

The Evangelical Congregational Church

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Christian Season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday (February 17th this year). Lent is that forty-day period of fasting, spiritual preparation and self-examination which culminates in the great festival of Easter. The number forty is symbolic and does not include the Sundays, which is the ordinary festival day for Christians (each Lord's Day being considered a "little Easter").

Biblical history tells us that the children of Israel were in the desert forty years. Moses was on the mountain forty days receiving the law of God. After his baptism, Jesus fasted forty days in the wilderness preparing for his ministry. Jesus' wilderness experience serves as the model for our own spiritual preparation during the Season of Lent.

In the history of the Christian Church, the first mention of a forty-day Lent occurred in the writings of the Council of Nicaea in 326 A.D. Christians in the early centuries of the church would undergo a three-year period of instruction in the faith. During the third year the last thing candidates were taught was the Lord's Prayer. At the conclusion of Lent during this third year those who had received instruction would be baptized on Easter Eve and so be received into the fellowship of Christ's Church.

Throughout the centuries individual Christians have seen Lent as a time to deepen and strengthen their own faith. It is a time to re-examine our lives and let go of those ways of living which fail to serve God and God's people. And it is a time to open ourselves to a richer and more fulfilling life symbolized for us in the Resurrection of Christ. We turn toward God as we recall Christ's ministry, suffering and death, and in the glory which is Easter we are raised again to new possibilities and new life in the Risen Christ.

How will you and I observe Lent this year as

we anticipate the very real changes and challenges we face in the wake of my announcement to retire? Individually, we are invited to enjoy times of silent prayer, study and reflection upon God's Word, and times of solitude where we can better know ourselves as God's beloved children. Corporately we are again called to gather to worship, to reflect on our past, present and future as the body of Christ in this place, holding up the symbols of Christ's dying and rising, and experiencing the power of the Spirit within our lives and beyond.

By God's Grace, may this season of Lent be a time for us to strengthen our faith and our church and rededicate ourselves to humbly serving God and God's people.

Paul T.

STEWARDSHIP 2010

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

I want to thank the people who have submitted 192 pledges totaling just over \$263,000. If you were not able to attend the Annual Meeting on January 24, you did not receive a copy of last year's budget report that showed a \$43,432 budget deficit for 2009. This is obviously a grave situation, which is aggravating next year's budget outlook.

I point to these numbers to urge anyone who has not pledged to consider doing so. This is the only way that the Trustees can have reliable numbers for planning next year's budget. If you are a giver, but have not pledged, I ask that you have the church office fill out a pledge card for you. This way your commitment will be counted.

David Smith, Chair, 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 **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

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. 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

SCOUTS

SCOUT SUNDAY – MARCH 14

Our church will observe Scout Sunday as part of the worship service on Sunday, March 14. The scouting program plays an important role in the development of our youth. The Scout Sunday service will celebrate the scouting movement and those who participate in it. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venture Crew members, and all scout leaders are encouraged to come in uniform. Scouts are invited to participate in a procession at the start of the service. Please arrive at 10:20 in the vestry for instructions. Questions: contact Warren Anderson at 508-616-9030 or wanderson7c@msn.com.

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.

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 featuring a leading theological thinker. It will be held Wednesdays in the Historical Room at Kirkside from 7-8:30 PM.

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

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

February 24 and March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Rev Gaetani led the first class, now 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.*

CENTERING PRAYER & MEDITATION

March 18 – 5:45-6:45 PM - Historical Room

Join us as we gather to learn/practice the ancient art of Centering Prayer/Meditation.

Rev Elaine Gaetani

† - 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.

JAKE SHARKEY

This year was my third time going to work camp. Like my other experiences I really enjoyed work camp this year. I had a great time

with my crew and with the youth group. This year my crew had to do a little bit of exterior painting and some interior painting. My resident’s name was Julia. She was very happy to see us arrive the first day. She was waiting outside to greet us with a big smile. She had snacks for us while we were working and ordered us pizza for lunch. It was great that we got pizza because that really does not happen every year. A resident does not have to do something like buy lunch to show their appreciation for the work being done.

