

The Evangelical Congregational Church

Dear Friends in Christ,

We as a congregation are embarking upon change. As our beloved senior pastor Paul has shared with us that he and Betsy will be retiring this year, we are faced with a myriad of emotions. Paul's eighteen years of devout ministry to our congregation leaves an indelible mark, a profound imprint, traced with unforgettable moments of shared celebration, sorrow, joy, growth, life transitions and faith. It has been a remarkable journey for this church.

As we face this time of transition together as a faith community, let us use these next few months to join together to support, congratulate, express our gratitude, bless and say our sincere good byes to Paul and Betsy's ministry among us and beyond. Our time to minister to them has come. May they feel God's loving, guiding and supportive Presence in our congregation as they say good bye to us and to their thirty plus years of ordained ministry. Let our endings be well that our new beginnings may be joyful.

Speaking of joyful new beginnings, let us take heart that we are not alone. This is a strong, loving, faith filled community of Christ with deep roots in the community and in our denomination of the United Church of Christ. The MASS. UCC Conference stands ready, willing and able to help us negotiate well this transition through their support from the conference minister, The Rev. Jim Antal, our area minister Rev. Peter Wells and beyond. This is what they do, and they do it well.

They will walk us through each and every step of this process, helping us to secure a well trained Interim Senior Minister who will, in turn, guide us through this time of transition that it may become a wonderful opportunity for reflection, dreaming, visioning, and growing In Christ. May we use this transitional opportunity well.

As your part time associate pastor, I will assist as I am able and as the job description

allows. My PPRC (*Pastor-Parish Relations Committee*) and I have worked tirelessly in trying to help me stay within the range of the twenty-hour a week contract. This has not always been easy! I will continue to utilize and to tap into this exceptional resource and committee that you have provided. I will seek to work closely with our Interim minister, with our church leaders, and our many committees to help make this a positive, and smooth transition.

I leave you with a poem entitled "*For a New Beginning*" written by the late author John O'Donohue. I pray that these gentle words help us all to reflect on the opportunities that are ahead.

But first let us say our Good Bye's well.

God Bless you all and may you know that Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Peace, *Rev. Elaine Gaetani*

FOR A NEW BEGINNING

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this?

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening:
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
for your soul senses the world that awaits you.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Please pick up your 2010 contribution envelopes at the church. If you did not have envelopes last year, please contact me: sharkey53@charter.net, phone: 366-4023 or drop a note in the offering plate. You have a choice of either weekly or monthly envelopes. *I urge everyone to use envelopes.* **Linda Sharkey**, Asst. Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP 2010

"From Jesus' fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."

At present we have received 190 pledges totaling nearly \$262,101. Although this figure may seem impressive, it is \$60,000 less than the Trustees were hoping to receive towards this year's current expenses and missions total.

We want to thank all those members, friends and families who have responded to our 2010 stewardship campaign. Those people realize the importance of planning and committing to the church's programs and missions. They also have fulfilled one of the key tenets of belonging to a community of faith: financial support.

To those of you who regularly donate, but do not pledge, we invite you to state your commitment by contacting the church office and adding your names to those who have already been counted.

The Stewardship Committee

DEACONS

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS REMINDER

Congregants are sometimes concerned that our interval for announcements at Sunday morning worship services can be lengthy. Please limit announcements to essential items not fully explained in the bulletin insert, be brief, and be ready at the Chancel to deliver your announcement promptly. Thank you for your assistance. **Jerry Lyle**

DEACONS

Please feel free to contact a Deacon directly.

Lynne Caldwell	366-7635
Betty Gray	366-1039
Beverly Hall	366-2853
Jerry Lyle	366-5542 (<i>Lead Deacon</i>)
Jack Barry	978-779-5407
Barbara Graf	845-3035
Carolyn Bent	393-7809
Linda Birch	870-9911
Ed Newton III	439-0241

BAPTISM SEMINAR

Baptism seminars are held after worship on baptism Sundays. Seminars are scheduled for **February 21, March 21 and April 18** or by special arrangement. If you have not had a family baptism here you need to attend a seminar before doing so. Baptisms are usually scheduled the third Sunday of each month except in May, when they are on the second Sunday. There are no baptisms in December. Call the church office 366-2000 for forms. Contact a Deacon with questions.

LAY VISITATION

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS

If you have prayer request or know someone in our church community who might like a call or a visit, please complete one of the prayer request cards in the pews and put it in the offering plate or in the basket in the back of the church. Members of the Visitation Team will be responsible for collecting these and working with the Pastors and Deacons to ensure that someone follows-up.

REACH OUT WITH THE VISITATION TEAM!

The goal of the Visitation team is to reach out with phone calls, visits, and cards to those in our community who are unable to attend church; who are going through personal or medical issues; those we haven't seen for awhile; or those we think might like a card to know we are thinking of them. We are also planning special events such as the Advent and Valentine "Make-a-Card" ministry to provide opportunities for children and families to reach out as well. The team is also working on developing a method for coordinating call and visit requests with the

Deacons and Pastors so that people don't fall through the cracks.

The Visitation Team meets every second Sunday but you do not need to attend meetings to make phone calls or visits. If you are willing to make one call or visit each month or make some calls or visits each week, we will put your name on our list, indicate your availability, and contact you as needed.

