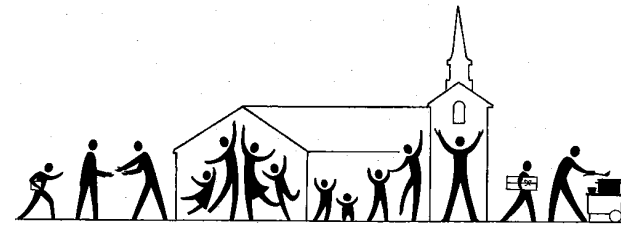


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March 2010

THE BEACON

UGANDA BOUND AGAIN

God never ceases to amaze me. Last October when I took several days on a spiritual retreat in Maine, I had a strong sense that God wanted me to “give back” and in a small way serve some of the African Christians I have met over my last two years. When I say “give back” I mean that God has given me much in terms of education, training, and experience as a pastor, pastoral counselor, and teacher. I have always had a heart for Africa, but the last two years I have loved meeting the World Vision staff and leading devotions and preaching in northern Uganda as we visited the World Vision Koro/Bobi Area Development Program (ADP), St. Thomas More Senior Secondary School, the Children of War center, as well as various other sites.

After returning home, I shared my vision with Patty MacDonald, World Vision’s church rep in the New England area and the person who led the last two trips. She was excited about my idea and thought I should pursue it. God kept opening doors, and what I thought might take well over a year, led to an invitation in only four months. The leadership in Uganda was excited about my proposal and has asked me to spend two weeks in northern Uganda ministering to the World Vision staff and possibly local pastors. The needs and challenges are huge as World Vision tries to minister holistically to their staff, and it turns out that they have just begun a worldwide

project to accomplish what I had felt God was leading me to do in a much smaller way.

On March 1, I will head to Kampala to meet with the staff there to discuss further how to minister to the staff in northern Uganda. I will then proceed to several of the ADPs in northern Uganda including Koro/Bobi where I will spend time with the staffs in addition to spending a day at the St. Thomas More School with whom we have the partnership. The girls’ dorm has been completed and dedicated so I plan to take pictures of it. The church sent \$2000 (an anonymous gift of \$1000 and an additional amount of \$1000 directed by the Mission Team) to purchase two stoves for the school, and I have been told that they will have been installed by the time I arrive so I will be able to see them. I will return late on March 17.

While I would prefer that we had an Associate Pastor to lead and provide pastoral care while I am gone, we are fortunate that the church is blessed with many gifted staff members, leaders and caregivers who will ensure that the ministries are supported and care is given while I am gone. We have active and talented Stephen Ministers who will continue to provide Christ-centered caregiving, and two of the Stephen Ministers will be available for hospital visits if that need arises. In addition the

Continued on Page 2

UGANDA BOUND (CONTINUED)

Rev. Dr. Tom Sullivan who attends our church and the Rev. Paul Sangree, the pastor at Bethany Congregational Church in Foxboro, are on call for emergencies.

Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call upon me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know." God continues to surprise us and show things we never thought possible. I would ask that, like the many ministries that are so central to our church, you also keep our partnership with World Vision and the St. Thomas More School in your prayers as well as my serving the staff in northern Uganda. Nothing is too hard for God.

Pastor Phil

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS April Beacon

Monday, March 15th
9:00 am

MEMBER NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE COLLECTOR –

According to a bill passed in Congress, contributions for Haiti earthquake relief made between 1/12 - 2/28/10 will be allowed as a deduction on 2009 tax returns. Taxpayers are not required to claim a 2010 contribution in 2009 but have the option to do so. **We will be sending out a separate statement the first week of March to those individuals who made contributions through UCC for Haiti relief during said period.**

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE – We will be forming a committee, chaired by Mary Preikszas, in the next few weeks to address the church's landscaping issues. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins and a sign up sheet in the narthex.

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

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

YOUTH NEWS

The **Pancake Supper** and the **Super Bowl subs** once again proved to be delicious successes! Thanks to all who attended the supper and/or purchased subs! All proceeds will be used to fund the Senior High Mission trip to Appalachia June 27-July 2, 2010. A **big** thanks to Cindy Brennan for making the Pancake Supper happen again this year and for Gary and Wendy Greaves who coordinated the sub sale – it's a ton of coordination, planning and effort (they only make it look easy!). Great job SHF students!

