



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!'"

Please plan to join us for 10:00 worship on Sunday, Mar. 7th, when we will be welcoming the Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Minister and President of the Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ since 2006 - a covenant of nearly 400 UCC churches and nearly 1000 authorized UCC ministers who serve throughout the Commonwealth. After teaching and leading two national peace organizations, Rev. Antal spent twenty years leading vital churches of all sizes in Massachusetts and Ohio and providing a public voice on peace and justice issues, particularly environmental concerns including climate change. His mentors have included Henri Nouwen and William Sloane Coffin, Jr.

In his role as Conference Minister, Rev. Antal seeks to:

- Connect congregations and pastors to the resources and opportunities offered by the Conference and the national setting of the church
- Serve as a prophetic voice in the Conference
- Provide leadership in ecumenical and interfaith relations
- Interpret the work and witness of the UCC to the press and in the public square
- Identify and promote strategies and practices that will enlarge the witness of the UCC in Massachusetts

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 and Mike Schillinger 508-832-9049.



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.

Our March 16th "Spirit Supper" will include a presentation from Mark Behle who is a United Church of Christ missionary to South Africa. Mark will share his experiences of the region and culture as well as his musings as a math and religion teacher at the Masitise High School in Lesotho, where he also coaches the boys' basketball team and leads a Bible study. To learn a little more about Mark and his work in Lesotho, Africa, go to:

<http://globalministries.org/africa/countries/lesotho/>

FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The results are just in from the 2009 October 25th Auburn CROP Hunger Walk (**C**ommunities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty). First Congregational Church of Auburn and our walkers generously donated a total sum of \$713.50. The combined donations, through all eight local organizations on October 25, 2009, equaled a total sum of \$5,964.00. Thank you to our walkers and church members for your support. Outreach is hoping to participate in two walks in 2010 - the annual Auburn CROP Walk scheduled for October (specific date unknown) and the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance's 25th Annual Walk for the Homeless, Sunday, May 16, 2010 (more details to follow).

Currently, we're looking forward to the March 16th potluck supper and learning from Mark Behle about his missionary work in South Africa. If possible, check out this website to see an article on "South African cuisine":

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_African_cuisine#Typical_South_African_foods_and_dishes

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

The Auburn Cultural Council will be sponsoring "Art for the Arts" Show and Sale on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the Pakachoag Church from 10 A.M. until 4 P.M. Local artists wishing to participate are urged to pick up an application from the Auburn Library and apply prior to the March 20th deadline. We look forward to many residents enjoying this new venture of bringing the arts into the community.

Stewardship Message - Housecleaning

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away, see everything has become new! "
Romans 5:17

Lent has traditionally been a time for cleaning house; in fact the practice of "Spring Cleaning" may be related to the religious practice of clearing the kitchen of fat on Mardi Gras, or Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is meant to be only the beginning of a time of taking stock in every part of our lives. In Lent we are called to consider not only the excesses of our material existence that need to be purged, but also anything in our spirits or minds that needs reassessment and clearing out.

Instead of understanding Lent as a grim and joyless period, we might remember Paul's encouragement and see Lent as a time of becoming new. As a person who has moved from one house to another often in her life, I know that before you enter the new house, you need to clean out the old one, decide what is to be kept and what is to be discarded, and discern what new items you might need to acquire for a new situation in life.

This Lent, then, we are offered the cleansing opportunity of examining our lives on every level, both material and spiritual. Where are the excesses we need to clear out? What do we need to reassess about priorities, relationships, possessions and time management in order to be ready to live into a resurrection discipleship? On Easter, when the risen Christ calls us to new life, what might be weighing us down and keeping us from responding quickly, with joy, as stewards of the good news?

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

God is still speaking,

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





All of us here at First Congregational Church were saddened by the passing of our friends, Bob Johnson and Robert Badger. Please keep their loved ones in your prayers during this difficult time.

