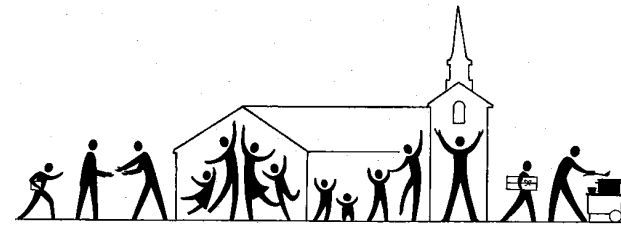


The United Church Of Christ in Medfield  
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January 2010



# THE BEACON

## SLOWING INTO THE NEW YEAR

I have started to slow down. Driving that is. When I am on the Mass Pike or I-95 rather than going with traffic in the fast lane, I drive with traffic in the middle lanes. Even on my way to Planet Fitness in the early morning on nearly empty Rte 27, I have reduced my speed. You could attribute this to the fact that I am an old geezer and just driving the way “older folks” drive and leave it at that. But you might be surprised that it comes as a result of my spiritual life.

Earlier this year I was reading an essay about the Christian life by Dallas Willard addressing the kind of life to which God calls us. Willard observed what a fast pace life we live and how impatient we are. He then stated that in order to live a faithful life of discipleship we must “be ruthless eliminating hurry.” **Be ruthless eliminating hurry.** In my mind, it was like a scratched record (if you remember what they are) that kept repeating itself. I reflected on how I thought, felt, and behaved when others slow me down. I hate to admit it, but I can be downright ugly. I have been known to fume when a car pulls in front of me and doesn’t drive as fast as I am driving. I can simmer at the checkout counter if the line is not moving quickly enough. Frankly, I don’t like the way I feel or behave when I’m rushing. It’s hard to love when you’re always in a hurry.

I thought about Jesus who never seemed to be in a hurry. He always had time for interruptions by people and frequently some profound teaching would come forth as a result of an interruption. I remembered the thoughts of Teilhard de Chardin about this subject captured by his poem with the title, “Above All, Trust in the Slow Work of God.” God clearly is not in a rush. Ask the Jews who were enslaved in Egypt for over 400 years before the exodus. Or ask Joseph who was sold into slavery and lost in prison for years before his release. Or Abraham and Sarah who waited years for Isaac’s conception and birth. Or the long wait for the Messiah...

I suspect many of you, too, are hijacked by hurry and the unkind words or angry actions that result. Churches in the U.S. are made up of people like us who are typically in a hurry. What if The United Church of Christ in Medfield was known as “The Patient Church,” the church that had time for interruptions and inconveniences, people in the slow lane? What if we were to ruthlessly eliminate hurry in our individual lives and let that commitment spread throughout the church? Imagine how much better we would be able to love God and neighbor. Perhaps we can all agree to slow our way into 2010!

*Pastor Phil*

## IMPORTANT DATES AT UCC MEDFIELD

### Christmas Eve

**5:30 PM\*** - Family Candlelight Service with Cherub, Training, Treble, Chancel and Youth Handbell Choirs;

**7:30 PM\*** - Candlelight Service with Sanctuary Choir, Chapel Bell Ensemble and guest brass quintet; and

**10:00 PM\*\*** - Candlelight Service including Communion.

*\*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 our parlor. If you arrive on Christmas Eve after the sanctuary reaches its capacity (our records show that the 5:30 service exceeds capacity shortly after 5:00 p.m.), then the ushers will direct you to the parlor, where you may participate in the service via a direct feed on the TV.*

*\*\*Note Time Change for the last service.*

**December 27th** we will hold our Service of Lessons and Carols at **9:30 AM**. There is no Sunday School or Praise service on that day.

### ANNUAL MEETING 2010

The Annual Meeting of The United Church of Christ will be held in the Great Room on Sunday, **January 10, 2010** immediately following the **9:30 combined service**. The Annual Reports will be available at that time and the Warrant listed on page 7 will be posted by January 3rd.

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

#### February Beacon

Thursday, January 21st  
9:00 AM.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: For the most up to date calendar, current events and various registration forms & permission slips as well as music rehearsal schedules, youth and children's ministries information.