The **9th Grade Confirmation Retreat** will be held at Grotonwood on **March 26th and 27th**. **All** students are required to attend. Details and permission forms will be distributed at the **February 28th Sacrament class for students and parents**.

LOVE GOD. RAISE FUNDS. FEED THE WORLD! The Senior High Fellowship again will participate in **World Vision's 30 Hour Famine on February 26-27**. We set an aggressive fundraising goal for ourselves and more than ever, we need your help! Please fight world hunger by supporting this important cause. **We have an opportunity to use this year's 30 hour Famine funds to address another community's desperate need related to water.** World Vision has identified two high priority areas in Africa in need of wells - one in Ethiopia and one in Mali. Each well supports a community of 300 people. Imagine that! **600 people we could touch in a life-changing way.** Out of our abundance we can meet this basic need. If just 157 families would each contribute or raise \$300, we could reach this amazing goal. This IS possible! Can you help by supporting this year's 30 Hour Famine and asking everyone you know to do the same? Make a difference with your contribution as we give up food for 30 hours. **Please make checks out to World Vision.** We will be accepting donations through March 15th.

Senior High Fellowship will meet **every Sunday evening in March from 6:30-8:00PM**. We will have a Holy Week experiential worship activity on **Palm Sunday, March 28th. Don't miss it!**

The Focus on Youth/8th Grade Confirmation Game Night will be held **Monday, March 22nd. We will meet at church at 5:30 and will have dinner as usual. We will be finished at 7:15.** Students should wear comfortable play clothes.

Parents please note: this is important team building and fellowship time! This type of activity requires kids to mix and interact with each other in different ways that (over time) bind kids together in shared experience. **Please make sure that your child attends and don't view this as an optional event... this is about developing spiritual friendships and having fun together. Thanks!**

8th and 9th Grade Confirmation Students! Attendance at all Holy Week services is mandatory. This includes Palm Sunday 3/28, Maundy Thursday 4/1, Good Friday 4/2, and Easter Sunday 4/4.



All FOY and 8th Grade Confirmation Students! On **Tuesday March 30th** there will be a special FOY worship from **6:55 to 7:15AM** (that's in the morning!) in the Great Room. This is an annual FOY/8th grade tradition. There will be a breakfast to pick up and take with you as you walk to school. Last year almost everyone attended. **Hope you can make it!**

WELCOMING & FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY

"If we truly love God, we will express it by loving our neighbors, and when we truly love our neighbors, it expresses our love for God"
Richard Stearns, The Hole in Our Gospel

In The Hole in Our Gospel, which many of us have read recently, Richard Stearns stresses the idea of making a **personal** connection with the people we serve in God's name. In his position as President of World Vision, he is serving the poorest of the poor in this world in a very hands-on, personal way.

That need for a **personal** connection extends also to our own church and effects how we interact with fellow members and with those new people who come through our doors in search of God in their lives. This ministry's goal is to make visitors feel warmly welcomed in a **personal** way. At our Welcome Table we greet them and provide them with whatever information they would like about our church and then they receive a personal follow-up message from Pastor Phil.



A Note from Pastor Jean (Sangster) Lenk, UCC Stoughton

Beloved Medfield Friends,
Thank you so much for your outpouring of love -- shown through your presence, servanthood, and tangible gifts -- as we assembled hygiene and baby kits for the people of Haiti in Dorchester at the end of January and in Stoughton earlier this month. When Church World Service arrives in a few days, we will be able to load approximately 804 hygiene kits and 113 baby kits from the two efforts, thanks in large part to your generous hearts. It was so great to see so many of you!
With love and gratitude,
Jean

COFFEE HOUR, the other **personal** element of our ministry, is the hospitality shown to visitors by inviting them to share a cup of coffee after the service. This may not seem very important, but it provides a time and place to meet those new to our church, and make them feel at home here.

