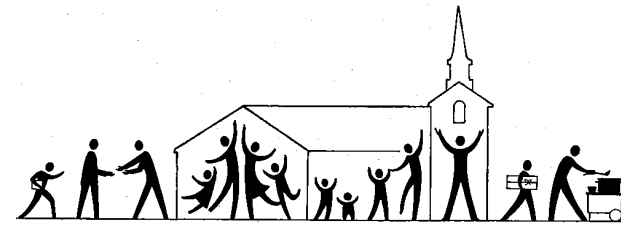


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# THE BEACON

## OUR NEIGHBOR'S ADVANTAGE

By the time that you receive this Beacon I will, by God's grace, be in Uganda for a two-week visit. The first week, October 23rd through October 30th, I will be in Kampala. On Monday I will spend the day at the WV national headquarters meeting with the staff. On Tuesday through Friday I will attend the National Reflection & Learning Event that WV Uganda will be holding. I will lead devotions every morning, do some training (as yet to be determined), and meet with WV staff from other parts of Uganda.

On Saturday and Sunday I will be staying with Fulukas and his wife Miriam in a suburb of Kampala. They have begun a ministry to child prostitutes called Destiny Women which through the generosity of Michelle and Craig Luhrmann includes the Amilia Center where the girls live. (Pictures of Fulukas, Miriam, and some of the girls are posted in the Lower Nelson across from my study.)

On Monday, October 31st, after leading devotions at the national headquarters, I head up to Gulu, about a four hour drive. (I invite you to check out the map of Uganda located on the wall outside of the door to my study.) In addition to leading devotions every day, I will spend most of Tuesday at the St. Thomas More School. It is always a big event at the school with singing, dancing, many speeches, and a tour of the grounds. I hope that the two-room classroom building and the duplex for teachers for which

we gave money this year will be completed so that I can take some pictures to show you when I return. On Wednesday I will visit the children that Beth and I sponsor and will also spend time at ADP headquarters praying with and counseling WV staff. On Thursday I will spend time at the Children of War Center and ministering to the staff there. After debriefing with the leadership on Friday morning, I will head back to Kampala and depart for the US late Friday evening.

The predominant emotion that I feel is gratitude: first to God, and second to UCC Medfield. The needs in the world are enormous and can easily lead one to feel overwhelmed and even immobilized. We can't do everything, but we can do something. And I am thankful for the something that we are doing in the name of Jesus in the variety of ministries and missions with which we are engaged, but especially the work here. It is making a difference—people's lives are changing and made better because of our service here. The WV staff and the teachers and students at St. Thomas More School know that someone cares about them in another part of the world. People always come up to me and tell me to have the church keep them in our prayers. In the words of St. Chrysostom, *Let us...contribute whatever we have—wealth, diligence or care giving—for our neighbor's advantage....For nothing is so pleasing to God as to live for the common advantage.*

Pastor Phil

## MOVIE NIGHTS

Our first UCC Family Movie Night was a great success as 16 kids and their parents enjoyed the Disney movie *"Tangled"*!

On November 18th, we will be showing *"Soul Surfer"*. Featuring an all-star cast, this movie is based on the inspirational true story of teen surfer Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm in a shark attack and courageously overcame all odds to become a champion again through her sheer determination and unwavering faith. This movie is appropriate for FOY-age kids and above. Movie will begin at 7:00 PM in the Great Room. All children with the exception of high school students must be accompanied by an adult.

Our December 16th movie will be *"The Polar Express"*. On this special movie night, parents are invited to drop their child off at 6:00 for pizza, a Christmas craft and the movie. Pick-up will be at 8:30. Sign up will be required for this event.

## YOUTH CONCERT

We are looking forward to featuring our talented youth musicians at the 2nd Annual UCC Medfield Youth Concert on Sunday, February 12, 2012 at 4:00 PM in the Great Room. All students in 2nd grade and above are welcome to participate.



