



# 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!'"*  
~ Isaiah 40:9

## What Are Your Childhood Memories of Thanksgiving?

I can remember waking to the aroma of turkey in the oven. Even now when I am the cook I like to put the turkey in early and go back to bed so I can wake to the mouth-watering aroma. It is a reminder not to fill up on cereal because the feast is coming soon.

Thanksgiving was just family, mostly my mom, brother and I. After the meal I would go out to play. My favorite Thanksgiving was the one when we got 6 inches of snow. I made a fort and snow angels, but no sledding because all our sled runs ended at the lake and the lake was not frozen yet.

I enjoyed the quiet Thanksgiving of just the three of us. I have more memories of Thanksgiving as an adult. The joy of cooking the feast for people you love. At the age of 23, I cooked my first Thanksgiving in Germany for fellow single lieutenants. I have cooked a turkey, if not the full meal, every year since. It was the most fun, the more people we had. One year I had 5 foster boys, aged 20, 18, 15, 10, and 9, plus Jenny and me. That was a loud Thanksgiving.

Our tradition with the boys was to eat turkey and the fixings for early lunch. Maybe as early as 11:00. Then walk to the movie theater to see an appropriate movie for the holiday. If I got my way, it was an animated movie. My teenage boys would protest seeing a kid's film, but I think they secretly enjoyed a chance to be a kid a little longer. Then after the movie was leftovers of turkey and the first taste of dessert.

The older the boy, the more work he had in preparing the meal. The youngest set the table, while older boys/men mashed potatoes, helped carry serving dishes to the table, etc. But the turkey was my responsibility. I enjoy being in the kitchen on Thanksgiving, even if I despise the kitchen on other days. A loud, crazy Thanksgiving kitchen and table is the most fun.

The Passover includes a requirement to invite others to your house. It reads, *"Each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat."*

It is a nice tradition to invite singletons to Thanksgiving. It mirrors the Lord's command to share the Passover with the neighbors. It is also nice to have a smaller Thanksgiving of just close family. I thank the Stockhauses for again inviting me to their festivities.

Pastor Brian

## **NOVEMBER SERMON TOPICS**

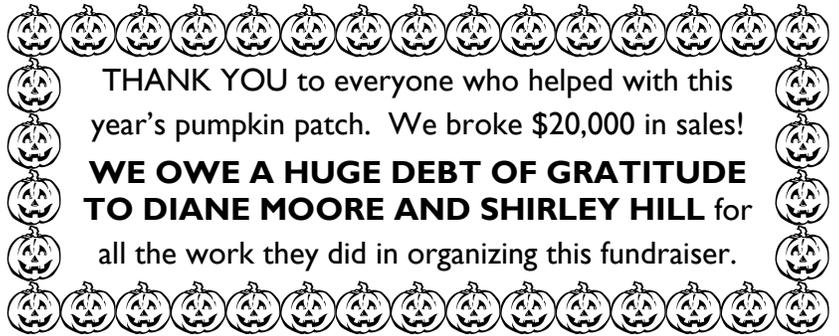
### **Children's Sermons**

- |       |  |  |
|-------|--|--|
| 11/3  | "In the Midst of Trouble Wait for the Lord's Salvation; It Will Surely Come" | "Zacchaeus"                            |
| 11/10 | "Like the Temple?"   | "Do You Want to Be Married in Heaven?" |
| 11/17 | "God's People Are a Delight"   | "Being Idle, Not Good"                 |
| 11/24 | "Woe to the Shepherds"   | "A Big Speech"                         |

**Adam & Eve Bible Study** - Join us after Church on November 24th in the green room, off fellowship hall. Take time for refreshments, visit with people, and then retire to the green room to read and talk. Pastor plans to wrap up the Bible study before noon. All are welcome. (No prior reading/study is necessary.)

**Coffee Hour Hosts:**

- 11/3, 11/10 Financial Secy./Treasurers
- 11/17 Library Committee & Project Linus
- 11/24 Library Committee
- 12/1 B.O.C.E.



THANK YOU to everyone who helped with this year's pumpkin patch. We broke \$20,000 in sales!

**WE OWE A HUGE DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO DIANE MOORE AND SHIRLEY HILL** for all the work they did in organizing this fundraiser.