Have you thought about serving as a host for this Coffee & Fellowship time? It's so easy!! Being a host only requires you to set up, serve the coffee and snacks, and help with the clean-up. The coffee is made for you ahead of time, and the snacks are provided. **Being a host is not only easy, it's fun!** You get to chat with all your friends and neighbors and meet any new people who might be there.

We need Coffee Hour Hosts for the following dates:

After the 9:30 service:

March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 18, 25

After the 11:00 service:

February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 18, 25.

As you can see, we have many openings we need to fill. **Please consider filling one of these dates.** A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, or you can contact our Coordinator, Kathe Farris, at 508-359-1171, or kathe@thanktank.com.

MEMBER NEWS

BIRTHS

Nadia Jai Dasai Tlapa (which means "Hopeful Heart, Gift of God"), was born January 26 to Paul and Holleigh Tlapa. Nadia weighed 7 lbs 2 oz and is welcomed by siblings Alexeigh, Aspen and Gage and happy grandparents Dick and Diane Tlapa.

Harriette Yakovah Wardwell was born to Brian and Keri Wardwell on January 22. Harriette, named after her great grandmother, weighed 5 lbs 14 oz, measured 18" and was welcomed with joy by grandparents Janet and Peter Wardwell of Medfield.

BAPTISM

John Joseph Orpen, born April 3, 2009 to Gregory and Mairéad Orpen, was baptized on February 14th (rescheduled from the December 20th snowstorm date) 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.

SYMPATHY TO

Jackson and Cara Smith and family on the death of his father, Jack Smith, on January 24.

Jay and Lillian Swanson and family on the death of Jay's mother.

Louise and Bob Steinkrauss and family on the death of Louise's father on February 3.

Sue Tobiasson and family on the death of her husband Bruce on February 3.

Mary and Bill Cusano and family on the death of her father on February 20.

The friends and family of Beverly Bond, long time member of UCC Medfield, who died February 21.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING YOUR EXTRA CRUTCHES TO HAITIANS IN NEED

- Heather Horan is collecting crutches, canes, slings, splints...any usable prosthetic device to send to Haiti. There is a desperate need for these items and many of us have them in our basement. Please check your storage areas for any prosthetic you could share. Donations can be left on the back porch at 18 Dover Farm Road, or call 508-359-6086 and we would be happy to pick up your contribution. A Haitian friend of Heather's will take a shipment with him when he travels to Haiti in March, so please be timely. Thank you in advance.

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** is April 1 at 7:30 PM and 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**.

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 will be available in the Sunday bulletins and in the narthex beginning March 14th. Plants can be picked up after the morning services. The **deadline is March 29th** for ordering a plant and having your dedication appear in the bulletin.

BMW & ACURA CAR KEYS – , we have one of each in the office—the Acura one has been here since the fall and the BMW since 1/25

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

PEEKING THROUGH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WINDOWS YOU WOULD SEE:

Pre-k1 students decorating construction paper coats to give to a special friend just like Jonathan gave his coat to his friend David.

The **pre-k2 class** brainstorming and then writing down their ideas onto a big paper heart about how they show love to their families, and then creating paper dolls to represent each member of their families.

Kindergarten students cutting out handprints, writing *Messiah* on them, and then attaching them to the class poster of Jesus.

The **first graders** discussing ways to help others when they are not well and then making get well cards.

Second graders talking about treasures and eternal life, and then making "kindness" critters to give to someone.

Third graders playing a trivia game to review all the Bible stories they have learned this year and then making a personal poster exploring "Who is Jesus to Me?"

Fourth grade students reading in the book of Luke how Jesus called His first four disciples, and then playing a four corners game using the names of the first four disciples.

Fifth grade students preparing their observation sheet to use while they observed the Communion part of the worship service on February 7th.

The **multi-age class** reading and acting out the story of Jesus and the rich man and then cleaning their classroom as a service to the church.

Children's Church on March 7th

Our monthly Children's church service will be held on March 7th during the first part of the 9:30 worship service. This month our focus will be our March stewardship project for *One Great Hour of Sharing*.

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.

