



# 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!'"*

The First Congregational Church has welcomed homeless families for well over a decade.

The family profiles differ each year, but the mission remains strong. When we discuss homelessness we also discuss poverty, disabilities, economy, and a series of circumstances often beyond a family's control. We can all personally cite instances where friends, relatives and family have been in a crisis situation. Relatives can serve as a safety net, but if there are no relatives, a shelter particularly when there are small children, is simply not the answer. Interfaith unites the religious community in an effort to provide a "safe environment" for both adult and child.

Our volunteers will often ask questions based on their own observations as to why a family has fallen into this predicament. They may form their own opinion, right or wrong as that may be. We try not to judge, but rather to gain a sense of understanding. Each family struggles with its own individual situation. Will they ultimately find appropriate housing? We hope they will. We also hope the crisis that brought them to this point in their lives will be resolved.

The Interfaith mission is a simple one; we provide a safe living environment, nourishing meals, a child friendly play area, enough space for some alone time as well as one on one conversation with the families we will welcome.

Nearly fifty volunteers came forward last year serving in various capacities.

Last year, the ecumenical cluster of chaperones and volunteers were represented by members of the North American Martyr's Church, St. Joseph's Church, Greenville Baptist Church in Rochdale, Faith Baptist Church, High Point Christian Church in Thompson, Connecticut, and the First Congregational Church.

Please consider volunteering this year. Overnight chaperones are needed from approximately 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. each evening. Volunteers will also be needed to prepare an evening meal.

A schedule beginning on the 19th of July through the departure date of the 26th of July is in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for any help you may be able to give these families in crisis.

For the Interfaith Program,  
Pat Bukoski

## You are cordially invited to a time of discussion

**When:** Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> or Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Immediately following the service in the sanctuary

**Why:** To update the congregation on where the Pastoral Search Committee is in the search process and the financing of any potential pastor

**Who:** Anyone and everyone

Cordially,  
Pastoral Search Committee, Trustees and Stewardship

### **Self-fulfilling Prophecies**

Reflections from your Interim Pastor, Rev. Mark Seifried

Do you know anyone who talks about all the bad luck they have? Do you know someone who claims that they are clumsy? Do you know people who constantly talk about their endless health problems? I bet we all know people like this. The thing is that most of these people help create their own destiny by the stories they tell.

I used to say that I was bad at public speaking. I used to think that I couldn't officiate at a funeral because I would start crying at the thought of death. I used to say I was bad at remembering peoples' names. When I realized that I could do something ... needed to do something ... about all those things in order to be an effective pastor, I stopped focusing on what I couldn't do and started to thank God for what I could do.

I asked God to help me preach with clarity and conviction. I still do that almost every week. The weeks I don't, are the weeks I usually fall flat in the pulpit. I am no longer afraid of public speaking and I actually can be good at it when I call upon God for strength. I addressed my issues around death and God rewarded me with being able to be a comfort and blessing for people in grief, plus I can effectively officiate at funerals. I stopped saying I was bad at remembering peoples' names and started saying, "I love the challenge in remembering so many peoples' names as quickly as I start a new ministry." I'm not claiming perfect recall, but I remember lots of peoples' names I never could have prior to changing my story.

I do believe in self-fulfilling prophecies. People convince themselves that things are a certain way and that's what they see. I have a friend who was convinced his wife was having extra-marital affairs and became obsessed with seeking the evidence. "Today she is wearing perfume. She must be meeting her boyfriend for lunch." "She's been tired every night for the last two weeks. She's giving her boyfriend all her energy and shutting me out." "Next time the phone rings, I'm going to answer it and catch her boyfriend calling her." "She hasn't worn her hair like that for ten years. Now I know it's true."

Forget that she just started a new job. Forget that she just turned fifty years old and is having some identity issues. Forget that you are out of shape and have lost your vigor and sex appeal. This scenario seems strange, but my friend is still convinced that his wife is philandering. He sees signs of it everyday ... even though it couldn't be further from the truth.

Organizations do this sort of thing, too: telling stories that focus all the energy in one place. I have a friend who serves a church of "clergy killers." They had a pastor a while back who had some emotional issues that he never worked through, so he was asked to resign. Ever since then, the church has a reputation that they can't keep clergy ... and the congregation has come to believe it, too. Guess what! They can't hold onto their ministers for more than a year or two. I have another colleague whose congregation believes that they are a blessed, vibrant and growing community of faith. Guess what! They are growing and their ministries are thriving.

