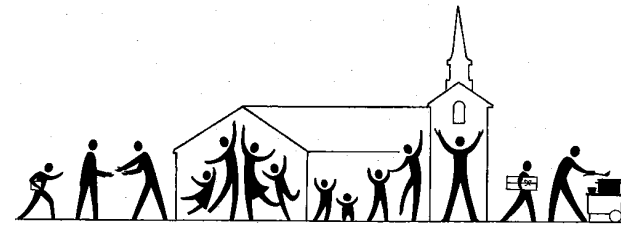


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THE BEACON

RESURRECTION SUMMONS

Easter is coming and I need a snappy Beacon article about the resurrection, but I am distracted by the cow lowing outside the door of my Gulu guest house and I am hoping the electricity doesn't go out (again). [The Beacon deadline is like a bloodhound from which I can never escape!] Today I attended a sponsorship party in one of the areas of the Bunagatira subcounty. Sponsored children, their parents, siblings, and friends are all invited. Some parents of sponsored children have come, but many have not. I estimate that there are about 200 children gathered for the yearly party. The younger children are playing a group game holding hands in a very large circle, first circling one way, then the other, singing and laughing. I'm glad I'm here watching. After the children have come together under a large shade tree for the cake cutting, Phoebe, the World Vision staff worker who invited me, notices a little girl--as cute as a button (I have her picture)--who is wandering in the group but is not accompanied by any adult, sibling, or friend. Phoebe kneels down and talks with the little girl. She learns that she is 6 years old, walked the two kilometers to the party by herself, her mother died four days ago, and she is now living with a sickly grandmother. Teary-eyed I want to gather her in my arms and bring her back with me.

What does the resurrection have to do with her situation? New Testament scholar, N. T. Wright, says, "Jesus' resurrection summons us to dangerous and difficult tasks on earth." I wonder, do we hear the summons?

As I've written previously, because Jesus was raised from the dead with the power of the Spirit, we have cause not only for celebration, but for motivation to go into this world which God is in the process of redeeming and living the Jesus Creed (Loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves) in every nook and cranny of our lives. In the knowledge and hope of the resurrection we can engage the world with Jesus' love at all levels trusting that the Spirit will lead and guide us.

*A blessed Easter
season to you
and yours,*

Pastor Phil



MEMBER NEWS

BAPTISM of Elizabeth Anne Cousins by Pastor Phil on March 21.

SYMPATHY to Mildred Kneer and family on the death of her husband Bill, a member here since 1961.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK – Palm Sunday is March 28th and marks the beginning of Holy Week. The services will be held at their usual times of 9:30 and 11:00. The **Maundy Thursday Service**, April 1 at 7:30 PM will include the serving of Holy Communion; the **Good Friday Service** on April 2 will be held at 7:30 PM; **Easter Sunday Services** on April 4 are at 8:30 AM (Family Service), 9:30 AM (Festival Service) and 11:00 AM (Praise Service). Please note that there is **no Sunday School or Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday**.

The **Focus on Youth and Confirmation** classes will observe Holy Week with an **additional 6:55 AM service on Tuesday, March 30**. The youth will be given bagels and juice and dismissed by 7:15 in order to be at school on time.

EASTER PLANT ORDER FORMS – for those who wish to order an Easter plant which will be used to glorify the Sanctuary and the Great Room on Easter morning, order forms are available in the Sunday bulletins and in the narthex. Plants can be picked up after the morning services. The **deadline is March 28th** for ordering a plant and having your dedication appear in the bulletin.

WEBSITE UPDATE – We encourage everyone to visit the website for updates on fundraising projects, youth permission forms, registration forms for youth and adult activities, current and past Beacons, and an up-to-date church calendar. Please let us know if you have any questions navigating the site.

MEDFIELD FOOD CUPBOARD - Specifically from UCC for April, they have asked for **juice (boxes and plastic bottles), and applesauce**, 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.

