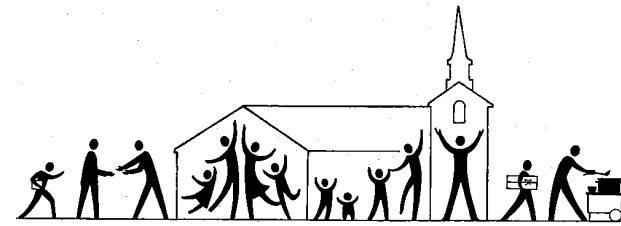


The United Church Of Christ in Medfield
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THE BEACON

RISKING LOVE

I recently finished reading the book, *The Pastor as Minor Poet*, by M. Craig Barnes, a Presbyterian pastor and Professor of Leadership and Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. It is a slim book in size, but thick in wisdom. In fact, after I finished reading it, I almost immediately began reading it again.

One section in particular caught hold of my attention and attached itself to my mind like a burr:

No one is argued out of fear. We can only be loved out of it. And according to the Bible, that is exactly what the perfect love of God does: It casts out fear (1 John 4:18)... "Fear not" is one of Jesus' most frequently repeated phrases. This is because the enemy of our faith is not doubt but fear. Our level of fear is the indication of how little of God's perfect love we've received. No one gets caught up in God's drama for their lives without having to take huge risks, and nothing can interrupt the drama like being afraid to take those risks. Those who believe they are the beloved move from one risk to the next,

not because they expect to always succeed, but because they don't care if they fail. How bad can the failure be? They can't lose the love of God.

"No one is argued out of fear. We can only be loved out of it." I have been gnawing on that bone ever since. "No one gets caught up in God's drama for their lives without having to take huge risks, and nothing can interrupt the drama like being afraid to take those risks." Pretty counter-cultural for people like ourselves who do everything possible to minimize risk. I wonder how much of our motivation, personally and corporately, arises out of fear?

As we try to discern God's will for us as we minister to the world, do we do so with fear—trying to reduce risks—or do we do so in faith in the One who loves us perfectly? I believe that God is calling us to open our eyes to the needs around us and to take far greater risks to minister in His name. I am excited about the opportunities that God has already revealed to us and those that God will reveal to us this year in the knowledge that we "can't lose the love of God."

Pastor Phil

MEMBER NEWS

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE – same address, new look. You'll find an up-to-date church calendar, information on Christian education and music opportunities for all ages, registration forms, active ministries of UCC Medfield. We will be conducting a registration period shortly that will allow congregational members to access additional areas on the site. We welcome your feedback. Many thanks to all the work that Mary Ellen Slater has put into this endeavor.

SYMPATHY TO

The family of **Jeannette Lovelace Allard** who died on August 28 after a long illness. Her funeral and collation were held at the church on September 3. Jeannette was an active member of UCC Medfield for over 50 years!

NEW MEMBER

On September 20th during the 11:00 service, David Domeshek was baptized and welcomed into membership at UCC Medfield. David has been a faithful member of the praise team from its inception and has been a long time attendee of UCC Medfield.

EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP IN UCC

MEDFIELD. If you are interested in joining UCC Medfield or learning more about us, a two-part session will be held on **October 18 and 25** from 4:00-7:00 PM and will include supper and child care. Those desiring to join will be received into membership on **November 1** during the worship services. Sign up in the narthex or call the church office if you have questions.

MEDFIELD FOOD CUPBOARD - Specifically from UCC for October, they have asked for **canned vegetables, peanut butter, rice - flavored and brown**, 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.

A BIG THANK YOU to Gayle Edgar who painted and decorated the restroom across from the office, to Dick Tlapa for keeping the grounds mowed and trimmed, and to Kim Bodozian who arranged all the many mums on Homecoming Sunday helping to make UCC Medfield a welcoming congregation.