If you have requests for visits or calls or if you notice that you haven't seen someone for a couple of Sundays, please contact any member of the Visitation Team and we will work with the Pastors and Deacons to ensure that someone follows-up. Of course, you may also contact the Pastors or Deacons directly, however, we will be trying to track all requests that we know of to try to ensure follow-up. All information is considered confidential and will only be shared with Deacons and Pastors as indicated by the individual making the request. The Visitation Team will also be taking responsibility for the request cards in the pews. Please use these cards to share prayer concerns or visit or call requests!

Visitation Team members are: **Marge Butcher, Serena Leiser, Linda Duncan, Carol Moore, Elaine Moore, Kathy Converse, Carolyn Bent and Carol Steinbrecher.** If you are interested in visiting, helping with phone calls, or helping to coordinate special events, or would like more information, please contact Carol Steinbrecher at carols@thumbdamp.com or call 508-384-7595

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

† - ADULT - †

LIVING THE QUESTIONS - An Introduction to Progressive Christianity (PART II) -

This is the second of three seven-week sessions. Each program will have a 20 minute DVD movie with one of today's leading theological thinkers. They will be held Wednesdays in the Historical Room at Kirkside from 7-8:30 PM.

Participant Fee: \$10 per 7-session series (Scholarships available)

To sign up call the church office 366-2000 or email: WestboroUCC@verizon.net

Dates:

February 3, 10, 24 (no class on Ash Wednesday, February 17)

March 3, 10, 17 & 24

Rev Gaetani will lead the first class, after that leaders will rotate to include Rev Thomas, Brian Johnson, Veronica Ramos and Anthony Moncton
Note: You did not have to attend the first series to attend this one.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

For those of you who like to plan ahead, we are beginning plans for this spring's women's retreat at St. Benedictine Abbey in Still River (Harvard), MA, **Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8.** (Mothers' Day is May 9.) Of course, we will publish more information as we get closer to the date.
Elaine Moore 366-8585

† - SENIOR HIGH YOUTH - †

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

"Key Dates" to note for 2010:

April 28 – Conf Rehearsal and Dessert Social – 7:30 PM

May 2 – Confirmation Sunday – 10 AM (gather)
Rev Thomas teaches and coordinates the class.

WORK CAMP STORIES – 2009

Most of the 32 people (24 youth and eight advisors) who went to work camp at Elmira NY last June wrote of their experiences. We want to share them with you in this and in the upcoming Evangels.

DAVE LAWLER

My workcamp experience the fourth time around was perhaps the most memorable yet. This was our first "challenge" camp, and my project very much reflected it. Along with interior painting, we had to extend a porch and build a wheelchair ramp for our resident, Mr. Campbell. We ran into a variety of obstacles, not the least of which being the layers of river rock in the post holes that we were supposed to dig 42 inches deep. Also the original plans for the ramp were not adequate and we had to spend a big percentage of our work time drawing and redrawing new plans. Our project was so big that we ended up with four crews on our site.

Needless to say when we failed to finish on Friday, I was a bit disheartened, but painting 3 rooms, digging 16 holes 42 inches into the ground and completing 2/3 of a 40 foot ramp were no small feats. Mr. Campbell was still very appreciative, and a crew was sent out to

complete the project after we left. My crew was awesome and I'm still in touch with them.

As always hanging out with the youth group was a highlight. I'm proud of the work that I and everyone else in the group was able to accomplish this week, and I'm very much considering making another work camp trip when I return home from college. If this is my last one, I'll always have four years of unbelievable memories spent with my crews, my youth group, and perhaps even more special: my father. And I know that if I do return next year it will once again be one of the best weeks of my year.

BEN PETERSEN

Work camp this year has been another great experience. Every work camp is different. This work camp was especially different, in many aspects. First it was a challenge work camp. This meant that there were more building projects. My project was building a back porch, and scraping and painting the outside windows. It was great to have a building project. The ages in my work crew ranged from 14 to 83 years old. The oldest man, Lewis, was a minister, and he was great to have on site. He had a lot of building knowledge and carpentry skills. Without him we would not have been able to get our back deck built.

The old deck was falling apart and was not safe to stand on. It was made of untreated wood causing it to rot and fall apart. It was great to be able to make a safe back deck for our resident. We had to lay new cement to smooth out the ground for the new deck. Lewis was in charge of leading the building of the deck. My entire crew worked well together. We all took turns working on the deck. If we were not on the deck, we were working on the windows. The hardest part was scraping the windows, the paint was old and dry, and it did not want to come off. Once we scraped the windows, we primed and painted them. They looked great once we were all done.

Our resident, Doris, was so happy once the deck and windows were all done. Doris was a great resident. She wanted to help us. Everyday she would bring us waters and cookies. It was great to know that she was very thankful for all our work that we did for her. In the beginning of the week Doris had expressed her want for a radio. We ended up getting her a radio for a gift. She had the biggest smile once we gave it to her. She was so thankful. It was hard to have to leave her on the last day. I

appreciate everyone that has helped out to make it possible for us to go to Elmira New York this year. Thank you.

CAM PIPER

After hearing stories of our church's work camp from John Wilson, I was convinced that I needed to take the opportunity to participate in this year's work camp in Elmira, New York. Waking up early in the morning with a very long car ride ahead of me was one thing I was not looking forward to! We packed up and headed out bright and early. Arriving at the Elmira Free Academy, I could tell that I was in for something exciting: cars were honking their horns, music blasting, kids running around playing football, the atmosphere was crazy! We unpacked and made ourselves comfortable in our classroom and the festivities began. After the evening program, one of the most important things happened, meeting our crews. I was nervous but very excited to see whom I'd spend the next week working with!