Robert B. Johnson, 78, of Auburn, died Sunday, January 31st in the N.E. Baptist Hospital, Boston. His wife of 47 years, Barbara, died in 2002. He leaves his 3 children, Kimberley Holstrom, Jay Johnson and Barbara O'Connor; 5 grandchildren, and a great grandson. He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Arend. Bob was born in Worcester and lived in Auburn for many years. Bob was a proud veteran of the Korean War, serving in the US Army. He enjoyed a long career working with builders as a planner and estimator. He was a member of our Church, serving as a Trustee and Deacon and on many committees. He was a 32nd Degree member of the Joel H. Prouty Lodge of Masons, Auburn for more than 50 years, and was awarded the Joseph Warren Medal; a member of the Melha Temple Shrine, the Chester P. Tuttle American Legion Post, Auburn, and the Auburn Grange. His funeral was held here on Thursday, February 4th with burial at Hillside Cemetery. Memorial Donations can be made to First Congregational Church of Auburn, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501 or to the Shriner's Hospital, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Robert R. Badger, 87, of Brewster formerly of Auburn died Thursday, February 11 in the Cape Cod Hospital. His wife, Velma, died in 1995. He leaves 2 daughters, Gail Othote and Martha O'Day; 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He was born in Auburn and graduated from Auburn High School and Worcester Boys Trade. He was a Lieutenant in the Army Air Corp during WWII serving in the European and African Theatres. Robert was a draftsman developmental engineer for Heald Machine Company and later the Cincinnati Milacron Company for 33 years. He was a member of our Church and the Masonic Lodge of Auburn. The funeral service was held on Thursday, February 18th at the Callahan & Fay Brothers Funeral Home in Worcester with burial at Hillside Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Masonic Home, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton, MA 01507.

Do You Love Me? Feed My Sheep

In His last conversation with the disciples after His resurrection, Jesus repeated the same message three times. If you love me, take care of the people I love. Jesus had given up everything to care for ordinary people. He called on His followers to now make a tangible difference in the lives of others. (John 21:15 -17)

When you make a gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, you actively participate in tending God's flock throughout the world. Your gift brings shelter, food, water, and medical supplies to disaster survivors. You help refugees find safe shelter and begin to build new lives. You aid impoverished communities in securing dependable sources of food and clean water. And you help provide medical care and education that strengthen bodies and minds and create brighter futures.

The OGHS special mission offering is received through local UCC congregations and all UCC members are encouraged to participate in this way. Secure online contributions to **One Great Hour of Sharing** may be made at www.ucc.org/oghs. You will also find offering envelopes included in this month's *Tidings*, which you can complete and mail back to us at 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501. Please note: an offering will be collected during our church services in March. Thank you for your support.

Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

Who's interested in Winston S. Churchill when names of key figures from an "expanded world" crowd the media? I put *A Thread in the Tapestry* by his daughter, Sarah Churchill, back on the shelf when second thoughts broke out. Neither Sarah's pride and love for her dad nor his talent with a paint brush are found in history books or the variety of news media of the late 30's and 40's. (Are you old enough to remember the pictures of Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill?) Her story begins with a brief description of what she sees, hears and thinks as pomp, solemnity and throngs of people from all walks of life line the streets. Tribute is a many angled thing. The "thread" then begins to weave in her dad's purchase of Chartwell, the home the whole young family loved and where fun activities for the entire (cousins, etc.) crew filled a few pages.