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Philip J. Bauman pbauman@uccmedfield.org
Church Administrator	Laury Hunt lhunt@uccmedfield.org
Minister of Music	Michael Olbash molbash@uccmedfield.org
Youth Minister	Wendy Ludwig wludwig@uccmedfield.org
Director of Children's Ministries:	Susan Holbrook sholbrook@uccmedfield.org
Praise Music Leader:	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

STEWARDSHIP

*When I said, "My foot is slipping," your love, O Lord, supported me.
When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul.*
Psalm 94:18-19

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be.*

"Simple Gifts," Shaker hymn

Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. The past year has brought significant disruptions in the economy and marketplace. Government, business, and personal budgets have been stretched thin. Uncertainty about the future is an ongoing concern.

Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare." Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings and retirement funds, rising costs, lower income growth, and volatile stock and housing markets are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

A recent AP poll found that four in five Americans continue to rate the economy as poor, and a majority worry about their own ability to make ends meet. A Washington Post-ABC News poll indicates that despite recent signs of improvement, "most call the economic situation a source of stress in their lives, and that anxiety also stems from apprehension of what may lie ahead for their families." (Washington Post, Sept. 15).

What solace and wisdom does our faith offer us in these troubling times? Join us in worship the coming weeks for a sermon series entitled *Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity*. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management. We'll hear expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

On Stewardship Sunday, November 22, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments in the worship services that day. We hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

Yours in Christ,

The Stewardship Ministry Team

YOUTH NEWS

Focus on Youth and 8th Grade

Confirmation is off to a GREAT start! Small group leaders Carol Cassoli, Bret Swedeen, Tayne Quinn, Michele Stahl, Allan Willson, Chris Grant, Elaine Shea, Tom Sullivan, George Chung, Wendy Ludwig, and student leaders, Brian Lonabocker, Katie Quinn and Megan Swedeen reported a good first small group meeting. We have 71 students registered for FOY/C8 this year! Please look in the Christian Education Handbook or on the uccmedfield.org website for general FOY information and schedule. Thanks in advance to parents for kitchen crew, as well as serving as the WIP (welcoming in parent – see handbook). Parents are welcome and encouraged to call Wendy Ludwig with questions. Your support is crucial and greatly appreciated!

8th Graders – Permission forms (one from LaVida and one from UCC Medfield) for our October 24th one-day **retreat at Gordon College's LaVida Center** will be sent home with students on 10/5. Please return permission forms no later than Friday, 10/9. We **will** need a driver or two! Please contact Lynn at the office if you can help with driving to or from Gordon College (about an hour away.)

Senior High Fellowship and 9th Grade Confirmation is full up and full out! We had our first meeting on Sunday, September 13th, at which 9th graders “crossed in” to Senior High Fellowship. Leaders Terry Brennan, Gary Greaves, Tom Infantino, Heather Horan, Heidi Willson, Wendy Ludwig and 9th grade confirmation leaders Barry Mills, Bill Sobo, and Cathy Chung are psyched for a great year! The SHF meeting schedule is available in the Christian Education Handbook and on the uccmedfield.org website. All 9th-12th graders are invited to attend and are welcome to bring friends! See you Sunday at 6:30!

Senior High Soup To Go begins again on Saturday, October 3rd – other dates are posted in the Narthex. The Soup To Go Ministry Team and the SH Leaders will provide one adult lead cook and one adult team of lead drivers for each Soup To Go outing. We will need one adult volunteer and four student volunteers to cook for each outing. In addition, we will need a team of adult drivers and 6-8 student volunteers for each delivery. **This is a requirement for all 9th Grade Confirmation students.** . Contact Wendy Ludwig with questions (508) 785-4027. Adult volunteers – please be assured that you will be helping (and not asked to lead!) the cooking and delivery efforts. Our Safe Church Guidelines require more than one adult be present when students are together. Thanks for your help with this.

Senior High Fellowship held the annual **cookie wrap for freshman college students on Sunday, 9/24!** Senior High Fellowship members were asked to **bring a batch of cookies or candy to the meeting.** Cookies and some encouraging words were packaged up and sent off on Monday the 25th.