## 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

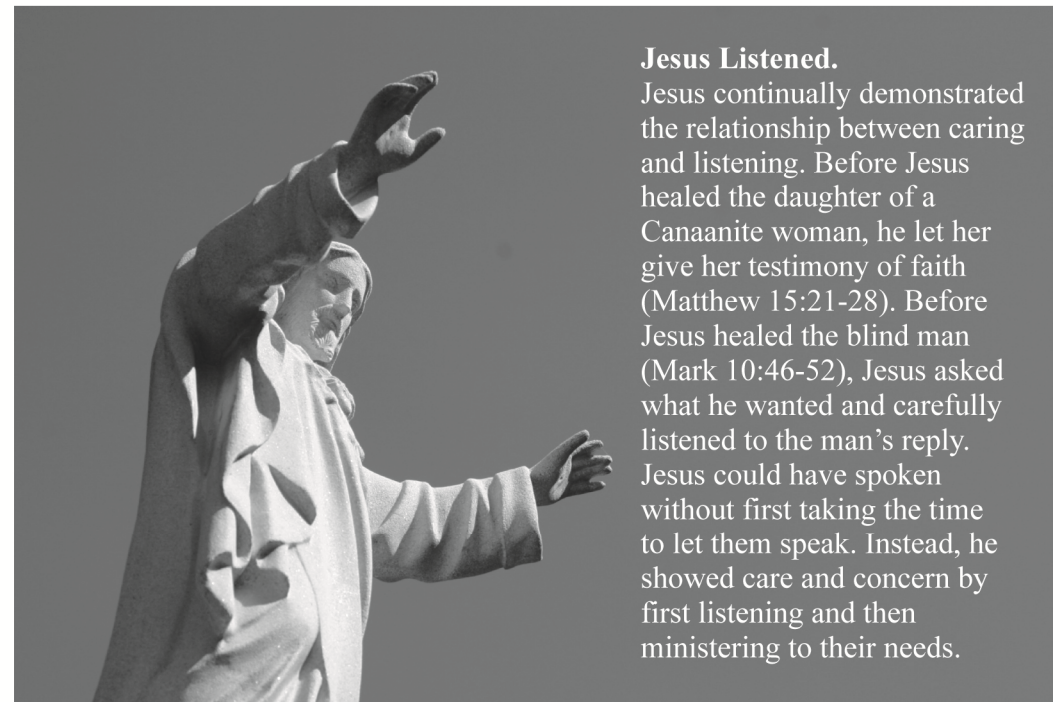
Office Hours:  
Monday thru Thursday  
8:30—4:30  
Friday 8:30—12:30

Church Website:  
www.uccmedfield.org

*BEACON* Editor: Laury Hunt  
Layout: Donna Matson

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

### Listening is Caring



#### Jesus Listened.

Jesus continually demonstrated the relationship between caring and listening. Before Jesus healed the daughter of a Canaanite woman, he let her give her testimony of faith (Matthew 15:21-28). Before Jesus healed the blind man (Mark 10:46-52), Jesus asked what he wanted and carefully listened to the man's reply. Jesus could have spoken without first taking the time to let them speak. Instead, he showed care and concern by first listening and then ministering to their needs.

"A new command I give you: Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you must love one another."  
John 13:34

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.

**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**



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

## YOUTH NEWS

**Serve it up BIG on January 30th!** See other Beacon pages for info about *MISSION POSSIBLE*. Students are urged to serve alongside their families!

### **Focus on Youth/8th Grade Confirmation**

Thanks to students and parents for helping to make the City Mission Society Christmas Shop a blessing to many families this Christmas! Gifts that students brought in were taken to the Christmas Shop in Winchester for sorting and distribution. Thanks so much for your generosity!

### **9th Grade Confirmation**

Students went to Temple Beth David for a Shabbat service as we prepare to discuss Christianity, Islam and Muslim faith traditions in early January 2010.

9th Grade Confirmation students and Senior High Fellowship members went to the City Mission Society's Christmas Shop on December 20th to help sort, wrap and pack gifts or families all over the greater Boston metropolitan area! Thanks to leaders and parent drivers! Great work students!

Over Christmas break info will be mailed to parents of 8th and 9th grade confirmation students providing an update of completed requirements. Please contact Wendy Ludwig with questions.

**9th grade confirmation parents!** Remember that on January 24th there is a parent forum at church from **6:30-8PM**. Please plan to attend.

### **SHF SOUP TO GO DATES 2010**

January 9th, February 6th, March 6th and April 10th. Sign up in the Narthex on the SHF SOUP TO GO Sheet. Cooks arrive 3:30PM. Deliverers arrive 5:45PM. Permission forms on the website ([www.uccmedfield.org](http://www.uccmedfield.org))

### **Senior High Fellowship**

There is a **SHF Winter Trip** planned for SHF students (**10th-12th graders only**) Saturday, January 9-Sunday, January 10. We will travel to the Horans' New Hampshire house early on Saturday morning. Skiers will ski at Mt Sunapee; non skiers will snowshoe, cross country ski or peruse the shopping in the downtown area on Saturday (adults will accompany). We will meet back at the Horans' for dinner, games, and a good night sleep before traveling back home on Sunday morning. Sign up has started and spaces are limited! Come to Senior High Fellowship to sign up and receive permission forms. Get your winter gear ready!

