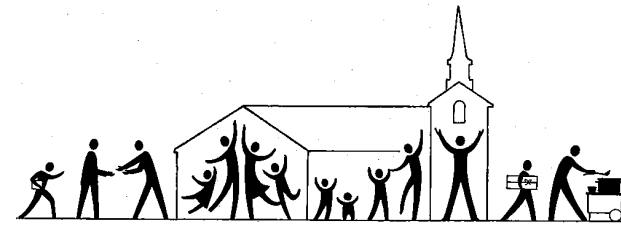


Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #11
Medfield, MA 02052-2515

The United Church Of Christ in Medfield
496 Main Street
Medfield, MA 02052-2515

Published monthly by
The United Church of Christ, Medfield
December 2009



THE BEACON

Christmas: Our God's Prodigal Gift

My favorite parable of Jesus is the one that we refer to as the “parable of the prodigal son.” As I have noted before, that does not adequately capture its dynamic and I think that it should be called the “parable of the two brothers” or something in that vein. Many people miss the importance of one of the major characters in this story—the elder brother—and many, like myself until recently, misunderstand what “prodigal” means. Most people think that “prodigal” means “wayward” or “disobedient” or something similar. But if you look up the word in the dictionary, you find the first definition is “recklessly extravagant.” Pastor Tim Keller in his recent book, *Prodigal God*, believes that the father in the parable represents God’s prodigal love. Both sons disrespected and shame him, yet his prodigal love was so great he stopped at nothing to woo them back into his love.

God’s recklessly extravagant, prodigal love lies at the heart of Christmas. The apostle Paul spells this out in Philippians 2:5-8

[Jesus] had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion (The Message).

What if this Christmas we slowed down enough to let God embrace us with His prodigal love? What if, like the younger son, we humbly received the father’s embrace, thankfully accepted the family ring, and then celebrated this love with unrestrained joy? Now that would be a Christmas worth celebrating!

Pastor Phil



SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER

In addition to our regular 9:30 am (traditional) and 11:00 am worship services on 12/6, 13, and 20, the church is offering the following worship opportunities in this Christmas season:

Sunday, December 13th

Children's Ministries will present a Christmas Play, "Through the Eyes of the Magi", written by our own Judy Weiner, during both worship services

Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve worship services will be held at the following times in the Sanctuary:

5:30* PM – Candlelight service with Cherub, Training, Treble, and Chancel choirs

7:30* PM – Candlelight service with Sanctuary Choir, Chapel Bells Ensemble and brass quintet

10:00 PM – Candlelight service with Communion

**The seating capacity of our sanctuary is approximately 325. Because the use of folding*

chairs in aisles and hallways is unsafe and unlawful, we have decided to follow the example of many other surrounding churches and offer overflow seating in another space in the church..

On December 27 one Service of Lessons and Carols will be held in the Sanctuary at **9:30AM**. There is no Sunday School or Praise Service that day.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS — During this Holiday Season, members and friends are invited to donate **\$10** to our church in memory or in honor of a loved one, or in celebration of the season. Funds will be used to purchase Christmas poinsettias and decorations to glorify our sanctuary for Christmas services. Proceeds will also support a contribution to the Medfield Home Committee. The plants may be picked up after the evening worship services on Christmas Eve or donated. Order forms are available on the table in the Narthex. **The last day to order is Sunday, December 13th in order to be listed in the Christmas Sunday insert!**

CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Senior Pastor | The Rev. Dr. Philip J. Bauman pbauman@uccmedfield.org |
| Church Administrator | Laury Hunt lhunt@uccmedfield.org |
| Director of Youth Ministries | Wendy Ludwig wludwig@uccmedfield.org |
| Director of Children's Ministries | Susan Holbrook sholbrook@uccmedfield.org |
| Minister of Music Choral & Handbells | Michael Olbash molbash@uccmedfield.org |
| Minister of Music Praise & Youth | Heidi Willson hwillson@uccmedfield.org |

CHURCH CONTACT

Church Office:
Phone — 508-359-2351
Fax — 508-359-2352

Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday
8:30—4:30
Friday 8:30—12:30

Church Website:
www.uccmedfield.org

BEACON Editor: Laury Hunt
Layout: Donna Matson

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Compassionate Listening Tip: Caring vs. Curing

There's a clear and important difference between caring and curing when we listen to someone talk about their feelings.