After the first day Julia, was pretty quiet and just watched television while we worked. As the week went on it was pretty easy to tell that Julia was getting anxious for us to finish. She was not being rude, she just wanted to see her house painted very badly. My crew had four girls, including the adult leader, and two guys. We all got along very well. We had interesting and funny conversations while we worked. We were also able to finish all of the work by Friday morning. We had a lot of spare time on our hands after we finished so we walked to some other sites nearby to see if they needed help. Nobody needed help, so we returned to our site and played card games and talked for a very long time. I could not have asked for a better crew. I hope to see my crew members from this year at next year’s work camp.

When I was not at the site, I spent most of my time at the Elmira Free Academy with people from our youth group. I always looked forward to getting back to the school so I could talk to the other guys from our youth group about our days and what not. There were also fun activities like the 3 on 3 basketball tournament. I was on a team with Mr. Hutchinson, Alex Arsenis, and John Wilson. We won the first game, but lost the second game to the other Westboro team our youth group had. Even though we lost, it was a lot of fun.

We also got to go to a park on the Wednesday half day. The park had go carts, mini-golf, batting cages, and driving ranges. The go cart track was pretty small, but everyone had a good time bumping into each other while racing. The mini-golf was also really fun. I might not have been that good, but it was a good time. I really enjoyed spending time with the youth group this year. I hope everyone who went this year plans on going again next year. I can’t wait for work camp next year.

MAX SHARKEY

Elmira was my fourth work camp trip with our youth group. Going into the trip I was worried about not having a good time, because several youth my age dropped out of the trip. I tried to be optimistic though and realized that it was still likely I would have a great time. Little did I know that this would be my favorite out of all of the four work camp trips.

I've always found two factors are what make or break a work camp: the members of my crew and how we do completing the project. The first day I met my crew I was nervous, because there seemed to be little chatter. I was worried that there would be limited interaction between us all week. After the first day on site all of my worries disappeared. We were all getting along great and acting like we knew each other for years.

I was also pleased because I felt that we would definitely be able to finish our project by the end of the week with some hard work. We were assigned to paint the outside of a trailer home; I had painted plenty of times in the past so I was excited. As the week went on I realized that although the project we were working on seemed to be easy, it is more than just the difficulty of the project. What really matters is what we did for the resident. Our resident was an 87 year old WWII veteran named Frank Mort. Mort lived by himself and seemed to rarely have company. The companionship that we provided to him for that week may have meant more than the paint we put on the house. Along with working on his house we got to know him well throughout the week. There was a local newspaper article on Mort that he shared with us. In 1972 Mort had a quadruple bypass and was told that if was to have any chance of surviving, he would need to walk five miles everyday for the rest of his life. Mort told us he hates walking, but did so anyways because he knew he had to. Since 1972 Mort has only missed a total of 28 days, so he walks pretty much no matter what the weather is like outside.

Mort's resilience inspired my whole crew, and changed our lives forever. Everytime it rains I no longer think, "This is terrible, I can't believe I have to deal with this," but rather, "It could be worse. I could be on a five mile walk right now." Through Mort's determination I have learned to appreciate all of my wonderful possessions, because you never know what lies around the corner.

JIM TITUS

Hi I'm Jim, and this past June I went on my third consecutive work camp. It was a fantastic experience and an incredible week. I was placed with a great crew and was matched with some great residents. It is amazing how great friends you can make in one week as well as how much progress can be made when a group of people who have never met each other all focus on the same goal.

When we first arrived at the school, we were led to the classroom we would be staying in for the week. We all unpacked our sleeping bags and found our sleeping spots in the room before we took off to check out the school and play tennis. By dinner most people were excited to meet their crew and see what kind of project they would be assigned this year. Following dinner, we had our first service in the school auditorium, which happened every night at 7:00 pm for the rest of that week. In my past two work camps they had always crammed everyone into one side of the bleachers in the school gym, so this was a very nice as well as comfortable change of pace. We then all met our crews, and I instantly could feel a connection with my crew members, I could already tell it would be a great week. We all got to know each other the best we could in about 45 minutes, and then got our packet on the house we were going to be working on. We had to paint the exterior of a one story house white, as well as the residents' bedroom. We then had our group devotion, which is when the youth group gets together and discusses our progress as well and any God sightings. We then just hung out in the cafeteria until our curfew of 11:00 pm hit.