**SUPER BOWL SUBS!** - Once again this year mission trip participants will be selling Super Bowl subs to support our June mission trip to Appalachia. Stay tuned for order forms and pick-up info! YUM!

**Mission trip participants** – On Friday and Saturday, **February 5-6**, there will be an overnight mission trip prep meeting. We will begin to learn about Appalachia and we'll build Super Bowl subs!

**THE FAMINE IS COMING – 30 HOURS. NO FOOD.** Children around the world are counting on **you. DO THE FAMINE. February 26-27, 2010.** Sign up on Sunday night.

**CWAM!** (College-aged Students with a Mission!) 8 College students and 3 adult leaders will take off for the second annual CWAM mission trip to New York City on January 3-6, 2010. Commissioning will take place for all participants on Sunday January 3rd at the 9:30AM service.

*May the warmth and joy of His presence bring you peace and joy throughout the coming year,*  
The Youth Ministry Team

## MEMBER NEWS

### **BAPTISM**

**John Joseph Orpen**, born April 3, 2009 to Gregory and Mairéad Orpen, will be baptized on December 20th by Pastor Phil. Jack's godparents are Jennie Donovan and Sean McCabe. He is the grandson of Joe Orpen and the late Dianne Orpen, longtime members of UCC Medfield.

### **BIRTH**

**Isabella Rae Jackson** was born on Tuesday, December 8th to Catherine and Ryan Jackson. "Ella Rae" weighed in at 6 lbs, 8 oz and is welcomed by big sister Madison and maternal grandparents Judy and Alex Weiner.

### **SYMPATHY TO**

Karolyn Davey and family on the death of Arthur on December 12th. The Daveys were long time members who moved out of the area in 1994.

### **JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES AT THOMAS UPHAM:**

We will be leading Sunday services at the Thomas Upham nursing home across the street from our church on Sunday December 27, January 3, 17 and 31 and February 14 and 21 at 11:00. We meet in the Narthex at 10:45 and walk over together. The services typically last not more than 30 minutes. The service on December 27 will be Lessons and Carols and we would appreciate a good turnout of singers to join us for singing some of our favorite Christmas Carols. 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@fmglobal.com](mailto:michael.polagye@fmglobal.com). {\*Resources to assist in these areas are available.}

**MEDFIELD FOOD CUPBOARD** - Specifically from UCC for January, they have asked for **applesauce, beef stew, and cleaning products** 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.

**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.

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**



*Bless my hands... Often just appendages at the end of my arms... workers doing their job without appreciation. ... looked at, yet not really seen.*  
—Janet Bristow

Are you looking for a winter project? Don't let all that TV time go to waste. It is very relaxing to sit and knit or crochet and know that God is woven into every stitch. Please join us 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](mailto:cladedah@aol.com).

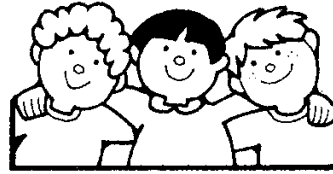
## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### PEEKING THROUGH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WINDOWS YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN:

- ◇ **Pre-k1 students** learning about Jesus being born in the manger and then making angels, coloring mangers, and then eating a snack of animal crackers to represent the animals in the manger.
- ◇ The children in the **pre-k2 class** listening to the story of the birth of Jesus and then acting out the story with a classroom manger scene.
- ◇ The **kindergarten students** making pictures of the angel Gabriel.
- ◇ The **first graders** listening to the stories of how Mary and Joseph received the Good News from the angel Gabriel and then making treetop angels and lacing JOY stockings.
- ◇ The **second graders** making Advent wreaths out of fun foam.
- ◇ The **third graders** comparing the Christmas stories in Matthew and Luke and then having great fun playing a nativity matching game.
- ◇ The **fourth grade students** playing Jeopardy with review questions from their lessons this fall.
- ◇ Our **fifth grade students** making ornaments of Christian symbols (cross, crown, fish) and the discussing their meaning.
- ◇ The **multi-age class** discussing the many names of Jesus and then acting out a skit where the angel visits Mary and Joseph to tell them their child would be holy and called the Son of God.

### The Parent Link

The January issue of The Parent Link was emailed to all CM families in mid-December.