**Join us at the Community Thanksgiving Eve Service**  
**Wed., Nov. 27th at 7:30 P.M.**

**North American Martyrs Church,**  
**8 Wyoma Dr., Auburn**

**Roast Beef Community Supper**

**Saturday, November 16th at 5 P.M.**

Join us for a delicious roast beef supper with all the fixings.

~ All are welcome ~

*(church volunteers needed)*

Our thanks to Pat Bukoski for agreeing to continue the tradition Jean McPherson started 2 years ago of preparing and serving a Thanksgiving meal for the residents of Jeremiah's Inn in Worcester. Don't worry, you can still help! Pat would appreciate additional helpers to prepare the meal. Not able to spare the time on Thanksgiving? Please consider making a dessert. Call Pat, 508-798-8765, and let her know you'll help.

Thank you!

For more information about Jeremiah's Inn please go to their website: [www.jeremiahsinn.org](http://www.jeremiahsinn.org).

**FALL MINI BAZAAR TO BENEFIT PROJECT LINUS**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Join us after worship in Fellowship Hall on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> and get a head start on your holiday shopping. Items will include handmade purses, decorative bottle lights and other handmade items.

We will be accepting cash or checks. (Sorry, no credit cards.)



Fundraising provides for the purchase of materials to make quilts and blankets for ill or traumatized children. When necessary, we use funds to ship blankets to fulfill needs in times of national crisis where children are affected. Your purchase will help us to bring a hug, smile, warmth, security and love to each blanket recipient.

We thank you in advance for your support!



Now Recruiting!

Our thanks to Judi Taft for offering to help with Cradle Roll. Please note: additional volunteers are still needed.

Also, won't you please consider helping out on Sunday morning in our Sunday school classrooms? The way the curriculum is set up, it allows a short commitment with lots of support. Also join us for a **teachers/volunteers' meeting** which will be held on **November 17th** after church, where all your questions can be answered. At the meeting we will go over the curriculum, the commitment and any questions you may have. The meeting will be informative and is being held to help you understand the program and the duties, and, hopefully, alleviate any "fears" you may have about teaching.

Teaching can be a scary word if you've never done it, but it's a 40 minute period where all you really are is a mentor for the children in our church. This time spent with them shows them you care about them, and that's all they need. Please consider taking the first step in ensuring our Sunday school program's success and come to the meeting. THANK YOU!

Our monthly potluck supper get-togethers in the vestry (old kitchen) area continue. The potlucks begin at 5:30 p.m. on movie nights with the movie viewing during dinner, and discussion to follow at its conclusion. On book discussion nights, the potluck begins at 6:00 p.m. with the book discussion beginning at approximately 6:30-6:45 p.m. You do NOT have to read the book, if you just want to come for food and fellowship, please do!

- |                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| Tuesday, Nov. 19 | - | <i>Prince of Egypt</i> (movie) - 5:30 p.m. start time                                       |
| Tuesday, Dec. 17 | - | Esther (movie) - 5:30 p.m. start time   |
| Tuesday, Jan. 14 | - | <i>Killing Jesus: A History</i> by Bill O'Reilly - 6 p.m. start                             |
| Tuesday, Feb. 18 | - | <i>Trees in the Pavement: New Hope in a Free Country</i> by Jennifer Grosser - 6 p.m. start |

The Saint Joseph Church Sociables Merrily Present:

### Wright's Farm & LaSalette Christmas Display of Lights ~ November 30th, 2013

Join us on a delightful holiday tour combining a full course luncheon at Wright's Chicken Farm Restaurant and the magnificent Christmas lights display at LaSalette Shrine. Full course luncheon includes all-you-can-eat chicken, pasta, salad, dessert, beverage and rolls. From there a real spectacle awaits you at LaSalette Shrine, where New England's largest and most colorful Christmas light display is held.

Trip also includes optional choral concert and Mass. Silver Fox Coach will depart from St. Joe's at 10:30 a.m., returning at 7:30 p.m. Tour cost: is \$60 per adult/\$50 children ages 3-15.

To register contact: Sue Fuller at 508-832-4741 after 2 p.m.

