances of life and spirit. We give time, talent and treasure to the church not to support an institution but to nurture a community of believers and doubters faithing each other into stronger relationships with Jesus, just as those disciples did with Thomas. As Eastertide continues, remember how the church held you when you were in a Thomas week in your life.

Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven, CT.

### April 2010

God is still speaking,

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



Gayle L. Niles, 55, of Tinker Hill Rd., Auburn, passed away on Feb. 24th at home. She was born in Worcester and was the daughter of Barbara R. Niles and the late Fred R. Niles. She is survived by a sister, Susan Fournier of Hillsboro, N.H. Gayle is predeceased by a brother, Donald, and a sister, Elizabeth. Funeral services will be private. A Memorial will be held May 15th at 11:00 a.m. at Hope Cemetery. Please remember Barbara and her family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Richard G. “Dick” Warren, formerly of Auburn, passed away Tuesday, Mar. 9th at the Overlook Masonic Healthcare Center. Mr. Warren was preceded by his wife, Gertrude M. (Connor) Warren, in 2000. He leaves a son, Mark B. Slocum, of Hailey, ID and a sister, Marjorie Mitchell of Lenox, MA; a niece Lydia Anderson, and a nephew, David Loftus. Dick was a proud veteran of World War II, having served in the United States Army Air Corps. He graduated from Auburn High School and Wentworth Institute. Dick operated a real estate business in Auburn and was also a licensed pilot. He was extensively involved in his community and was a longtime member of our Church.

His funeral service was held at our church on March 13th. Burial with military honors followed in Hillside Cemetery. Donations may be made to First Congregational Church, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501.

Please remember Dick’s loved ones in your prayers.

*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.  
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. ~ John 11:25-26*

Library Tidings  
by Gloria Whitehead

*The Thirsty Village* - This is a book that carries a poignant message which can extend through endless time. Though written for children of around 8 or 9 years old, I found myself eager to complete reading its substance from cover to cover in one sitting one night. The story centers around two boys living in Lebanon in neighboring villages. Jirjis' village is mostly Christian, as is he, and Ahmed's is mainly Muslim, as is he. Water is a constant source of ugly contention between the two areas as only one well is their source of supply.

Summer camp, where incidentally English is also taught, brings the two boys together and a sincere friendship develops. With the differences in religious faiths, the boys parents voice disapproval. Determination by Jirjis and Ahmed not to split, and the fate of several exciting episodes including a lost lamb, a blind girl found in a pit, and an encounter with a wolf serve to increase the bond of friendship and respect for each other's way of worship. Further, as a result of one of the episodes, Jirjis and Ahmed receive a sum of money. Instead of spending it on themselves, they elect to have it solve the problem mentioned in the first paragraph of this review. (Peek if you've forgotten.)

As you've read this review, we'd love to have someone, or two, or more of you read the book and then write a line or so on how you feel this book, *The Thirsty Village*, fits into the current picture in that locale of the world or these times. That would be absolutely stupendous and we'll print it in an upcoming *Tidings*.

Remember, it's a child's book - **SIMPLICITY IS THE KEY.**

P.S. It's written in large print and will be in the Adult Library for borrowing.

Even if you're a full time nurse, if you've looked at Debbie Pranaitis' schedule, chances are you'd think twice before taking on being a parish nurse also. On the other hand, if you did check with Debbie, you'd find her heart and soul are there. On the turnstile book rack in the Adult Library there is a book titled *Parish Nursing* by Verna Benner Carson and Harold G. Koenig. It's never been borrowed. It's subtitle reads, *Stories of Service and Care*, and its topics are so varied they appeal to the lay reader and the professional. The value of merging health and body and soul is brought to focus in stories from parishes all over the nation.

Wouldn't it be an amazing gift if someone was inspired to pursue the roll of a parish nurse? Maybe not you, but glance at the book sometime. Skipping some of the detail, you'll find it an eye opener and inspiration.

It's in category #3.

### AN OPEN INVITATION

Your Church's newly formed Renewal Team welcomes your input and participation as we work together - with God's help - to reach out to new visitors, missing and less active members, and renew our focus on God-centered fellowship. We are not a committee and your level of involvement is entirely up to you. We do value your input, comments, insight, ideas, and prayer support. Pray that we would be Spirit -filled and God-led in our efforts and decisions.

For more information, please contact current Renewal Team members: Donna Dube 508 -864-8672, Todd Dube 508-864-6601, Paul & Louise Powers 508-752-2956, Mike Schillinger 508-832-9049, and Cindy Ryan 508-832-3416.