PIES—SHF will again be selling Ever So Humble pies to help with expenses for next summer's mission trip. Order forms are in the narthex and on the website. Order by **10/18!**

Mission Trip 2010! All current 9th-12th graders interested in the summer mission trip are invited to an informational meeting on Sunday evening, 10/25 from 5:30-6:15pm. (SHF will begin promptly at 6:30pm.) We will partner with Youthworks! for a trip that leaves early on Sunday, 6/27 and returns on Friday, 7/2. . **A parent must be present for a student to sign up.** A \$75.00 **non-refundable** deposit is required to hold a spot for this trip. Students must attend Senior High Fellowship or confirmation to participate. All participants will be required to attend **all** mission trip planning meetings. Spaces are limited.

WELCOME & FRIENDSHIP

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me”
— Matthew 25:35

“FIRST IMPRESSIONS” is a book written by Mark L. Waltz which is used by churches around the country to improve their ability to welcome new people as they come through their doors. In one chapter he talks about how **“we sometimes forget what it's like to be a guest in a new and unfamiliar setting.”** However, when we **“remember how it feels to be included rather than alienated, we're more likely to be inclusive. When we remember what it's like to need help without knowing where to find it, we're more likely to be helpful.”** Remembering these things and applying them to make our guests feel included is one of the goals of our Welcoming and Friendship Ministry.



The Welcoming & Friendship Ministry Team had their kick-off meeting of the year at Susan Holbrook's house on Friday evening, September

17th. We are blessed to have over 20 people serving in this ministry and ask for your prayers and support for this ministry. At the 9:30 service, we have two welcome tables staffed each week—one in the narthex and one on the bank side of building to welcome any visitors or new attendees who might need information and direction. *Members of this team include: Kim Bodozian, Erika Beisler, Lynn Crowell, Carolyn Develin, Tracy Fedak, Jennifer Grant, Kristin Hudson, Karen McCarthy, Ingrid Nevins, Sue Perry.*

The **Coffee & Fellowship Hours** held after our 9:30 and 11:00 worship services are also part of the Welcome & Friendship Ministry, and Kathe Farris will be our new coordinator this year. We are very grateful to Vicki Ruud who coordinated the 9:30 coffee hour for the past three years and we are thrilled she is still a part of our coffee prep team this year. Our coffee hour team is responsible for making coffee and assisting the scheduled hosts with serving and clean-up. *Our team members this year are: Ken & Marge Swedeen, Len & Beverly Haigh, Vicki Ruud, Pat Simmons, Karen Polagye, Betty Govers, Cathleen & Mark Farrell.*

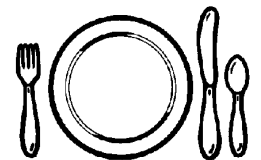


Thank you to all of them for their commitment to this ministry.

The refreshments at Fellowship time (Cookies and other goodies) are provided by generous members of the congregation ... and **we are in constant need of families and individuals to sign up to provide**

THE THREE SSS---SNACKS, SERVING & SETUP/CLEANUP. This is your chance to **extend biblical hospitality to members, friends and guests who worship with us on Sunday mornings.**

Dinner Groups –The deadline for sign ups was extended to **October 4** and we will be announcing the groups shortly. We will designate a contact person for each group to get things started and pray the fun and fellowship will be a blessing to all the participants!!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS OFF TO A GREAT START!!! We are off to a wonderful start this fall season of Sunday School! We welcomed over 125 children on Homecoming Sunday which was fabulous. Our CM team of 25 adults and 8 FOY & SH students are excited about discovering lots of new things this year about our amazing and loving God. We hope families find the weekly preview email about the upcoming Sunday lesson helpful and perhaps an encouragement to read the story together in advance of class.

We encourage you to look at all your child's take home materials each week...they can spark wonderful conversations!

We also ask families to make weekly attendance a high priority; we want all our children to hear the many stories of God's incredible faithfulness and love.

Peeking through the Sunday School windows you would have seen:

The children in the **pre-k classes** lining up to go to their first Cherub Choir practice with Miss Heidi.