Now is the time to set aside the date on your calendar and start thinking about what you would like to do! Soloists and groups are encouraged to perform from any musical genre: classical, pop, jazz, etc. Be creative! Michael Olbash and Heidi Willson are available for accompaniment and assistance with music selection, and will schedule any necessary rehearsals on a one-on-one basis.

Sign up in the Narthex beginning in November. Please contact Michael or Heidi with any questions, [molbash@uccmedfield.org](mailto:molbash@uccmedfield.org), [hwillson@uccmedfield.org](mailto:hwillson@uccmedfield.org).

## CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Philip Bauman <a href="mailto:pbauman@uccmedfield.org">pbauman@uccmedfield.org</a>
Associate Pastor	Rev. Karen Munn <a href="mailto:kmunn@uccmedfield.org">kmunn@uccmedfield.org</a>
Church Administrator	Laury Hunt <a href="mailto:lhunt@uccmedfield.org">lhunt@uccmedfield.org</a>
Director of Youth Ministries	Wendy Ludwig <a href="mailto:wludwig@uccmedfield.org">wludwig@uccmedfield.org</a>
Director of Children's Ministries	Susan Holbrook <a href="mailto:sholbrook@uccmedfield.org">sholbrook@uccmedfield.org</a>
Minister of Music Choral & Handbells	Michael Olbash <a href="mailto:molbash@uccmedfield.org">molbash@uccmedfield.org</a>
Minister of Music Praise & Youth	Heidi Willson <a href="mailto:hwillson@uccmedfield.org">hwillson@uccmedfield.org</a>

## 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](http://www.uccmedfield.org)

BEACON Editor: Laury Hunt  
Layout: Donna Matson

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Is life more than you can handle alone right now?

Are you adjusting to a new job, a change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, a recent move—or just experiencing a lonely or difficult time in your life?

Could you benefit from having someone who would listen and care and walk with you through this difficult time?

### There Is No Need to Struggle Alone!



Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, to share God's love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing. God does not intend for you to struggle alone. Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual support and care to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness.

Stephen Ministers:  
Listen

- Explore feelings
- Share Christ's love
- Maintain confidentiality
- Attend to the care-giving process and leave the results to God

### I think I want a Stephen Minister. What do I do?

This is how the referrals process works:

You (or someone close to you) are hurting and in need of Christian care.

Our Stephen Leader learns about this need for care from the pastor, from you directly, or a friend, always with your permission.

The Stephen Leader meets with you to talk about Stephen Ministry.

With your permission, the Leader assigns a Stephen Minister to meet on a weekly basis with you.

The Stephen Minister continues to provide distinctively Christian care for you in strict confidentiality.

For more information, speak to one of the Stephen Leaders: Pastor Phil, Pastor Karen, Heidi Groff, Gayle Edgar or Rick Cram—or call the church office at 508-359-2351 and ask for Pastors Phil or Karen.



## FEEDBACK from "TAKING THE PULSE"

One of the primary responsibilities of the UCC Medfield Board is to identify the vision of our church and to see how well we are achieving that vision. Several years ago at our Annual Meeting, we adopted our church's current vision statement, "To love and worship God and to love and serve others as Spirit filled disciples of Jesus Christ". This past spring, the Board held a series of meetings called "Taking the Pulse" during which we posed a series of questions to see how well we, as a church, are carrying out that vision. Thank you to the many people who participated in one of the thirteen meetings we held, as well as those who took the time, individually, to write or call one of the members of the Board to share their views.

We received a wide range of comments with many thoughtful questions and suggestions, a number of which are already being addressed. During the summer and into the fall, the Board met and after carefully and prayerfully considering all of the comments received and meeting with Staff, the Board has identified the following as the three top priorities for our church for the next 2 - 3 years:

**Communication** – The Pulse feedback was loud and clear: communication can always be improved! It is important for us, as a church, to review, update, and improve:

- 1.) Access to information for the congregation and others regarding church policies, ongoing ministry/mission teams, volunteer opportunities and events;
- 2.) The means that we use to communicate from the church office to our members and friends, including e-mail blasts and social media; and
- 3.) How to communicate with Staff, the Board and any of the church groups on an ongoing basis.