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

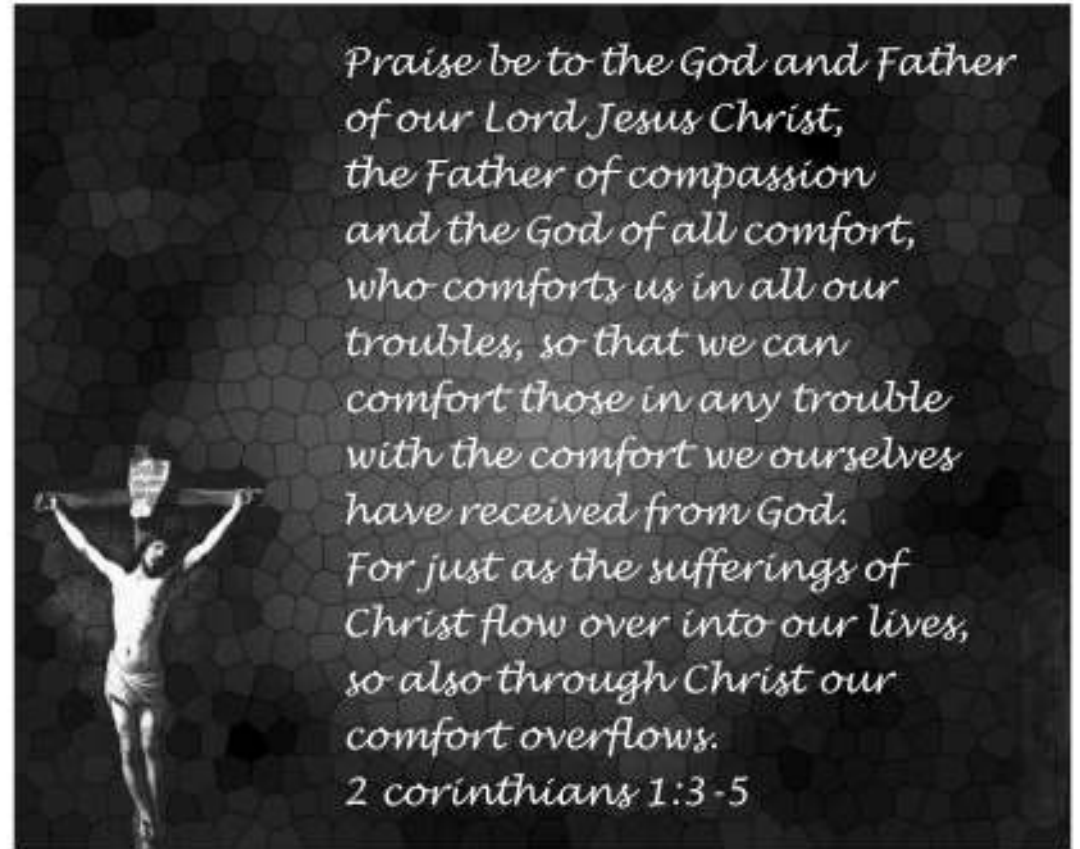
Church Office:
Phone — 508-359-2351
Fax — 508-359-2352

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



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

YOUTH NEWS

FOY/8th Grade Confirmation - Special Holy Week worship service **Tuesday morning, March 30th, 6:55 AM - 7:15 AM**. A pick-up breakfast will be provided that students can take with them as they walk to school, but the blessing of worshipping God first thing in the morning – they can keep that all day long.



All Confirmation Students (8th and 9th) are required to attend Holy Week services: Maundy Thursday 4/1 at 7:30 PM, Good Friday 4/2 at 7:30 PM and Easter 4/4 at 8:30, 9:30 or 11:00 AM). Please sign in for all services! (sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex or outside the Great Room.)

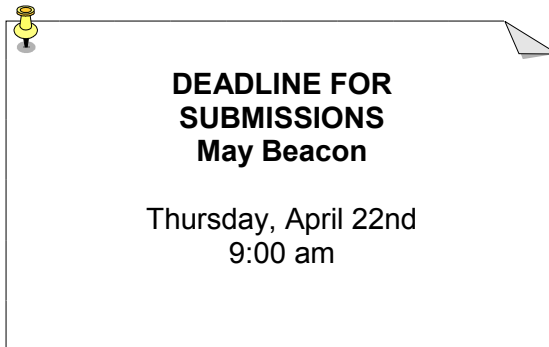
Senior High Fellowship and 9th Grade Confirmation students are invited to participate in the **BOSTON Aids Caregiver Kit Build** on **Saturday, April 3rd, 9:00AM-12:00PM** in Cambridge. Permission slips are on the website. All students must be at church by 8:00AM. We will be back to the church around 1:00PM. We will again be helping to staff this event. (Note: this is also a great mission opportunity for families as well.)