The **kindergarten students** working on a classroom covenant poster and then attaching a paper doll they colored as a "sign" of their commitment to this covenant.

the **first graders** decorating their own Joseph coats made out of paper after reading the Bible story about Joseph and his amazing coat.

The **second graders** talking about their fun summers and then settling down to listen intently while their youth helper Kevin read the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors.

The **third graders** listening to the Old Testament story of Joseph and his brothers and then discussing that God is with us in difficult times (like Joseph!!!).

The **fourth grade students** creating a rap song using the first five books of the Bible. Our **fifth grade students** brainstorming their role this year as detectives and what they might "uncover" this week about God. The **multi-age class** talking about how God helps us help others like He did with Joseph and then decorating their own special coats.

October Stewardship Project - Heifer International During the month of October, our Children's Ministry program will focus on the work of Heifer International. We have some new things planned for this year, and we hope you will all come out in support of our biggest CM stewardship project of the year. Last year we raised over \$14,000 which represents almost THREE arks of animals for needy families (each ark is valued at \$5,000). Come and support this important stewardship initiative by the children of our church. Key dates to remember:

October 4th—children receive CM lunch bags with Heifer ark banks

October 18th - Heifer Education Sunday

October 25th - Living Gift Market



Don't miss the Cherub Choir led by our Praise Team Leader, Heidi Willson, singing "**Two by Two**" and the parade of "animals" at the end of each worship service.

Everyone is invited into Fellowship Hall for our Living Gift Market after the 9:30 worship service and in the Meeting room for the Living Gift Market after the 11:00 worship service.

NURSING HOME MINISTRY

Did You Know?
We have a Church Ministry that Serves Nursing Home

For the past 15 years an important but small church ministry has been providing Sunday worship services to the residents at the Thomas Upham House, a nursing home located directly across the street from our church in Medfield. The typical resident is elderly, ill and infirm. Many feel isolated from, or abandoned by their families. Many suffer from physical, mental and emotional stress associated with extended illness and advanced ageing. This ministry carries a message to them that God has not abandoned them and never will, that God will always remain at their side to give them comfort, peace, strength, guidance and the never-ending love they so desperately need.

This rewarding ministry provides two worship services each month to the patients. They start at approximately 11 o'clock, last 30-40 minutes, and are finished before noon. Members of the ministry worship in our 9:30 service, meet in the Narthex afterwards, and then go directly to the nursing home where they conduct the worship service for the residents.

Designed to be especially fulfilling of the residents' needs, the worship service includes a Call to Worship, Prayers of Invocation, Prayers of the People, The Lord's Prayer; scripture readings plus Psalm 23, multiple hymns, a sermon message; and a benediction. Individual members of the ministry assist by doing parts of the service which appeal to them or for which they have a special talent. As an example, high school students Kevin Holbrook and Katie Karg make a valued contribution by playing the piano. Some prefer to extend a hand of fellowship to the residents while others provide a general support to the ministry, typically by adding voices to its small choir.

Each person's contribution is valued and the sum of all contributions makes a successful whole.

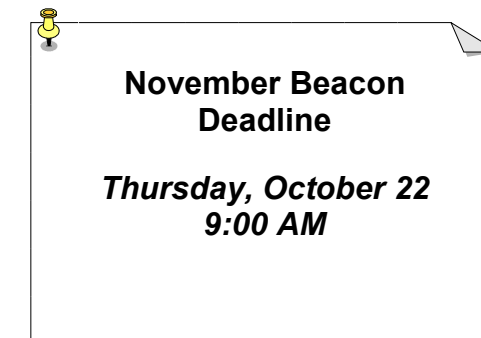
Periodically, the service is expanded to include a communion service. Rev. Mary Poole, assisted by several worship service leaders, provides this service. At this time, other team members stay to participate or leave as their schedules dictate.

Those who have been participating in this ministry on a regular basis most recently under the leadership of Mike Polagye are: Kevin Holbrook, Katie Karg, Mary Perry, Rev. Mary Poole, Marge & Ken Swedeen, and Barbara & Howard Sanderson. A number of others also participate periodically as their schedules allow.