As Sarah reaches her teens she begins to write notes to make certain she's telling something straight and it soon became the best way of communicating, the least tiring and time absorbing for her father, especially as he became increasingly involved. Again, as she grows older, she becomes more interested in conversations and it became apparent that all was not well with the island. Twenty minutes after leaving France, menacing sounds could be heard over the island but Britain had been lulled into complacency. Sarah now became aware that her dad wasn't an ordinary man by the various important guests that came to their home - that it was he that was her father. Her love for him increased, her hero worship decreased and as a young adult, she wanted to understand the way he thought and where he was going with ideas. As one of the family friends, Sarah looked to T.E. Shaw or Lawrence of Arabia. As a frequent Sunday afternoon tea guest, the children loved him and he was fond of Sarah's mother. He was a small man with a soft voice and as such, silenced Churchill. However, the latter considered him among the most remarkable men of the 20th century. When Charlie Chaplin arrived at the Churchills', this rather good looking man confused them. At lunchtime, Winston wanted to hear about Chaplin's work and Chaplin wanted to talk politics. His conversation bored Winston and several times, Mrs. Churchill was tactfully able to change the conversation. Eventually, shortly before departing, Sarah writes that he must have woken up for he asked if there was a walking stick around. With an affirmative answer, he disappeared for a few minutes and returned with it and a bowler hat. Immediately he was a hit and mimicked some other actors to the delight of everyone. Many more pages are filled with people and episodes that will keep your interest piqued. Sarah's been in the theater and married and Winston is always a subject, but it's just about midway through the book that the "thread" changes. Teheran, Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria are all mentioned. They crossed the Tigris, the Euphrates, Jordan and Nile. At this point, with less than 50 pages left to finish *A Thread in the Tapestry*, it's far better for you to read first hand. Just think, this all took place about 70 years ago – a lifetime? But Winston S. Churchill, late Prime Minister of England, whose life was further enhanced by the "tapestry" woven by his daughter Sarah, is certain to live on in the annals of history.

Join the Kindness Revolution – In looking for a devotion for a meal, a meeting, Lent – whatever – remember *Random Acts of Kindness* (category 10). It's also a wonderful gift for shut -ins and many other reasons. Check it out in the Adult Library and be reacquainted.

Our next church supper is planned for Saturday, March 20th at 5:00 p.m.

On the menu: tossed salad with lemon vinaigrette, roasted pork loin with garlic-dijon glaze, homemade mashed potatoes, fresh vegetable, and blueberry bread pudding with bourbon crème sauce.

Adults \$10 Children \$5

Chef: Pastor Mark Servers: Scholarship, Memorial & Stewardship Committees

Dear Doers of Justice,

A silent storm may be brewing in Massachusetts. Because of the tough economic times we're in, legislators and other politicians are taking desperate measures to balance budgets, create jobs and stimulate the economy. One of the ideas that has been seriously considered, and still is a viable option for some, is Casino Gambling.

The Massachusetts Council of Churches has been diligent in their witness in speaking against any legislative proposals which would expand gambling in the Commonwealth. The Council leadership is now urging concerned Christians to contact legislators to conduct an independent cost-benefit analysis. The Council, working in partnership with "United to Stop Slots in Massachusetts" www.uss-mass.org, is advocating such an analysis.

As people of faith, we need to be bold in our witness and oppose expanded gambling. The social costs will be very high - including increased addictions, broken families, higher crime rates, and more poverty.

As someone who has experienced the heartache of broken families and ruined lives because of the social fall out resulting from Casino gambling in other states where friends and family live, I would like to encourage you to contact your state senator and representative. Please ask them to take a lead in mandating the independent cost-benefit analysis of casino gambling. You may also urge Governor Patrick and Attorney General Coakley to support an independent cost-benefit analysis of casino gambling and slot machines to Massachusetts by signing on here: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/costbenanalysis/>

Please share with me the feedback you get and I will pass it along to the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Mark Seifried

MACUCC Interim Pastor and concerned citizen of God's Commonwealth

seifried@charter.net; Office: 508-832-2845; Home: 508-852-0961

The above article was included in the most recent issue of "Ever Flowing Streams," a Mission and Justice newsletter of the Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ.



March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, National Nutrition Month, National Endometriosis Awareness Month, and Save Your Vision Month. The 7th-13th is National Patient Safety Awareness Week, the 11th is World Kidney Day. The 14th- 20th is National Poison Prevention Week and the 23rd is American Diabetic Alert Day.

There will be another babysitting class during the April school vacation. You can register by calling Pam Sheeran at UMass -Memorial Health Care and ask for the Family Education Dept. 508-334-1000. She accepts 11 year olds and up to early teens. The class is 2 days from 10:00am -2:30pm.

Spring is coming and I'm working on having some sort of safety program here at the church. Hopefully, next month things will be all lined up and the program will be before the end of the school year.