Everyone was ready to get to work when we arrived at the site the next morning. We met our two residents, Peggy and Jack, who were an elderly couple who needed our help to paint the house which they were physically unable to do. Peggy had had her left leg amputated just above the knee 9 months prior to our arrival, and was struggling to adapt to this new way of life. Jack was working very hard to make the adjustment smooth, but you could see that it wasn't easy on him either. Peggy was forced to become dependent on Jack for many tasks that she previously had done herself. Being restricted to a power scooter was a tough transition but there was no complaining that anyone on the crew

heard, in fact they were extremely helpful to us. Any time we needed anything they were both offering to give us the best assistance they could. I hadn't ever thought about how much they were going through because they just covered it all up with smiles and optimism.

Yet on the third day my crew invited the resident to join us in our devotion, which was about being held captive. Our hand book instructed the Devotion Leader to ask if anyone would like to share how they are being held captive, and at first no one wanted to talk because it is a somewhat personal issue. But then we asked our residents and immediately Peggy just broke down, for the first and only time of the week, and shared how hard it has been, and how grateful she is to Jack for being there for her, yet how guilty she also feels to be so dependent on him and how she feels as though she is a burden. That was followed by our crew leader then opening up and sharing that her mother had died three months ago, and that she was having a very hard time dealing with that as well. By the end of the devotion both of them were in tears.

Later that day we went mini golfing, go-karting, and hit the batting cages. When we got back, Lindsey and Amanda Hutchinson sang a duet of Landslide to their dad Alan, and did a great job. We ended up needing an additional crew to come in and help since my crew wasn't going to be able to finish the house in the one week. So on the fourth day, Sally Peterson and her crew showed up. This is the second year out of three, that my crew looked like we may not finish, and Sally along with her crew is randomly assigned to come help us. Sally is a great leader and her crews are always very productive. We were able to finish on time and Peggy and Jack were very happy with the result.

It was a fantastic week and I am very happy and proud to have taken part in it. Work Camp is an unforgettable experience and I think that everyone who participates in it comes back extremely pleased that they did so. Thank you very much for all the donations and preparation that the church congregation put in to make this possible.

MISSY WELCH

This was my first time going to work camp and it was awesome! My resident's name was

Joseph and we were building a deck so that he and his family would have two exits in case of emergency. I loved getting to know everyone in my crew and meeting people from other churches. They were a very determined group of people, and would not quit until the job was done, even if it meant running equipment in and out of the van (many times) in order to avoid lightning on our last day. All the hard work was worth it when we saw how happy our resident was. I'm already excited for next year!

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

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

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 for your support.

Jean Newton &

the Board of Christian Education

HELP NEEDED IN CRIBBERY

The cribbery needs people to assist **Sandy Horton** and **Mike Lawler**. You do not need to have a child or grandchild in the cribbery to help. Just come in and have fun holding babies and playing with the little ones. **Jean Newton**

WOMEN'S RETREAT

PLANNING TEAM NEEDED!

Our Women's Retreat is fast approaching: Friday May 7-Saturday May 8 at the Benedictine Monastery in Harvard, Mass. If you have not yet signed up, please do so soon! **Elaine Moore** is our registrar for this occasion.

Carol Steinbrecher will be leading this year's retreat with in-put and assistance from **Rev. Elaine** and FROM YOU!

Carol and Elaine are holding planning meetings after church in the Fanny Forbes Room on Sunday March 28, Sunday April 11, Sunday April 18 all at noon.

We need your Help and Input! Please join us as we brainstorm themes, program, activities and details. Thank you so very, very much!
Elaine & Carol

MUSIC NOTES

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CONCERT – MARCH 7

A Westboro Interfaith Community concert hosted by the Unitarian Church is set for **Sunday, March 7 at 3 PM**. Choirs from all Westboro churches will be participating. Tickets are \$12 (\$8 for seniors) and may be purchased in advance or at the door. The concert will benefit the Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling Center.