See the next page regarding an opportunity to participate in Appreciative Inquiry. This is a process that I will facilitate in which we will talk about times when we have felt close to one another or blessed by God. We take the kernels of all those stories to inventory the many ways Christ has been present to First Congregational Church, UCC in Auburn. We will also dream about ways we can build upon those feelings and experiences to set goals and create a future filled with possibility.

Appreciative Inquiry has changed my life and my worldview. I used to see all the flaws of a congregation and pick out those flaws to try to fix. The truth is that I was highly ineffective. I can't fix anyone. But ... but I can bless everyone. I can help build up the strengths of people and the church as a whole. I can tell positive stories and speak favorably about the church, open my heart and mind and see just how true those stories are. I can help teach you how to create the future you want to see for the church and set specific goals to make those outcomes self-filling. We can help create an environment where our positive, life-giving stories become our destiny.

Join us for Appreciative Inquiry and let's tell stories of when we have felt blessed by and in the church. Join us and let's create the blessed, vital and growing community of faith that God wills us to be. Join us and be prepared to see the world anew.

*Come, Holy Spirit, come, and inspire us to be the thriving, faithful, generous and gracious Body of Christ that you know us to be ... that we desire to be.*

**You're Invited!**  
**Appreciative Inquiry**  
**Tuesday, June 9th at 7:00 PM**  
**First Congregational Church, UCC in Auburn**

Please join us for an evening of story-telling, dreaming, and creating our common future as a community of faith.

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is a new and more positive replacement for strategic planning. We focus on blessings and hopeful optimism that is inherent in the Christian faith.

At the end of the process, we will have a mission statement and some specific goals which will fuel our ministries for a future of vitality and growth.

We will likely have a follow up meeting to AI on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

**We need everyone in the church to attend so that there is maximum representation and investment in the future. PLEASE join us!**

### **Guess who's coming to church?**

Our guest organist for Sunday morning worship on July 12 will be Mark Thallander. Mark is a free-lance organist, an organ editor for the Fred Bock Music Company; Adjunct Professor of Organ, Glendale College; President, The Mark Thallander Foundation; a reviewer of new organ music for *Creator* magazine; and a member of the executive committee of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Mark is probably best known for his long and distinguished ministry at The Crystal Cathedral, the largest congregation affiliated with the Reformed Church in America. He joined the staff in January 1976 as a music associate to Don G. Fontana and assisted Arvella Schuller with *Hour of Power* television scripting, service programming and musical guests. Mark was Coordinator of Church Music Exploration, the national church music and worship conference held through the Robert Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership.

Following a horrific automobile accident in August of 2003, which resulted in the amputation of one of his arms, Mark has accepted speaking engagements in churches, schools, colleges, universities, and has been interviewed on radio and television programs, and also for newspapers, books and national periodicals. More of his story may be read at [www.markthallander.com](http://www.markthallander.com). A book about Mark's accident and recovery, *Champions*, written by the Reverend Gary DeVaul, has been a great source of inspiration to thousands of people. An expanded version of the book, *Champions... Plus*, was released in October 2007.

Mark will have some of these books as well as some organ and choral music recordings when he is with us in July. We hope you'll be here, along with friends and relatives you invite.



June is Home Safety Month, National Scleroderma Awareness Month, and National Scoliosis Awareness Month. June 1st -July 4th is Fireworks Safety Month, the 1st-7th is Sun Safety Week, June 7-13 is National Headache Awareness Week, June 7 is National Cancer Survivors Day! June 15-21 is National Men's Health Week and June 27-July 5 is Eye Safety Awareness Week.

I hope these reminders will motivate you to make that doctor's appointment that you've been meaning to get to. Many cancers are curable today with early detection! We have several survivors amongst us.

July is Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month and UV Safety Month. Use sunscreen! August is Cataract Awareness Month, Children's Eye Health and Safety Month, and National Immunization Awareness Month. Also anyone going to college or in college, it might be a good idea to check with your doctor about meningitis prevention and also to check about the pertussis vaccine that you might have received as an infant.

I have too many walkers and canes in my closet! I will be putting some out for free at the yard sale on June 20th. If you know of anyone that needs one, PLEASE TAKE ONE!

Happy Healthy Summer!

God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

#### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A very lovely tea with many delicious sweets including homemade scones was enjoyed by all the ladies who attended on May 17. We were able to raise \$45.00 for the Heifer Ark project that is being sponsored by the Outreach Committee. We hope to offer this again next year, possibly during the winter months. We will keep you posted.

**JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> is Children's Sunday and the old fashioned picnic.** Please bring your own picnic lunch and a dessert to share. The Board of Ed will provide the drinks. It will be a lovely afternoon to share some time before all the chaos of the summer pulls us in many different directions. Like the "snow birds," many of us go away for the summer and attend other churches for the summer months so please join us.

We have about 16 people signed up for our mini golf tournament. If you are not able to attend, but would like to sponsor a family please let me know. Half of all the proceeds will be returned to the Jr. Youth Group and the other half will be given to the MA Conference UCC for Conference wide youth programs. We will let you know the results next month.

We see it in the flowers and buds. We hear it in the chirping of the birds and laughter of the children outside. We smell it in the backyard grills and sweet scent of the flowers. Our Father has provided us with so many reminders of the depth of his love we only need to take a moment in our very busy schedules to enjoy it.

Have a wonderful month and see you at the picnic.

With His guidance we serve.

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education

### **Here We Grow** Preschool June Tidings



Once again I'd like to thank Denise for reminding me that I needed to submit *Tidings* for June.

***Here We Grow*** will be graduating on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup>. It is always a hectic, yet exciting, time of the year for everyone associated with ***Here We Grow***. With graduation just around the corner, we approach it with many mixed emotions. It is a time when we will be saying good-bye to some families we have known for quite a few years. But with that, it is also a time when we will be bringing in a group of new families. At this time, we all would like to say thanks for the support and memories.

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, the 2-day program classes visited Noodle Noggin N' Bean for their end-of-year field trips. Once again it was clean, organized, and fun for all. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the 3-day program classes visited Kid's Play Time. It was a new experience for all and we really enjoyed it.

At the closing of this school year we are left with no openings in the 3 & 5 day programs and a handful left open in the 2 day programs. If you know of anyone looking for a 2-day program for 3 year olds, please send them our way.

Our two weeks of summer program is just about filled. Week 1, (22-26), we have 8 spots left, week 2, (29-3), only 2 spots left. The teachers working summer camp are Helen Ethier, Anne Coyne, Gina Murphy, Cristi Corey & myself.

In closing, I'd like to wish all church members and their families a safe and fun-filled summer. See you in the fall.

Until September,

Dawn Murphy, ***Here We Grow*** Director

### **Church Camping Weekend**

**June 19th - 21st**

**at Oak Haven in Wales, MA**

It's not too late! You can still join us for our annual church camping weekend. We will be going **Father's Day weekend** which is 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



### **Strawberry Pickers Needed**

**Thursday June 18th**

**We'll be meeting at the church  
at 8:30 a.m. Cleaning and  
strawberry slicing at 3 p.m.  
in the church kitchen.**

### **Joyful Noyse Schedule**

6/7 9 a.m. rehearsal

Children's Sun./Joyful Noyse Recognition  
*Beach Party - Surfin' the Scriptures*



### Summer Birthdays include:

Alyse Bukoski - June 16th  
 Lisa Rockwood - July 21st  
 Sue Anderton - July 30th  
 Pat Bukoski - August 5th  
 Alice Carlson - August 23rd

**Happy Birthday to all!**

Community Yard Sale  
 Space still available  
 \$10.00 per space \$5.00 per table  
 Call Cindy at 508-832-6646

### Coffee Hour Hosts

5/31 ~ Library  
 6/7 ~ Prudential  
 6/14 ~ Stewardship  
 6/21, 6/28 ~ Historians/Memorial  
 7/5 ~ Prudential  
 7/12 ~ Financial Sec'y/Treasurers  
 7/19, 7/26 ~ Nominating/Scholarship  
 8/2, 8/9 ~ Outreach  
 8/16, 8/23 ~ Deacons  
 8/30 ~ Outreach

## Stewardship Resource – June, 2009

### How Much Does Pente-cost?

*All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need ... and, day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:44-45, 47b)*

A mother took her daughter for her first time at a restaurant with table service. There was a placemat with crayons to help her wait. After a successful lunch (both in tastiness and behavior), the server cleared the plates and the mother pulled out her wallet to pay the bill. When this process was explained, the little girl asked, "How come the waitperson gets fifteen percent and God only gets ten?"