SHF and 9th grade Confirmation students are also invited to the **Step into Africa** experience at the Hopkinton Congregational Church on **Sunday, April 11th, 1-2PM**. (Permission forms on the website). We will **meet in the Narthex at 12:00 and will return by 2:30-3PM**. There is no Senior High Fellowship that evening but 9th Grade Confirmation class will be held.

FOCUS ON YOUTH will conclude on **Monday, April 12th**. We will recognize and say goodbye our 8th graders as they get ready to move up to 9th Grade Confirmation (and High School!). All students will be asked to complete a survey/evaluation asking for their thoughts, opinions and hopes for FOY. **Please make sure that your student attends!** Thanks to Heidi Willson and small group leaders Bret Swedeen, Carol Cassoli, Michele Stahl, George Chung, Tom Sullivan, Allan Willson, Elaine Shea, Tayne Quinn, Chris Grant and student leaders Katie Quinn, Megan Swedeen and Brian Lonabocker whose love for God and for their students shows every single Monday night. This group of leaders is a huge blessing to our church family!

As the Beacon goes to print, the **9th grade confirmation class** is preparing for their final **retreat at Grotonwood on March 26-27**. Students will be confirmed on Sunday, May 16th. Leaders Bill Sobo, Barry Mills, Cathy Chung and Wendy Ludwig are looking forward to a great time with students!

Youth Soup To Go is scheduled for **Saturday, April 10th** – it's the last Youth Soup To Go until October! Sign up in the Narthex to serve. Cooks should arrive at 3:30 PM and deliverers at 5:45 PM



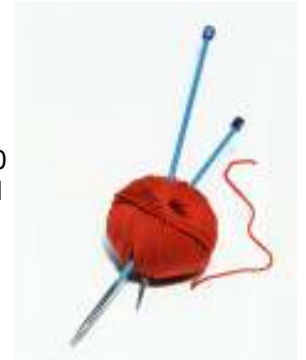
MEMBER NEWS

MUSIC MINISTRY SUNDAY – On April 11 at **9:30 AM**, our church will celebrate “Music Ministry Sunday,” a time to rejoice and give thanks for the gift of music and the many ways God has used music in the work and worship of this faith community. Each of the eleven music ensembles that serve our church will be collaborating to make this an extraordinary Sunday. After the service, there will be a special music-themed fellowship hour, including an opportunity for adults and children alike to try our newly restored handbells! **There is no 11:00 Praise Service on 3/28.**

BMW & ACURA CAR KEYS – If anyone missing their reserve key, we have one of each in the office that has been here for months.

APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES AT THOMAS UPHAM: We will be leading Sunday services at the Thomas Upham nursing home across the street from our church **April 11 and 25 at 11:00**. We meet in the Narthex at 10:45 and walk over together. The services typically last not more than 30 minutes. Opportunities for participating include singing, reading scripture, assisting with and/or leading prayer concerns*, delivering the 5-7 minute message*, preparing the worship service*, and playing the piano. If you would like to share God's healing love with the residents at Thomas Upham please join us on one or both of these Sundays. For additional information please see Mike Polagye or contact him at 508-520-0865 or michael.polagye@fmgglobal.com. {*Resources to assist in these areas are available.}

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - Please contact any of the names below, or call/drop by the office if you would like to request a prayer shawl for someone you know. You do not have to be a knitter or member of the group to take advantage of our lovely shawls. They truly give great joy and comfort to those in need so do not hesitate to ask! To all our members - find a comfy chair in the spring sunshine and enjoy the warmth while you pray and do your handiwork. 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 either Michelle Luhrmann 359-1586 or Donna Luft 359-4420 for daytime meetings and Sally Harris 359-4203 for evening meetings. If you prefer email please contact Carol LaFreniere at cladedah@aol.com.