VOICES NEEDED – PALM SUNDAY

It's not too soon to start preparing for our Palm Sunday Cantata. We have chosen the music and will begin rehearsing Thursdays at 7:30 PM. We need extra voices, all parts, but especially tenors. Please see Curtis after church for information. Copies of the score are available.

PETROF GRAND PIANO

Members of the Music Committee and staff can answer your questions about the proposed new Sanctuary piano after worship in the Choir Room. Pictures of the piano and a graph about funding the piano will be featured. The deadline for donations is close. We hope to ensure a wonderful music program both for our church choirs as well as outside groups, but we need your help!

Kathy Barry, Music Committee Chair

THANK YOU

I want to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to everyone who helped make our second Annual Celebration of African-American Heritage Concerts (held Saturday & Sunday, February 6 & 7) such a joyful, uplifting and exciting success. The efforts of the Chancel Choir, Festival Fingers, all the adults and children from the Pleasant Street Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Worcester and other special guests were well received by both congregations.

Special thanks go to **Sue Menzel, Tom & Donna Morgan (& Joseph)** for videotaping the Westboro concert and to **Brenda Lord & Marilyn Lyle** for putting together the tasty refreshments. We look forward to another collaboration celebration next February. We'll try to stay away from Super-Bowl Sunday!

Curtis Richardson

MUSIC COMMITTEE EVENTS

The beginning of February the choirs from our church as well as the Pleasant Street Seventh Day Adventist Church in Worcester performed a concert at each church to celebrate Black History Month. The anthems the choirs sang together were gospel pieces or gospel renditions of familiar hymns, such as "Amazing Grace." A six-piece band plus drummers and keyboard accompanied the music. The Black History concert is becoming a tradition in both churches and we look forward to hosting them in the future.

Upcoming events include an interfaith

musical fundraiser, hosted this year at the Unitarian Church across the street. The date is March 7 at 3 PM. Check the bulletin for more information. Proceeds from this concert benefit the Assabet Valley Counseling Center, which is located in Kirkside. Our choir, along with others from most Westborough congregations, will participate.

Warren Anderson will lead a dectet of musicians (that's 10 people) both in worship on April 25 and with a concert for the community early in the afternoon. Details are still being finalized but check church publications or the Westborough newspaper for information. The concert is about 90 minutes with familiar music along with new music. Information on tickets will follow at a later date, and proceeds will benefit the music ministry.

Kathy Barry, Chair

CHILDREN/YOUTH CHOIRS

Rehearsals: March 4, 11, 18, 25

Junior Choir – 4:30-5 & Chimes 5-5:45

Parkman Bells 4:15-5 & Youth Choir 5–5:45

Sunday, March 28 – Ring & Sing (All Choirs)

This is Palm Sunday

Everyone come to Choir Room at 9:45!

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!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – MARCH 1

All women are invited to our **Monday, March 1** Women's Fellowship event featuring Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord. Susan will lead us in a book-making workshop called the *Gift Circle*. Using recycled materials we will create books that we can share with others. In particular, we are hoping to send them to our sister church in South Africa. Maybe they will be inspired to share with us books they create. We hope you can join us. If you would like to look at Susan's web site, you can find it at www.makingbooks.com. The evening begins at 6:30 PM with 30 minutes of social time. Our

meeting will begin promptly at 7PM after which we will enjoy our program. **Megan Huber**

MARCH MISSION

Our mission for the March meeting will be to fill in where needed in completing the Hygiene Kits for Haiti. Contributions toward the cost of mailing these kits (\$2 per bag) are greatly appreciated. Call **Karen Hutchinson** 508-870-1782 for more information.

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.

SANTA'S ELVES NEED YOUR HELP ~ALREADY~

First, we would like to thank all of you for your contributions to Santa's Workshop. Every child who came to Santa's Workshop was able to buy wonderful gifts for their family and friends.