Here's a tip -- the fifteen or twenty percent we give to wait staff, hotel housekeepers and cabdrivers is part of the Pentecost revolution. On May 31, we celebrated the holiday that informs our church life for the next half year. Acts 2 tells the story of rushing wind and fiery tongues that rested on 120 men and women so they could share the gospel of Jesus Christ in three ways -- the languages of the world, the water of baptism, and economic support. Word, sacrament and financial interdependence were Spirit -connected. Giving to others is giving to God.

I know a church with a weekly updated cork board of job leads. Another writes in every Sunday bulletin: "As the offering plate is passed, please give money if you have it, please take money if you need it." People do! One church hosts ESL classes after coffee hour, another has a monthly "Resurrection Resumes," where volunteers help people write résumés and do mock job interviews, and a third offers informal internships in the trades.

We are a Pentecost people in a stressful economic time. We all have something to offer one another. Maybe you are out of work. Watch out for the little girl with a big smile. She'll hand you a placemat and crayons, "This is for you while you are waiting!"



### 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

### At meeting of the Inhabitation of the South Parish in Worcester and Towns ajacent held the 7 Day of Apreil 1777.

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

2ly Voted to concur with the church in the choes of Mr. Jonathan Allen to Settel with us in the Gospel ministry.

Voted 150 Pounds Settlement to Mr. Allen as Encouregement yo Settel with us in the Gospel ministry. Voted to give mr. Allen 60 Pounds salary for the first years insuring this Setteling with us in the Gospel ministry and their continue at 65 Pounds During his ministry with us. Voted to chuse a Committee of 3 to join the Church Committee to present the Call to Mr. Allen. Chose Mr. Daniel Boydon, Mr. Thomas Baird, Mr. Charles Richardson.

Atest Charles Richardson, Modirator  
A trew Record from the minets  
Atest Samuel Eddy, Parish Clark

Worcester Sa. To William parker Collector. Greetings.

In the name of the government & people of the State of Massachusetts Bay in New England you are here by required forthwith in the usual way and manner to nofify & worn the free holders and other Inhabitation Qualified as the Law Directs to Vote in Town Affairs in South Parish in Worcester & Towns ajacent belonging theirto to meet at the meeting house in S'd Parish on munday the 22 Day of march Instant at one of the clock in the afternoon to act on the following articals.

1ly to chose a modirator for S'd meeting.

2ly to see what the Parish will do about Raising their Cote of men to Reinforce the Continental army & to act their on as they shall think proper.

3ly to know the minds of the parish whether they will petition to the General Cort to set us off as a Town & for the Parish to act their on as they shall see meet.

4ly to know the minds of the parish whether they will have the Real Estate Stand another year as they Don for three years past.

Ruby Booth  
March 9, 1913—May 1, 2009

Ruby J. (Chapman) Booth, 96, died Friday, May 1st.  
Her husband of 57 years, Allard D. Booth, died in 1983.



*With Deepest Sympathy*

She leaves two daughters, Virginia Groccia and her husband, Sal, of Daytona Beach, FL, and her caregiver, Barbara Cowden of Auburn. A son, Warren Booth, and his wife, Judy, of Spencer; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren and one great, great grandson. She was born in Scotland, and had lived in Auburn for 30 years. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, May 6th at Britton Wallace Funeral Home in Auburn, followed by burial in Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. Please remember the family in your thoughts and prayers.

### Library Tidings



The occasions or circumstances when you are asked to provide some sort of devotions may be more frequent in seasons other than summer (ex. group or organization meetings, banquets, etc.). That's why we chose now to prepare you in advance of the most extensive church library source for meditations, et al, category #10 - Inspiration. *Daily Pathways* by Helen Steiner Rice was the perfect answer to a recent request and its 96 pages hold a variety of daily devotions as well. The helpful feature for gatherings is the biblical reference at the beginning and a concluding prayerful thought.

Copyright 1979! You're not going to feature an old novel like that you might ask? Sure! Why not?

Whether you're looking for something refreshing from the "old days" or a glimpse at what they *really* were like, or exposure to the Quakers and their lifestyle then ('79?), this should answer at least part of the questions. A reference to the book *I Take Thee Serenity* by Daisy Newman, calls it a loving and wise book, which is delightfully absorbing. If you read this book, *I Take Thee Serenity*, we'd appreciate, actually, love to have you write a line or two regarding whether you liked it or not or any comments and leave them in the book when you return it. Many thanks.

Last summer, though renovations of the sanctuary were underway, adult and children's library books were on loan from the children's library. The best was that several families took advantage of borrowing up to 15 books for the entire summer. **THIS SUMMER**, whether individually or as a family, we're encouraging you to borrow a group of books for the summer until the Sunday after Labor Day which is September 13th. Special arrangements will be considered - just talk with a librarian.