FREE CALLING TIME MINUTES FOR THE TROOPS – Roberts-Mitchell Funeral Services is calling on all residents in the Medfield area to support the more than 150,000 troops who are serving overseas by donating your old cell phones, which are then sent to ReCellular (reconditions and resells to wholesale companies), which in turn pays *Cellphones for Soldiers* for each donated phone – enough to provide an hour of talk to soldiers abroad. You may drop your old cell phone at the Roberts-Mitchell Funeral Service, 15 Miller Street, Medfield, Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

PEEKING THROUGH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WINDOWS YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN:

- Pre-k1 students** reading the story of Palm Sunday and making their own palms to wave and shout "praise the King"
- The **pre-k2 class** discussing The Last Supper and then tasting a piece of bread and a grape which represented the Communion elements and then thinking about all that Jesus taught them.
- Kindergarten students** making Easter egg ornaments for their classroom Easter Tree.
- The **first graders** discussing the importance of church and then playing a game identifying all the people and things in our church that make it such an important place to worship.
- Second graders** making a classroom Easter Tree which they will decorate each week with a symbol of the Lenten season.
- Third graders** reading the story of Jesus clearing the temple and then playing Bible Story Pictionary reviewing words/stories from the last 2 weeks lessons.
- Fourth grade students** updating the Parable of the Good Samaritan to make a more modern version and then acting out their version.
- Fifth grade students** discussing the first Communion which was given to Jesus' disciples when they were celebrating Passover and then setting up a traditional Seder plate with all the elements and talking about the meaning of each element and how it is a meal of remembrance, just like communion.
- The **multi-age class** learning that in early church times, people did not eat eggs during Lent so there was an abundance of eggs which they decorated and gave as gifts.

Kindergarten Bibles to be presented on Mother's Day, May 9th

Mark your calendars for this special event in May where all our kindergarten students are presented with a gift Bible during our 9:30 worship service.

One Great Hour of Sharing OGHS banks are due back to church on **March 28th**.



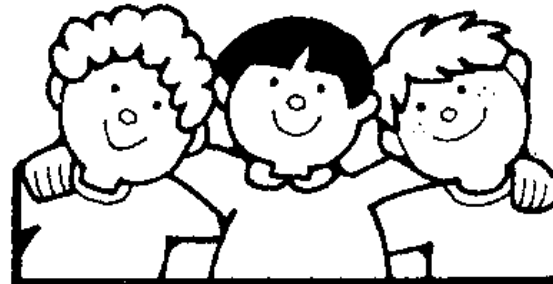
Curriculum Notes for April

Pre-k classes will begin a new unit called "The Bible is God's Special Book", which gives the children an opportunity to explore the Bible as a book of stories. They'll learn that the Bible is God's Word, that it tells stories of God and Jesus, and that it shows them good ways to live.

Kindergarten-3rd grade and multi-age classes will explore the theme Easter and New Life. Students will hear stories about the empty tomb, Peter and John healing the man at the Temple, Philip and the Ethiopian, and Peter and Cornelius. These stories will help the students understand that God gives new life to all persons through Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Fourth Grade students will continue their journey through their *Bible Basics* curriculum.

Our **fifth grade class** will begin a study of The Apostle's Creed.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

As the weeks fly by, the Habitat construction site at 9 Walker Street in Medway is becoming a house! Thanks to groups of dedicated volunteers every Saturday, as well as corporate groups now working on Thursdays, the house is closed in and the interior walls are framed. As prospective homeowner John Dahl said, "I'm afraid to blink for fear I'll miss something!"

We are grateful to the numerous people from our congregation who have been hard at work on site and behind the scenes to bring us to this point, including those who worked on-site during Mission Possible in January and those from Soup To Go who fed them. We particularly appreciate the construction expertise and commitment of our own Neal O'Connor as our lead Site Supervisor and the organizational leadership of Mike Polagye as Volunteer Coordinator.