*Believe it or not,
we are now starting to plan for next year!*

Before you put away all of your holiday decorations and get rid of those unwanted gifts, please consider donating them for next year's Santa's Workshop. Santa's Elves can take all of your new unwanted lotions, soaps, scarves, sports items, tools, candles, kitchen items, etc, etc and create wonderful gift baskets for the children to purchase in Santa's Workshop. If you don't have any items, please consider all those after Christmas sales and end of season sales to get some great items for Santa's Elves. We especially need gift items for men. All new gift items as well as baskets can be placed in the Santa's Workshop bin in the Vestry.

Special thanks go to Ruth Ding, (Kristi Allen's Mom) who collects *hundreds of baskets*

all year long and brings them all the way to our church. Many come from her home church, The Church of Hemlock Farms, in Lords Valley, PA where they are donated from their Trifles and Treasures Fair run by Christian Detrick. Some of these baskets are used in Santa's Workshop, by the Greens Committee to make centerpieces, or Grandma's Attic, and others are donated to Project Just Because for their gift and Easter baskets.

We would like to thank all of you for your contributions. May the joy of Christmas be with you all year long.

Regards, **Santa's Elves**

*If you have questions please contact **Kathy Reynolds** (kreynolds118@comcast.net) or **Kristi Allen** (508-435-9424; kristinallen@comcast.net)*

MISSIONS & SOCIAL CONCERNS

YOUR MISSION DOLLARS AT WORK - JEREMIAH'S INN -

Your mission dollars help to support Jeremiah's Inn in Worcester. Jeremiah's Inn is a social model residential recovery program for men. The Inn has three components: a residential program assists homeless men in maximizing their ability to live independently and contribute to their communities; an emergency food component to help address hunger in the community; and an educational component to educate the general public regarding issues of hunger and homelessness.

The shelter has 28 beds which are used for the social model recovery program. It is a four-phase program of experiential learning that is peer oriented. Everyone gives and receives help. Residents in this program work with their case manager to develop individual service plans that give focus to their efforts. The residents share rooms, receive meals, have access to clothing, and participate in programs and services that move them closer to their goals. Participants contribute \$10 per day towards the cost of the program.

Jeremiah's has two emergency shelter beds, which are available to the community to meet emergency shelter needs for adult homeless men. Emergency stays are one to seven days. Those using this service receive shelter, meals, access to clothing, case management and referral services, as appropriate.

The criteria for eligibility are: 18 years or older, adult, homeless male, clean and sober, stable medical and mental health status, willingness to change your life.

There are several ways to get involved at Jeremiah's Inn. If you are an undergrad or graduate student, there are 12-14 week psycho-educational group internships needing facilitators. Or, if you would like to get involved as a family, with friends or on your own, prepare an evening meal for residents. Your caring and support will mean so much to these men who are seeking a better life. You can also help with the Inn's annual food drive in July. For more information, call 508-793-9568 or e-mail info@jeremiahsinn.com. The Inn is located at 1059 Main Street in Worcester.

Pam Faustine

GREEN CORNER

By **Judy Powell**

"Think before you print"

With e-mail and powerpoint, texting and twitter, reducing paper consumption should be easy, right? Unfortunately, the advent of computers in every home along with printers right next to them has resulted in a drastic rise in paper consumption and waste.

According to the World Wildlife Federation, more than one million tons of paper is used every day creating huge pressures on the environment, and the people and wildlife that depend on them.

Here are some ideas on paper efficiency from WWF.

- 1) Follow the golden rule: think before you print: Pushing the print button is too easy...and wasteful. So the next time you are about to press that button, ask yourself the golden rule of saving paper: Do I really need to print this?
- 2) Use both sides of the sheet of paper: This is a real easy way of reducing your paper consumption by 50%. Set your printer or copier's defaults to double sided. Select one-sided printing only when really needed.
- 3) Avoid printing out single line e-mails or unnecessary copies of documents. Again, just follow the golden rule and ask yourself whether you really need to print.
- 4) Use technology efficiently: E-mail, Internet, Intranets and document scanners can radically reduce paper use while also saving you time and money.

5) Recycle the paper you have and ask for recycled paper products.