Please check your night stands, book shelves, toy boxes, etc. to see if you have any books that are past due to the children's or adult libraries and also tell us if you have any problems like a book being defaced, torn, etc. We'll work things out.

Remember the library is always open when church is open.

God bless you with a happy summer.

The Library Committee

**Our guest preacher on June 14** is a missionary in the City of Worcester. Reverend Elizabeth Magill is co-pastor of Worcester Fellowship with Mary Jane Eaton. Liz graduated from the Episcopal Divinity School in 2002 and is ordained with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She has dual standing with the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ. She is on the Massachusetts Conference, UCC Task Force to End Homelessness and is a member of United Congregational Church in Worcester.

**Worcester Fellowship** is an outdoor church committed to providing community and hope with people who do not have homes and whose lives are at risk. Find out more at [www.worcesterfellowship.org](http://www.worcesterfellowship.org).

## REMEMBER NEW ORLEANS

As most of you know, I have returned from another trip to New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA). Though many of you have heard me speak of my trips and my fondness for the people and the city, I felt it important to keep you posted.

During April vacation I went down with a group from WAMS, led by Nancy Shantia Wright-Gray. The majority of the members of this group were from Mattapoissett Congregational, with a few people returning from other areas, that I had met on previous trips. I was excited about this trip, but especially excited to return to Andrew H. Wilson Charter School, a school that I had visited twice before. I was excited to see the kids again, who I hoped were still there, see their progress (especially the fourth graders) and show them that people have not forgotten what they have been through.

On Sunday, before our busy week would begin, we went on a "tour." No matter how many times that I have seen the devastation and destruction left by Hurricane Katrina it doesn't get any easier. One of our first stops was at Beecher Church in the Seventh Ward. Although I have been to Beecher several times, I had never been inside the sanctuary. Upon walking in I immediately felt love and determination among the 2x4s, folding chairs, and makeshift altar. Beecher, three and half years after the storm, has still not been able to repair their sanctuary. This has not stopped them. They worship there every week and celebrate the things that they can, like finally having running water and plumbing. I can say with my whole heart that Beecher is one of the most beautiful places that I have ever been. Not because of the "décor," but because of the love and faith that permeates from every square inch of that building and the people who fill it.

On Tuesday (after a day at Carver Elementary) I returned to Wilson. I can say there is no other place on earth that I would have wanted to spend my vacation. I returned to Mr. Z's class, where I had been last April. When I walked in one of the students said "Hey, I remember you." He had been in the first grade last year and was giving it another shot. He immediately came and sat by me and gave me a huge hug. This is one reason why I know that it is so important that we keep going back, not for the hugs, which are wonderful, but so that these children know that people DO come back and we have not forgotten. As my week went on I was blessed with more and more memories that I will forever hold in my heart. There are simply too many to put down. On my last day, before a walk to the park to enjoy some "snowballs," each of the students gave me a card that they had made. One little boy, who had just lost a young cousin in an extreme act of violence, wrote "I am sad because you are leaving. I want you to stay." It was very hard to leave there that day. I know that I will return to NOLA and Andrew Wilson but it didn't make it any easier to leave.

What I want everyone to know about New Orleans is that although it is getting better little by little, IT IS NOT OKAY! People are still struggling to repair their homes and get back to their old neighborhoods. Post traumatic stress is everywhere. We can not forget and let this slip by the wayside. So when you say your prayers tonight please remember the people of New Orleans. I know I do every night!

Going to New Orleans has changed my life. I would be willing to bet that anyone who has been will agree. If anyone would like to speak with me more about the mission trips to New Orleans or would like to go, I am happy to talk with you about it anytime.

Love and prayers,  
Allison

**Jaqui Bohn**, daughter of Randy and Jen Bohn, and granddaughter to Cindy and Mike Dube, and Judy Murphy, graduated from Quinsigamond Community College on Thursday, May 21. Jaqui is continuing her education at Worcester State College.

**Jocelyn Bohn**, daughter of Randy and Jen Bohn, and granddaughter to Cindy and Mike Dube, and Judy Murphy, graduated from Auburn High School on May 29th. She plans to attend Quinsigamond Community College.

**Tegan Folsom**, son of Susan and Rusty Folsom, and grandson of Cindy and Mike Dube, and Judy Murphy, graduated from Shrewsbury High School on May 28th. He will attend Quinsigamond Community College in September.