Won't you please consider joining this much needed and fulfilling ministry? Additional talent and support is always needed. If you are interested or have questions, contact by email or telephone:

Mike Polagye,
michael.polagye@fmglobal.com, 508-520-0865
or
Howard Sanderson,
howbarbsanderson@aol.com, 508-785-0439.

Service dates scheduled in October are:
Sunday, October 11th
Sunday, October 25th.
Come join us!!!



MISSIONS

Caregiver Kits:

On the evening of **November 12**, our church will once again be assembling World Vision Caregiver Kits here in Medfield. The Missions Team has funded \$3,500 to pay for the costs associated with this project. These kits will provide much needed supplies and basic medications that can improve and prolong the lives of those living with AIDS while protecting caregivers and preventing the spread of infection. Each kit will include a special prayer from the kit preparer for the caregiver and patient. We hope you will be able to join us for this special undertaking.

Habitat for Humanity:

The Missions Team is also delighted to have approved a \$5,000 request from Habitat for Humanity for their current project in Medway, submitted by the Tri-Valley Local Partnership Committee. It is anticipated that the prospective homeowner family will be selected by the end of October, and Habitat estimates that the home's foundation should be in by early November. Several members of our congregation have been active in leading this effort, along with others from Medway, Millis and Medfield. Stay tuned for more details about this exciting project!

Neighbors In Need:

the team has designated \$1,000 to Neighbors in Need (NIN) on behalf of our congregation. NIN is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. This year, the Missions Team has decided to make a donation on behalf of our congregation directly from its budget, rather than through a special offering. We would, however, encourage any

of you who have a specific passion for this ministry to consider making an individual donation to this important fundraising effort. Envelopes are available in the narthex and outside the Great Room. Please mark the memo section of your check with "NIN". Thank you.



Donations Needed:

Finally, as you do your shopping around the area, please keep in mind that A Place To Turn is in need of the following items: jelly, spaghetti sauce, beef stew, rice, crackers, 100% juice, shampoo, and toothpaste. As always, these items can be left in the appropriate basket in the Narthex. Thanks for your help in providing these much-needed supplies!

Would YOU Like to serve on our Team?

The Missions Team is looking for a new member to serve as coordinator of the narthex collection baskets for Medway House and A Place to Turn. In addition to attendance at our monthly meetings (2nd Wednesday of the month), this role involves monitoring the baskets in the narthex for donated items and ensuring that they are delivered to the locations in Medway and Natick. (We have volunteers in place who will deliver to Natick.) We also have two openings for At-Large members who will participate in our monthly meetings and take on special projects as needed. Please search your heart and contact any member of the Missions Team. The current members are Barbara Yates, Wendy Greaves, Bill Sobo, George Gray, Heather Horan, Cindy Brennan, Phil Bauman, and Monica Bushnell.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

October 4	8:30 9:30 11:00	Communion and Teacher Meeting Children's Church Regular Sunday School
October 11	9:30 & 11:00	Regular Sunday School
October 18	9:30 & 11:00	Regular Sunday School
October 25	9:30 & 11:00	Regular Sunday School Living Gift Market for Heifer International

ALL CHILDREN WILL PARTICIPATE IN A WEEKLY TRIVIA CONTEST ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF THEIR CLASS ANIMAL. LOOK FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS IN THE LETTER THAT COMES HOME WITH YOUR CHILD'S HEIFER LUNCH BAG.

Children's Church Resumes October 4th

In two short years, Children's Church has become an important component in our 9:30 Children's Ministry program. Preschool through fifth grade students and their teachers gather in the Great Room on the first Sunday of every month for a 20 minute worship service. Under the direction of Susan Holbrook (Director of Children's Ministries) and Heidi Willson (Praise Worship Leader and Cherub Choir Director), children and their

teachers sing lively praise songs, pray together, and listen to a short message. Children are not just participants in this service...THEY ARE LEADERS AS WELL! This month, our 5th grade class will be delivering the main message on our October stewardship project for Heifer International. Parents are NOT expected to stay with their children during this worship time.