There are two special opportunities coming up to support our local efforts under South Shore

Habitat for Humanity – and have fun at the same time! **The 17th Annual Birdhouse Show and Sale will take place on April 23, 24 and 25** at South Shore Plaza in Braintree, during regular mall hours. About 100 of the birdhouses have been decorated by those from our own Tri-Valley area of Medfield, Medway and Millis, including a number from our church. Make a visit to the mall to see the show in front of Macy's; the birdhouses make wonderful Mother's Day and Teacher Appreciation gifts!

On **Saturday, May 1**, South Shore Habitat for Humanity will hold its **Annual Gala and Auction** at the Reebok Center Headquarters in Canton. The evening will include a live and silent auction, as well as a delicious sit-down dinner and live entertainment. Before April 10, tickets are \$60 for individuals and \$100 per couple. (\$500 for a table of 8.)

Volunteers are also needed to help at both of these special events. Visit www.sshabitat.org for more information.

From this ≈≈



≈≈ to This!!!!!!

SOUP TO GO – A BUMP IN THE ROAD

As you have probably heard by now STG has been through a lot in the past few weeks. The Boston Health Department became aware of STG while investigating an outbreak of stomach flu and questioned our credentials and the local oversight of our food preparation procedures. We have been working with the Medfield board of health to standardize our procedures for buying, storing, preparing and serving food and we are bringing them in line with the regulations that govern commercial



kitchens. We have been asked to stop serving cooked/hot food until our procedures have been approved by the local health agent and we have trained our lead cooks and drivers. We hope that as you read

this we have accomplished this and are serving our chili and chicken soup again soon.

This has been a tough time and we want to thank the Church Board - especially Steve Bushnell, Administration/Operations - especially Mike Polagye and Paul Goldense, Heidi Groff who helped with the kitchen assessment by the local food agent, and especially Laury Hunt who was communications central. Other than a pretty harsh headline in the Boston Globe, we have received awesome support from everyone from the local food agent, to the city of Boston. All want Soup To Go to continue.

Dick Whelan has stepped up and volunteered to be our person in charge of compliance. Dick has a Sanitarian license, which exceeds the requirement of the health agent that our procedures are overseen by a Serve-Safe certified person. Another requirement is training all of the lead cooks and lead drivers in our procedures and their responsibilities. Dick will start training once our procedures are approved. Like any standard procedures there is a lot of documentation that will take some getting used to, but is not onerous.

The meditation in March 14th's bulletin spoke to me; *"I do not understand the mystery of grace—only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us."* – Anne Lamott. God has been speaking to us throughout this process. Through all of the support we have received, we are sure STG will be stronger and we feel called to find new ways to serve the seemingly every growing homeless population. But we need help. As we begin training lead cooks and lead drivers please consider joining with us. If you would like to come and help cook or deliver, sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex. Cooking teams meet at 3:30 PM in Fellowship Hall and finish about 5:30; those who will deliver the food gather between 5:45-6:00 and return home about 9:30 PM.

In His service,
STG team

**Watch for Upcoming
Soup To Go Dates**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

Classroom Volunteers–April

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>4/11</u>	<u>4/18</u>	<u>4/25</u>
Pre-k1	Merck	COMBO	Hudson
Pre-k2	Hatch	Robertson	COMBO
Kindergarten	Smith	Sarris	COMBO
1st Grade	Schneider	COMBO	Southwick
2nd Grade	Masella	Murray	COMBO
3rd Grade	Caro	COMBO	Compton
4th Grade	Heaney	COMBO	Farrell
5th Grade	Lozzio	Farris	COMBO

No Children's Church in April

We will not hold a Children's Church service this month since the first Sunday of the month is Easter. Our next Children's Church will be on May 2, 2010 and the first grade students will be reciting the Lord's Prayer during that service.

5th Grade Sacrament Curriculum is underway

Our fifth grade students will complete the curriculum on the Sacraments on March 28th. Over the 5 weeks, the students have discussed their own baptisms, sampled items from a

Passover plate, participated in a guided meditation on the Last Supper, enjoyed a visit from our Senior Deacon on the preparation of the elements for Communion, and much more!!! Many thanks for the 5th grade team of Rachel Brown and Barbara Seeglitz for all their work in making this curriculum meaningful for these students. All the students who completed the class are invited to participate in their first educated Communion at the Maundy Thursday service on April 1st.