God Bless,
Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

Reality Check

Reflections from your Interim Pastor, Reverend Mark Seifried

*I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations ...
At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it ... and then God told me,
"My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness." ...
Now, I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.*

Excerpted from *The Message*, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

I hope you are praying for the church's Pastoral Search Committee. Presently, they have the most important role in the church. **The shape and nature of the church's future may rest upon the shoulders of the woman or man whom they discern God has called as the next settled pastor.** There are a few important words in this sentence I want to hash out.

First is "may." In actuality the shape and nature of the church's future is in the hands of God **and** every person involved with the church. Most growing congregations are primarily known for the community they have built, than for the church's pastoral leadership. Many strong churches have weak pastors. The pastor is just one servant among many. Albeit the pastor is usually the most visible role, but strong congregations compensate for the pastor's weaknesses and enhance his or her strengths. Please don't think that a new pastor is going to save the church. That's God's job. Your job is to help God take some of the burdens the pastor may believe he or she should carry on your behalf.

Second is the phrase "man or woman." I have heard the next pastor referred to as "him" many times, and hear very few references to "her." The reality is that more than sixty percent of those on track for ordination in the United Church of Christ are women. I hope that minds will change should God send a woman as a candidate and that the congregation will be open to the new day to which God has called the church ... regardless of the packaging presented in the pastoral candidate.

Third is "discern." The search and call process is a course of actions that most cannot imagine. The Search Committee has spent hundreds of hours on their ministry at this point, and I assure you there are hundreds remaining. Every meeting included a time of devotion, prayer, insight, silence, discussion, and feedback. Every day this group is thinking about and praying for the church. They have heard some fantastic ideas from candidates for the ministry you will share with him or her ... and some lousy ones. They have heard revelations from God and they have been baffled by God's silence. All of these things make up the complex nature of discernment - a series of spiritual exercises, which will culminate in their presenting a candidate they believe God has sent and blessed to co -create the future ministry of First Congregational Church, UCC with you.

Fourth is "called." Your next pastor will likely have to change his or her whole lifestyle, move from a home and occupy another, say "goodbye" to a community they love and embrace a bunch of weird strangers (you!), agree to love you and minister with you through thick and thin. If this call is genuine, it will come from God and it will be overwhelming, and fill both the candidate and the Search Committee with joy and peace. In our tradition, a pastor is called by God and the congregation affirms that call. Hopefully, prior to the committee's presentation of the candidate, they will share with you the pastor's sense of call to serve this community and they will share their affirmations of that call.

I opted for the title of this article and the scripture citation at the top of this reflection because we need to start thinking about expectations. Most people expect pastors to be luminaries of holiness. The reality is that we are as frail as anyone else: we struggle, we sin, we have doubts, and we have weaknesses. We also aspire to be more: gifted preachers and administrators, loving companions and visitors, astute theologians, scholars, prophets and more. Reality check: we can't be great at all those things and you can't expect that from your pastor. If you do expect strength in all areas, he or she will surely fail and disappoint you. If you do expect strength in all areas, you will fail and disappoint her or him as well. Only Christ was perfect. Every other human being is frail and has weakness. When we truly love one another, we can celebrate the weaknesses as gifts from God, and let Christ make up for our handicaps!

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This reflection comes to you during the season of Lent, so it may seem odd. Lent is supposed to be a time of introspection - a 40 day journey as we attempt to purge our spirits of anything that stands between us and our Maker. So, I invite you during this time to pray about your relationship with God. How are you practicing your faith and engaging in a relationship with God. Where is the church in that relationship? In most relationships, if something isn't working, the best you can do is to become the change you want to see in the other. What is the change you want to see in the church? Reality check! You must become the change you're hoping to see before you'll likely see it.

In this season, I hope that you pray each day for the Pastoral Search Committee and the leader they will present as candidate for the next settled pastorate. I hope you will pray for the candidate, too. God has chosen him or her already – we just don't know it! As we journey toward the cross together this season, I pray that we all can commend to Christ *our* past, present and future leaders' weaknesses, but also *our* self-doubt, *our* religion that's based more on personal preferences than *our* relationship with God – imagine nailing them to the cross for His keeping, blessing, and redemption. This year and in the years ahead, I pray that we will be prepared to celebrate the Resurrection as never before. We can - with the help of *our* God and the love of *our* gracious Savior.



