



# April

## 2007

# Herald of Good TIDINGS

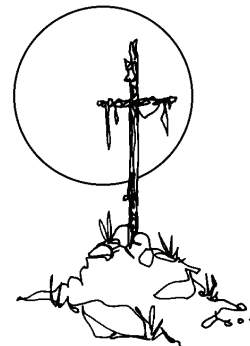
*“Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’”*

Lent is a time for reflection about our faith, a time to get in touch with what we really believe, and how well we put the beliefs into practice. Regrettably, it is exceedingly easy not to practice our beliefs, and we do this all the time. Recently, members of our confirmation class presented their statements of faith before the Board of Deacons. Also, recently I received the ordination papers of candidates for ordination in the Central Association. It is helpful to hear the basics of our faith restated from various personal statements. It could be a positive Lenten exercise for every Christian to commit to paper what we really believe. Then we could ask ourselves, “So what?” Does it really make a difference in the way I live? What does being a Christian do to make my life better, different, more fulfilled, more peace-filled, more confident? It is too bad that the only time we get in touch with our beliefs is when someone else asks us, so consider yourself asked!

Join us for our Easter week celebrations of worship.

God Bless,

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Knox  
Pastor



**Palm Sunday** is April 1st ~ 10 am Worship Service

**Maundy Thursday** is April 5th ~ 7 pm Service

**Good Friday** is April 6th ~ First Congregational Church will have the Sanctuary open from 1 until 3 pm for meditation

**Good Friday Community Service** will be at Bethel Lutheran Church, 90 Bryn Mawr Ave., Auburn at 12:15 pm

**Easter Sunday** is April 8th ~ with a Sunrise Service at 6:30 am at Hillside Cemetery (near the cemetery office) and 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 am Worship Services here at the Church

All Are Welcome



Worship Schedule for Holy Week

Come & Join Us

Ben & Avis Britton will be celebrating their wedding anniversary on April 27th.  
Happy Anniversary!



Happy Birthday to  
Haydn McPherson ~ April 10<sup>th</sup>

We'd love to acknowledge your special day. Just fill out a Birthday/Anniversary form (located on a table in Fellowship Hall) and leave your signed forms in the church office.



Greetings from Sunday School! As we approach the spring, we can't help but look toward next year. We have excellent teachers this year, but we can always use more help. Teaching is only a two-Sunday a month commitment! If you are interested in teaching next year, please see me during coffee hour or feel free to visit us downstairs!

Heather Zautner

Hope is starting to bloom in neighborhoods in greater New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Recovery efforts sponsored by the **Worcester Area Mission Society** (WAMS) and partner congregations include: regular work trips to repair damaged houses and churches; a Teacher-to-Teacher program to assist educators in Gulf Coast elementary and middle schools; Books for Kids; and a New England summer camp program for New Orleans youth. WAMS invites you to an evening to celebrate and support these efforts and the hope they represent.



Our celebration will be held at **Tower Hill Botanic Garden** operated by the Worcester County Horticultural Society on 132 acres in Boylston. The **Reception** and **Silent Auction** will be held in the handsome Visitors' Center. You will be able to visit the Orangerie, an 18th century style greenhouse, providing a 4,000 square foot home to outstanding plants for winter display. The exterior gardens will be open for self-guided tours beginning at 6:30 PM.



WORCESTER AREA MISSION SOCIETY RECEPTION

April 21, 2007

\_\_\_ Yes, I/We plan to attend  
\_\_\_ I am unable to attend, here is my donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please list additional attendees on the back of this card)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount for event at \$25 per person  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation (tax deductible)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

Please RSVP by April 13, 2007

Please make checks out to WAMS and mail to:  
Worcester Area Mission Society,  
128 Central Street, Auburn MA 01501.  
Phone 508 832-3937.

*Please note tickets will not be issued.  
A guest list will be at the Visitors' Center entrance.*

THE WORCESTER AREA MISSION SOCIETY, UCC

invites you to attend

*A Reception Celebrating the Blooming of Hope*

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007

7 to 10 PM

at **Tower Hill Botanic Garden**

11 French Drive, Boylston

**Featuring:**

Music, Savories, Cash Bar, Visits to the Orangerie and Silent Auction



*The Gardens will be open for self-guided tours beginning at 6:30 PM*

\$25 per person

Please cut out and return the above reply card.



### News from Outreach

We are excited to announce that Allison Hill will be traveling to New Orleans with WAMS during April school vacation week. Allison, daughter of Shirley and Steve, is a kindergarten teacher at Mary D. Stone School. She will be participating in the Teacher to Teacher program and will be going into the classroom daily with a New Orleans teacher (schools are in session). Good Luck, Allison, and have a safe trip.