It can be easy to try to suggest a "fix" or a solution, thinking that it's for the sake of the friend. But this crosses the line from caring to curing.

It is most caring to abide by the process of listening and empathizing even though it can be hard.



God's Words of Hope

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
— John 16:33

Stephen Ministers provide confidential emotional and spiritual support and care...through the act and work of listening...to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. For more information, speak to one of the Stephen Leaders: Pastor Phil, Heidi Groff, Gayle Edger or Rick Train or call the church office at 508-359-2351 and ask for Pastor Phil.



"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other."
1 Thessalonians 5:11

YOUTH NEWS

Holiday Pie Mission Trip Fundraiser! Senior High mission trip participants thank you for supporting the Ever So Humble holiday pie fundraiser. It was a delicious success!

Sharing Christmas Blessings!!! Focus on Youth students, 8th and 9th grade confirmation students and all Senior High Fellowship students are once again invited to participate in **The City Mission Society's Christmas Shop Program**. Gift suggestions were distributed to students before Thanksgiving. Students in Sr. High Fellowship & 9th Grade Confirmation are asked to bring their gift on Sunday, December 6th. FOY & 8th grade confirmation students are asked to bring their gift to FOY on Monday night, December 7th. PLEASE DO NOT WRAP the gift you bring! These gifts are the only gifts that some families receive on Christmas. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Senior High to Help at City Mission Society Christmas Shop — All mission trip participants, 9th grade confirmation students and any other interested Senior High Fellowship students are invited to attend the December 20th service project to City Mission Society's Christmas Shop. We will leave church at 12:15PM on the 20th and will arrive back to church around 4PM. All students are required to bring a completed permission form in order to participate. Permission forms are available on the uccmedfield.org website. WE NEED PARENT DRIVERS! Please call the church if you can help.

Sr. High Soup To Go! We'll be out delivering soup, sandwiches and big helpings of Christian Fellowship on **Saturday, December 5th!** Senior High students are invited to deliver and/or cook. 8th grade students are invited to assist with cooking. All participants need permission forms to attend. Forms are available on the uccmedfield.org Soup To Go page. If 8th



graders would like to help with delivery, a parent must also attend. Parent drivers needed – sign up in Narthex! All 9th grade Confirmation students are reminded that they are required to participate in Soup To Go delivery before the end of March.

The 9th Grade Confirmation class participated in an overnight retreat November 10-11, at the UCC Conference Center in Framingham. Twenty eight students and four adults attended the retreat which focused on Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Thanks to leaders Barry Mills, Cathy Chung and Bill Sobo. Thanks also to parent Chris Komine for coordinating and purchasing breakfast and lunch!

9th Grade Confirmation students are reminded to be at the **Temple Beth David in Westwood** promptly at 5:30PM on Friday, December 4th.



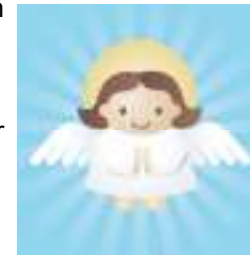
STORM CLOSINGS – as we enter into the winter season, please remember that there are no youth events such as Focus on Youth or children's choirs held on days that schools have been cancelled or closed early because of weather conditions. We are making arrangements with the local television and radio stations to be included in their storm closing announcements. So far we've made arrangements with WBZ and WCVB. We will also try to get the information on our web site and answering machine if time permits.

MEMBER NEWS

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS, Mary and Tyler Brown and Jan and Tyler Fovel who joined UCC Medfield on November 1.

MEDFIELD FOOD CUPBOARD - Specifically from UCC for December, they have asked for **juice, cereal, canned pasta, pasta sauce**, but will gladly accept other non-perishable items. Please place your donations in the baskets located in the corner of the Narthex marked for the Food Cupboard. Thank you.

JOIN IN THE ANGEL RUN ON SUNDAY, 12/6 Runners, walkers and spectators of all ages are invited to participate in the fourth annual Angel Run, a 5K family "fun run/walk" through Medfield in memory of Natasha Domeshek, being held on Sunday afternoon, December 6. As in past years, the Angel Run will be a celebration of the Christmas season and Medfield community spirit, with entertainment and decorations along the route. The fun starts at the Ralph Wheelock Elementary School prior to the 2:00 p.m. starting gun, and continues there afterward at a post-race party. Proceeds benefit the MFI-Natasha Domeshek Fund, which supports families in need through the UCC Medfield Parish Mutual Aid Fund and a "kindness" scholarship for the Medfield High School class of 2012. More information and registration forms can be found at www.angelrun.org.