**Community/Fellowship** – One of the purposes of the church is to help us grow

together as Christians and as a church family. Pulse suggestions for ways to increase this in our church included:

- 1.) Offering more social events such as potluck suppers as well as
- 2.) Growing small groups or life groups.

**God's Call For Us** – Another significant purpose of the church is to help us identify God's purpose and call for each of us. The Pulse feedback included the need to:

- 1.) Help each of us to identify our spiritual gifts and recognize ways that God is calling us to serve whether it's through the church or a non-church venue;
- 2.) Make it easier to identify opportunities to serve, both inside and outside the church;
- 3.) Reach out to new volunteers and new leaders; and
- 4.) Train and support volunteers and leaders.

While most of the feedback was positive and supportive, there was some that was critical and important for us to hear. After analyzing the information we received, we found that the majority of it condensed into the three major areas listed above. We are mindful that there are other issues and concerns that people may have. We encourage you to continue to share your prayers, questions, and concerns for our church with any of the Board members and/or Staff. We look forward to sharing more information with you during a Mission Moment in church this fall and at our Annual Meeting in January. With Blessings from Members of the Church Board,

Steve Bushnell, Moderator, 508-359-1345;  
Christi Barney, (508) 359-5623; Phil Bauman,  
(508) 359-2351; Carol Cassoli, (508) 520-3488;  
Margi Goetz, (508) 359-4096; Steve Groff,  
(508) 359-5651; Mike Polagye, (508) 520-0865;  
Tayne Quinn, (508) 359-1822; Newton  
Thompson, (508) 359-4899

## MEMBER NEWS

### THANK YOU FROM WENDY AND SUSAN!

*Susan and I were completely surprised and deeply touched by the special and very generous celebration of our 10 year anniversary as staff at UCC Medfield. Thanks so very much for the kind words, the gifts and the lovely (and delicious) celebration in our honor. We feel very blessed to serve in a congregation that is so supportive of our ministries and us. We are still a bit stunned that you could pull off such a surprise without our knowledge because we are well aware all of the planning, cooking and organizing that such an event requires. Thank you all for a wonderful celebration of ten wonderful years!*

**Please Consider an Advent Journey** - One where you travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem experiencing the birth of Jesus Christ in a whole new way. This study approaches the world-changing event with thoughtfulness, using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth - the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.

"The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem" is a five-session study where each session includes a video segment filmed on location in the Holy Land retracing the actual path of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The study, led by Julie Kessler and Amy Marshall will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:15-9:00 starting November 9th.

### SYMPATHY TO:

Linda and David Hooke and family on the death of Linda's sister Leanne Derr on October 1.

The family of Barbara Spalding, who was a member of UCC Medfield for over 40 years. Barbara passed away on October 8.

Cindy and Randy Karg and family on the death of Cindy's father, Kenneth Helenbolt, on October 14.

**QUIET SERVANTS OF THE MONTH** – A small group of bakers take turns faithfully making the bread for our communion services. Thanks to Carol Cassoli, Margi Goetz, Susan Ott, and Carolyn Samson for helping with our celebration of this Sacrament of Communion.

**MEDFIELD'S INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE** will be held **at the Baptist Church on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00PM.** Representatives from all the churches in Medfield, as well as Temple Beth David in Westwood, will take part in the service. Pastor Karen will be preaching the sermon. We hope you'll take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to thank God in the context of the larger Medfield community.

**MEDFIELD FOOD CUPBOARD** – for November, they have asked for **cereal, juice, canned pasta, jelly, canned chicken, cookies, crackers, pasta sauce, 4-packs of toilet paper, and Kleenex.** Thank you.