6) Collect the paper you use and then reuse where possible (print again on the other side if you printed on one side only or use it for note paper). And when you do have to buy new paper make sure it is recycled.

7) Save paper in your workplace: Reductions of 20% or more are possible in most offices. So ask your office manager what they are doing to reduce paper. Remind them that saving paper isn't just about protecting the environment; it also saves them money!

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**

HAITI RESPONSE

Our congregation is now working to complete the collection of items for the Hygiene Kits the Church School has been filling. Women's Fellowship Mission for March will be adding the last items still needed, collecting donations for the shipping costs, and \$2 fee for adding the toothpaste, for the delivering of the kits to the refugees wherever needed - very likely Haiti at this time. Checks can be made out to *The Evangelical Congregational Church* with CWS Kits in the memo line. We hope to ship the kits to the CWS warehouse the week of March 6. Questions, please call **Marilyn Lyle** 508-366-5542.

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.

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 RELATONS

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!

New Prayers: Louise Petrarca (Gabe Leblanc's cousin); Eric Heintz (Anne Deysher's son-in-law).

Facing Surgery: Jamie Jaworski.

Hospitalized: Larry Laird (friend of Janet & Jim Harvey); Annette Caron (Angela Achorn Caron's mother-in-law).

Recuperating at home: Kristy (Hall) Kocou; Cathie Achorn.

In treatment: Anne Rutherford (Barbara Graf's daughter);

Bereaved: Beverly Bond (friend of Tom & Nancy Walker). Carol Moore on the death of her cousin Linda Kingsley; The family of Lee Parker. Marion True on the death of her sister Caroline Barnes. Paul Thomas on the death of his cousin Gary Thomas. Carolyn Bent on the death of her friend Jean Curran.

Continue Prayers: Bob Dobson; Martha Sawyer (Pam Kapitz' sister); Linda Hall (Doug's sister), Barbara Lowe (cousin of Stephanie Herstedt & Doug Hall); June Lukey; Jonathan Root (Harriett's brother); The people of Haiti; Jean Perry (Carolyn Bent's friend); Allen Moore (Carol's father); Roland Charpentier (Morgan Molloy's grandfather); Serena Lanz; Bob Brown; Mary Jane Kolarik (Paul Thomas' cousin); 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); 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); Heather Newton; Sandy Horton's nephew Scott and family; 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); 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); 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); 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:

- Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on February 20 was Angelina Marie Ruberti, born February 28, 2009, daughter of Lisa (Gallo) & David Ruberti and sister to Deven and Dylan.
- Blessings on the birth of Cole David Patterson, born February 5, son of Amy Roberts & David Patterson, grandson of Wendy & Paul Roberts.
- Blessings on the birth of Thomas Gregory Green, born January 21, grandson Jon Oliver.
- Congratulations to Brett Borglund who recently received the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition from the Westboro Rotary Club to honor his many accomplishments and good service to the town. The Westboro Board of Selectmen also honored his good work for the community by naming January 27 "Brett Borglund Day".

GOT GROCERY CARDS?

This is "free" money for the church. Will you help? In light of the **severe financial health** of the church, we are trying to think of new ways to increase our sales. The success of this program depends on the increased number of people in our congregation who are willing to participate, as well as in the increased ways to use grocery cards in our daily routine. To increase funds raised for the operation of the church from \$9,000 to \$18,000, can we double our participation? Just to review; you pay exactly what you would pay at the checkout for anything you buy at the grocery store – groceries, prescriptions, gift cards for other merchants, postage stamps, etc. It costs nothing for you to participate. The church receives (with some

extra effort by all of us) 3% or 5% of whatever you buy at Roche Bros and Stop & Shop respectively. Many of your regular daily expenditures can be purchased with gift cards bought with your grocery cards we sell here at church. Here are some new ideas (thanks to you all-keep them coming!) on how to generate more income for our church:

1. **Going out to dinner?** You can purchase a gift card at Stop & Shop (with your S&S card) for Outback, Ruby Tuesday, Legal Seafood, and many more!
2. **Going to the movies?** Buy a movie gift card at Stop & Shop with your grocery card!
3. **Need gas?** There are two ways to benefit the church! Get credit toward gas purchases at a Stop & Shop gas station when you buy groceries (with your grocery card, of course!). Or, better yet you can buy a gas card at Stop & Shop with your grocery card, and 5 cents of every gas dollar you spend goes to our church!
4. **Need stamps?** Buy them at S&S or Roche Bros with a grocery gift card – save a trip to the Post Office!
5. Even if you only **stop in at Roche Bros for a few things** (or lunch, dinner or a cup of coffee), why not buy a \$50 card to have on hand for those times? If everyone did that, it would help a lot!