ANNUAL MEETING 2010 — The Annual Meeting of The United Church of Christ will be held in the Great Room

Sunday, January 10, 2010 immediately following the 9:30 combined service. The Annual Reports will be available and the Warrant posted by January 3rd.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY — You may not think that December is a month to learn to knit or crochet or even come to the Prayer Shawl meetings. However it is a wonderful way to spend two hours praying, chatting, and relaxing during this magnificent season. Also if you are looking to give someone a gift of comfort and joy, please request a prayer shawl from any of the names listed below. We will be having our annual potluck at Joan Sethi's on **December 15th**. If you are interested in attending please let Joan know at jsethi@comcast.net. We meet in the parlor on the first and third Thursday of every month at 12:30 PM and the second and fourth Tuesday at 7:30 PM. There is no need to sign up and supplies are always on hand. For additional information please contact Michelle Luhrmann (359-1586) or Donna Luft (359-4420) for daytime meetings; Sally Harris (359-4203) for evening meetings. If you prefer email please contact Carol LaFreniere cladedah@aol.com. *Please note the evening group will meet on December 8th after the cookie swap, but will not meet on the 22nd.

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE AT THOMAS UPHAM — We will be leading a Sunday service at the Thomas Upham nursing home across the street from our church on 12/27th. We will meet in the Narthex at 10:45 and walk over together. The service will be one of Lessons and Carols and we would appreciate a good turnout of people to share in reading the Christmas scriptures and singing Christmas Carols. Looking forward into 2010, opportunities for participating will include singing, reading scripture, assisting with and/or leading prayer concerns*, delivering a 5-7 minute message*, preparing the worship service*, and playing the piano. For additional information please see Mike Polagye; contact him 508-520-0865 michael.polagye@fmglobal.com. (*Resources to assist in these areas are available.)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

PEEKING THROUGH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WINDOWS YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN:



- ✓ **Pre-k1** students acting out the story of Moses leading the Israelites through the parted sea.
- ✓ The children in the **pre-k2 class** playing the "hide baby Moses" game in their classroom.
- ✓ The **kindergarten students** making tambourines to "**WORSHIP THE LORD WITH GLADNESS**"
- ✓ The **first graders** worshipping under their own tabernacle tent and then making worship stoles as Moses' people did to help worship God.
- ✓ The **second graders** making a worship window and banner letters that say Praise God!!
- ✓ After listening to the story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from God, the **third graders** made their own tablets out of jewelry clay and wrote the most important commandment of all on it—**LOVE GOD!**
- ✓ The **fourth grade students** reading the Ten Commandments from the book of Exodus and then tossing the prayer ball back and forth around the circle and responding to the prayer questions on the ball.
- ✓ Our **fifth grade students** comparing the elements and symbols of the Tabernacle to the worship area in their classroom.
- ✓ The fun and natural interaction of various ages learning together in a **multi-age classroom** and the extreme blessing of having "special friends" join us in our classroom.

Advent

Advent is a time when we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This year, each Children's Ministry family will receive an Advent package to guide them through this season. Included in the packet is an Advent chain project that highlights the many names the Bible uses when it talks about Jesus. Each day in December you will add a colorful link to your Advent chain and learn a special name for Jesus. Since He has so many special names, He must really be a special Savior! Packets will be distributed starting on November 22nd.

We invite you to visit the Children's Ministry Center and borrow a book or two to read at home. We have a huge selection of books and DVDs that you are sure to enjoy. Adult, family and children's devotionals will be available in the narthex and outside the Great Room.

Once again, UCC Medfield is collecting Christmas gifts for City Mission Society's (CMS) Christmas Shop program. Children are asked to bring in a gift for a child their same age and sex. Gift suggestions were included in the Advent take home packet. Gifts are due by December 13th and must be **unwrapped**.