The Parent Link

The April issue of The Parent Link was emailed to all CM families in mid-March.

APRIL SCHEDULE

April 4	8:30	Easter Services - No SS
	9:30	Easter Services - No SS
	11:00	Easter Services - No SS
April 11	9:30	Combined Worship - Regular SS
April 18	9:30	Combo SS classes
	11:00	Regular SS
April 25	9:30	Combo SS classes
	11:00	Regular SS

MISSIONS TEAM

It has been an extremely busy month for the Missions Team, and we are excited about the many different kinds of initiatives that we were able to fund on behalf of our congregation.

Ongoing Support for Relief Efforts in Haiti

The Missions Team was thrilled with the congregation's outpouring of generosity for the victims of the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti. Our church's special collection raised over \$7,400 for relief efforts. Wonderfully, through a special grant already received by World Vision, our donation was matched 3-to-1, resulting in \$22,000 being available to help alleviate some of the extreme hardships currently being experienced by the local population.

Also, Heather Horan would like to thank all members of the UCC Medfield who have donated to **Crutches for Haiti**. Over 60 pairs of crutches have been sent, as well as many canes, slings, and post-op boots. Most of the items have been shipped to an organization in Sanford, Florida called Harvest Time International. HTI sends containers to Haiti via cargo ship. They estimate about a two-week turnaround time from when the goods arrive in Florida until they are in the hands of someone in need in Haiti. If you would like more information on HTI's efforts, please visit www.harvest-time.org. The Missions Team was pleased to be able to fund the shipping costs for this important undertaking.

In an effort to help Haiti from closer to home, a new ministry application was submitted by several members of our congregation to help a sister congregation at the First Haitian Church of Brockton. The Missions Team authorized \$3,400 to help that church family attend to the needs of seventeen local families directly impacted by the devastation. The individuals from Medfield who traveled to Brockton to visit with the Rev. Ogando and others were very

moved by their conversations and personal testimonials. Both groups expressed the exciting possibility of establishing a long-term relationship between our two churches.

Similarly, the Missions Team has also funded the sending of 150 French Bibles to Haiti through the Massachusetts Bible Society in conjunction with a grant application from the Haitian Baptist Church in Lynn.

Other Ministry Initiatives

— Looking for a service project to do as a family? **Boston Aids Africa**, partnering with World Vision, has a vision for those in the Greater Boston Area to help assemble kits with much needed items for those caring for individuals suffering from AIDS in Africa. On Saturday, April 3rd from 9:30-12:00 at MIT's Johnson Ice Rink, (77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge) volunteers are invited to join together to build these supply kits to equip 2000 caregivers! Watch for more information in Sunday bulletins.

— **Step into Africa!** On Sunday, April 11th through Sunday, April 18th, the First Congregational Church of Hopkinton together with World Vision will host an experience that will take you on an unforgettable journey into Africa - and into the AIDS crisis, seen through the eyes of a child. As you walk through an exhibit fashioned after an African village, you will listen to the story of one of four real-life children and for a brief period of time, that child's story is your story. Their world is your world. At the end of the exhibit, you are invited to become part of the solution through advocacy, prayer, and giving opportunities. We have reserved tickets for Tuesday, April 13th at 7:30 PM and Thursday, April 15th at 7 PM. Look for sign-up sheets in the Narthex. This program is recommended for anyone over 12 years of age. More information is available at www.worldvisionexperience.org/metrowest.

CRADLES TO CRAYONS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MEDFIELD'S SECOND ANNUAL GREEN DAY ON APRIL 10TH

Join the UCC C2C team on Saturday, April 10th as we staff the Cradles to Crayons tables at Medfield Green Day. Last year we had 18 volunteers and we are hoping to double that number this year. Check the poster in the narthex to sign up for a volunteer slot.