We have reserved 5 spots for the November mission trip to New Orleans. We currently have 3 members committed to serving—Randy Bohn, Rich McPherson and Bill Storie. WAMS does have a waiting list for this trip so we must let them know ASAP if we will be using all our spots. Please speak with Rev. Knox or a member of Outreach if you would like to go. This is a great opportunity to really make a difference in someone's life.

Please consider supporting WAMS by attending the reception at Tower Hill Botanic Garden on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Some of our members who served in New Orleans in January plan on attending and hope to see you there, too.

The Second Steps Program is excited to have approved its first candidate.

Nancy MacLeod has begun selling Equal Exchange Coffee during coffee hour. This is excellent coffee and you help out participating farmers by making a purchase. We are selling the coffee for \$6 a bag. For more info on this program, check out the website at [www.equalexchange.com](http://www.equalexchange.com). Also, check out [www.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com) to find a broad range of fairly traded handicrafts from over 30 developing countries.

Blessings and Happy Spring,  
Your Outreach Committee  
Ellie Lowell, Cindy Dube, Gayle Farley, Alicia Schillinger, Ernie Smith

### Coffee Hour Hosts

- 4/1 ~ Trustees
- 4/8 ~ Easter Sunday (no coffee hour)
- 4/15 ~ Trustees
- 4/22 ~ Music
- 4/29 ~ Personnel Relations

### **Join us for our Church Supper**

April 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Adults—\$6  
Children—\$3

Featuring Spaghetti &  
Meatballs

Servers will be  
the Stewardship Committee



### The 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod

The 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be in Hartford, CT, Friday, June 22, 2007 through Tuesday, June 26, 2007. Church members are encouraged to participate and see the U.C.C. in action in a different way than we usually experience it. Because of security concerns everyone who attends must register (\$50) in advance. It is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the U.C.C. Look for more information to come.



A word of thanks from Craig to Dave Sampson and Wayne Prouty (also known as Dwayne) ... in appreciation of all you do!



Hello Spring! I hope everyone appreciates how fortunate we are to have had such a mild winter, YEAH. I am thrilled that spring has arrived.

The month of March was a very busy one at *Here We Grow* Preschool. Parents had the opportunity to spend time in the classrooms since it was Parent Volunteer Month. The parents were allowed to spend the day and be a helper, a few moms and dads were brave enough to do a science experiment, and then some moms stayed to make a special craft with the children. One of our dads came dressed in his kilt and played the bagpipes for the children. WOW, were they loud! The parents also could spend time in the classrooms reading a story at the end of sessions. The staff and children enjoyed having them with us.

Neal Primeaux spent two days with us taking pictures of the children and their classmates. 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 run the month of February. The families of *Here We Grow* sold over \$9,000 of Yankee Candle items which then gave us a profit of \$3,700. This money is used for the field trips taken during the school year.

Looking into April, *Here We Grow* will be on break during Holy Week and, then again, two weeks later for spring vacation - we can't wait. Here's hoping for pleasant weather. We will be having Easter parties on March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with the hope that we get a visit from the Easter bunny.

As of the middle of March, *Here We Grow's* four year old classes are full with wait lists for the school year of 2007-2008. A few spots remain in the three year old classes. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool program, please send them our way.

At our last board meeting, the Board of Directors voted to change the school colors from purple and white to blue and white. We are now selling blue and white t-shirts and sweat-shirts.

Until next month, stay well and enjoy the beautiful weather.

Dawn Murphy  
*Here We Grow* Preschool Director







## Library Tidings

by Gloria Whitehead

In straightening out some of the books in the Children's Library, I came upon *Thank You God* by Bill and Bernard Martin. The illustrations were confirmed by copyright in 1952. Some of the writings are a bit "sweeter" than those of the present, but the foreword—simple and direct—on how we can teach our children to pray, is perfect for younger children. The variety of prayers are the same.

Among a very wide selection of books on prayer, here are a few others.

*Prayers for the Very Young Child* by Donald S. Roberts - a series of mostly four line prayers that present the basic Christian concepts in images, thoughts and rhymes which are in the easy-to-read category as well.

*Prayers for a Child* by Rachel Field (paperback) - goes back to 1941 and 3 more printings to 1972, great illustrations.

There are two high chair devotions - *God Cares for Me* and *God Made My World* by Marilyn J. Woody, which include finger plays.

*Small Prayers for Small Children* by Paul A. Schreivogel has bold print, a WIDE variety of subjects you might never think about, fascinating pictures, and is an "attention getter."

*Why Do I Pray?* by Jean H. Richards asks this question over and over and gives many answers.

*The Little Book of Prayers* selected by Caroline Walsh is a small treasure of inspiration reflecting different moods, some old favorites and incredible illustrations—for all ages.

*Prayer for the Twenty-First Century* by John Marsden. This Australian designer's books are colored by his passion for justice and peace and his horror for cruelty, and so is this prayer and its universal message—older children and adults.