### Joyful Noyse Schedule

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 4/4 (Easter)   | 10:15 a.m. rehearsal<br>"Celebrate God's Love" |
| 4/11, 4/18,    | 11:15 a.m. rehearsal                           |
| 4/25           | 9:15 a.m. rehearsal<br>"I Will Believe"        |
| 5/2, 5/9, 5/16 | 11:15 a.m. rehearsal                           |
| 5/23           | 9:15 a.m. rehearsal<br>"You Are Good"          |
|                | Joyful Noyse Recognition                       |





From *Here We Grow* Preschool

Hello and Welcome Spring. Even though the winter wasn't too bad, just dark and grey, we are all so glad spring has sprung.

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. This has been a tradition at HWG since Fawn Robidoux was the director. 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 in the classroom by reading a story at the end of sessions. The staff and children enjoyed having them with us.

Neal Primeaux spent two days for 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 to be taken.

Our second, and final fundraiser, was done in March. The families of *Here We Grow* sold just about \$9,000.00 of Yankee Candle items which then gave us a profit of about \$3,800.00. This money is used for the field trips taken during the school year.

*Here We Grow* wanted to help in some way with the devastation in Haiti. We chose to put a large container in the hallway to collect spare change. We had a goal line which we successfully reached. Our total intake was \$407.10. We will turn the money over to Pastor Mark who will purchase School Kits and Health Kits for the children and families in Haiti.

Looking to April, *Here We Grow* will be on spring vacation April 19-23. Here's hoping for pleasant weather. We will be having Easter parties on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> with a visit from the Easter bunny.

Also in the month of April the four year old children will be fingerprinted with all records going home to the parents. We will have a representative from the Auburn Police, the Millbury Police and two Massachusetts State Police.

Other visitors planned for April are the tooth fairy, to talk about oral health, and the Auburn librarian to talk with the children about visits to the library.

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

Dawn Murphy,  
*Here We Grow* Preschool Director

On February 28th we celebrated the baptisms of Grace Autumn Shoblom and Chloe Hunter Beauregard. Grace is the 6 month old daughter of Donald Shoblom and Stephanie Sanborn. Chloe is the 7 month old daughter of Mark and Bree Beauregard. We pray God's blessing upon these precious little ones and their families.



### June 19th 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 **won't** be storing yard sale items. Instead we will be offering tables for rent at \$15 each where you can display **your** sale items. Any profits beyond the table rental are 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.



Happy Birthday to:

Ernie Smith - April 9<sup>th</sup>  
Haydn McPherson - April 10<sup>th</sup>  
Bob MacLeod - April 27<sup>th</sup>

Happy Anniversary to:

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

### 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.**

### ELECTRONIC TIDINGS

Have you considered signing up to receive the *Tidings* online? We currently mail almost 300 newsletters each month. We only need 200 parcels of mail to take advantage of the bulk mailing special rate. The newsletter is saved in an 8½ x 11 format for easy printing. Why not try it for a month? You can always switch back if you decide that you prefer the "snail mail" method of delivery.

### POTLUCK SUPPER & FELLOWSHIP

Come, as we gather at the church for



"Spirit Suppers" for an informal, potluck meal on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 PM. All-ages are invited to attend.

### WE ARE THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION, AND WE'RE THE HOST CHURCH, TOO!

Our church will be hosting the Central Association of the Massachusetts Conference, UCC on Sunday May 2. When we hosted the meeting a few years ago, we provided a meal, but this year we will provide a coffee hour. If you'd like to bake or serve the coffee hour from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M., contact Pastor Mark or Denise in the church office.

All members of the church are invited to attend the program. There will be a short time of worship and business meeting, but the majority of the program will be a "Public Conversation: Overcoming the Blue State / Red State Divide." Public conversation is a program of facilitated dialogue that encourages people to talk about their experience, but not to try to change the other side. The goal of this is to help all participants learn about where their own views and values are derived, and to hear from others who may be different, thereby learning to appreciate our differences.

Please contact Debbie Holmes at [central@MACUCC.org](mailto:central@MACUCC.org) or 508-963-8106, if you wish to attend.

## Together

Reflections from your Interim Pastor, The Rev. Mark Seifried

*"While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near ..." Luke 24:14*

Alleluia! Christ is risen! I pray that the blessings of His resurrection are as real for you today as they were for those to whom He first appeared in resurrected form.