4th Grade Bibles - October 18

Our fourth grade students will receive a gift Bible from the church during both worship services on October 18th. Parents will receive a letter in early October with more details on this important milestone in their child's faith journey.

Classroom Volunteers-September

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>10/4</u>	<u>10/11</u>	<u>10/18</u>	<u>10/25</u>
Pre-K1	Merck	Hudson	Bailer	Malvese
Pre-K2	Caro	Hatch	Fuqua	Merageas
Kindergarten	R. Cunningham	C. Smith	McCarthy	Price
1st Grade	Lussier	Jenkins	Marshall	Schneider
2nd Grade	McKinney	M. Whelan	Ahmadi	Colleran
3rd Grade	Previte	Teachers	V. Ruud	Teachers
4th Grade	Corzilius	Wirsig	Weintraub	Southwick
5th Grade	Quinn	Farris	Keegan	Nevins

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (CONT.)

Cradles to Crayons (C2C)

Service Opportunity

Our workdays in C2C's Quincy warehouse resumed on September 15th and will continue monthly throughout the school year. You can sign up for any OR all of the three upcoming dates on the signup poster in the narthex.

Feel free to serve with a friend.

Friday, October 2nd

Tuesday, November 3rd

Thursday, December 3rd

Many thanks to Susan Ott, Chris Komine, Michelle Luhrmann, Heidi Erickson, MaryBeth White, Robin Connors, Tracy Fedak and Susan Holbrook for participating in a bathing suit and summer hat sorting party on Thursday, September 17th.

C2C Donation Site: Kathy Mills house, 6 Wild Holly Lane Medfield. You can check the C2C website at www.cradlestocrayons.org for the top10 most needed items and for donation guidelines.



Our **second annual pajama** party to benefit Cradles to Crayons will be held on Friday night, November 6th from 6:30-7:30 pm. This is our CM students' chance to come to church wearing their pajamas!!! We ask attendees to bring a new or gently used pair of pajamas to the event. Heidi Willson will be leading the event with songs, games and storytelling. We will end the evening with cookies and milk. Look for a signup sheet in the narthex by mid-October.

UCC WOMEN

UCC Women is once again gearing up for another year of exciting events. We invite all women of faith to participate in our upcoming activities. If you have any suggestions on new/different programs you would like to see offered, please contact one of the committee members listed below.

First, we thank Alex Weiner for his gracious donation of "Heavenly Fudge" which was sold at our **Medfield Day** booth. Once again fudge sales were a sweet success!

Upcoming Events

The crisp nights accompanied by glowing maple trees allows us to luxuriate in the richness of autumn. However we all know that this lull is just a prelude to HOLIDAY MADNESS. Escape this furor and please join fellow UCC women for the annual:

"Catch Your Breath" Coffee
Sunday, November 8th
2:00 – 4:00 PM
In the Parlor

This is your opportunity to relax and share conversations with your friends while nibbling on some sweets.

Also save the date of **December 8th** for the **Advent Dinner/Cookie Wrap**.

Steering Committee members: Kim Bond, Pat Bois, Wendy Cohen, Rosemary Cunningham, Laine Hendy, Cindy Karg, Gayle Kendall, Darrah O'Connor, Chris Taft

Upcoming Soup to Go Dates:

10/3 (SHF)

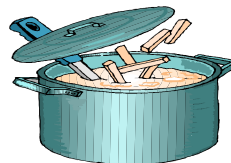
10/17

10/24

11/7

11/14 (SHF)

11/21



MUSIC

CONCERT SERIES

Since our September concert offering was unfortunately postponed, we are pleased to kick off our 2009-2010 concert series by welcoming:



The Stratus Ensemble
Sunday, October 25, 2009
4:00 p.m.