### SAVE THE DATE:

**Mission: Possible III**  
**Saturday, January 28, 2012**

### DECEMBER BEACON DEADLINE

**Thursday, November 17**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

<b>November 6</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>Teacher Meeting &amp; Communion</b>
	<b>9:30</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>
	<b>10:45</b>	<b>Casting for Christmas Play for 3rd-5th graders</b>
	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Multi-age SS</b>
<b>November 13</b>	<b>9:30 &amp; 11:00</b>	<b>Regular SS</b>
	<b>10:45</b>	<b>Christmas Play rehearsal</b>
<b>November 20</b>	<b>9:30 &amp; 11:00</b>	<b>Regular SS</b>
	<b>10:45</b>	<b>Christmas Play rehearsal</b>
<b>November 27</b>	<b>9:30 &amp; 11:00</b>	<b>Multi-age Advent Workshops</b>
	<b>10:45</b>	<b>Christmas Play rehearsal</b>

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

- The children in the **pre-k classes** listening to a **BOZ** book on friends and then reading the Bible story about King David and Jonathan being good friends.
- The **kindergarten students** making stew bowls out of clay to symbolize the stew that Jacob gave Esau in exchange for his "birthright".
- the **first graders** taking turns being Jacob or Esau as they played the "birthright" game with monopoly money.
- The **second graders** adding to their classroom blessing tree and then discussing what it means to be a blessing to others.
- The **third graders** learning about several of the kings from the Old Testament (Hezekiah, Solomon) and then talking about the greatest King of all - Jesus!!!.
- The **fourth grade students** reading the story of the renaming of Abram and Sarai and then discussing the meaning of their own names.
- Our **fifth grade students** learning about Jacob's dream, the constancy of God's love, and then preparing for Heifer Sunday.

- The **multi-age class** taking a "field trip" to the Map Room to plot out Pastor Phil's trip to Uganda and then visiting the STEP INTO AFRICA photo display in lower Nelson.
- Our **nursery students** singing the "Wiggly Worm" song.

### October Stewardship Project Heifer International

The writing of this column is taking place BEFORE our Living Gift Market for Heifer International on October 30th but a huge **THANKS IN ADVANCE** for all your support of this initiative. We will let you know the results of our Living Gift Market in the December Beacon. We are blessed to have the leadership of both Betsy Loeffler and Rachel Brown on this project—thank you Betsy and Rachel for all you do to promote the partnership of UCC Medfield and Heifer International.

### Children's Church on November 6th

Our monthly Children's church service will be held on November 6th during the first part of the 9:30 worship service. All pre-k through 5th grade students and their teachers gather in the Great Room at 9:30 am for this 20 minute worship service.

## THOMAS UPHAM HOUSE MINISTRY

We conduct worship services two Sundays each month at the Thomas Upham House, the skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility across the street from the Needham Bank. We meet in the Narthex about 10:45 and then go over together for an 11:00 service. Help is needed for reading scripture, singing hymns, and speaking with the residents for prayer concerns; and if you can take the time to participate, it will be very much appreciated. As a result of the Thanksgiving holiday and travel schedules, we will only have one service—on November 6th.

Special volunteer opportunities exist for helping with this quiet, but important ministry. These include piano players for our hymns, being the contact person for Thomas Upham House to set up the worship service schedule, having notices posted in the Beacon and Sunday bulletin, and scheduling leaders. Also, we are looking for one or two more people to step forward and volunteer as worship service leaders. The leader selects the scripture readings and hymns, etc. and prepares the 5-7 minute message. Internet resources are available to help with all of this, with one of the best being the UCC website: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org). (Go to Church Stuff at top, then to Worship, then to Lectionary Texts. Choose the date.)

Please contact Mike Polagye (508-520-0865 or [michael.polagye@fmglobal.com](mailto:michael.polagye@fmglobal.com)) if you feel called to help in any of these areas or would like additional information. Or simply join us one morning and see what it's like!