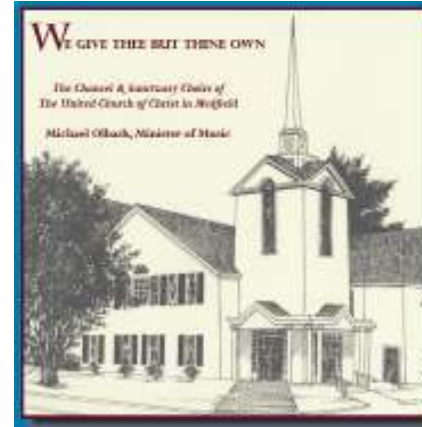
Stewardship Projects

October - Thank you for your generous support of our Living Gift Market for Heifer International on October 26th. Contributions to date totaled over \$11,000 which will buy more that 30 pairs of animals for needy families around the world.

November - Our "We are having a ball keeping kids warm this winter" campaign is well underway with lots of hats and mittens collected for Cradles to Crayons.

MUSIC

"WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN" CD RELEASE!



The Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs are pleased to announce that "We Give Thee But Thine Own" will be available to all (even gift-wrapped!) at the Carol Sing on Friday, December 4, and during Fellowship Hour after the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 6. The recording is available free of charge, but those who wish to do so will have an opportunity to make a donation to one of our many church mission projects, like Soup To Go, Parish Mutual Aid, and Cradles to Crayons. We especially hope that these recordings will reach people who are sick and homebound, people who are guests and newcomers, and all those who are separated from the church community.

THE SOUNDING BOARD (News from the Music Advisory Team) — After three years of dedicated service leading the "Sounding Board," Deb Kumpf is about to complete a successful term as chair of our music advisory team. The Board of Music, inactive since 2003, needed to be reconvened in order to provide the necessary advice and support for our new Ministers of Music, Michael Olbash and Heidi Willson. Deb accepted the call to lead the newly-formed team, kept the meetings focused and prayerful, and ensured that new projects, ideas, and problems never "fell through the cracks." Deb was "instrumental" in facilitating the handbell repair project, and successfully recruited team members from all corners of our congregation. Thank you, Deb, for your leadership. We'll miss you!

The next meeting of the Sounding Board will be held at on Monday, January 11, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., led by our new chairperson, Sue Schaub. This meeting is open to all who might be interested in becoming part of the Sounding Board in 2010. We particularly need representation from people who attend the Praise Service and parents of children's choir members.



SOUP TO GO

It's that time of year: the holidays! This is certainly a time associated with eating to the max and a frenzy of present buying. But I rather imagine if I asked someone how they would prefer to spend their Thanksgiving or Christmas - a baloney sandwich with family, or a turkey dinner with all the trimmings without family - I suspect that baloney sandwich would win out. Family is important to all of us - including our homeless friends in Boston.

Our homeless friends first started coming to us because of the food and items we hand out; but they now stay long after they've gotten that bowl of chili and pair of socks because we're family. In God's world, we are all brothers and sisters - we are all family.

We invite you to consider spending some time with your extended family this Christmas season - come join us for an outing!

And we do understand that it isn't always doable to come in town to deliver, so please also consider the other options available to help feed and cloth that extended family. This

can include helping with the food preparation, bagging of toiletries, or donating some of the many items that we take along.

Items that we're currently in most need of:

- ◇ Men's underwear - all sizes
- ◇ Socks - preferably crew cut
- ◇ Toiletry items - especially the hotel-size shampoos, conditioners, etc.
- ◇ Warm clothing! If used, please make sure the items are clean and in good condition.

Upcoming Soup To Go Dates:

December 5 (SHF)
 December 12
 December 26
 January 9 (SHF)
 January 23

Signup sheets can be found in the Narthex for upcoming outings - food preparation is at 3:30 (ends around 5:30) in Fellowship Hall and delivery is at 5:45 (usually back around 9). Baskets for donations can be found in the Narthex corner shelving unit near the stairs.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

9 Walker Street in Medway is becoming a construction site! A temporary driveway has been installed, with trees being cleared, to be followed by excavation and the pouring of a foundation. We are relieved to finally be moving along after delays due to permits, scheduling and even the flu!

UCC Medfield is scheduled for a work day with 12 volunteers at the Walker Street site on Saturday, **December 12**. All those who have signed up (past and present) will be contacted by email about their availability. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who have not yet indicated their interest.