My crew was something special; some could say it was a God sighting. We immediately bonded and it had been like we'd known each other for years after only a few minutes. I was overjoyed by this fact as it meant the next few days would probably be the best time of my life, revealing God to those around us, and at the same time, God revealing himself to us. My crew, with people from Virginia, Illinois, and Massachusetts, was able to share stories of what it is like to live in those parts of the country, which only made us all closer. That was one thing that made work camp something so special; kids and adults coming from all around the United States for one cause. The last day seeing my crew was very hard. You become something like a family, and leaving family is something that is very difficult. I am very thankful to be able to stay in contact with almost my whole crew! It is also very cool to be able to look back at the Care Cards that we shared with each other.

The first time I met my residents was something I will never forget. They came out with the biggest smiles on their faces. Bill and Mary and their daughter Sarah had been living in Elmira almost all of their life. Bill has been volunteering for the American Red Cross for more years than I have been alive! It was a very humbling experience to be able to do something for a family that has been such an active family

in the community. I was able to be the Organizer, which made sure that we were doing the correct project, and carrying around the first aid kit. We painted a few walls, ceilings, and the trim in a few rooms of the house. After all the work was completed early in the morning on the last day, we were able to help the family with organizing some things in their house, and cleaning everything up! Leaving them on the last day, with their house back to where Mary had always wanted it to be, was another memory that I will have for the rest of my life. They couldn't put into words how thankful they were for us, and how thankful they were for God to reveal themselves to them through our crew.

I was very honored to be able to spend my time at work camp with our great youth group! I became closer to some people that I had not known very well, which led to new friendships and many memories. I had a great time playing in the 3 on 3 basketball tournament with Dave, Max and Clif, unfortunately losing in the championship game. Waking up earlier than I even do in the school year to take a nice freezing shower, with the occasional fire alarm going off in the middle was another memory. There are so many things that I will never forget that made this work camp something that I am so happy I was able to participate in. I cannot wait for next year's work camp!!

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP –
WORK CAMP 2010**

The Senior High Youth Group's (SHYG) destination for our work camp experience next year is Cornwall, Ontario in Canada. We have 40 spaces reserved (total work camp is 400 participants). The dates are Sunday, July 11 to Saturday July 17. The later date is to ensure the work camp takes place after the end of the school year. Cornwall is just across the border from upstate NY, about 375 miles away. (Elmira was 330 miles).

In order to go on this work camp, participants must:

1. have completed their high school freshman year as of July 2010
2. possess a valid U.S. passport in July 2010
3. must actively participate in the Sept. 2009-June 2010 SHYG activities

4. **Cost is \$469 per youth including a non-refundable \$50 deposit (a check**

**made out to the church) due ASAP.
Remaining payments will be \$209.50
each due in March and May 2010.**

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for the Cornwall Ontario Canada work camp in July 2010, please email me sharkey53@charter.net or call me at 508 366-4023. Let me know ASAP if you are interested. Thanks, **Art Sharkey**

**† - JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH - †
GRADES 7 & 8**

2010 Calendar

Meeting Place – Kirkside 3rd Floor

Tuesday, February 9 – time TBD

Trip to Friendly House to distribute Valentine's Day items.

Sunday, March 21 – 11:45 am to ?

Bowling with Congo Kids.

Saturday, April 10 – time TBD

BINGO with Beaumont/Whitney residents.

Sunday, May 16 – time TBD

Attend church service for the homeless in Worcester and have end of the year picnic afterwards along with Congo Kids.

Andrea Ehrenreich

**† - CONGO KIDS - †
GRADES 5 & 6**

2010 Calendar

Meeting Place – Kirkside 3rd Floor

Saturday, February 13 – 9 am to noon

Collect donations at local grocery stores for the Westborough Food Pantry and end fundraiser.

Sunday, March 21– 11:45 am to ?

Bowling with Youth Group.

Saturday, April 10 – time TBD

Volunteer at animal rescue shelter.

Sunday, May 16 – time TBD

Attend church service for the homeless in Worcester and have end of the year picnic afterwards along with Youth Group.

Donna McGrath

† - CHURCH SCHOOL - †

BIBLES FOR THIRD-GRADE CHILDREN

If you would like your child's name printed on their Bible, please let me know ASAP. **Jean Newton, DCE/YM**

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The children like helping others...they talk about different things they like to do for others during their church school lessons...so in saying that I want to tell you about our theme for their weekly collection.

This year it is *Neighbors In Need*...the monies collected by the children each Sunday will go to the local food pantries supported by the children who come from the three towns that our children come from. I have a couple of suggestions that you can help us with...

- You can help us by maybe allowing them to earn the money so that their offering comes from them.
- You can talk to your own child in the way you will know they will understand about how sometimes people are down on their luck and need help occasionally from the food pantry.
- let them know about how important what they give is to others.
- remind them they can bring their offering down front when it is time for the Children's Chat. (Except for Communion Sunday when the collection will be done in The Parkman Chapel.)

If anyone needs offering envelopes I have some for you...thanks everyone for your support.