Happenings during the month of February: Our final fundraiser, Yankee Candle, was run. I will give you an update on the outcome in April's *Tidings*. We ran it for the entire month of February, giving parents the vacation week to seek out all family members.

The children and staff celebrated Valentine's Day with parties on the 11th & 12th. The children all had the opportunity to be mail carriers during circle time. They had a great time. The parents provided snack which consisted of cookies, ice cream and juice.

We have had many new visitors come to *Here We Grow* to check us out for next year. Did you know that most families come to HWG because a friend, neighbor or relative has recommended us? That is our best form of advertising. Our Open House was scheduled for February 10th, BUT we had a snow delay. We re-scheduled it for March 1, at 1:00-2:30. We have spots available in the 2-day afternoon session and a few 4 year old spots still available. We are hoping for the remaining spots to fill up within the next few months. With the economy as it is, we may see a slight decline. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool for their child, please send them our way. Many of the visitors remarked on how well kept and clean the classrooms, hallways and vestry are. I'd like to thank Craig Premo, Dave Sampson, Stan McPhee, and Wayne Prouty for the extra "things" they do to help HWG out.

Looking ahead to March we will be offering Parent Volunteer Month: parents can spend time in their child's classroom as a helper for the day, do science experiments, (if they are brave) or read a story at the end of the day. We do have an open door policy throughout the year, but we find with Parent Volunteer Month many parents who work will take a day off, and come spend it with their child. We enjoy having the extra set of hands to help. Once again Neal Primaeux will be here the first week of March for picture taking. The Auburn Police are scheduled for a day of fingerprinting, which we send home for the parents. Also mark your calendars for Jeanine Fitzgerald, Behavior Specialist, who will be visiting First Congregational Church on March 29th. She is a great speaker on many issues parents may have on raising their children. Hope to see you there. Until next month, stay healthy and safe.

Dawn Murphy
Here We Grow Director

Please join us for *Here We Grow's* Open House
Monday, March 1st from 1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Happy Birthday to:

MacKenzie Lillian Young - March 16th
 Barbara Niles - March 20th
 Jean McPherson - March 26th

This
 Month's
 Birthdays

**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.

On February 21st we celebrated the baptism of Connor Patrick Dwyer. Connor is the 6 month old son of Michael and Brie-Anne Dwyer. We pray God's blessing upon Connor and his family.



Our congratulations go out to the MacPhee and Eknaian Families on the birth of Olivia Elle Eknaian, Sue and Stan MacPhee's granddaughter. Olivia was born on Feb. 4th weighing in at 6lbs, 12 oz and 19.3 inches long. Olivia's parents are Jessica and Kevin Eknaian.

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

At a meeting of the Town of Ward September 21, 1778

Proceeded.

1st. Chose Maj. Daniel Boyden Moderator for S^d meeting.

On the 2nd. Article proceeded to receive & accept Town debt

By vote allowed Wm. Phips for money expended while in the Town service respecting their incorporation. 14:13:4

By vote allowed David Bancroft for money expended while attending the Town Service respecting their incorporation 21:5:9.

By vote allowed David Bancroft for money paid the Court Committee who came to view ye Town & board. 10:16:0

By vote allowed John Prentice for money Expended while in the Town service respecting their incorporation. 3:0:0

By vote allowed Charles Richardson for money expended while in the Town's service respecting ye incorporation. 3:12:6

By vote allowed Charles Richardson for boarding Mr. Allen & keeping his horse for 8 weeks. 2:14:0

By vote allowed Peter Hardy for money expended while in the Town's service on affair of incorporation. 21:13:6

By vote allowed Alexander Nichols for money while in the Town's service respecting incorporation. 44:13:0

By vote allowed Maj. Daniel Boyden for boarding Mr. Mann & horse 6 weeks. 3:12:0

By vote allowed Jacob Stevens for money expended while in the Town's service on ye incorporation. 18:15:9

By vote allowed Jacob Stevens for providing for the Court Committee. 20:14:0

On the 3d article ye Question put wether the Town order any amendment on the Report of the Committee making an Everage, past in Negative.