March Stewardship Project - One Great Hour of Sharing

In His last conversation with the disciples after His resurrection, Jesus repeated the same message three times - *If you love me, take care of the people I love.* Jesus had given up everything to care for ordinary people. He called on His followers to now make a tangible difference in the lives of others. When we make a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, we actively participate in tending God's flock throughout the world.

During the month of March, children will participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering campaign in two ways - by learning about OGHS in their classrooms and by utilizing the Sharing Calendar at home. This calendar highlights some of the challenging situations we address when feeding and tending God's sheep in the U.S. and around the world. Each day suggests a donation of "coins" - which may be pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half or whole dollars. Your household can decide what coin is best for your situation each day. Children will place their daily contribution in an OGHS treasure offering box.

Starting on February 28th, CM Lunch bags will be distributed in all classes and will include a Sharing Calendar and an offering box (we are using some of our past supplies of banks so your children may not all have the same type of bank). Offering boxes are due back on March 28th.



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

'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

Pledging for 2010

The stewardship team is pleased to provide you with an update of 2010 pledging. As of February 15, we have received 175 pledges for a total of \$671,056. While the number of pledge units declined by 18, the dollars pledged represent an increase of 3% over 2009 pledges. This is a great reflection of the generosity of the friends and members of UCC Medfield.

Our annual faith-pledge commitments are vital to the missions and ministries of our church, as they form the basis of the annual planning

process, as outlined in the financial and budget reports.

As individuals and families, when we share the blessings that God has unconditionally and generously bestowed upon each and every one of us, we enrich the world and bear witness to His Kingdom come to us today. And whenever we share, let us do so freely and joyfully, and always fully mindful that it is God's will for us.

As we head further into 2010, we ask for continuing blessings on our congregation, and pray that we all can discover joy through simplicity and generosity.

Yours in Christ,
The Stewardship Ministry Team

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

The associate pastor search team has begun meeting and would like to share our progress with the congregation. At our initial meeting in January, we discussed the process of spiritual discernment in group decision making and how it will be used by the team to identify our next associate pastor. We also discussed a rough draft of the job description, developed from feedback of church-wide discussion groups, staff and other resources.

In February, the team met with Wendy Vanderhart, the Massachusetts UCC Associate Conference Minister, for a presentation on the search and call process. We learned about a

variety of helpful conference resources, timetables, and how to prepare a Local Church Profile.

At our March meeting, we plan to further refine the associate pastor job description. Please feel free to contact any of the team members with questions about the process or, if you haven't had a previous opportunity, input regarding the role of the associate pastor.

Bill Sobo (co-chair), Pat Mormann (co-chair), Phil Bauman, Wendy Cohen, Jan Cree, Art Davies, Heather Horan and Mary Perry.



A NOTE FROM ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

2009 Financial Report

The financial results for 2009 are very good. For most of the year we were running behind in pledge income. After it was brought to the Congregation's attention, pledge income jumped in the last two months of the year. These collections brought total 2009 pledge income to \$644,000 versus a budget of \$610,000 and compares to \$652,000 for total 2009 pledges (99% of the total pledged was received). This is a remarkable achievement made even more so by the difficult economic conditions that persisted prior to and throughout 2009. The Stewardship Committee and all members of the A&O team thank God and all who contributed for their generosity and commitment to support our church and its ministries.

Total 2009 income came in at \$705,000 versus a budget of \$689,000. We finished the year strong, and it was very encouraging how the congregation responded to the need to maintain planned giving.

Total expenses were \$692,000 versus a budget of \$716,000 as most major line items were under budget for the year. We fully funded the Missions Budget at \$86,000 without taking funds from the General Fund Surplus and we set aside \$20,000 for some roof work that will be completed as soon as weather conditions allow.

The combination of higher cash receipts and lower than budgeted expenditures left us with a General Fund Surplus of approximately \$39,000 after starting the year at approximately \$25,000.

2010 Budget Update

For 2010 we presented a balanced budget at the Annual Meeting in January.

The budget is based upon \$650,000 in pledge income and \$56,000 in other offerings and income.