### January Stewardship Focus

During the month of January, our Children's Ministry stewardship focus will be on using our time and talents as we prepare for our first annual, all church service day on January 30th. For more details on **Mission Possible**, check out the bulletin board and sign-ups sheets in the narthex for a family-friendly venue to serve that day. We hope everyone will come to the all church dinner at the end of our service day on the 30th to celebrate our efforts and enjoy fellowship and fun with our church family.

### Children's Church on January 3rd

Our monthly Children's church service will be held on January 3rd during the first part of the 9:30 worship service. This month, we will celebrate Epiphany---the coming of the Wise Men to see Jesus.

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.

<b>January 3</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>
	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Regular Sunday School</b>
<b>January 10</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>Regular Sunday School</b>
	<b>No Praise Service—Annual Meeting</b>	
<b>January 17</b>	<b>9:30 &amp; 11:00</b>	<b>Regular Sunday School</b>
<b>January 24</b>	<b>9:30 &amp; 11:00</b>	<b>Regular Sunday School</b>
<b>January 31</b>	<b>9:30 &amp; 11:00</b>	<b>Regular Sunday School</b>

## THE HOLE IN OUR GOSPEL: A SIX WEEK QUEST

Join us the first week in January 2010, when we will begin our very first all-church book discussion. The book is *The Hole in Our Gospel*, written by Richard Stearns. Like all good books, this one tells several stories. The first is the author's story of growing up poor and becoming the CEO of Lenox China and then being asked to give it all up to become President of World Vision, U.S. where he would work for and among the poorest of the poor in our world. Stearns shares how that decision was and his own reluctance at heeding that call.

The next story that he tells is the simple, deep, biblical truth that God is calling us to be a blessing to others; to care for the widows, the orphans, and the poor. So clear and consistent is this call that there are over 2,000 scripture references to wealth, poverty, and justice in the bible.

And he tells the story of abject, grinding poverty from the perspective of several individuals that he has met in his work with World Vision. These are hard stories to hear, but his purpose in telling it and our purpose in putting together the book discussion groups is so that we, both as individuals and as a church, can see the world the way God sees it; so that we can love the world the way God loves it.

Join us as we consider some profound questions about our lives and about our faith:

*What difference does my faith make in my life and in the world?*

*Am I willing to be open to God's will for my life?*

*What does God expect of us?*

We are offering 9 different study times; starting times listed below (6 weeks each, 1 1/2 hour sessions); You can sign up for any of the sessions in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall, or e-mail Laury in the office at lhunt@uccmedfield.org. The cost of the book is \$10; the book and companion journal is \$12. Checks can be made out to UCC Medfield. If you have any questions, please contact Margi Goetz at 359-4096 or mgoetz2@comcast.net.

### **Daytime Schedule:**

Sunday 11:00 am-12:30 pm (1/17)

Tuesday 9:30-11 a.m. (1/5)

Wednesday 9:30-11:00 am & 12:30-2 pm (1/6)

Thursday 9:15-11:00 am (1/7)

### **Evening Schedule:**

Sunday 6:30-8 pm (1/10)

Tuesday 7:30-9 pm (1/5)

Wednesday 7:30-9 pm (1/6)

Thursday 7:30-9 pm (1/7)

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (CONTINUED)

The Dahl family is already hard at work putting in their sweat equity hours. They were welcomed in a Family Introduction Ceremony in which Pastor Phil participated on December 5 at St. Joseph Parish Center. Thanks to all the members of our congregation who were among the 120 people in attendance. It was a moving experience for all, since John and Elizabeth Dahl are clearly excited about this opportunity for their family. Thanks to all of you who have had a part in bringing us this far!



## WELCOMING & FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** As we enter a new and exciting year at UCC Medfield, the Welcoming and Friendship Ministry continues to focus on the importance of providing a sincerely warm atmosphere for all guests who come through our doors. It is our hope that these guests will find our church to be a place where God's spirit is alive and active and a place where they can actively explore their faith.

We are very grateful to our team members who stand behind the Welcome Tables each Sunday and help us to accomplish our goals. Their commitment has made a difference, as witnessed by the many new individuals and families who have been welcomed into this church in 2009.

**KEEP WRITING!** We truly appreciate everyone's continued use of the Communication Cards at both Sunday services. Our return rate has increased significantly, and we have been able to capture important information from guests, members and regular attendees. **Remember if you are a member or a regular attendee, it is not necessary to fill in all the contact information on the front of the card (address, phone, etc.);** just put your name. For you, the important part is the "Next Step" and Prayer Requests. Many people have reported the "Next Step" list helps them to

focus in on how they can more actively participate in the life of our church, and to enjoy a more personal experience.