Jean Newton and the Board of Christian Education

NEXT CHURCH SCHOOL ROTATION

Thank you to those of you who have signed up for the Rotation from January 3rd until 31st. **Jim Brown; Ed Newton, Jr; Erin Newton Dimick; Amanda Borglund; Dan Quigley; Darvin Kapitz; Ted Jaworski; Linda Borglund; Wendy Roberts; Leigh Walker; Paula Davis; Jenn Carrier; Bonnie Ross; and Sharon Giblin.** Please let them know how much you appreciate their ministry with the children when you see them at Fellowship Hour...I still have one opening for someone to be with the Kindergarten class...In saying this I am also going to start the sign-up for the next Rotation that begins the first Sunday in February and runs for 5 weeks...*The Ten Commandments*. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the church library and thanks Dan and

Amanda for signing up again for that Rotation. Always remember we can find you a substitute for that day if you cannot commit to the whole 5 weeks...and team teaching with a friend is fun, too...thank you again to all of you for your support in the church school program...I look forward to hearing from you. **Jean Newton,**

HELP NEEDED IN CRIBBERY

The cribbery is in need of people to sign up to assist **Sandy Horton** and **Mike Lawler** who have provided a wonderful and faithful ministry to those little tiny ones in the cribbery and to the parents who are able to worship because Mike and Sandy are there...Sandy and Mike started when their own children were in the pre-school room and now their children are in high school, college aged and grown and in the working field, yet Sandy and Mike still give their time tirelessly to be with the babes in our midst.

Please all, you do not need to have a child/grand-child in the cribbery to be in there for the hour and 15 minutes on a Sunday just come on in and have fun holding babies and playing/coloring with the little ones, and enjoy the fellowship of others in there as well. There are wonderful teenagers in there too, but with our safe church policy we need at least two adults.

This goes out to those especially who have children in the church school program...please pray about being with the your children or your church families children once in awhile so those in there always have time they need to worship, or have time for family and themselves...

For our church to continue in the ministry it is heading into we all need to be a part of the body of Christ...your right and left hand won't work on your body if the right and left elbow is missing...you won't be able to feed yourself...the same is for the body of Christ, if parts are missing we cannot be a whole body! In saying this if your right and left elbow are missing and you cannot feed yourself call me...mine are working fine right now and I will feed you! First in Christ as a member of this church and also as the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry, **Jean Newton**

MUSIC NOTES

PROPOSED NEW SANCTUARY PIANO INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS Beginning January 31

The Steinert piano in our sanctuary is nearly 90 years old. It constantly needs tuning and is in need of restoration. Especially in the last year, the piano only stays in tune for a day or two, and significant expenses have been incurred in an attempt to prepare it for our special musical events.

The Music Committee, after a year of searching for a suitable replacement, is excited to announce a rare opportunity: a Petrof concert grand piano, all hand-made in 1996. Along with Steinways, Petrofs are one-of-a kind instruments. **The Music Committee will present informational sessions, in the Choir Room after church, beginning January 31st.** The music staff and Music Committee members will be on hand to answer your questions, present pictures, and provide other information.

We have considered a number of alternatives for funding and seek your help in finalizing our proposal to the Church, which will *not* be a budget item. Among the funding alternatives being considered are: funds through Memorial Gifts (which would require a congregational vote), discretionary funds from the Music Committee's past fundraisers, and possible contributions from some generous individuals.

The Music Committee invites everyone to take the opportunity to become familiar with this information. There will be a more detailed handout about both the instrument and how the Church was fortunate enough to hear about it. Pictures of the piano will also show the actual instrument.

With your help, we hope to provide a wonderful new resource to our regular worship through music and to improve an already excellent venue for our own music and outside musical groups.

Kathy Barry, Chair, Music Committee
Ina Donahue, Treasurer
Kristin Knutrud, Secretary
Myra Appleby
Pamela Kapitz
Marcia Hoffman

CHILDREN/YOUTH CHOIRS

Kindergarten-Eighth Grade

Please note on your February calendar that it's time to start making music again. Rehearsals will commence on Thursday, February 4. Bring a friend!
Sue Menzel

FESTIVAL RINGERS

Black History Month Concert on Sunday, February 7 at 3 PM. Contact **Sue Menzel** with any questions or comments.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE – JOIN THE CHOIR

The choir needs tenors, basses, sopranos & altos age 9th grade to *whatever*. Please see **Curtis Richardson** or **Sue Menzel** after church. *First-timers are always welcome...*
Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:30 PM in the Choir Room. Just show up!

JOURNEY HOME SINGERS

WE'RE ON OUR JOURNEY!

The members of **Journey Home Singers** have begun a ministry of bringing comfort through song to those among us who are at the end of life. The members in our all-volunteer group are accomplished singers from Northborough, Marlborough, Grafton, Upton, Worcester and Westborough. Several participate in a church choir or community chorus in addition to "Journey Home". We have learned many new songs during rehearsals since June, and also draw from well-known hymns and Taize chants for our repertoire. In September, we hosted four members of "Hallowell" (a hospice choir based in Vermont) who led us in a day of training and encouragement. That workshop was made possible, in part, through monetary support from my church family, specifically the Missions Committee and Women's Fellowship - many thanks! In October we received three hours of hospice training from a representative of Evercare Hospice in based in Waltham. We look forward to opportunities to bring our gift of music to anyone in our area who desires it.

To invite us to sing for your loved one, email: toddkathy2000@yahoo.com or call 508-335-1043. Peace be with you, **Kathy Todd**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Please consider how you can serve our church by volunteering on a board or committee. Call **Carrie Brown 366-1231** for more information and with your questions.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

ANNUAL POT LUCK SUPPER

All Women are invited for an evening of Fun and Fellowship on Monday, February 1 at 6:30 PM Please note the earlier time. Always great food and fellowship!