Easter has always been more significant for those who gather together to discuss the resurrection's magnitude. I say this because the biblical record makes it pretty clear that the resurrected Christ only appeared to two or more people who were remembering and discussing his life, death and resurrection together. This shouldn't surprise us. When Jesus was still alive, he promised that wherever two or more are gathered together in his name, he would be with them.

Recently, we began gathering at the church for Spirit Suppers on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. I believe that this model is close to what the church that Jesus founded looked and felt like: friends and strangers gathered together to discuss life, and to do so through the lens of faith. They most often did so while sharing a meal. While Jesus was alive, they spoke of the work they did together. After his execution, they tried to make sense of it all and to plan their future together so that the ministry would continue, albeit in a different form. (That was the first of thousands of reformations that the Christian church experienced!)

Many people talk about a longing for a religious experience. Christians specifically desire an encounter with Christ. If you are one such person, be mindful that it can happen, but it will only happen when you gather together with other Christians, probably in an informal setting, perhaps while sharing a meal, talking about life, and our relationship to Jesus Christ.

If you are to experience the new life Christ offers, you can only do it together with other Christians. If the church is to experience the resurrection, we might anticipate that it will be a time when we are vulnerable enough to talk about our faith and our doubts together. With humility and faithful companionship, let us pray for our participation in the resurrection. A good place to start might be our informal gatherings at the church where we expect an encounter with each other and with the risen Christ.

**Lord, walk this way again so that we may, together, share a personal encounter with You. The church is praying for renewal – in Your name. Amen.**



### A Message From Your Pastoral Search Committee

It has been pointed out by many in the congregation (including many of our spouses) that come this May it's been 2 years since Rev. Knox has retired, and yet — still no settled pastor — what's up?!!

It's been a long learning experience, but we as a committee have come a long way and are working in earnest. We've read over 60 applications and have selected a number of them to interview. And, that's where we are: trying to interview at least 2 candidates a week.

But, we cannot lose sight of our main objective: select the best person to lead this church into the next decade. We really need to persevere in our endeavor, and if necessary wait for the right candidate. Your patience and understanding are much needed at this time.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy Easter! I hope the joy of the Easter message is in your hearts today. Alleluia, He is risen.

I would like to start by thanking Rich, Lillian, Jacob, Haydn, Rebecca and Ellie Lowell for representing First Congregational Church at the Winter Special Olympics this past month. I would also like to thank Here We Grow for the use of the Bean Bag Game. All the athletes and volunteers seemed to have a good time. I know my family looks forward to it every year. If you are interested, I am sure we will participate for a third year next March.

The Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship Breakfast were held on March 28. I am sure fun was had by all. Hopefully, this could be an annual event.

April 4th there will be a sunrise service at Hillside Cemetery at 6:00 a.m. - p.j.'s are welcome. On April 11th the Board of Ed is presenting "Tea, Treasures and Treats." This is a program my sister's church does annually with a lot of success and fun. Basically, you bring a white elephant

gift (recycle, spring cleaning) in good working order and a plate of goodies to share. We will provide little finger sandwiches and tea for you to have prior to the games. We will then play a game similar to Bingo and when you win, you are invited up to the "prize" table to choose a treasure. If you can't part with a "treasure" or you simply forgot, you are welcome to purchase a ticket the day of the event for \$3. Please consider spending a couple of hours with us in fellowship and fun. We will begin the festivities at noon. Sign up in fellowship hall or with Nan Johnson or myself.

Enjoy the glory of God's creation in every thing you do.

With His guidance we serve,  
Jean McPherson



We want to thank Ron and Connie Hanks for organizing the Easter flower orders. This is no small task as they coordinate the details with the florist, prepare spreadsheets for the dedications, pick up the plants at the greenhouse in Oxford, label each plant, and deliver and arrange them in the Sanctuary. We just want to take this opportunity to express our warm appreciation for all they do!



### 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 18th through Sunday, July 25th. 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



## FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** if you'd like to join us in visiting the Dismas Family Farm, in Oakham, MA. Following church services we'll travel to Oakham to represent the church in fellowship while we share a meal together and view their new farm which we supported in 2009. Residents of the Dismas House are former prisoners working through a designed program of positive, productive life skills. The farm we'll be visiting is a self-supportive, working farm, which produces crops, animals and finished wood products. All ages are welcome. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall to help us plan for food. A website about the farm is at: <http://www.dismashouse.org/news-dismas-family-farm.php>

Also on **Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup>**, members of First Congregational Church of Auburn will attend Worcester Fellowship for their Worship Service at 1:00 PM on Worcester Common, followed by distribution of food, socks & T-shirts after worship. All ages are welcome to join us on April 25th, or any Sunday, as these Worship Services occur every week, in all weather. In their website it states "*To end homelessness, we need to end our isolation from each other. Worcester Fellowship is dedicated to ending isolation for those living in poverty, both those presently with and without homes.*". Check out their website and try to join us on 4/25/10: <http://www.worcesterfellowship.org/index.html> . If you'd like to contribute toward food or clothing (socks & t-shirts), please see Deb Pranaitis, Judy Murphy, Sue MacPhee or donate through the church office.