We are also interested in why folks choose not to participate. Is there something we can do to make it easier for you to purchase cards? We know that some of you buy cards to help school programs (and to answer a FAQ, Stop & Shop only registers cards for direct contribution to public schools – not other nonprofits). Some of you choose not to buy cards to get frequent flyer miles or some other reward from your credit cards. Keep in mind these promotions amount to about 1% or less of your expenditures. The church receives 3 – 5% from grocery cards. Can you buy a card occasionally? Please let us know what keeps you from buying cards, and maybe we can find a way to come together!

- **Remember to bring a check or cash with you to church** (or mail it to me!)
- If you don't make it to church, stop by after to buy your cards – many folks do!

- Cards are also for sale at Kirkside, Monday – Thursday 9-3
- I have 2 families who send me a check once a month and I deliver their cards to them. If that works for you, let me know!

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Habitat for Humanity sent a letter of thanks for our donation of \$1500 for the Millbury Project. They stated our generosity is essential to their efforts to address the basic human right of shelter for families in desperate need.

I want to thank you all very sincerely for your prayers at the time of my recent surgery. It was very helpful to be able to count on your spiritual support. My gratitude also goes to those who called me, sent get-well cards, and kept asking Kathy about my progress. It was like having a new extended family. I am pleased to report that after a month, I feel much better and more than half way to my "old self".
Gabriel Leblanc

To the child who made my lovely valentine, Thank you so much for my special valentine. It was such a nice surprise to find it in my mailbox and it is now on my bulletin board.
Hilda Starbird

Harold & Helena Engberg would like to thank the Church School and the one who designed the lovely Valentine card we received.

Tom Walker was surprised and thrilled to receive a lovely Valentine Card from a child in our Church School.

The Bridge of Central Massachusetts sent a letter of thanks for our generous gift of \$900, which will help them provide essential items for people in need.

Interfaith Hospitality Network sent a letter of gratitude for our donation to their program which helps homeless families.

AROUND THE CHURCH

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 brossi6@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 for more information or call the school at 366-8783 for a tour. **Anne Deysher**

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. 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.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Address for Homelyne Augustin-Newton
BAF AUGUSTIN, AUGUSTIN
TF MEDCOM- 484TH MEDLOG
APO-AE 09354

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.

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
[Church web site](#)
www.UCCwestboro.org
[U.C.C. web sites](#)
<http://www.macucc.org> (Mass Conference)
<http://www.ucc.org> (National)

ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26
6 PM - VESTRY
 Join the Trustees
 for fun, food & finances
ALL WELCOME
 Questions, contact
 Suzanne Arpante
 508-898-0058
sbarpante@aol.com

EASTER FLOWERS

To participate in the Easter Flowers printed
 in the Easter Bulletin, send \$12 for each
 plant to the office by **Friday, March 19**.
 Make checks out to: *The Evangelical
 Church* noting *Easter Flowers*.
Please print clearly.
*At Christmas and Easter the money you
 give for a plant serves a dual purpose.*

*They glorify the Chancel during worship
 and then are delivered to church members
 who are 80 years old and over, members
 who are homebound, or in nursing homes.
 Some of you have asked to take a plant
 after service. If this is your wish, please
 check the box below so the Flower
 Committee can arrange for additional
 plants.*

NOTE: Circle ONE
(in memory of) or (in honor of)

From:

*Please call **Chris Mosher** with questions
 366-2250. Also, the committee needs help
 to deliver flowers after the 11 AM Easter
 service.*