Distinguished guest artists Deirdre Viau, flute, and Yhasmin Valenzuela, clarinet, and Eliko Akahori, piano, will treat us to an eclectic and exotic program of chamber music, including some Latin American music (Piazzolla, Paquito D'Rivera), some classical (Nino Rota sonata, Rimsky-Korsakov 'Nightingale and the Rose', Jean Cartan 'Sonatine'), a very contemporary piece for flute and electronics by Diana Rotaru, and a light classical piece by Malcolm Arnold. It is a mix of solos, duos, and trios for flute, clarinet, and piano sure to delight your musical palette.

Next Month's Offering:
The Community Singers, November 22

YOUTH & ADULT HANDBELLS

Rehearsals for Youth and Adult handbell ensembles begin on Wednesday, October 14. The Youth Handbell Ensemble will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., and the Chapel Bell Ensemble will meet from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If there is interest, the youth handbell ensemble might be transformed into an "intergenerational" group, incorporating both young people and adult beginners. Anyone interested in joining one of these ensembles is asked to please contact Michael Olbash (508-359-2351 x14, molbash@uccmedfield.org).

CHOIR CD TO BE RELEASED WITHIN WEEKS!

The compact disc recording "We Give Thee but Thine Own," a collection of favorite hymns and anthems recorded by our Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs back in January 2008, is finally ready for release! The CDs will be available with or without gift wrap, and those who wish to do so will have the opportunity to make a freewill offering to one of our church's many mission outreach programs. We are also looking into the possibility of making the recordings available on iTunes for easy download to personal mp3 players, and on "CDBaby," which will make it easy to ship gift CDs anywhere in the world. The official release date will be announced in the next issue of "The Beacon."

OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Souls) – Fall Outing – Saturday, October 17

Come join us for Saturday lunch at Wright's Farm in Harrisville, Rhode Island, followed by a chance to stroll the scenic grounds and/or do some early Christmas shopping at their gift shop. The meal, served family style, will be chicken at a cost of \$16.10 per person (includes tax and tip). For those wishing to carpool, we will meet at the church at 11:30. Contact Pat Simmons (508-528-2019, patsimmons07@comcast.net) or Karen and Mike Polagye (508-520-0865, polagye@comcast.net) or sign up in the Narthex. Let us know if you're willing to be a driver. And please sign up early – Wright's Farm can only accommodate about 1,000 people!

We look forward to a fun afternoon of fellowship!

UPDATE FROM TRI-VALLEY HABITAT

The Tri-Valley Local Partnership Committee (LPC) of South Shore Habitat for Humanity is pleased to report progress continues to be made towards beginning site clearing and excavating at 9 Walker St. in Medway. We remain on schedule for having a foundation poured by early November with construction to begin shortly thereafter.

At the LPC's September Committee Night, Mike Polagye, Construction Volunteer Coordinator, held the kick-off meeting of the construction committee requesting churches in the Tri-Valley area to let him know if they will be able to provide **construction volunteer teams**. Mike would like 5 or 6 teams of 12 members each that would work every other Saturday, meaning each team could expect to work about every ten to twelve weeks. (The alternate Saturdays are staffed by volunteer teams from outside the Tri-Valley area by South Shore Habitat for Humanity.) A team from UCC Medfield would be really great. No construction experience is required, but all volunteers must be at least 16 years old. If interested or you would like additional information, please contact Mike (Weekdays 781-255-4730, evenings and weekend 508-520-0865, or by e-mail, michael.polagye@fmglobal.com).

Another volunteer opportunity in support of the construction teams is **food supply**. Each Saturday, morning coffee break and lunch is needed for the volunteers. Contact Mike for additional information. All age groups can participate in this activity.

A third area related to construction is the role of **site representatives**. A few people are needed in this role, with training provided by SSHfH. The responsibilities/duties of this position are described in the Site Representative – Role Description at the end of this article. Contact Mike if you are interested in volunteering for this position.

And two other areas where volunteers are needed are **fund raising** and **seeking in-kind donations**. Fund raising is being led by Doug Marshall (dougwm@comcast.net) and in-kind donations by Ron Yates (508-359-7007 or ryates@walchem.com). Please contact them if you are willing to help out in either of these areas.