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Are you interested in some fellowship with other church women? Please come and join one of our knitting meetings for conversation, prayer, and of course the soft and rhythmic sounds of needles clicking. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, we always have someone there to teach you as well as the materials you would need to make a prayer shawl. If you know of someone who could use the warmth and comfort of a shawl with God's blessings, please let us know.

Our meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Parlor at 1:00 PM and the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. 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).

## ANGEL RUN 2011

The 2011 Angel Run, Medfield's holiday-season 5K+ family fun run/walk, will be held on Sunday, December 4, but advance registration - which is required to receive a free Angel Run long-sleeve T-shirt - closes on Friday, November 4. Please download a registration form from [www.angelrun.org](http://www.angelrun.org), complete it and mail it with a check to the address noted on the form by the deadline if you want this year's T-shirt. A portion of the proceeds from the Angel Run support local families in need through an Angel Fund administered by UCC Medfield.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### NEW YOUTH REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

Some of our music groups for young people have changed their rehearsal times to accommodate the schedules of participating families. Did your son or daughter want to ring chimes or sing in a choir, but couldn't fit it into your family's schedule? Double-check these new dates and times – if they work for you, please come to a rehearsal during the month of November! (Note: No rehearsals November 9 & 23) For more information, contact Michael Olbash at molbash@uccmedfield.org or call the church office.

- **Kids' Chimes:** For Grades K to 3. Rehearsals have been changed to Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Training Choir:** For Grades 1 & 2. This group is keeping the same rehearsal time: Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Treble Choir:** For Grades 3 to 8. Rehearsals have been changed to Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
- **Chancel Choir:** This group has been combined with the Treble Choir on Wednesday evenings.

### MUSIC EVENTS

#### FLUTE & CLARINET DEMONSTRATION

**FOR KIDS:** Deirdre Viau and Yhasmin Valenzuela, founders of our artists-in-residence ensemble "Quinta Esencia," will be leading a hands-on demonstration of the flute and clarinet during our regularly scheduled Training and Treble Choir rehearsals on Wednesday, November 2. The sessions are open to all children – not just choir members – and no pre-registration is required. The first session, 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., will be geared toward early elementary; and the second session, 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., will be geared toward upper elementary and middle school. Please come!

### THE COMMUNITY SINGERS FALL

**CONCERT:** The Community Singers proudly present their fall concert on Sunday, November 20 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Selections this year feature several pieces by Lowell Mason to honor "the father of music education" and composer of over 1600 hymn tunes. The group will also be performing some selections from Randall Thompson's *The Testament of Freedom* as well as several ever-popular spirituals, some selections from the musical *Candide*, and a medley of Broadway pieces by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be gladly accepted.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SING:** Join us for our annual carol sing after the town tree-lighting on Friday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m., to hear a preview of our Christmas service music along with plenty of opportunities to sing your favorite carols. This year will feature children's voices for the first time, including the Blackstone Valley Catholic Youth Choir and our very own UCC Medfield Treble Choir, joining forces to demonstrate some of the music they have been preparing for the 2012 Choristers Guild festival. Other musicians will include a brass quintet, our Sanctuary Choir, our Chapel Bell Ensemble, and the Montrose School Handbell Choir.

**CONCERT & WORKSHOP:** On Sunday, December 11, Quinta Esencia will be presenting a one-hour concert at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, featuring their usual brilliant array of classical, Latin American, and newly-composed works for flute, clarinet, and other instruments. The concert is free and open to the public. Following the concert, at 5:00 p.m., Peter Krasinski will be leading a workshop for children's choir directors, music teachers, conductors, and anyone else interested in learning more about sacred music for children. The workshop fee is \$20, and it is open to all.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### Christmas Play Casting — November 6th

On November 6th at 10:45, we invite ALL 3rd - 5th graders to our casting of the Christmas Play. The play will take place during both the 9:30 & 11:00 worship services on Sunday, December 11th.