The Brothers/Mahlert Family wishes to thank their church family for the outpouring of love, prayers and support shown to them during these past several months.

Happy Birthday wishes to:

- |                    |   |           |
|--------------------|---|-----------|
| Rich McPherson     | ~ | Nov. 6th  |
| Nick Stockhaus     | ~ | Nov. 7th  |
| Victoria Stockhaus | ~ | Nov. 14th |
| Suzanne Kress      | ~ | Nov. 22nd |



From the Director of Religious Education



This is the month when many of us think of all the blessings that are part of our lives. As we reminisce about our childhood and days gone by, let's keep thinking of the present and all the gifts that we are blessed with. This month's Sunday school unit is on Rebekah and how she was chosen by God and followed His lead to leave her family to a life unknown. As we gather for Thanksgiving with family and friends, let us not only be thankful for what we have, but let's think about how we can use the GIFTS God has given each and every one of us. In our lessons this month I have been explaining to the children that they ALL have a special place in this world and it is our DUTY to find our gift and SHARE it with others as we spread God's Word.

The pumpkin carving was a huge success. Thank you to ALL the adults who came to assist. We had many new faces and everyone left happy and with all appendages in tact. It was a spectacular fall night to go to the Ecotarium and see all the beautiful carved pumpkins. Clearly the 15 pumpkins Rich and I carved at 9:00 Wednesday night (in the dark) did not truly compare, but all who attended had a good time.

This month's unit will be on Baptisms. We have cooking, science and games all centered around this topic. Please consider coming down one Sunday to observe. We have just about completed our Sunday School pumpkin bulletin board. It is a great way to see all the faces that make up our Sunday school, so stop down and check it out. The last Sunday of the month we will do a Thanksgiving themed craft. Please be sure to update me if you have any allergies since we do have a cooking unit. If there is anything else you would like to share with me about your child, please find me either before or after the service, or call me at home.

Looking toward December, I am in need of teachers, as well as in January, February. . . Please let me know if you wish to SHARE YOUR GIFT with the children.

The annual Parents Night Out, Potluck/Carol Sing-along, and Cookie Walk will all occur in December. Parents Night Out will take place on Friday, the 6th, the Christmas Carol Sing-along and Potluck on the 14th, and the Cookie Walk will be after worship on December 22nd. Please mark your calendars and look for more information to come. I will have a sign up sheet so I can arrange for enough teens to help out that night.

Speaking of the teens, Youth On a Mission is in need of an advisor and the kids would like to take the annual trip to Monadnock Bible Conference for the Deep Freeze Weekend. We are unable to go unless we have three chaperones to accompany them. Currently the dates are pretty open, so speak to me if you are interested.

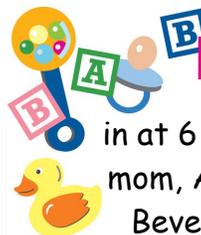
Happy Thanksgiving to you all. Remember with the love of Jesus we are all truly blessed.

With His guidance we serve.

Jean McPherson, Dir. of Religious Ed.

### Day for the Hungry in Haiti — Update

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Day for the Hungry on October 13th. Total church participation for that one day yielded \$15,000. Paul Deasy, Director of Love in Motion (a div. of the Monadnock Bible Conference), has indicated that he will be sending a slide show of the Christmas Eve food distribution in Haiti to all of the churches who supported this special outreach program. Please look for more details to come, and once again, thank you!



Welcome to Emma Rose, who made her appearance on Oct. 11th, weighing in at 6 lbs., 6 oz. Proud family members include mom, Alyssa Tatro, and dad, Mike; grandparents, Beverly and Steve Tatro, great-grandmother, Joyce Wooldridge, and great-grandparents, the late Don and Flo Aker.

Congratulations to Amy Cariglio and Michael Escobar on the birth of their son, Dominic Richard Escobar, on Oct. 16th, weighing 8 lbs., 10 oz. and 21 in. long! Proud grandparents are Cindy and Steve Cariglio and great-grandparents Paul and Debbie Pellegrino and Cheryl and Larry Cariglio.



### Here We Grow Preschool

It is hard to believe that we are into our third month of the school year. I am happy to report the crying has stopped and the children are ringing the doorbell to be let in; they love their teachers and school. With the month of December fast approaching, we are very busy preparing for the winter holidays.