General questions about our LPC should be sent to Barbara Yates (508-359-7007 or byates@verizon.net).

Excitement is building! Spread the word and join us if you can!

Site Representative Responsibilities (Training provided)*

Site Representatives share the responsibility of orienting the construction volunteers before the workday begins. Essentially, a Site Rep acts as a host and facilitator, although there is always a Site Supervisor on the project serving as an official construction professional who is ultimately responsible for the work crew. While the Site **Supervisor** is focused on getting the jobs done for the day, the **Representative** welcomes, orients and introduces everyone at the work site. This includes:

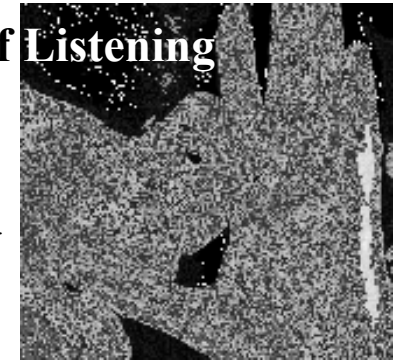
- Assuring that the day begins with a devotion.
- Making sure that all of the volunteers are signed in with a nametag and collecting their signed waivers.
- Giving the opening talk to educate the volunteers about Habitat for Humanity, local housing issues, pre-scripted safety points, and the schedule for the day.
- Coordinating the work crew through the various parts of the schedule (i.e. welcome, coffee break, lunch, closing).

*Training

- One hour information session
- One Saturday workday – as an “apprentice” with an experienced site rep.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

The Art and Work of Listening



Listening is an active process that requires much personal involvement and commitment.

Listening takes work. It calls upon each of us to be fully present, not just casually and half-heartedly paying attention.

To a casual onlooker, an attentive listener may not appear to be active, but the listener's mind and heart are very active indeed.

In your relationships with family, friends and even at work with colleagues, consider how good listening requires these three personal qualities...

Desire: Have the desire to listen. You can't fake it! People do not listen well unless they really want to hear what is being said. To be a good listener, you have to want to do it. Such desire is at the heart of the words of James: "...be quick to listen, slow to speak." (James 1:19)

Commitment: A good listener must be committed to the listening task. Being tired or distracted by your own thoughts and concerns can challenge your ability to be an active listener. It takes discipline and a commitment...both of which show your care.

Patience: Paul says, "Love is patient...it...always perseveres." (1 Corinthians 13:4,7)

Being a patient listener also means allowing silence during conversations. When you patiently listen, you will encourage others to more freely share their thoughts and feelings with you.

Stephen Ministers provide confidential emotional and spiritual support and care...through the art 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 Edgar or Rick Cram—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

CHURCH WIDE SERVICE DAY Save the Date — January 30, 2010

We are very excited to announce a UCC Service Day to be held on January 30, 2010. (This will be in place of the annual church weekend-away in 2010). We hope to maximize church-wide participation by offering several opportunities to serve the local community such as participating in a Cradles to Crayons work day, cooking and delivering for Soup To Go, or working on some projects locally. Watch for more details in upcoming Beacons and bulletins.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Come one, come all for a very special night of celebrating the start of a new year for our knitting and crocheting ministry. We will be having a workshop on Tuesday, **October 13th** at 7 PM in the upstairs parlor. All levels are welcome, from wishful knitters/crocheters to long time needle workers. Our program will include opportunities to learn some gorgeous new patterns for rejuvenation or one-on-one help getting started. We will have yarn, needles and hooks available. It will be a night of fellowship, refreshments and prayer. Hope you can come and learn about this ministry. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for you and a friend, or if you are a last minute person, please join us anyway!

We continue to meet the first and third Thursdays of the month at 12:30 PM and the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 PM in the parlor. If you need additional information, please call Michelle Luhrmann at 359-1586 or Donna Luft at 359-4420 regarding daytime meetings. For evening meetings please call Sally Harris at 359-4203. If you prefer email, you can contact Carol LaFreniere at cladedah@aol.com.