Time slots are : 9-11 AM
11-1 PM

If you have light-weight folding tables that you could lend us for this day, please call or email MaryBeth White at 359-7147 or marybeth.white@comcast.net

Off-site Sorting Bags - Please check out the updated instructions in each sorting bag; we hope we are answering all your questions on the packaging and labeling of socks, underwear, tights and newborn caps.

Workdays in the Quincy Warehouse - We have now **added three more WEDNESDAYS** to our workdays in the Quincy warehouse. Sign up for any or all of the workdays we have planned through June on the clipboards in the Narthex:

Tuesday, April 6th
Wednesday, April 14th
Wednesday, May 19th
Tuesday, June 8th.
Wednesday, June 9th

We meet at the church at 9:10 am and carpool down to Quincy for a 10-1pm shift. We are back in Medfield by 1:45 pm.

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. **CRIBS, STUFFED ANIMALS AND LARGE PLASTIC TOYS ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED BY C2C.**

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

"... winter is past, ... the time has arrived for pruning the vines..."
Song of Solomon 2:11

Join us for a walking tour and discussion of UCC's gardens on Sunday, April 11, 2010 following the church service. After a brief landscaping presentation in the Sanctuary, the group will have the opportunity to visit the "site" as well as participate in discussion to develop, implement, and maintain exterior plantings. Whether your interest is in planning, planting, pruning, or prompting, your input is extremely important; if you are interested but unable to meet with us on the 11th, please let us know of your interest by signing the Landscape Committee list in the Narthex or contacting Mary Preikszas through mpreikszas@gmail.com.

MUSIC MINISTRY

2009-2010 Concert Series: The New England Ringers, Sunday, June 6, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. Mark your calendars now – you will not want to miss one of the nation’s most exceptional handbell ensembles as they offer an afternoon of classical transcriptions, familiar favorites, and original compositions for this versatile and exciting instrument. This concert is made possible by a grant from the Elmer O. Portmann Memorial Fund.

Service of Word and Song: Mark your calendars now for the seventh annual Service of Word and Song, in which members of the Training, Treble, and Chancel Choirs will lead prayers, read Scriptures, and share several of the choral anthems learned during the past year. It is also an opportunity for the entire church community to recognize the accomplishments of the choristers and express our gratitude for their commitment to church music. The service will be held in the sanctuary on Thursday, **April 15, at 6:30 p.m.**, followed by a reception with light refreshments.

FREE! Music Lessons

No, that’s not a misprint. Just because the children’s choir and handbell schedules end in April doesn’t mean we should stop learning about music! So, contact Michael Olbash at (508) 359-2351 ext. 14 or at molbash@uccmedfield.org to schedule a free private lesson in voice or piano. Lessons are offered on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons throughout May and June for students in Grades 4 to 12.

Do you attend the 11:00 service regularly?

The “Sounding Board,” our church’s music advisory team, needs someone who regularly attends that service to join the team. Meetings take place on Monday evenings, about six times per year. If you are want to share your perspectives and ideas while supporting the work of our music ministry, please contact Sue Schaub at sschaub@uccmedfield.org

30 HOUR FAMINE UPDATE

Well Well!

Forty students (the most ever!) and six adults fasted, learned about world hunger and tried to imagine how we might feel if our continent was on the opposite hemisphere (kinda like the shoe on the other foot – but with land masses). We thought about how we could make a difference in God’s world by generously sharing what we have. We praised God for His generosity and the way He works His plan to restore the world through people like you and each of us, worldwide. We celebrated the opportunity we’ve been given to help make a well happen in two communities on the other side of the world and the opportunities those wells will bring. We cleaned and painted at the Pfaff Center, we painted 3 world maps for Heifer International education (thank you Rachel Brown!) and we assembled 50 Disaster Relief Buckets for Church World Service (thank you Wendy Greaves!) and we had fun together despite the lack of food!

To date, we have collected approximately \$31,000 toward our goal of \$47,000.!!!!

We need your help to touch the lives of 600 of our neediest neighbors. Think about your life – your family – with no faucet in the house ... no water in the town where you live. (Close your eyes and think about what that would really be like) No water within a two hour journey. And what water there is, is dirty and contaminated. We can change that for 600 people. We can do this.