There are both speaking and non-speaking parts available as well as a stage crew/props group. The schedule is below for the rehearsals. If your child is trying out for a speaking part, please remember participation in the play is a commitment and we expect that no speaking part character will miss more than one practice without permission from the directors or producers of the play. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact Judy Weiner at 508-520-8770 or through her email - Judy.Weiner@me.com.

The Practice Schedule is as follows:  
Sundays, November 6, 13, 20, 27, December 4 at 10:45 am  
Saturday, December 10 - 8:30 Cast Party and Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, December 11 – 9:30 and 11:00 Services

### Advent Workshop on November 27th

On the first Sunday in Advent, our Sunday School students will participate in a special Advent workshop during their classes. We will first explore what the season of Advent is all about and then we will make some take-home items to help children and their families journey through the Advent season.

### The Parent Link

The November issue of The Parent Link was posted to the UCC Medfield website in late October. This month's topic is gratitude for the spiritual gifts with which God has blessed each of us. Just as we thank God for our material and physical blessings, we should also offer thanks for our spiritual gifts and abilities. The November newsletter presents ways to recognize and nurture your children's spiritual gifts - and to help them use their gifts in service to God and other people.

### Classroom Volunteers - November

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>11/6</u>	<u>11/13</u>	<u>11/20</u>
Pre-k	Ruud	Whelan	OPEN
Kindergarten	Bailer	Malmquist	Miller-Klugman
1st Grade	Hudson	Grant	Sullivan
2nd Grade	Verrochi	McCarthy	Pease
3rd Grade	Sullivan	Lanni	Boyd
4th Grade	Murray	Manning	Teachers
5th Grade	Sarris	Lunn	Douglas

## MISSIONS TEAM

The Missions Team would like to thank all those who participated in this year's annual American Red Cross Blood Drive which was held on October 19th. What can be better than giving the gift of life to someone in need! Also, a special thank you to all those who helped with the signing/checking in of donors.

This month, the Missions Team was pleased to be able to continue its support of several organizations that have received grants from our congregation in the past.

A \$5,000 donation was made to HomeStart, Inc. This organization has as its mission the ending of homelessness, and since 1994, HomeStart has helped more than 4,000 homeless people move to their own homes.

The Visiting Nurses Associations of Boston, Walpole, and Natick received grants of \$1,000, \$500, and \$500, respectively to help support their important work for elders in the greater Boston area.

A \$1,000 donation was made to the UCC's Neighbors In Need fund (NIN). As described on their website, "NIN is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects."

In addition, our team was delighted to be able to issue a \$500 grant to T.E.S.S. Unlimited, a small foundation in Guatemala which is helping people in the fields of cleft lips and education. We encourage you to check out their website at [www.tessunlimited.nl/english](http://www.tessunlimited.nl/english) to learn more about this remarkable organization.

Hopefully, you have also had the opportunity to see the pictures in the Narthex from a recent workday in Brimfield, organized to help clean-up efforts following the June tornadoes in that area. The Missions Team is looking to have another trip to Brimfield in the near future, and anyone interested in participating should contact Marti Cross (508-520-8935) or Wendy Greaves (508-359-6185) for more information. We hope that you will consider a day trip to help your western Massachusetts neighbors!

And finally, we all look forward to hearing about Pastor Phil's most recent trip to Uganda. With that in mind, planning is currently underway for an adult mission trip back to Uganda from March 2nd to March 13th of next year. If you are interested in exploring the opportunity to participate in this trip, please see Pastor Phil upon his return from his current journey!



## STEWARDSHIP

*"We buy things we don't even need, with money we don't even have, to impress people we don't even know."*

**Dave Ramsey, financial writer and talk show host**

*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'"*

**Matthew 25:34-36**

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### Practicing Extravagant Generosity in a Culture of Greed

We live in a society where individuals, institutions, organizations, and industries vie for our attention, commitment, time, and money. And never before has the collective lot had so many means of reaching us with its messages. In fact, the next ad is never more than a click or two away. The information and marketing onslaught is relentless.