On ye 4th. Article Voted to have men to be raised by this Town for the Army for the future at the charge of the Town.

By vote adjourned this meeting to Wednesday next 4 O'clock P.M. to this Place.

Attest. Daniel Boyden, Moderator Town Clerk

The Gift of Music

Music builds a bridge

- between hearts and minds
- between friends and strangers

Music inspires our soul

- lifting us out of the ordinary

Music highlights our joy

- and soothes our sorrow

Music brings us hope

- calms our fears
- and releases our tears

Music can be all things

- to all people

One of God's greatest gifts

- to lighten our journey

Thank you, Lord



Blessings,

Heather Moore

Minister of Music

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR HAITI

Each day brings a clearer picture of the extent of the damage including widespread destruction of homes, schools and government buildings, and major damage to key water, electricity and road systems. **The need is massive.** To help meet emergency needs, the United Church of Christ is supporting Church World Service in providing basic supplies for quake survivors. Among supplies being provided are CWS Kits and Blankets, medical supplies, food and water. Food and supply distribution points have been established in five sites.

UCC/CWS-supported efforts also include construction of temporary water systems, providing water purification materials, tents and food packages. Long-term CWS work will focus on food security in rural areas. It is anticipated the UCC will be responding to this disaster in Haiti for the next 5 to 8 years.

Please help by praying for the people of Haiti, their leaders and emergency and humanitarian aid workers. Also, please consider helping by contributing to the relief effort. Donations can be placed in the collection plate during Sunday worship services. Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church and marked "for Haiti" in the memo section. 100% of donations will go to the relief efforts in Haiti.

Haiti Relief Donations Qualify for Immediate Tax Relief

The IRS is allowing taxpayers to claim Haitian Relief donations given between 1/11/2010 and 2/28/2010 on their 2009 tax returns if they so choose. Please note, that you can claim the donation for the 2009 or 2010 tax years but not both years. Please see the IRS website for details.

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=218678,00.html>

We would like to thank everyone who has given so generously to this huge need. To date we have collected over \$1,200 for One Great Hour Haiti Relief.

**Winter-Spring 2010 Offerings from the Kairos Spiritual Life Center
A Ministry of All Saints Church, 10 Irving St., Worcester**

**Saturday April 10: "Becoming Messengers and Ministers of Reconciliation:
The Spirituality of Peacemaking"**

How can we be messengers of reconciliation in a culture that proclaims a message of retaliation? How can we be instruments of peace? Nancy Small will bring her experience as a spiritual director and former executive director of Pax Christi USA, a national Catholic peace organization, to our reflection on the ways we cultivate peace and reconciliation in our hearts, lives and worlds. The day will include a labyrinth walk for peace and reconciliation.

All Saints Church, 9:00 – 2:30; \$30.00 (includes lunch)

On-going Kairos programs include:

***"Living with God"**: a year-long offering for spiritual community and nurture (monthly gatherings, offered at UCC Boxborough, St. Francis Church in Holden and All Saints Church in Worcester)

***Centering Prayer** : most 2nd Mondays of the month, 7:30 – 9:00, at All Saints
Mar 8, Mar 29 (Holy Week), Apr 12, May 10, and June 14

***First Friday Films** (1st Fridays of the month, 7:00 at All Saints; \$3 donation)

March 5: Rails and Ties; **May 7:** The Secret of Roan Inish; **June 4:** All of Me

For more information or to register for events, please contact the Kairos Spiritual Life Center at 508-752-3766, ext. 19 or kairoscenter@allsaintsw.org.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

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 from 12:15 to 1 p.m. on Good Friday.

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 ~

**HEIFER INTERNATIONAL
Overlook Farm 216 Wachusett St.
Rutland, Massachusetts 01543**

**2010 Pancakes at the Farm
March 13th and 20th
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Enjoy a hearty pancake breakfast with maple syrup and pork sausage and tour the farm to see the newborn goat kids.

Adults \$10, Children 3 -10 are \$5.
Children 2 and under are free.