**DINNER GROUPS** - All of our dinner groups have met at least once by now, and have reported fun evenings of getting to know each other better while sharing delicious food! That's a winning combination!

**COFFEE HOURS** - Kathe Farris is our coordinator of coffee hour for both services, and **WE STILL NEED PEOPLE TO SIGN UP!** For those who may not know, it is no longer necessary to provide the snacks; just volunteer to set up, serve the coffee, and help to clean up. With enough people volunteering, our rotating schedule means that you only have to do it once every year or so and it a great way to extend biblical hospitality to members and guests. If you can help, please sign up in the Narthex, or contact Kathe Farris at [kathe@thanktank.com](mailto:kathe@thanktank.com). **Coffee Hour is a really important part of our Welcoming & Friendship Ministry**, because it is often the first opportunity new people have to share some social time and meet our members. When you attend remember what it was like when you were "new" and be sure to seek new guests, say "I don't believe we've met", and chat for a few minutes. Make them feel welcome!

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On December 12 a hardworking group from UCC Medfield was the first volunteer construction crew at 9 Walker Street, Medway. Under the leadership of Neal O'Connor, who will be our primary Site Supervisor for the project, they were able to install the sills, center beams and most of the joists. The next opportunity for UCC Medfield, on Saturday, January 30 as part of the church's "Mission Possible" Day of Service, is already full. The mixed blessing of an abundance of interested local groups is that volunteer work teams are booked through May, with no other repeats except for our Mission Possible event. Mid week building opportunities may be available. At least 10 individuals and a professional building contractor are needed. If you are interested please contact Mike Polagye by e-mail [Michael.Polagye@fmglobal.com](mailto:Michael.Polagye@fmglobal.com) or by phone 781-255-4730 weekdays at work or 508-520-0865 evenings and weekends at home.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

### Classroom Volunteers- January

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>1/3</u>	<u>1/10</u>	<u>1/17</u>	<u>1/24</u>	<u>1/31</u>
Pre-K1	Compton	Hatch	Bailer	Merck	Malvese
Pre-K2	Caro	Merageas	OPEN	Fuqua	Grant
Kindergarten	Smith	Whelan	Douglas	Curmi	Barrows
1st Grade	Lussier	Jenkins	OPEN	Schneider	Previte
2nd Grade	Merageas	Colleran	Murray	McKinney	Le
3rd Grade	Fedak	Jenkins	Lunn	Douglas	OPEN
4th Grade	Sullivan	Phenegar	OPEN	Bond	Caputo
5th Grade	D'Amore	Lozzio	Mitchell	Smith	Manning

## CRADLES TO CRAYONS MINISTRY

**Workdays in the Quincy Warehouse** - We have scheduled monthly workdays in "The Giving Factory" (C2C's Quincy Warehouse) through June. Please visit the signup board in the Narthex if you want to join us for one, two or all the planned workdays. The scheduled dates are:

- Tuesday, January 12th
- Tuesday, February 9th
- Friday, March 5th
- Tuesday, April 6th
- Friday, May 7th
- Tuesday, June 8th.

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.

On December 3rd, we had nine women volunteer at the warehouse and we completed 163 orders for children in need!!!

**New Site for Sorting Bags** - Check out the new C2C shelves in the narthex stairwell. You can now check out sorting bags without climbing the stairs to the second floor. 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, MA 02052  
No need to call ahead-donations may be left on Kathy's covered front porch. **Due to the increase in crib recalls, C2C is no longer accepting cribs.**

### **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 out!!

**To the Members of The United Church of Christ in Medfield, Massachusetts:**

The Annual Meeting of The United Church of Christ in Medfield, Massachusetts will be held following the 9:30 am Service of Worship on Sunday, **January 10, 2010.**

At this time, the ANNUAL REPORTS from OFFICERS, TEAM CHAIRPERSONS and AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS of the CHURCH shall be presented, a proposed BUDGET for **January, 2010 through December, 2010** shall be adopted, and OFFICERS of the CHURCH shall be elected.

We shall also act upon a MOTION to be made by the Administration and Operations Team:

To accept the 2010 proposed Budget as printed in the Annual Report with the understanding that, if the pledges exceed the Budget or fail to meet the Budget, the Administration and Operations Team has the authority to appropriate the funds as necessary.

Any other business, which may be brought before this legally called meeting, may be presented for action.

This WARRANT conforms to Article X, Section B of the 2009 Revised Bylaws.

Steve Groff  
Moderator

***Upcoming Soup To Go Dates:***

December 26  
January 9 (SHF)  
January 23