A-L bring main dishes

(hot meat or vegetable dish)

M-Z bring salads

(fruit or vegetable) or molded salads)

Program Committee - Bring Desserts

There will be a drawing for those who want to be included in the Valentine "Secret Pal" game.

Please call the church office 366-2000 or **Cathie Achorn 508-870-0521 by January 31** so that we know how many tables to set up. You can leave a message on the machine or e-mail Cathie. This is always a fun time. Hope to see you there.

*Mission: Food Pantry and College Student Packages – see item below

LOOKING AHEAD – WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We are looking forward to a year of great programs. Put the following Mondays on your calendar and remember to bring a friend!

March 1 - 6:30PM- 7PM meeting- 7:30PM Program (TBA)

April 5 - 6:30 Social Time Program: "Arts in April" Artists and Craftswomen in our own midst will present their own creations and answer questions. Featuring Annie Wales, Barbara Innis, Veronica Ramos and Betty Carlson.

May 3 - 6:30 Social Time - Annual May Dinner at the Grafton Inn, 25 Grafton Common, Grafton

For Information call or e-mail **Cathie Achorn 508-870-0521 camachorn@aol.com**.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - MISSION

Our mission for February is to help purchase items needed for the valentine boxes that are sent to our college students away from home. This long-standing tradition was started by **Donna Morgan** even before her own kids were away at college. These "care packages" have become a much anticipated and appreciated tradition that lets the kids know that their church family is thinking of them! A list of items (that have been well received in the past) is located in the Church library, so be sure to check it out and see what is still needed. Donations of money are also welcome - the cost of shipping is considerable. If you have any questions please contact Donna Morgan 366-0358 / dknm@aol.com -or- Karen Hutchinson (508) 870-1782 millarhutch@aol.com. As always, donations for the Westborough Food Pantry are greatly appreciated. Visit www.westboroughfoodpantry.org to see items that are needed. Thank you, **Karen Hutchinson**

PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Women's Fellowship is going to send Valentine's packages to our college students again. All who have a loved one currently attending an institution of higher learning, please be sure to let me know their current mailing address. (If you put it in writing...it helps reduce mistakes.) You can e-mail me at DKMNM@aol.com -or- I will have forms with me after church on Sundays. Our deadline is February 1, but the earlier the better. We need to plan and shop. Thanks.

Donna Morgan

MISSIONS & SOCIAL CONCERNS

YOUR MISSIONS DOLLARS AT WORK

THE BRIDGE

Ever wonder where your Missions and Social Concerns donations go? The Bridge of Central Massachusetts is one of many worthy organizations our church supports. According to their Mission Statement, "*The Bridge is a vital leader in providing comprehensive human services in collaboration with multi-talented and diversely challenged individuals and their families.*" Established in 1973, The Bridge helps children and adolescents with serious

emotional, behavioral, and family problems, as well as adults with mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse challenges. The agency operates 33 programs, including special education, residential treatment, supported housing, community-based outreach, and assistance to families transitioning from homelessness. More than 500 individuals and families are served each year by a staff of 300, and a budget of over \$16 million.

Judy Powell

HELP FOR HAITI – HYGIENE KITS

Along with the Missions Committee in conjunction with the Church World Services we want to help out the people in Haiti. There are kits we can assemble for the Haitian people with the below listed items.

We are asking each grade to participate with their own item, so that we do not end up with too many of one and not enough of the other items...

- 1st grade One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- 2nd grade One washcloth
- 3rd grade One wide-tooth comb
- 4th grade One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- 5th grade One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 6th grade One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 7th grade Six Band-Aids®
- 8th grade One Gallon Zip-lock Bag

Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste that has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

Anyone that is so inclined, can send in a one time \$2 in their child's envelope to cover the cost to ship each kit...please just indicate this on the envelope...

Thanks all, **Jean Newton**, DCE/YM ~ **Nancy Cavanaugh**, Chair of CE ~ **Kristi Allen**, Chapel Leader

**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE APPEALS
FOR BABY CARE & HYGIENE KITS
FOR HAITI**

International humanitarian agency *Church World Service* is responding to the Haiti disaster, providing emergency aid and medical supplies and conducting assessments for ongoing assistance, with staff on the ground and in concert with longstanding local partner agencies and other non-governmental organizations.

CWS is urgently appealing for cash donations and for contributions of hygiene and baby kits. Church, community and student groups are responding across the U.S., quickly staging kits assembly projects.

CWS has worked in Haiti since 1964, assists development and sustainable agriculture programs across Haiti, and has been on the scene in Haiti's multiple hurricane disasters of recent years.

"Cash donations are best,"* says Church World Service New England in Ludlow, "but in addition, assembling emergency kits are a way for individuals and groups to do something hands-on...." Go on ChurchWorldService.org website and click on Kits. The contents of each kit have been selected with care based on years of experience to make them as useful as possible, wherever and whenever they are sent. They can be sent to CWS all year. The continuing support of this program is very important and helps to ensure kits are available for immediate response. CWS reported they delivered some kits already from a supply in Santo Domingo. But the supplies are diminishing!

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Our church is assembling Hygiene Kits through the Sunday School and Mission table. If anyone wishes to assemble a Baby Kit or a School Kit you can follow the guidelines on the website or look on our Mission table in the Vestry. See **Marilyn Lyle** for more information. She has a video "Heart to Heart" that shows the kits being assembled and received overseas.