Please call 508-886-2221 to make reservations (required).

The Advisory Board of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester is planning a charity bike ride, *Ride for a Reason*, for Saturday, June 12, around greater Worcester, suitable for all abilities, to raise money for their program. They are looking for people to serve on a short term planning and logistics team that will oversee the many aspects of developing this ride. If interested in being part of this 5 month project (all skills from stuffing envelopes to test riding routes to driving a "sag wagon" are needed) please contact Board Chair, Jan Gregory-Charpentier, at revjangc@yahoo.com or (508) 529-9819. Thank you!

Coffee Hour Hosts

2/28 ~ Stewardship	3/28 ~ Trustees
3/7 ~ Girl Scouts	4/4 ~ Easter
3/14 ~ Outreach	4/11 ~ Trustees
3/21 ~ Music	4/18 ~ Music

From the Director of Religious Education

Happy spring! I pray this month will bring us the bright flowers and warm weather we surely need after the snowy winter.

I would like to thank Stan and Sue MacPhee for supervising cradle roll for February. Beverly Scobie has offered to supervise for March. We still need people for April and May. Talk with one of the previous people that have assisted in cradle roll to see what is involved. Since Shirley has resigned I have taken over the pre-K-grade 2 class.

Please keep an eye on the Sunday school bulletin board and the church bulletin for family spring activities. We hope to have another Easter Egg Hunt and Tea Party in the spring as well as other activities that are in the works. Anyone interested in assisting in these activities please see a Board of Ed member or me.

With His guidance we serve.

Jean McPherson,
Director of Religious Education

Joyful Noyse Schedule

3/7, 3/14 & 3/21	11:15 a.m. rehearsal
3/28	11:15 a.m. rehearsal (with adults)
4/4	Easter Sunday 8:45 a.m. rehearsal 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. services "Christ Is Risen"

Sanctuary Loan Update

As of January 31st, the Sanctuary Loan balance was down to \$277. We will continue to make interest payments on this balance until the loan is paid in full. Any Sanctuary money collected beyond \$277, will be deposited into the Capital Reserve fund. Thank you to all who were able to keep their pledge commitment these past three years.

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

We will no longer be using Discover or American Express for credit card pledges due to the fees they are charging for the use of these cards.

Thank you for your understanding.

Different Children, Different Needs Workshop Monday, March 29th at 7 P.M. in Fellowship Hall

"Children are not things to be molded, but people to be unfolded." This workshop, hosted by *Here We Grow* Preschool and the *Here We Grow* Board, will explore the unique pattern of influence upon a child's behavior and development with particular detail on the inherited temperament. Together, we will explore the concept of "goodness of fit" between the child's traits and those of the adult caregiver.

This workshop is uplifting, empowering, and fun and is being offered to *Here We Grow* families and First Congregational Church members. Please contact Denise in the church office, 508 -832-2845, or email her at secretary@auburnfirstucc.org if you would like to attend.

Easter Plant Order Form

Once again we will be accepting orders for Easter plants. On Easter Sunday there will be a special insert in the bulletin noting who the plant is in honor of and who it's from. This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one while also decorating our church sanctuary. Just complete the order form below and drop it off at the church or mail it to: FCC, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501. Please submit your order form with payment **no later than Sunday, Mar. 28th.**

Lilies (1 stem) \$10.00 _____

Lilies (2 stems) \$15.00 _____

Tulips 8" pot (11 bulbs) \$10.00 _____

Tulips large pot (22 bulbs) \$15.00 _____

Color Choice: Yellow _____ Pink _____ Orange _____

Red _____ Purple _____

Blue Hyacinth (6 bulbs) \$10.00 _____

Dedication: (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

In Memory of _____

In Celebration of _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

If you have questions, please call Connie or Ron Hanks at 508-832-4227 or the church office at 508 -832-2845. Extra order forms are available online, from Denise in the office, from a Deacon or on the table in Fellowship Hall.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

**First Congregational
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Church of Christ
128 Central Street,
Auburn MA 01501**

Phone: (508) 832-2845

*God's church in Auburn
Center doing Christ's
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