In October, all staff received first aid and CPR training. It is so important to know the basics of each. Pastor Brian also joined us for training in CPR.

During the month of November the children of **Here We Grow** will be learning about: "Eat Healthy-Feel Great" and "I Am Thankful For". Included in these lessons will be the shape of a rectangle, the 5 senses, colors blue and brown, letters B, F, and T and the number 2.

Our feast days are November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Our feast day tradition began over 25 years ago when the first HWG Director, Fawn Robidoux, began this wonderful experience. This year's menu is cornbread (made by the 3-year-olds), a friendship fruit salad, cheese and crackers, turkey and ham, and to top it off . . . brownies (made by the 4-year-olds) topped with cool whip. With the help of the **Here We Grow** parents, who will supply and serve the food, I know it will be a wonderful experience for all.

Once again the children and families of HWG will be participating in "The Giving Basket." All foods collected will be given to Pastor Brian to distribute to families in need during the season of Thanksgiving. The need seems to be greater and greater each year.

Our first fundraiser was Yankee Candle. With an overwhelming participation of HWG parents and families, our profit was just over \$3,700. This money will go towards enrichment programs, field trips, special programs, and classroom supplies. We will be selling wreaths during the first two weeks of November. If interested, just stop in the office and we can order you some. They are beautiful and full.

Ending the calendar year of 2013, HWG will be entertaining the families with holiday programs on December 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to have a special visitor on those days (Pastor Brian). Time will tell. Another tradition HWG has done for many years is that the children sing and sign Happy Birthday to Baby Jesus.

Until next month, enjoy the beautiful colors of fall.

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

### FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who shared in Consecration Sunday.  
On that special day, we celebrate our commitment to the church and our connections to each other.

If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please bring it to church or mail it in. Please do this even if you're not pledging. Then we'll know we heard from you and won't need to send a follow-up letter.

If you did not receive your colorful, pear-green Stewardship pen, we have more. Please take one (or two)! The pen is our thank-you gift to you.

In His Love,  
Your Stewardship Committee

*Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38*

### Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

While thumbing through category #4 (biographies) in the adult library, a book cover bearing the words *Memories of a Persian Childhood* caught my eye. The book's title, *The Blindfold Horse*, gave no clue so that led to the inside flap where first words read, "Iran, land of the nightingale and the rose," and continued, "burst into the American consciousness a decade ago when the Ayatollah's revolution held all the country hostage. Since then Islam has conjured up images of veiled women and angry men, yet we knew little of the civilization that was swept away in 1979, and even less about the Persian traditions and culture that preceded the rise of the Shah and the petrodollar."

That did it! A check on when the book was published revealed 1988 by Beacon Press and written by Shusha Guppy. Wow, the library card revealed that 3/2/93 was the only time someone had borrowed the book. There never could have been a previously discarded card, for the book is in prime condition. But there could be interesting information and history about a geographical area that's been prime in the world news again now and WHAT A GEM! What great providence to have come upon such a treasure in our library. The writing style of Shusha is superlative and, as encompassing in important detail and beauty, it is extraordinary in the depth of humanity. You find yourself turning pages faster than you can believe. The historical information is great — even if you're not a buff — and the accuracy probably equal to a document in most cases.

I should have mentioned earlier that at the very end of the book there is an excellent glossary of Persian words. Don't miss it. The changes in the structure in Persian lifestyle cause one to reflect on our country's current instability. Shusha Guppy's father was recognized as the foremost philosopher of Persia and one of a long line of reknown and influential citizens. But it's the day-to-day activity related in *The Blindfold Horse* that is so moving that I hope to borrow it again.



Please be in prayer for the Sampson family who suffered the loss of **Carole H. (Carlson) Sampson**, who passed on Tuesday, Oct. 22nd. She leaves her husband, David Sampson, Sr., her loving children, Melissa Seymour, David Sampson, Jr., Sharon Sampson, and Kerstin Sampson, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Carole, a lifelong resident of Auburn, was born in Worcester to the late Arthur and Helen Carlson and was predeceased by her brother, Arthur Carlson. She graduated from Auburn High School and Becker College and worked for over 23 years as an Executive Secretary at the Memorial Campus of UMass Memorial Medical Center. Carole loved spending time with her family and took many vacations together in Woodstock, VT and the Cape in South Yarmouth, MA. Carole was an active member of our church, serving as a board member of Here We Grow and a member of the Pastoral Search Committee.