Please join us at the site on **Saturday, December 5** at 3 p.m. for a celebration to welcome the Dahl family and their four children - prospective owners of the Walker Street home. After the celebration, a reception will be held at St. Joseph's Parish Center, 145 Holliston Street, Medway. R.S.V.P. to info@tri-valleyipc.com.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|---|
| December 6 | 8:30 9:30 11:00 | Teacher Meeting and Communion Children's Church Regular Sunday School |
| December 13 | 9:30 & 11:00 | Christmas Play |
| December 20 | 9:30 & 11:00 | Regular Sunday School |
| December 27 | 9:30 | Service of Lessons and Carols No Sunday School No 11:00 Worship Service |

"Through the Eyes of the Magi" **Christmas Play**

Join us on December 13th when 17 of our 3rd through 5th graders present a play written by Judy Weiner called "Through the Eyes of the Magi" during the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services. Many thanks to Lynne Miller, Judy Weiner and Jan Cree for their leadership and support on this play.



can create meaningful memories. This newsletter is filled with ideas that families can use as they prepare for Jesus' birth. Hard copies can be found in the literature racks in the narthex or outside Susan's office.

Children's Church on December 6th Our monthly Children's church service will be held on December 6th during the first part of the 9:30 worship service. This month, our fourth grade students will recite the 23rd Psalm and we will have a surprise guest visit during the worship service. Pre-k through 5th grade students participate in this 20 minute worship service in the Great Room that includes music, prayer, sharing of blessings (offering) and a short message. After our worship time together, children will be dismissed directly to their classrooms.

The Parent Link The December issue of The Parent Link was emailed to all CM families in mid-November. This month's topic is new Christmas traditions. Traditions keep your family's unique legacy going, and whether they're simple, silly, or sentimental, traditions

Classroom Volunteers- December

As part of our Safe Church initiative at UCC Medfield, two adults are required each week in every Sunday School classroom. Each month several Sundays will be staffed by teacher aides and the other weeks will be staffed by parent volunteers. **If you are unable to attend your scheduled date, please try to switch with another parent or call Susan Holbrook at church (359-2351) or at home (359-8378).**

| | <u>12/6</u> | <u>12/13</u> | <u>12/20</u> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Pre-k1 | Barrows | Malmquist | Marmai |
| Pre-k2 | Ruud | Robertson | Thompson |
| Kindergarten | Pease | PLAY | Price |
| 1st Grade | Le | PLAY | Koterba |
| 2nd Grade | Farrell | PLAY | Colleran |
| 3rd Grade | Passas | PLAY | Coogan |
| 4th Grade | Crowell | PLAY | Heaney |
| 5th Grade | Sarris | PLAY | Young |

ASSOCIATE PASTOR POSITION

Based on the initial feedback from the staff and participants in the recent forums, a draft job description for the position of Associate Pastor has been developed. The congregation is welcome to provide comments or suggestions on the description to your Moderator, Steve Groff (steve.groff@comcast.net). Please supply feedback as soon as possible so it may be finalized prior to the Annual Meeting on January 10, 2010.

Draft Job Description — The Associate Pastor shall work in a collaborative relationship with the Senior Pastor, staff, and congregants as called disciples of Jesus Christ. We seek an outgoing, creative minister to foster connectedness, assimilating new persons and families within our active congregation; provide hands on leadership for development of small group ministries and equip others to assume leadership according to their spiritual gifts; share significantly in responsibilities for pastoral care and worship including preaching. This position reports to the Senior Pastor.

In this full-time position, the Associate Pastor will support the mission and goals of the church as expressed through our vision to love and worship God and to love and serve others as Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus Christ. Primary responsibilities will include leadership in three areas:

Congregational Life

- ☐ Create and manage a path for assimilating new persons/families in the life of the congregation.
- ☐ Help individuals identify their spiritual gifts and find meaningful connections with ministries of the church.
- ☐ Oversee and expand existing welcoming and friendship ministry.
- ☐ Develop a plan for small group ministry including training and faith formation of group leaders.

Pastoral Care

- ☐ Provide pastoral care to members in coordination with the Senior Pastor.
- ☐ Participate regularly in Sunday morning worship, preaching once every 4-6 weeks in both the traditional and praise services. Help plan and participate in periodic prayer and healing services.
- ☐ Provide pastoral leadership in the event of the absence of the Senior Pastor.