Please make checks out to **World Vision** and leave in the church office. Watch the mercury rise on our World Vision thermometer. Every donation counts.

Well Well! - Yes Yes!

MISSIONS TEAM (CONTINUED)

— The Missions Team received a \$100 request from the United Christian Foundation Campus Ministry program at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. This mainline Protestant ecumenical campus ministry has made it possible for students to serve communities both locally and far afield on their **Alternative Spring Break** service trips. Last year, 65 students traveled to Louisiana for a rebuilding project. We are happy to support their efforts and wish them well as they seek to serve their neighbors.

— Closer to home, our church will be hosting a **Blood Drive** on Wednesday, April 7th on behalf of the American Red Cross. A staggering 1,400 units of blood must be collected on a daily basis to meet the needs in our own area. Please give the “gift of life,” and sign-up today by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. Anyone 17 years of age or older, weighing 110 pounds or more and feeling in good health may be eligible to donate blood. Donor hours run from 2:00 PM until 7:00 PM. We are presently looking for volunteers to assist with registration during those times. Please contact Barbara Yates at 978-808-2912 (cell) or bryates@verizon.net if you are available to help out!

— A big thank you in advance to our congregation for donating to **One Great Hour of Sharing on March 28th**. Not only have the adults of our church given generously in the past, but our Sunday school children participate with great enthusiasm! These funds will help alleviate some suffering both domestically and internationally, as it helps people make some vital basic improvements in their lives. Thanks again for your support of such an important program.

— Also here at home, 50 **CWS Emergency Clean-up Buckets** were assembled at our church on the weekend of February 26th during the 30 Hour Famine. Congratulations to our young people and all others who contributed to this effort. The Missions Team funded \$2,445 to pay the costs associated with these buckets, which are distributed to places within the United States that have been hard hit by natural disasters. Thanks to generous contributions of items from the congregation, we were able to reduce the cost of filling the buckets this year by \$1,000! Special thanks to Wendy Greaves for organizing this effort and to Ron Yates for all his help in shipping the buckets, which in total weighed just over one-half ton!

— Once again, the Missions Team is pleased to offer the **Wood Scholarship** to any church member who is pursuing a degree in either ministry or nursing. Applications will be available in the church office as of April 1st, and should be **returned by May 31st**.



The Missions Team wishes all a joyful Easter.

Barbara Yates, Bill Sobo, Heather Horan,
Wendy Greaves, George Gray, Jennifer Grant,
Marti Cross, Monica Bushnell, Cindy Brennan,
Pastor Phil

BOOK DISCUSSION – Twenty or so women gathered on March 2nd to talk about the book, *The Shack*, by William P. Young. Our retreat topic this year is “Images of God,” and *The Shack* provided an opportunity to begin conversations that will continue into the retreat.

LENTEN BREAKFAST and program, Saturday, March 27th at 9:00 am. Start Holy Week with the fellowship of other Christian women from our church and the UCC in Millis. Please plan on joining us for this annual event. *Good food, conversations and spirits.*

UCC WOMEN’S OVERNIGHT RETREAT– April 23rd and 24th at the Old Sea Pines Inn in Brewster. This year’s topic is “The Many Faces of God” and will be lead by Mary Luti, who says:

In Genesis 32:22-30, after Jacob wrestles with the angel/God, Jacob says “Tell me your name!”. As we explore the many faces of God, we learn that God has many names, many images, many ways of making him/herself known to us in ways we human beings can grasp with our imaginations. Even though God is beyond all names and images, God is revealed in the Bible in ways congenial to us. Join us as we ask God to “Tell me your name!”

There are still a few spots open so if you feel God calling you to attend, please see Laury in the office to sign up. If the cost would prevent you from attending, please talk to Laury or Pastor Phil for a confidential subsidy to join us. There are times in everyone’s lives when they need a little help and we don’t want money to be the reason you don’t join us.

SUMMER SUSTENANCE – Plans are underway for our annual Summer Sustenance dinner in June. Please watch for further details.

THE UCC WOMEN STEERING COMMITTEE