**Kelsea Hanks**, daughter of Ron and Connie Hanks, and granddaughter to Gloria Whitehead and Violet Hanks, will be graduating from Worcester Academy on June 5<sup>th</sup>. She will be attending Bentley University in September and plans to major in Economics & Finance.

**Adam Pranaitis**, son of Deborah and Joe Pranaitis, and grandson of Phyllis Hardy, is graduating from Shepherd Hill Regional High School on Sunday, June 7th. He is going to Daniel Webster College in Nashua, NH to study Aerospace Engineering.

**Taylor Ryan**, daughter of Cindy & Charles Ryan, and granddaughter to Doris Hill will be graduating from Bancroft School on June 4th. She plans to attend Boston College in September.

**Kimberly Seymour**, daughter of Melissa and Bob Seymour, and granddaughter to Dave and Carole Sampson, received her Master's Degree from Assumption College on Saturday, May 16th.

**CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!**



### **Church World Service - Blankets+**

Blankets+ (formerly called Tools & Blankets) is a special mission opportunity that can involve all ages. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the United States hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world, including the U.S.

Your contributions provide the means to transform lives and communities when they are faced with an emergency or simply struggling to put food on the table. For over 60 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens
- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

Church World Service Blankets+ . . . It's about blankets and so much more!

You will find an offering envelope enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Please make checks out to First Congregational Church and note "Blankets+" in the memo section. You can place the envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, or mail it to us at First Congregational Church, 128 Central St., Auburn. Also, if you would like to make a donation in honor of your father, CWS has provided us with special Father's Day cards for this purpose. Look for a sample card on the table in Fellowship Hall. (There is no charge for the cards when making a donation.)

## WE NEED YOU!

Saturday, June 20th, will be a busy day for our church family. Some of us will be attending the Church Camping Weekend, many members are participating in our Community Yard Sale, we will be having a Plant Sale, Chicken Barbeque, and activities and games for the children along with a visit from some animals from Heifer. We even have a few church members who will be performing at the Hanover Theater that evening. Because of all of these events, volunteers to help with our fundraiser will be at a premium. Have YOU been away from the church for a while, a bit disconnected perhaps? Now is your chance to reconnect. We need YOU to be there, now more than ever.

Please think about it, and if you have no previous commitments, please consider giving YOUR church a few hours of your time. Below is a list of ways that YOU can help:

June 19th evening or June 20th early am: A crew of 6 to 8 are needed to carry out tables and chairs.

June 20th 8:30 am - 6pm: Sell coffee and baked goods, work at our Strawberry Shortcake booth, help the Outreach Committee with children's activities, assist with the Barbeque by clearing tables or selling tickets.

June 20th 5:30 pm: A clean-up crew is needed to carry in tables and chairs.

This is an important fundraiser to help supplement our pledges. In these difficult economic times here is a way YOU can generate income to support YOUR church without digging into your pocket. Call me at 508-832-6646 or 774-238-0260 to schedule your time to help.

Thank you for considering these possibilities.

Cindy Dube

## PLEASE HELP MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS

### OUTREACH NEWS

The grocery cards have been selling very well for our first two weeks. We hope that everyone is enjoying them. Without even realizing it, we are helping the homeless! No one is calling for a donation or sending you something in the mail. Also, with the Shaw's card, you can get money off your gas! We have some Hanaford cards available now, especially for those who might be going to Maine during the summer! Our first week we sold \$1,000.00 and the second week, \$750.00. We will be selling them every Sunday in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. Remember, you are helping the homeless and it doesn't cost a cent!

The Outreach Committee

Congratulations to the Johnson and Mahlert families on the recent births of

**Kendall Helen Johnson and  
Isabella Maria Gonzalez.**

Kendall was born on 5/4/09 and weighed 6 lbs., 15 oz. She's the daughter of Nicole and Scott Johnson. Proud grandparents are Will & Nan Johnson and great-granddad, Warren Prescott.

Isabella was born on 4/20/09 and weighed 5 lbs., 11 oz. and was 19 in. long. Her mother is Vicki Lee Mahlert. Proud grandparents are Gordon & Linda Mahlert.



Saturday June 20th on the Church lawn

9am to 2pm

Yard Sale Plant Sale Bake Sale Kids' Activities

10am to 6pm

Strawberry Shortcake

noon to 6pm

Chicken Barbeque

(Take-out available)



Band Concert  
at 4 p.m.

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

June 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				