Christian Education

- ☐ Oversee and support the Director of Youth Ministries.
- ☐ Oversee and support the Director of Children's Ministries.
- ☐ Provide periodic training and support initiatives for parents of youth (through forums, workshops and/or classes).
- ☐ Teach adult Bible Study as needed.

Personal traits — Outgoing • Effective communicator • Good people skills • Flexible Ability to involve and lead others • Compassionate • Sense of humor

Level of experience:— Master of Divinity degree with three to five years relevant ministry experience. Familiarity or experience with congregational life development desired. Praise worship background a plus.

ADULT MISSION TRIP

The photos of the UCC Adult Mission Team's November week in the Gulfport/Biloxi area of Mississippi tell one story of our collective experience there. In four and one-half work days, we built a Habitat for Humanity house starting from the cement block foundation and ending with three exterior walls and all of the interior walls framed and installed. In addition, a small group, led by Neal O'Connor, shingled the roof of another Habitat house in the neighborhood.



There has been a great spirit of teamwork in all of our trips to work on helping to rebuild the Gulf Coast over the last four years, but the nature of our work there this year just enhanced our sense of working as "one". When 13 people work together to raise a framed wall, an apparently difficult task becomes an easy and exhilarating experience.

As Heidi Erickson so eloquently described in her November 15th Ministry Moment about our trip, we were blessed with a wonderful site supervisor who blessed us in more ways than we could have imagined. His skill at making sure that everyone had a job and clear instructions, as well as his ability to work quickly to anticipate the next task, was a true gift. In addition, he shared his own Katrina

story with us, in an emotional and eloquent way that touched our hearts and gave us additional understanding of the challenges still facing those who are trying to rebuild their lives and their communities. As we learned on the first morning there, Donald could really pray! He started each day off with a prayer that gave each of us renewed inspiration and helped us focus on our mission there. We know that he appreciated participating in our prayer at the end of the day. Even more than that, our communion service at the end of our last work day clearly held real meaning for him, as it did for each of us.

We all have our own stories of the fellowship and lessons that this trip held for us. We hope that you will ask us to share them with you. We'll be happy to spread our joy!

Mission Trip Participants:

Pastor Phil, Barbara and Ron Yates, Steve and Jennifer Grant, Joan Parsons, Cathy Shires, Bill Marshall, Carol Cassoli, Heidi Erickson, Neal O'Connor, Pat Mormann, and Art Davies.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

January Beacon

Monday, December 14th
9:00 AM.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE

For the most up to date calendar, current events and various registration forms/permission slips as well as rehearsal schedules, youth and children's ministries information.

www.uccmedfield.org

CRADLES TO CRAYONS MINISTRY

November was another busy month for UCC Medfield's partnership with Cradles to Crayons.

Sorting Parties - We held three major sorting events during the month of November. C2C was blessed to receive a huge donation of socks and underwear after a local business used UCC's Operation Undercover theme from 2007 to inspire employees to give these much needed items. Twenty women and two UCC kindergarten students packaged all these socks and underwear in less than two hours. On Wednesday, November 17th, a group of 3rd grade girls met at the church and packaged girls underwear, socks and newborn caps. We held a bathing suit sort on November 18th.



Pajama Party - Our second annual PJ party for C2C was held on November 6th. Twenty five children participated in this fun event that was led by Heidi Willson with storytelling, songs and games. And we finished off the evening with cookies and milk!

New Site for Sorting Bags - Located in the narthex stairwell. You can now check out sorting bags without climbing the stairs to the second floor. Many thanks to Rich Holbrook for putting the new shelves together. Stop by and pick up a bag (or two) to package at home. It is a great family activity or something to do while you are watching TV in the evening. Detailed instructions, Ziploc bags and a suggested prayer for the recipients of the sorted items are included in the take home bags. There is a sign out sheet on a clipboard on the shelving unit.

Local Donation Site: Kathy Mills' house
6 Wild Holly Lane, Medfield
No need to call ahead — donations may be left on Kathy's covered front porch.