A composition of fine art and famous authors, *A Child's Book of Prayer* compiled by Lorenz Books is a treasure for the mind and the eyes—again, older children and adults.

April is the month to celebrate reading and libraries. Do check yours to see all the wonderful gifts you have given.

Note: Books referenced will be on display after Easter.

P.S. Two great new books! *Dear John* by Nicholas Sparks—given by Avis Britton and *The Great Deluge* (Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast) by Douglas Brinkley—given by the other half of the Britton team, Ben. Thanks to both of you.

Also new, *A Widow for One Year* by John Irving. We'd love to know if you(?) gave it!



Our thoughts and prayers go out to Beth and David Clark and their family on the recent loss of their mother/grandmother, Leona (Menoche) Stevens Wray -Lane who passed away on March 10th. Lee is survived by her daughters, Elizabeth, wife of David Clark of Auburn, MA and Susan, wife of David Sommers of Medford, NJ, and her son, Wesley Stevens and his wife Judy of Charlton. She also leaves 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Her funeral was held on March 14th, here, at First Congregational Church.

Memorial Donations can be made to UMass Memorial Foundation Hospice Program, P.O. Box 2795, Worcester, MA 01613-9938 or to the First Congregational Church Sanctuary Renovation Fund, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501. Please remember Lee's family and loved ones in your prayers.



**Easter Sunrise**

*The Farmer's Almanac* shows that sunrise on Easter morning will be at 6:28 a.m. in the Northern states for 45° north latitude 15° west longitude. However, an adjustment needs to be made for Auburn, which is 71.5° west longitude. Four minutes are subtracted for each degree east of the standard.

**SUNRISE SERVICE**

So, sunrise in Auburn will be at 6:14 a.m. (14 minutes earlier than the standard).

The Sunrise Service will be in Hillside Cemetery (near the cemetery office) at 6:30 a.m. on Easter morning, April 8, 2007.

This note comes with love and appreciation for all your expressions of sympathy in the death of our step-father, Fredrick Lane, and 12 days later, the loss of our Mom, Leona Wray-Lane.

It was a long road, but we always felt your loving arms around us.

In God's Love,  
Dave & Beth Clark & Family



**I** am the  
**RESURRECTION**  
and the  
**LIFE.**  
-----  
He who  
believes in  
me will  
**LIVE,**  
even though  
he dies.  
  
John 11:25



And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones... he will certainly not lose his reward.

Matthew 10:42

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

The First Congregational Church will host homeless families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network the week of July 15th through July 22nd. An informational session will be scheduled in mid-May. A team of 2 volunteers will be needed per night to chaperone at the Church. Volunteers will also be needed to prepare and serve an evening meal each night. A schedule will be posted in Fellowship Hall.

Donations of the following would be appreciated: fruit, snack items, juice

boxes,

milk, orange juice, grape juice, individual boxes of cereal, mustard, mayo, bread, peanut butter, jam, coffee, tea, napkins, paper towels, dish detergent, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, crayons, coloring books, and puzzles.

Thank you for your gift of sharing, your gift of your time and your gift of your sensitivity to fami-



## Happy Spring, Happy Easter

April is National Cancer Control Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Humor Month, National Occupational Therapy Month, and National Youth Sports Safety Month. April 4th is National Day of Hope. April 2-8 is National Public Health Week. April 15-21 is National Library Week and National Volunteer Week. April 23-29 is National TV-Turn Off Week.

If there are enough interested in a babysitting course, Pam Daigneault will hold another session on April 17-18. It goes from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with a ½ hour for lunch. You can call Pam at Memorial Hospital at 508-334-1104. It is a great course, and it has been full every time we offer it at the church. You must be at least 11 years old to participate.

I have more coupons for the lifeline buttons. The coupon is good for \$80 off the installation fee. I also have a video that explains the system, or you can get a free in-home demonstration.

I have received an invitation for our members to attend a luncheon at the Goddard House at Webster Square. The tentative date is Wednesday, May 2, 2007. They will have art-work on display from area artists, provide a tour of the facility, have a light luncheon, and socialization with at least two of the artists and some of the residents. If you are at all interested, let me know. I will be getting fliers from the marketing director. I will have the information soon, but they would like an idea of how many guests to plan on. Two other area churches are invited as well, and one of them is Hadwen Park.

March 22, 2007, I attended a seminar about the difference between hospice and palliative care. I will have information about it on the health table in Fellowship Hall.

God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis, RN

Parish Nurse



Stewardship



From the Stewardship Committee:

I hope the winter is treating you all well. The Stewardship Committee met again on the 25th of March to start its work for the 2008 budget. It is with my best wishes and hopes that you are enjoying the Stewardship insert that you receive each month in the Tidings. It's a great reminder that giving comes in all forms and that it is not something that is focused on once a year. Please look for the upcoming announcement of what our theme will be for next year and as always, if you have thoughts or suggestions, please feel free to email me or a stewardship member, we'll be happy to listen.

“Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder which you do not require is needed by others ...” (Feb. 2007 Stewardship)

Until next month, stay healthy and warm,

God bless,

Your Stewardship Committee—Al Boucher, Todd Dube, Donna Dube, Mike Dube, Steve Landry and Sandra Landry



**CHURCH CAMPING WEEKEND**

This year's Camping Weekend will be June 22<sup>nd</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we will be returning to Oak Haven Family Campground in Wales, MA. If you would like to spend a weekend relaxing and having fun with members and friends from First Congregational Church, please contact Lori Stockhaus at 508-865-6439 and let her know you may be interested.

**Books for New Orleans**

We will continue to collect children's books for New Orleans, and also musical instruments. Thank you for your donations to this worthy cause.



“Mom's really worried about being late for Easter Sunrise Service, isn't she?”



## FROM THE CHOIR ROOM:

### Choir News!

- On April 22, the Music Committee will be honoring Carol Luther for her many years of loyal service to the choir. Carol retired from the choir due to the extensive traveling she and her husband, Bob, enjoy now that they are retired. We miss Carol, but wish her and Bob many happy travels.
- Bill and Mary Brodeur have returned to their Catholic Parish after an extended stay with us. They had initially joined the choir (in September 2006) in order to sing the Cantata only, but ended up staying well past that! We miss them and appreciate the time they were with us.
- WELCOME! to new choir member, RANDY BOHN—tenor. Randy courageously stood up to sing that first Sunday after only one rehearsal!
- Thank you to Sue Klaucke who has been playing the piano for our choral meditations.

Of Note: By unanimous vote, the choir has changed our name from “Senior Choir” to “THE FIRST CHURCH CHOIR.”

### Parade News:

The choir will be representing the church in the town of Auburn’s Memorial Day Parade. Mark Mahlert has made this possible with his generous offer of float, generator and sound system! The youth have plans to decorate the float on May 27th after church (many thanks!). Everyone from the congregation is invited to participate by either singing or walking with the float. All who participate will wear a shirt with our church logo on the front and back. The shirt will be in blue and costs \$8.00 for child’s size and \$10.00 for adult. Order forms will be in the bulletin on Sundays. Anyone who has questions can speak with someone on the Parade Committee: Debbie Mahlert, Gordon Mahlert, Linda Mahlert, Barbara Allaire, and Heather Moore. We hope to see many of you there!!

### Music Tribute:

The Music Tribute is ongoing and has been quite successful thus far. To clarify: the \$35 is a one-time fee and once you have chosen an anthem it is YOURS only—no sharing of anthems! Four new anthems to be sung this fall include:

*Here I Am to Worship* - “Light of the world, you stepped out of the darkness, opened my eyes let me see . . .”

*I Will Share God’s Love* - “God surrounds me with beauty and love bringing joy to each day. With these gifts from heaven above, I have found my way. . .”

*I Surrender, Lord* - “Lord in the quiet of this place, I am surrounded by Your grace. I come with heavy heart and soul. I long for You to take control . . .”

*Lead Us On, O Lord* - “We are gathered here today Lord, to worship and to pray, and to hear again the promise of Your Word . . .”



**FROM THE CHOIR ROOM:  
Continued...**

Easter Music:

The choir will sing 2 anthems at the 9:00 a.m. service, *One Life* and *We Are One with You, O Lord*. *One Life* is being sung to honor the life of Debbie and Mark Mahler’s daughter, Katelyn, who would be 18 this year. *We Are One* by Jay Althouse (one of our favorite composers) can be done as a communion anthem, but also pays tribute to Jesus’ life with the text. “For all that you have given, for all we will receive, we thank you Lord and we believe.”

At the 10:30 service, Joyful Noyse will sing *Keeping My Eyes on You* (with marraccas), and the First Church Choir will be singing *We Are One with You, O Lord*. Both choirs will open the services with the choral meditation *He is Lord*. Rolph Holly will play the trumpet at both services—J.S. Bach’s *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring* as well as hymn descants.

— “Serve the Lord with gladness! . . . Come into His presence with singing!”  
Psalm 100:2

Blessings,

Heather Moore  
Minister of Music

<u>Joyful Noyse Rehearsal Schedule</u>	
4/1	11:15 AM rehearsal
4/8	Easter - 10:00 a.m. rehearsal <i>Keeping My Eye On You Lord</i>
4/15, 4/22, 4/29	11:15 AM rehearsal
5/6, 5/13	11:15 AM rehearsal
5/20	9:15 AM rehearsal (pieces to be announced)



*TIDINGS is a monthly publication of*

**First Congregational Church**  
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**Auburn MA 01501**

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**April 2007**

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