The pledge income budget is supported by 2010 pledges received to date of \$671,056. Total income for 2010 is budgeted at \$706,000, equal to 2009's actual income of \$705,000.

The 2010 budgets requests totaled \$784,000, an increase of \$67,000 over those submitted in the 2009 budget. In order to balance the budget, reductions totaling \$79,000 were identified. The identified reductions were:

- o We delayed the expected date to hire the Associate Pastor by four months, saving \$26,666
- o We removed \$20,000 in maintenance expenditures from the A&O budget
- o We reduced certain Diaconate expenditures by \$5,800
- o We reduced the submitted new Mission budget by \$27,000.

Our first priority is to apply pledges in excess of the budget to restore and expand funding for our mission and outreach ministries.

And lastly, as a gentle reminder, please prayerfully consider making this year a little less exciting for the A&O team by fulfilling your pledge either earlier in the year or more uniformly throughout the year.

*Respectfully submitted,
Larry Heaney, Chair of Finance*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

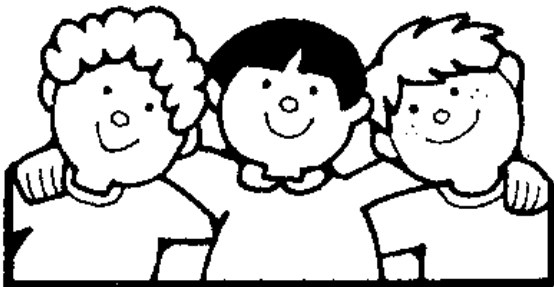
Special Friends Program:

A note from Christi Barney
There is a very special ministry going on at UCC that is comprised of middle and high school students. The Special Friends ministry pairs these older students with Sunday School aged children who have special needs and/or require individual help and assistance in order to access the Sunday school curriculum.

As a mom of a child who benefits from this program, I wanted to acknowledge the giving spirit of those that help out in this ministry. This program allows my son to participate alongside his peers, and supports parents in allowing us to participate in weekly worship. In other church settings, parents of children with additional needs have no option but to monitor their children alone. This often further isolates the child and the family.

This is a program for the congregation to celebrate. The younger children get a chance to develop a relationship with a consistent older youth who helps them navigate. These special friendships are an active demonstration of God's love to the younger children. Additionally, parents get to attend worship and refuel for the week ahead and the older kids get a mission opportunity!

I thank God for this special ministry and the teens that serve in it!



We are blessed to have Andrea Nevins, Ashley Alemian, Brian Brown, Sam Horan and Noah Willson serving this year in our Special Friends program. If you are an adult who has a heart for special needs ministry and would like to serve in this ministry, please contact Susan Holbrook at sholbrook@uccmedfield.org

March Schedule

March 7	8:30	Teacher Meeting/ Communion
	9:30	Children's Church
	11:00	Regular Sunday School
March 14	9:30	Regular SS
	11:00	Regular SS
March 21	9:30	Regular SS
	11:00	Regular SS
March 28	9:30	Regular SS
	11:00	Regular SS

5th Grade Sacrament Curriculum is underway

On February 28th, our fifth grade students will begin their five week class on the Sacraments. A special evening for the fifth graders and their parents will be held on February 28th. Pastor Phil will present a program on the Sacrament of Communion for fifth grade parents and the ninth grade confirmation students and their parents. The fifth grade students will meet with their teachers and complete the Baptism section of the curriculum that will be started during the morning Sunday School class.

After the completion of this curriculum, students may participate in their first educated Communion at the Maundy Thursday service on April 1st.