Many of the mainstream cultural messages focus on our pursuit of consumer goods and the latest trends and fashions, music, politics, sports, and the like. And while these pursuits are not fundamentally harmful, they can distract us from our greater purpose if they begin to dominate our lives. It is important to be alert and maintain a perspective on these often compelling forces, and how they affect us, in order to maintain a proper balance in our priorities.

As Christians, our perspective includes Jesus at our foundation, and our neighbor's needs as being equal to our own. We emphasize love, worship, prayer, service, Bible study, and fellowship. And we generously share our gifts as God has so generously bestowed them upon us.

As Robert Schnase writes, "Fruitful congregations thrive because of extraordinary sharing, willing sacrifice, and joyous giving out of love for God and neighbor. Through the practice of *Extravagant Generosity*, we offer our material resources in a manner that supports the causes that transform life and relieve suffering and that enlarges the soul and sustains the spirit." Our prayer is that God continues to work His will through our church family in reaching out to our neighbors in need, opening our hearts to share lovingly, sacrificially, and with great joy!

Yours in Christ,  
The Stewardship Ministry Team

## YOUTH NEWS

A **BIG THANK YOU!** – to the congregation and friends for such enthusiastic support of our holiday pie fundraiser, and to the Ever So Humble Pie Company of Walpole for partnering with us again this year .We sold 317 pies/apple crisps! Proceeds will support the 2012 SHF mission trip with YOUTHWORKS to the Adirondack Mountains. **Pick up your pies on Saturday, November 5th from 10:00-12:00 in Fellowship Hall.** THANKS AGAIN!

### FOY/C8 Serves!

6th, 7th and 8th grade FOY/Confirmation students are invited to serve at **Cradles to Crayons on Sunday, November 6th from 12:00-3:30 and/or December 10th from 9-12:30.** Students asked for it so we arranged it! **Parent drivers needed.** Please call Wendy Ludwig if you can help. Info and permission forms have been sent home with students. Sign up is on a first come, first serve basis.

The **9th grade confirmation class** will attend a **Sunday evening service at St Edward's Church on Sunday, November 13th.** Please have your child at St Edward's by **6:15PM**; they will be ready for pick up at 8PM.

### Looking ahead:

— **Focus on Youth and Senior High Fellowship students** are again invited to participate in **City Mission Society's "Christmas Shop"** by purchasing a gift for a young person their own age (see gift tags for details). Gift tags will be available for FOY students on 11/14 and for SHF students on 11/13. **All gifts should be brought to church – UNWRAPPED – by 12/4.** Thanks in advance for sharing with others so generously!

— On **Sunday, December 18th, 12-4PM**, all **9th grade confirmation students** and all interested Senior High students (**students participating in the mission trip are encouraged to attend**) – will travel to Winchester to help at **City Mission Society's "Christmas Shop"**. Details to follow but **save this date!!!!**

## CWAM (COLLEGE WITH A MISSION) HEADS TO NYC!!!

Plans are underway for the fourth annual Christmas break mission trip to NYC to serve in a variety of hands-on ministries through the Center for Student Missions, from January 2 through January 5, 2012. This has been a powerful experience in past years and will no doubt prove to be so again this year under the student leadership of Scott Holbrook and Lisa McElhenny.

If you are a college student or know one who might be interested in serving this year, please contact Carol Cassoli at [c.cassoli@comcast.net](mailto:c.cassoli@comcast.net). We ask your prayers for this awesome group who choose to serve and grow in their faith together and to strengthen their spiritual friendships through sharing the love of Christ.

## WELCOMING & FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY

### WELCOME TABLE

Our Welcome Table staff looks for new faces each Sunday morning. After our Sunday Greeters meet them at the door with a handshake and a warm smile, they are directed to the Welcome Table where they will receive answers to any questions they may have, as well as an information packet and a small gift. It's so important that visitors feel well received; they may find UCC Medfield the place they want to worship!

### COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP

It's been proven that the Coffee Time is one of the best ways to make visitors feel included. Pastors Phil and Karen always invite them to join us. Now it's up to us to really welcome them! Sometimes we are afraid to approach someone new; but don't be! Just say something like "I don't think we've met, or if we have, I'm afraid I don't remember your name. Could you please remind me?" At that point you can introduce them to the people you know so they will have some familiar faces to look for the next time they come. And next time, you can look for them!

Kathe Farris needs Coffee Hosts for each Sunday in November, after the 9:30 service and the 11:00. After the 9:30 service, the dates we need to fill are the 6th, 20th and 27th. After the 11:00 service, the dates open are November 6, 13 and 27. Check your calendars. It's such an easy job; everything is provided for you. You just serve the coffee, juice and cookies and help clean up. Ask another couple to do it with you;. it's fun! Please sign up in the narthex, or contact Kathe at [farriskathe@gmail.com](mailto:farriskathe@gmail.com).

### COMMUNICATION CARDS

STILL SO IMPORTANT! These cards are so helpful for several reasons. When visitors or

potential new members see that everyone puts a card in the collection plate. they don't feel conspicuous; they feel included. The "NEXT STEP" portion gives us all food for thought as we go home and keeps us more connected to the Sunday message. They have been invaluable in providing a place for people to make prayer requests, as proven by the fact that in the first six weeks of this church year, there were 57 requests. Those that may not want to speak during the service can still ask for prayers for those for whom they are concerned. And lastly, if there are changes in addresses or phone numbers, they can be noted. So please keep putting those cards in the plate on Sunday morning!

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Calling all Bakers:** Novices and experienced bakers are all welcome to bake with Margi Goetz in the church kitchen on Saturday, November 12 and Saturday, December 3 from 1:00 -3:00 pm. In November, she'll provide the recipes for delicious cookies and bars .. December will be Christmas cookies. Bake, taste, and most of all, have fun. Supervised children are most welcome. There is a sign up in Fellowship Hall or you can call Margi at 359-4096 or email her at [mgoetz2@comcast.net](mailto:mgoetz2@comcast.net).

**Joyful Hearts Valentine's Progressive Dinner—Saturday, February 11:** A great opportunity to anticipate Valentine's Day with a focus on joyful and loving hearts. Married, single, all adults are welcome. Chocolate might be involved! What could be better than that!

**Dinner and a Story—Saturday, April 28:** Join us for a family evening - a potluck supper followed by a Christian storyteller - from the youngest to the oldest welcome!

***Tapestry***

*Tapestry* is a Tuesday evening group, weaving together women of differing spiritual paths to share in Christian fellowship. This fall we are meeting in support of the upcoming mission trip to White Lotus in Cambodia, and are focusing the first half of our time together on pieces of "Ultimate Blessings", by Jo Anne Lyon, founder of World Hope International. We also talk about crafts we could teach the women of White Lotus, fundraising ideas, and partnerships for the trip. Please contact Donna Matson ([dk.matson@comcast.net](mailto:dk.matson@comcast.net)) or Cathy Chung ([papachung3@aol.com](mailto:papachung3@aol.com)) if you would like to join us for one night or all of them!!

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30; 11/8, 11/29, 12/13

***UCC Women***

Please save the date of **December 6th** for our annual fun-filled Advent Supper and Cookie Wrap. This event is guaranteed to fill you with Christmas Spirit and chase away the Bah Humbug blues!

After a delicious meal of soups and breads we all gather around tables and work our assembly line magic to box hundreds of holiday cookies and candies for a variety of shelters and our local food cupboard. Bakers, start your ovens! We are always overwhelmed with the incredible support and the number of cookie boxes we are able to deliver! We look forward to seeing all of you at this wonderful holiday evening of sharing and giving.

Watch for a sign up sheet in the narthex. If you can't make the supper, we'd love any contribution of cookies.