A funeral service celebrating Carole's life was held October 26th, here at First Congregational Church. Burial followed in Hillside Cemetery. Donations in Carole's memory can be made to the Church's Memorial Fund, First Congregational Church, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501.

Please also keep the Hanks family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of **Jeffrey G. Hanks** who passed on Friday, Oct. 25th. Jeff leaves his wife, Melodie (Warren) Hanks. He is survived by his 2 sons, Jonathan and Christopher Hanks; 2 daughters, Heather Moore and Jillian Heenan; his mother, Violet Hanks, his sister, Nancy Robinson, his brother, Ronald Hanks, and wife, Connie; 5 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Jeff's father, Gordon Hanks, predeceased him. Jeff was born in Worcester and raised in West Boylston where he graduated high school in 1968 and from the Andover Institute of Business. He owned and operated M & J Associates accounting firm with his wife, Melodie. Jeff was a current member of the Charlton Baptist Church and its choir, and a former member of our church and choir. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and was a member of the Joel H. Prouty Lodge of Masons. A funeral service was held on Oct. 31st at Charlton Baptist Church. Burial with military honors followed in Hillside Cemetery, Auburn.



Happy Fall, Happy Ending to Daylight Savings Time & Happy Thanksgiving!

November is American Diabetes Month, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Month, Diabetic Eye Disease Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, National Family Caregiver's Month and National Healthy Skin Month. It is also National Hospice Palliative Care Month and National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

Thanksgiving is a time when we should reflect on what we are thankful for. It is a sad time for some, especially if you've lost a loved one. It might be a time to reflect on past Thanksgivings and all the good times that you've shared in the past. When we stop to think, we all have some things that we are really thankful for and we should focus on them.

A reminder of the closet when you enter the educational wing — if you need medical equipment, feel free to take it. There have been recent donations and the supply changes frequently!

Hand Washing is still the best way to prevent the spread of colds and flu. Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," "Happy Birthday" or say the ABC's while washing.

God Bless!  
Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

### Neighbors In Need - Another World Is Possible

The Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. You'll find an offering envelope enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Please return it to the church, and thank you for your help.

### PLEASE HELP ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In January 2014, I will be participating in Walt Disney World's Marathon Weekend by running in the half marathon. I am running to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. At this hospital no child is ever denied treatment because of the family's inability to pay. It costs over a million dollars a day for this organization to operate. I have a fundraising goal of \$2,500 but there is no such thing as a small donation. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Please go to the website listed below to donate. Thank you!!

—Shannon Vayo

<http://heroes.stjude.org/ShannonVayo>

### 2013 Christmas Poinsettia Order

Once again we are offering the opportunity to purchase poinsettias at great prices. In the past we've decorated the sanctuary with these beautiful plants and at the close of the Christmas Eve Service members are able to claim their plants and continue to enjoy them at home, or give them as gifts. You may dedicate your poinsettias in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion, etc. Please complete the poinsettia order form below and include a check or cash with your order.

#### Poinsettia Given By: **PLEASE PRINT**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

Size: (Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd color choices.)

Single \$12.00  
Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

Double \$18.00  
Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

Large \$28.00  
Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes people are unable to collect their poinsettia after the Christmas services. Please check here if you want the Deacons to bring your poinsettia to be donated to a shut - in or another member of the church family.

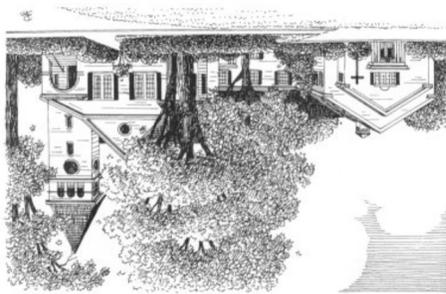
Please use a separate order form for each plant. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ron or Connie at 508-832-4227.

**Order by Nov. 17**



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

November 2013						
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					



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