The Parent Link

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

Classroom Volunteers–February

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>3/7</u>	<u>3/14</u>	<u>3/21</u>	<u>3/28</u>
Pre-k1	Compton	Koterba	Barrows	Malvese
Pre-k2	Caro	Merageas	Nugent	Robertson
Kindergarten	Price	Curmi	Lynch	Young
1st Grade	Sullivan	Lussier	Le	Jenkins
2nd Grade	Farrell	Hatch	Colleran	Marmai
3rd Grade	Coogan	Fedak	Walsh	Coogan
4th Grade	Corzilius	Wirsig	Weintraub	Perry
5th Grade	Teachers	Teachers	Teachers	Teachers

NEW MISSION CONNECTION

First Haitian Church Brockton, MA

Following the tragedy of the earthquake in Haiti, John Edgar made a connection with the First Haitian Church in Brockton, MA though a former employee. On Saturday, February 13, Karyn Cousins, John and Gayle Edgar and Marti Cross had the privilege of meeting with the minister, his wife, and John's friend. Their youth choir was just beginning a rehearsal as we had a tour of the beautiful turn-of-the-century building. Due to heating costs, the

larger sanctuary is not used during the winter.

Pastor Ogando explained that there are many families in their congregation who recently shared testimonials regarding families who remain in Haiti and their needs. This could be a wonderful mission opportunity for us to have more personal experiences with people here in Massachusetts, while helping people in Haiti. Look for more information and updates in the next Beacon, in the church bulletin, and a mission moment during an upcoming worship service.



CRADLES TO CRAYONS

UCC MEDFIELD IS NAMED VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE MONTH AT CRADLES TO CRAYONS - On our Mission Possible service day on January 30th, 109 UCC members and friends served at the C2C warehouse in Quincy. Cradles estimated our collective efforts that day helped over 600 needy children in Massachusetts. Our group pictures from the AM and PM work sessions are proudly displayed on the VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH BOARD IN THE WAREHOUSE.



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 on 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 MaryBeth White at 359-7147 or email her at marybeth.white@comcast.net

An article on UCC's partnership with C2C appeared in the Medfield Press on February 4th. Many thanks to Carol Aucoin for writing the article.

Susan Holbrook met with three Girl Scout troops in the past month to educate them on C2C's mission and then had them sort and package socks, underwear and newborn caps. Susan also escorted a Girl Scout troop (with several UCC students) to the warehouse on February 9th for a 2 hour work session.

Workdays in the Quincy Warehouse - Since Mission Possible, there has been an increased interest in volunteering at the Quincy warehouse. We have been able to add an additional workday per month on Wednesdays.

Our current schedule for workdays in "The Giving Factory" (C2C's Quincy Warehouse) is listed below. Please visit the signup board in the Narthex if you want to join us for one, two or all the planned workdays.

- Friday, March 5th
- Wednesday, March 17th
- 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.

Off-site Sorting Bags - Many thanks to all our off-site sorters who have been very busy the past few weeks. We are thrilled that many new people have joined in on this outreach effort!! **YOU NO LONGER HAVE TO SIGN BAGS OUT--YOU ARE WELCOME TO JUST TAKE THEM HOME AND RETURN THEM BACK IN THE STAIRWELL WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED.**

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.

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

MUSIC MINISTRY

2009-2010 Concert Series

Next Concert:

The Seraphim Singers

Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

We are pleased to welcome back the Seraphim Singers of Boston, under the baton of Jennifer Lester, as they explore the new elements and fresh perspective Latin American composers have brought to European sacred music forms in a program featuring works of Zumaya, Villa-Lobos, Ginastera, and uncommon treasures of the New World Baroque.

Upcoming Events:

Palm Sunday Concert: Cancelled

We regret to report that we were unable to schedule a performance with Christian singer-songwriter John Angotti on Palm Sunday, as we have done for the past two years. John will, however, be performing at St. Theresa's Church in Sherborn during Holy Week – watch the bulletin for more information.

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 generous grant from the Elmer O. Portmann Memorial Fund.

Children's Choir Festival

The Treble and Chancel Choirs of The United Church of Christ in Medfield have been preparing for many months to participate with several other regional choirs in the third annual Children's Choir Festival of the Southeastern

New England Chapter of Chorister's Guild on Saturday, March 20, 2010, at Sacred Heart Church in Quincy. As of this printing, fifteen churches have signed on to participate in this event! All are invited to attend the festival worship service in Quincy at 6:00 p.m.

Music Ministry Sunday

On Sunday, April 11, 2010, 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!