\*If you wish to make a cash gift, make your checks out to "The Evangelical Church" and note "Haiti" on the memo section and place in the collection plate or send to the church office.

### PENNIES FOR PEACE

Fish those loose pennies out of the bottom of your purse, pocket, or junk drawer and please bring them to church. The Missions and Social Concerns Committee will put them to good use by supporting author and humanitarian Greg Mortenson in his quest to build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Mortenson (*Three Cups of Tea*) is co-founder of the Central Asia Institute (CAI), which focuses on community-based education, especially for girls. A fifth-grade education for girls improves not only the basic indices of health for her and her family, she will also spread the value of education within her community. While a penny is virtually worthless in the U.S., it can buy a pencil, book or support a teacher's wages. So help create a legacy of peace. Gather your pennies.

**Judy Powell**

### MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

#### JOIN US ON AN ADULT MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS (DURING JAZZFEST!)

We are planning a mission trip to New Orleans in spring 2010, to continue disaster recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina. We will be working on a variety of rebuilding projects to get residents back into their homes. All skill levels are welcome. Congregations from every state and every denomination are still at work helping the people of New Orleans to recover from utter devastation.

We will be emissaries of God's love toward one another. The dates - Sunday, April 25 – Sunday, May 2. We will stay at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in New Orleans where we have reserved spaces for 20 people.

We are looking for at least three very skilled people able to lead small groups at various work sites. The cost? The approximate cost for the week is \$200 (for meals and van rentals), airfare (between \$250 and \$400), plus spending money for JazzFest and any other items of a personal nature.

For more information call **Pam Faustine** (978)464-2026, or **Doug Wales** (508)870-0086, if you are interested (or might be interested).

### PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) works to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between our pastor and the congregation. We seek to create an atmosphere of confidentiality and trust while encouraging constructive and caring communication.

Committee meetings provide an opportunity for the pastor to reflect about personal concerns, hopes, ambitions and frustrations. Meetings also allow Committee members to share personal observations and comments/concerns/feedback expressed by members of the congregation.

Occasionally conflict or misunderstandings surface. At these times direct communication with the pastor is encouraged and reinforced as the most useful option for resolution. When this is not possible Committee members offer to accompany members of the congregation as they meet with the pastor. When either of these options is not feasible, issues may be brought by Committee members directly to the pastor if the parishioner agrees to be identified.

Rev Paul Thomas' PPRC

**David Gray** 366-3794

**Ken Gilbert** 845-1666

**Kris Knutrud** 898-2051

Rev Elaine S Gaetani's PPRC

**Karen Smethers** 836-3369

**Elaine Gallo** 366-7903

**Elaine Moore** 366-8585

**Mary Taber** 366-5123

### PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

***NOTE: Please keep the church office informed of updates to the prayer list. Thanks!***

Special Prayers: We hold the people of Haiti in our prayers as they struggle with the aftermath of a devastating earthquake.

Special Prayers: Members of the West Cummington Congregational Church in Northampton which was destroyed by fire.

Bereaved: The family of Mary Riley Peterson (Dana's aunt). The family of Lee Parker. Marion True and family on the death of her sister Caroline Barnes.

New Prayers: Ellen (Pat Ainsleigh's daughter).

Facing surgery: Linda Hall (Doug's sister).

Recuperating at home: Gabe Leblanc.

In transition: Bob Dobson at Westboro Health Care.

Continue Prayers: Jean Perry & Jean Curran (Carolyn Bent's friends); Dave (friend of Jamie Jaworski); Allen Moore (Carol's father); Roland Charpentier (Morgan Molloy's grandfather); Serena Lanz; Bob Brown; Mary Jane Kolarik & Gary Thomas (Paul Thomas' first cousins); Veronica Ramos' sister Roslyn; Kurt Zellefrow (Elaine Moore's nephew); Tim Murphy (Frank Stokes' brother-in-law); Mary McLeod's husband in Milford; Joan Murray (Julie Labbe's sister); Anne Rutheford (Barbara Graf's daughter); Rita Uhlman; Thom Lawton (Sue Menzel's brother); Dorothy Tinkham (Taryn Ouellette's Nana); Charles MacKenzie (Taryn Ouellette's father); Barb (friend of Kathy Todd); Homelyne Augustin-Newton (in Afghanistan); Justine Hall; Nancy Walker; Dot Locke (former church secretary); Helen Abany (Mary Gilson's sister); Brandon Snow (Brian Johnson's "little brother"); Heather Newton; Sue Menzel; Sandy Horton's nephew Scott and family; Eileen & Craig Stewart (Bonnie Rossi's parents); Cheryl Dean Adams (Bev Hall's niece); Charlie Flood; Deeves family (John, Jill, Adam & Jack (friends of Megan Huber); James Walker (Rev Cindy Frado's husband); Wayne Ellis (friend of Kathy Todd); Cecilia Temple; Dot Melin; Michael Gannon in AZ (Sara's son); Susie Moore (Carol's sister); Cathie Achorn's brother Phil in OK; Wendy Turton (Carol Steinbrecher's friend); Pastor Ken Landin & wife (friends of Carol Steinbrecher); Don Gillis; Cheryl (Mary Lyons' mother-in-law); Joanne & Bud Maus; Jordan Slaughter in Iraq (Lore Baker's fiancé); David Ray (Susan Cochran's sister-in-law's brother); Dick Birch; Shirley (Melanie Mardirosian's mother); Jennifer Todd; Laurie Spalholz (Sue Menzel's sister-in-law); Deb Young (Rev Gaetani's best friend's sister); Philip Nanof (Kathy & Jen Todd's cousin); Bev Boyer; Alan Brenner (friend of the Birches); Terry Moore (Carol Moore's stepmother); Betsy Peterson (friend of Deb Boucher); Maggie MacDougall (Liz Phelps' mother); Jean Carter (Susan Cochrane's aunt); Alice Lehmann (Cecilia Temple's aunt); Steve Landry (Jean Newton's cousin); Amy (Roberts) Belmonte; Brian Cavanaugh (Neil's brother); Wendy & Paul Roberts; David Samson; Evan Brigham (Kristin's son); Dick Nichols; Kris Nazarro; the Bianchi family (friends of Nancy Cavanaugh); Ellen Lemon (Ina Donahue's friend); George & Lynn Day (friends of the Walkers); Norm Bennett in