In Love, Hope, Peace & Understanding,  
Sue MacPhee, Outreach Committee Secretary

## From the Central Association

Greetings from the Central Association. As member churches of the United Church of Christ, we are covenant partners with the national denomination, the Massachusetts Conference, and the Central Association of the UCC. This covenant gifts us with blessings and rights, as well as responsibilities to each body.

There is a need for lay participation at the Association level. Below is a sampling of openings:

The Committee on Ministry - this Committee oversees all issues of clergy ordination, licensing, and fitness in the Association. Like any human group, clergy can develop their own biases about these issues, and input from lay people is absolutely crucial. The term is three years, and the Committee meets monthly on the third Thursday from 9am-3pm. Partial-term slots are available for people who want to try it out before making a longer commitment. It is a big time commitment, but it is also an awesome, committed group of people doing important work. You will learn much about the denomination, the ordination processes, leadership and ministry. You must be a member of an Association church in order to serve.

The Board of Directors – a 2-year commitment, fourth Thursday at 7 pm Sept-Nov and Feb-June. Duties include planning the two Association meetings, nominating, participation in ordinations and other special events, and oversight of other committees.

The Nurture and Fellowship Committee that meets as needed to plan the retired clergy luncheon, the administrative assistant's luncheon, and fellowship events for clergy.

Nominations will be made at the spring meeting in early May, so please give some thought to serving, and let me know by e-mailing me at [pastorfccleicester@verizon.net](mailto:pastorfccleicester@verizon.net) or by calling 978-846-6498.

Blessings,  
Rev. Doreen Oughton  
Nominating Committee of the Central Association  
Board of Directors

You asked for it!

As requested, here are the recipes from the March 20 church supper, à la Chef Mark. We actually didn't use any recipes, but eyeballed everything, so you may need to play with the recipes a bit to get the desired results. Cooking is an art, not a science! Thanks to all who helped cook, serve, clean up and eat!

*Lemon Vinaigrette Salad Dressing*

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 cup Extra-Virgin Olive Oil                           | 1 teaspoon ground black pepper |
| 1/3 cup lemon juice (fresh is best, but bottled works) | 1 teaspoon sweet basil         |
| 1 Tablespoon Kosher Salt                               | ½ teaspoon dill weed           |

**Mix all ingredients together. Let sit for at least 2 hours if using dried herbs so they can re-hydrate and the flavors infuse the dressing. Drizzle over green salad or toss in the salad. This makes a quick and easy marinade for chicken or fish, too. May be stored in the refrigerator for several weeks.**

**Roasted Pork Loin with Dijon-Garlic Glaze**

**A 3 to 5 pound boneless pork loin, fat trimmed to ½ inch or less.**

|                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ¼ cup Dijon mustard                  | 1 tsp. Fennel seed          |
| 2 Tablespoons chopped garlic         | ½ tsp. Rubbed sage          |
| 2 Tablespoons cider vinegar          | ½ tsp. Cracked black pepper |
| 1 Tablespoon plus 1 tsp. Kosher salt |                             |

**Rub the pork with 1 Tablespoon Kosher salt. Mix all the remaining ingredients together and massage into the loin. Let the meat temper for about an hour before roasting in a 375° oven. Roast uncovered for 2 hours or until internal temperature is 180°. Let rest for 15 minutes. Slice in ½ inch slices and serve hot ... or eat leftovers cold on sandwiches with a slice of red onion, leaf of lettuce and slathering of Dijon mustard.**

For the **Smashed Potatoes**, we boiled peeled and pared potatoes in salted water until soft. Mash and stir in milk and margarine or butter at a ratio of about 5 parts milk to one part butter.

For the **Steamed Asparagus**, we plunged trimmed asparagus spears into simmering salted water for about 5 minutes. Remove from water and toss with melted margarine. Sprinkle with toasted sesame seeds before serving.