CDs Available

Ample copies of "We Give Thee But Thine Own," the compact disc recording by the Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs,

are available in the church office. Please stop by and take one! Donations for various Missions Team projects are still gratefully accepted for those who wish to make a contribution. Unfortunately, we were unable to arrange for the recording to be available for digital downloads on iTunes, but we are in the process of making them available for on-line sales, allowing CDs to be purchased and shipped conveniently anywhere in the world! Please visit www.uccmedfield.org/cd for the most up-to-date information and to download a booklet of lyrics.

MISSIONS TEAM

The Missions Team is grateful once again for the generosity of our congregation! Donations in January resulted in a gift of \$7156 to World Vision for Haitian relief efforts. With more than 800 staff on the ground in Haiti and over thirty years of experience in working there, they were able to start delivering emergency supplies within hours of the earthquake.

We also celebrate the generous gifts to the Blankets+ program of Church World Service (CWS) this month. Donations of over \$1775 will support this important effort, which includes a variety of programs in addition to providing blankets to those affected by emergencies and hard times. Other initiatives around the globe such as job training, housing assistance, health care and nutrition are helping those affected by poverty and natural disasters to achieve a better life.

In recent weeks, many people from UCC Medfield participated in the donation of items and assembly of over 804 CWS hygiene and 113 child care kits (and still counting!) at two church events, which CWS will be sending to Haiti next week. The kits are coveted by the people who receive them and are an important tool to fight the spread of disease. Thank you for your generous donations and time.

We also want to extend a big "thank you" to Senior High Fellowship who will be assembling 50 CWS Clean-up Buckets during the 30 Hour Famine. In addition, we appreciate all the donations of items for the buckets. The completed buckets will be part of the initial response to natural disasters here in the U.S.

At its February meeting, the Missions Team approved a donation of \$6000 to the Medfield Food Cupboard for 2010 to purchase perishables and frozen meats to supplement

donated food supplies. This funding will help this local effort meet the increasing demands for their services.

Our 2010 gift of \$18,000 to the World Vision Koro/Bobi ADP is being used for the construction of a building in which students at the St. Thomas More Senior Secondary School can take exams that are required as part of Uganda's education system. Currently, elementary school students have to be displaced from their classrooms during the exam period in order to provide an adequate setting for the exams. Pastor Phil will bring us more information on this after his trip to Uganda in March.

Save the Date

2010 Boston AIDS Africa Event

Saturday, April 3, 2010

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

MIT Johnson Rink

77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA

Boston AIDS Africa: Providing Care Until There's a Cure. On Saturday, April 3rd, we will join other groups and organizations around the Boston area to assemble World Vision Caregiver Kits for Africa. Did you know that over 67% of all those infected with HIV/AIDS live in Africa? Millions of infected adults and children don't have access to even the most basic care. This year's goal is to provide 2000 caregivers with supplies for one year, helping them to provide compassionate care for those suffering in their communities. Look for sign up sheets in the Narthex coming soon.

American Red Cross Blood Drive - we will again be hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross on Wednesday, April 7 from 2:00-7:00 PM. Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins and flyers around town.

The purpose of UCC Women is to provide spiritual nourishment for all women of the church. Please contact any one of us with ideas or topics for future programs. New faces at our events are a special reason to celebrate, so join us and bring a friend!

Upcoming events:

Tuesday, March 2, 7:00 pm

Book Discussion of W.P. Young's The Shack

Using this book's novel approach as a starting place, we will have a Spirited conversation about God's presence in our lives and the world. A brief summary of the book will be provided, so all interested in the broader topic are invited to join in our discussion. Please sign up in the narthex or RSVP via Evite.

Saturday, March 27, 9:00 am

Lenten Breakfast

Always held the Saturday before Palm Sunday, this annual shared breakfast and program helps us prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week. Look for an Evite/sign up around March 10.

Friday & Saturday, April 23-24

Women's Retreat

Our topic this year is "The Many Faces of God", lead by Mary Luti. Retreat is always a time for refreshment, renewal and reconnection as we grow together in faith. The sign up deadline was February 28, but contact Rosemary Cunningham or the church office to see if there are still spaces available.

We hope to see you at any (or all!) of these programs.

Steering Committee:

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