ME; Louise Tyler; Barry & Donna Dorian (friends of Rev Gaetani); Olivia Trueb (relative of Nancy Walker); Norm Helm; Bev Hall; Jim Boucher (Rich's brother); Ruth Wilson Stauffer (Jack Wilson's mother); Tim Hogan; Edna Christianson; Dick Smith; Mary MacDonald; Walter Temple; Marge Lightbody; Ambrose Peterson (Dana's father); John Murray (Diana Swets' brother); Marsha Norton (friend of Betty Gray); Don Quigley (Paul's father); Howie Birch (Dick's brother); Anthy Thayer (Jay's mother); George & Beverly Bond (friends of Tom & Nancy Walker); Dr Barbara Baron (friend of Doug & Annie Wales); Serena Leiser's niece Jennifer & family; Penny Temple (Deb Lukey's step-mother); Lynne Parker (Barry Hackett's sister); Molly Quill (friend of Bill & Jennifer Carrier); John Williams (Sharon Kaiser's father); Lauren Eldridge; John Swets (Steve Swets father); William Kleinedler (friend of Mark & Sandy Domeij); Anne Mann (Susan Whitten's mother); Carl Walsh (Megan & Brandon Hight's uncle); Linda Borglund's sister & nephew Shawn; Don Gillon (Cecilia Temple's uncle); William Goodall; Conor Chappell (Paul Reynolds' cousin); Marjorie Dion; Robin Walker (Heidi Synnott's sister); Janet Morey & Marcia Nolan (Elaine Gallo's sisters); Jenny Stern; Lincoln Tripp (Karen Gavel's brother).

Westboro Health Care Center: Bea Ladner.

Beaumont Nursing Home: Reba Gray; Alice Tepper; Alba Kalenian; Gerry Green; Hazel Wells; Fran Kendrick; Louise Allen (Betty Simino's mother).

Whitney Place: Helen Gerden.

Celebrations:

- Blessings on the birth of Sabrina Frances Caron, born January 10, daughter of Chris & Angela and granddaughter of Cathie & Steve Achorn.
- Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism January 17 were: Reese Ellen-Mae Dimick, born August 28, 2009, Daughter of Erin (Newton) & Jesse Dimick, Granddaughter of Jean & Ed Newton Great-granddaughter of Judy Oliver -and- Alexis Marie Lovely, born November 7, 2009, Daughter of Justine Hall & Manuel Lovely, Granddaughter of Doug & Beverly Hall and Great-granddaughter of Jean Hall
- Blessings on the birth of Thomas Gregory Green, born January 21, grandson of Jon Oliver.
- Blessings on the birth of Henry Charles Reichs, born December 20, 2009, son of Emily

(Quimby) & Brendan Reichs and grandson to Nancy & Charlie Quimby.

• Congratulations to Mark Petersen upon his graduation from Saint Michael's College in Burlington, VT with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

## WORDS OF APPRECIATION

"Thank you" to **Not Your Average Joe's** for making the Congregational Church Preschool their cause of the month, and a big thank you to all the church families who have been supporting us.  
**The Preschool Teachers**

The following people have expressed their appreciation for receiving poinsettia plants at Christmas: **Edna Christiansen, Linda Sharkey, 'Pete' Bryan, Lillian & Arthur Wentzell, Dot Melin, Ed & Jean Newton, Mary MacDonald, Louise Tyler, Florence Nelson, Elaine & Steve Gaetani, Paul Thomas & Betsy Sowers, Hilda Starbird, Kay Wentzell, Harriet Markert, George and Alice Hoogasian, Maryann Roche, Ila Porter, Helena & Harold Engberg.**

Thank you "**Lily age 8**" for the beautifully drawn and colorful Christmas scenes in the lovely card we received.  
**Helena & Harold Engberg**

Thank you for allowing the Monday evening AA group to meet in the upper room at Kirkside. The group has helped so many find a life of sobriety. It is a favorite room for many in AA.  
**Jane G.**

We at **Abby's House** thank you for your generous contribution, which helps support our continued work with homeless, battered, and low income women with our without children through our shelter, women's center, food pantry, thrift store and our housing program.  
**Annette Rafferty**

**Westboro Food Pantry** sent the church a note of thanks for "your kindness and generosity" in helping to provide food for needy families.

**YOUinc.** sent a letter of thanks for our generous gift, which will help support their continued work with troubled adolescent girls.

**Spectrum Health Systems** sent the church a letter of thanks for our gift, which helps provide services to those with substance abuse problems.