*Blueberry Bread Pudding*

6 cups of potato, egg, sourdough, or Italian bread cubed or torn into 1-½ inch pieces.  
 2 cups blueberries (or other seasonal berries) ... frozen is fine  
 6 eggs  
 1 cup sugar  
 1-½ cups milk  
 1 cup half and half  
 2 tsp. Vanilla extract  
 1 tsp. Ground Cinnamon  
 ¼ tsp. Ground nutmeg  
 ½ cup softened margarine or butter

*Preheat oven to 375°. In a large bowl combine cubed bread and berries. In another bowl mix well all ingredients except butter until frothy. Fill a baking pan or individual soufflé cups with bread/berry mixture. Pour egg mixture over the bread and berries. Then dot with butter. If using soufflé dishes, bake in 1 inch hot water bath. Otherwise, bake as is for 35 minutes. This can be prepared a day in advance of service. Top each serving with 2 ounces of Bourbon Crème sauce (recipe follows) or vanilla ice cream.*

*Bourbon Crème Sauce*

2 cups milk (if you want a richer sauce, use some heavy cream)  
 1/3 cup Bourbon whiskey  
 2 tablespoon cornstarch  
 ¼ cup granulated sugar

*Mix all ingredients together. Heat in a double boiler until sauce thickens. For those who want the alcohol cooked out, omit the double boiler and cook in a saucepan until the mixture simmers for 5 minutes. You'll need to strain it if you use this method as it tends to get lumpy and stick to the pan.*

### 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

### 1778 Worcester, Ss. To Mr. James Hart Jr. Constable for the Town of Ward

Greeting. In the name of the gover't. & people of the State of Massachusetts Bay, these are to will & require you forthwith to warn or notify the Inhabitants of the S'd Town Qualified as the Law directs to vote in Town affairs to meet & assemble at the meeting house in S'd Town on Wednesday the Twenty Eighth of this Instant October at one of the clock in the afternoon, then & there to Act on the following Articles. Viz.

1. To choose a moderator for S'd meeting.
2. To see what the Town will do respecting Jacob Fellows whom the Town of Oxford are about to Cast on the Charge of this Town & act any matter respecting that affair as they may then expedient in that case.
3. To hear the request of Jim Carter & others respecting building more pews in the Meeting House & act & determine anything on that matter as they may think proper.
4. To approve & impower people in behalf of the Town to take proper title of the meetinghouse & Burying Lotts & act on it as they may think proper.
5. To hear the report of the Committee respecting the disposal of Pews.

Hereof fail not & make due return of your doings hereon at or before the hour of meeting.

Given under our hands & seal at Ward this Twenty Second Day of October 1778.

Charles Richardson  
Samuel Eddy  
Jonathan Cutler          Selectmen of Ward

Worcester Ss. Ward October 28, 1778

In obedience to this Warrant I have warned all the Inhabitants of S'd Town that are Qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at time & place by posting up a copy at the usual place.

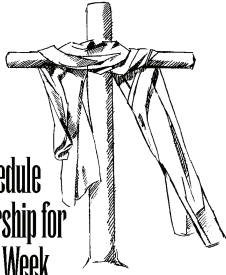
James Hart Jr., Constable

The Town of Ward being meet pursuant to the foregoing warning, proceeded.

### Vacation with a Mission!

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is launching a unique fundraiser in 2010 - a vacation raffle. They are asking their partner congregations, support network, and family and friends for their support by donating the use of their vacation homes or timeshare properties for a week -long (or weekend) vacation raffle giveaway. They plan to have all properties recruited by May 1st, 2010 so they can begin selling tickets with a drawing on June 12th. All monies raised will go directly to IHN of Greater Worcester. This is truly a unique way for us to support IHN. "Vacation with a Mission" will help the IHN in their mission: to serve and nurture homeless families of greater Worcester. Please assist them in making "Vacation with a Mission" a huge success! Please call IHN Day Center (508) 798-6732, or Advisory Board Chair, Jan Gregory -Charpentier at (508) 529-9819 if you have a getaway you would like to donate. (Look next month for info on buying tickets to win one of these getaways!)

Schedule  
of Worship for  
Holy Week



**The Passion Story** (the story of Jesus' crucifixion told in song) will be presented on Palm Sunday, March 28th at the 10 a.m. Service

**Maundy Thursday** is April 1st ~ 7 p.m. Service

**Good Friday** is April 2nd ~ Auburn's Ecumenical Service will be held at St. Thomas Church at 12:15 p.m.

**Easter Sunday** is April 4th ~ 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 25th - 27th

at Oak Haven in Wales, MA

We are looking to gauge the level of interest in our annual church camping weekend. 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

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Center doing Christ's  
work in the world.*

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### April 2010

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