C2C Facebook Page—If you are on Facebook, take a look at the Cradles to Crayons page and sign up to be a FAN. There is generally a posting each day of C2C's latest appeals (volunteers and donations), new stories and special offers...check it

WELCOMING & FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY

As Christmas approaches, extending hospitality is high on many of our lists because many of us share our homes with friends and family during this season. Well, here at UCC Medfield, hospitality is high on our list as well. As you might expect, we welcome a lot of visitors during the Advent and Christmas seasons and we pray all our guests find our church to be a warm and welcoming church where God's spirit is alive and active.

Since we are really all part of the Welcome & Friendship Ministry, here are some simple tips for making guests feel welcomed in our midst:

- ♥ Smile and be friendly!
- ♥ Greet them with "I don't believe we've met", and introduce yourself.
- ♥ After the service, escort them to coffee hour and introduce them to someone you think they might have something in common with.
- ♥ If you see someone standing alone and looking "lost", extend biblical hospitality by going up and speaking to them.
- ♥ Share information about our church and ask if they have any particular questions.
- ♥ Tell them how happy we are to have them, and that you hope they will worship with us again.

Remember—we were all guests here at UCC Medfield at one time, and if we just recall what it was like, and what you needed at that time, you won't have any problem making them feel welcome!

In Randy Hammer's book [52 Ways to Ignite Your Congregation in Practical Hospitality](#) he says: "if newcomers leave feeling uplifted and with a sense of hope, they will likely come again."

Coffee Hour - Thank you to all who hosted coffee hour this fall and for your helpful feedback that improves this important ministry. Your suggestions lead us to focus on what was really needed and could not be supplied by anyone else - and that is you!. Hosting coffee hour is about the opportunity to connect with guests, fellow friends, neighbors and members.

All you need to bring is yourself. Coffee, snacks and everything else provided by the Welcoming & Friendship Ministry team. Our very capable coffee prep team makes the coffee each week and is on hand to give any advice on setup and serving. We are always looking for a host or a family of hosts. To sign up or for more information contact Kathe Farris at kathe@thanktank.com or 508-359-1171.

Dinner Groups - All of our six dinner groups have either had their first evening together or it is on the calendar. Let's just say, finding a date that works for each group is no easy feat!! If you are in a dinner group, try to take a few pictures of your group over the course of the year so we can include pictures in a future Welcoming & Friendship section of the UCC Medfield website.



MISSION: POSSIBLE — HOLD THE DATE — SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Please mark your family calendars for a CHURCH-WIDE day of service and fellowship on **Saturday, January 30**. We are organizing a broad range of mission projects so that EVERYONE (age 5 and up) has a chance to get involved. Some of the organizations we will be partnering with include:

Cradles 2 Crayons Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston Food Bank
Medfield Council on Aging Soup To Go Overlook Farm/Heifer International
Medfield Food Cupboard Boston City Mission Society

Many of these projects are perfect for families to do together so the whole family can be involved—an excellent opportunity for parents to show your children what giving back means. We promise a REWARDING and FUN day for all. Imagine the difference that several hundred of us working together can make! The day will conclude with a church-wide family dinner that will be open to all church members and volunteers. Sign ups will start in mid-December and will be first-come, first-served so stay tuned. Daycare will be provided for children under five.

Special Note to Patriots Fans: January 30th is the week after the conference championships and the week before the Super Bowl, so there will be no conflicts.

UCC Women has several winter events coming up and we hope you will join us for all of them!

Our next event is the **Advent Cookie Wrap** on Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00 pm. This is a filling and fulfilling evening as we share a supper of homemade soups and then wrap up boxes of cookies for local families in need. Please bring two batches of cookies for wrapping and, if you can, some soup to share. Sign up in the Narthex or RSVP to your evite (via email) invitation. If you can't join us for supper, but would like to donate cookies, please leave cookies in the kitchen by Tuesday (12/8) afternoon.



Although our **UCC Women's Retreat** is not until April 22-23, signups will be in early February, so it's not too soon to be making plans. Mary Luti will be our leader as we return to the Old Sea Pines Inn for more thoughtful discussion, singing, and spiritual growth.

On Tuesday, March 2nd, at 7:00 pm we will host a **Book Discussion of the "The Shack"** by William P. Young. This very thought provoking book will also have a connection to our retreat topic.

And remember...all women of the church are members of UCC Women. It's the best membership deal ever – it's free and it never expires. Join us!