## AROUND THE CHURCH

### TAKE NOTE OF CLEANING!

The cabinets under the shelves in the church Library are going to be cleaned out. If you have anything you want saved, please **LABEL IT WITH YOUR NAME** so it won't be thrown out.

**Carol Moore**

### SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS DEADLINE

If you have an item you want posted in the Sunday announcements, please email it or submit it to the church office no later than the Wednesday before. Thanks!!!!

### GET YOUR EVANGEL ON-LINE

Many people are now receiving their *Evangel* digitally. This saves the church money on paper, printing and postage. If you would like to give it a try, please email us at [bossi6@verizon.net](mailto:bossi6@verizon.net). If you try it and change your mind, just let us know and we will again mail you a copy.

### THE EVANGEL

**Note deadline changed to Wednesday!!!!!!!!!!**

**DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

PUBLISHED: WEDNESDAY, 24

*Copy received before deadline is appreciated!*

### CHANCEL FLOWERS

If you would like to grace our Chancel with flowers on a Sunday morning, please sign the flower chart in the Vestry. Flowers are given in memory of, in honor of, or for a special occasion. Please call **Chris Mosher** 366-2250 or **Nancy Gage** 366-9266 with questions.

### HOSPITALITY

If you would like to be added to this committee contact **Betty Gray** 366-1039. Participation involves cooking and delivering a meal to a family or individual, on occasion. Because we are many, no one is inundated with requests.

### HOSTING COFFEE HOUR

If you would like to host, please sign-up in the Vestry or call **Linda Borglund** 870-5784.

### NURSERY SCHOOL

The Congregational Church Nursery School is registering children **2.9 years** and older. We have openings in our Tuesday/Thursday class for 2.9/3 year-olds and our Monday/Wednesday/Friday class for four year-olds. Please visit our website at [www.congregationalchurchnurseryschool.com](http://www.congregationalchurchnurseryschool.com) for more information or call the school at 366-8783 for a tour. **Anne Deysher**

### EHRENREICH CONCERT

#### AN AFTERNOON OF SONG

**Andrea Ehrenreich**, soprano

**Edith Auner**, pianist

Tufts Veterinary School-Grafton Campus  
Agnes Varis Auditorium

Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 pm

The program will include music by Bellini,  
Chausson, Wolf, Poulenc and Barber

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Betty Barclay's email address  
[bbachbarclay@verizon.net](mailto:bbachbarclay@verizon.net)

Marion & Robert True  
14 Blossom Tree Dr  
Shrewsbury MA 01545  
[mbtrue@townisp.com](mailto:mbtrue@townisp.com)

Rev Helen Bross  
28 Adams St, Unit 201  
Worcester MA 01604

Kristy Kocou  
165 Lyman St  
Westboro MA 01581  
508-736-6740

Carol & William Pickering

PO Box 488  
Shrewsbury MA 01545

### MOVING, NEW PHONE #, ETC?

If you move or change your phone or email address, please let the church office know. We don't want to lose touch with you.

### CHURCH WEBSITE

If you have church related information you would like posted on the church website, send it in a word to [webmaster@uccwestboro.org](mailto:webmaster@uccwestboro.org). If you are interested in helping work on the website or have questions, call **Doug Wales** at 870-0086.

### MACUCC NEWS - SPOTLIGHT

#### *News You Can Use - Find out about:*

- Stewardship & Church Finance
- Leadership development
- Christian education
- Summer camps
- Mission work
- Conferences
- Retreats
- News from other UCC congregations
- Communications
- Ideas & insights

The Massachusetts Conference *United Church News* SPOTLIGHT is a biweekly e-newsletter dedicated to sharing stories of how *God Is Still Speaking* through the efforts of local churches. You can access SPOTLIGHT by going to [www.macucc.org/spotlight](http://www.macucc.org/spotlight).

### OF INTEREST

#### BOY SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Westboro Boy Scout Troop 100 will hold its annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 7 from 7:30 am – 1 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Willow Street in town.

#### ABOUT "GOT BOOKS?"

Please refer to this sight for more information.  
[gotbooks.com](http://gotbooks.com).

The Rev Paul Thomas, Pastor

*paulthom2@verizon.net*  
The Rev Elaine Gaetani, Associate Pastor  
*revelaineg@aol.com*  
Curtis Richardson, Director of Music  
*ccurtisrichardson@comcast.net*  
Carol Steinbrecher, Student Minister  
*carols@thumbdamp.com*  
Jean Newton, Director of Christian Education  
& Youth Ministries  
*ejnjen@msn.com*  
Lee Reid, Office Administrator  
*WestboroUCC@Verizon.net*  
Bonnie Rossi, Administrative Assistant  
*BRossi6@Verizon.net*  
Linda Birch, Wedding Coordinator  
*birchouse@verizon.net*  
Sue Menzel & Jen Keeler,  
Bell Choir Directors  
*westcongmusic@yahoo.com*  
Ed Newton, Treasurer  
Linda Sharkey, Assistant Treasurer  
Jon Oliver, Custodian  
Church Office Phone 508/366-2000  
Church Office Fax 508/366-5867  
General Church email – ***WestboroUCC@Verizon.net***  
Congregational Church Nursery School  
Anne Deysher, director, 508/366-8783  
[www.congregationalchurchnurseryschool.com](http://www.congregationalchurchnurseryschool.com)  
Church web site  
[www.UCCwestboro.org](http://www.UCCwestboro.org)  
U.C.C. web sites  
<http://www.macucc.org> (Mass Conference)  
<http://www.ucc.org> (National)