

We all  
have a  
calling  
**PAGE 5**



**A special, important  
performance  
for our youth**

**PAGE 9**



Bob Mac, back  
by popular  
demand

**PAGE 12**

# Concern In Action

April 2009 The monthly newsletter of Union Congregational Church newsletter@churchbythepark.org

Union Congregational Church  
55 Rhoades Ave., Walpole, MA

Worship 10:30 a.m.  
handicap accessible

Office hours  
Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

www.churchbythepark.org

Office: (508) 668-1355

Rev. Abigail A. Henrich  
Rev. Jon Paul Sydnor  
co-pastors  
(508) 668-1756  
unioncongregational  
church@msn.com

Rev. Judy Swahnberg  
associate pastor  
revjudy@mac.com  
(617) 816-6605

Dr. Linda Jiorle-Nagy  
director of music  
linda.jiorlenagy@gmail.com  
(781) 784-5723

Lois Thomas,  
office manager  
unionoffmanager@live.com  
508-668-2885

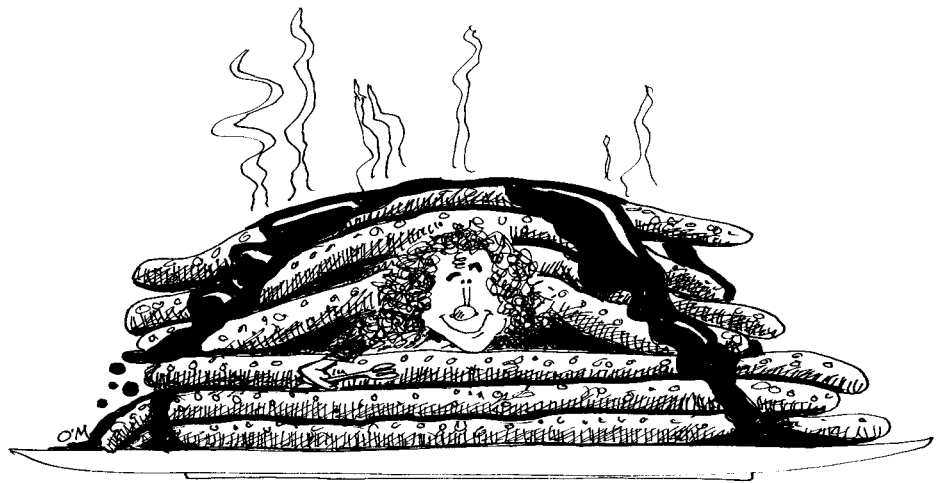
Jen Wagner & Pudge Mahoney  
newsletter editors  
newsletter@churchbythepark.org  
(508) 668-6317

Sarah Dugdale  
Beth Sinclair  
nursery care providers

Ralph Todesco  
sexton

## Mission work

# Abby challenges you to pancake eating



## Other ways you can support mission trips

Help organize — and attend — the  
rummage sale this Saturday **Page 2**

**Relax, rejuvenate with yoga Page 4**

Build, decorate and/or buy  
birdhouses **Page 9**

You can come on mission! **Page 7**

**M**any of you heard it  
yourselves. Abby said  
she can eat anyone un-  
der the table at this  
Sunday's pancake  
breakfast from 8:30 to 10:15 a.m. So  
come take up the challenge. Or just come  
and eat a normal person's breakfast, all  
to benefit our church's summer mission  
trips to upstate New York.

Adults: 3 pancakes & 3 sausages, fresh  
fruit cup, juices & hot drinks for \$5  
Kids under 12: 2 pancakes, 2 sausages,  
fresh fruit cup, juices & hot drinks for \$3  
Kids under 3: free

## Rummage sale

# Rummage sale this Saturday!

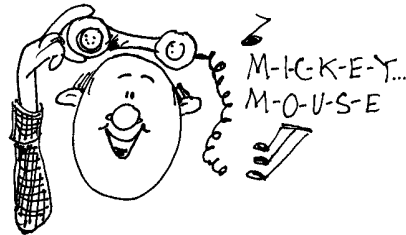
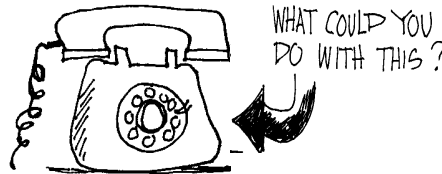
**O**ur annual spring rummage sale is this Saturday morning, April 4. In the past we have made more than \$1,000 on this event. Most of the proceeds will go toward our church's outreach programs.

On Friday, we need help. Please come at 7 p.m. to help set up tables, sort and arrange clothing (and shop for bargains while you're helping!)

We also need bakers and bake sale table helpers. The bake sale takes place during the rummage sale and last year we made \$300 on this table! Margie Shirosky is in charge of the bake sale table. Please contact her if you'd like to help bake, price, organize or sell. Baked good can be dropped off on Friday night or early Saturday morning.

Remember, many hands make light work! Contact Janet Calusdian at 508-668-6066 or [jnewcat@aol.com](mailto:jnewcat@aol.com) or Margie Shirosky at 781-769-8793 or [jshirosky@verizon.net](mailto:jshirosky@verizon.net).

### RUMMAGE SALE FINDS...



## Health — financial and physical

### LEARN TO SAVE A LIFE

Did you know that a person's chance of surviving a cardiac arrest diminishes 10 percent per minute without CPR? You can help save a life! CPR can be learned in one evening. Join us at Union Church on Friday, May 8 at 6 p.m. where John Guidod, EMT-P will be conducting an American Heart Association CPR certification class. The course will include adult, child and infant CPR as well as AED (automated external defibrillator). Health care providers and renewals are welcome. The class is open to ages 12 and up and will cost \$30 per participant which covers the cost of the book and card, proceeds going to the church to help us out of the deficit. If you are interested in perhaps someday saving a life, please call Carolyn or John at 508-668-3407 or e-mail Carolyn at [guiodc@comcast.net](mailto:guiodc@comcast.net).

### NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you are considering membership at Union Congregational Church, you are formally invited to attend two classes to learn more about the UCC faith and our church membership in particular. Each class will be held at the parsonage and include lunch and, if needed, childcare. The classes are both on Sundays at 12:30, April 26 and May 3. Lunch and class should take less than 2 hours and you do not need to commit to membership. This is a way to explore Union church, the UCC faith, and to enjoy a bit of fellowship with others who are also pondering membership. If you have questions or would like to RSVP, please call Susan Akeley at 508-668-6097.

**Our  
church  
family**

Dick & Genie Newton's new Address is: The Village at Waterman Lake, The Lodge, Apt. 104, 715 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI 02828; their phone number is: 401-949-0506

Congratulations to Cheryl Greene on the arrival of her new grandchild. Her daughter, Nicole, had a baby boy, Deon'te, weighing 7 lbs.

Our sympathies, thoughts and prayers are with John Leith on the death of his father, William, who died on March 13.

Our sympathies, thoughts and prayers are with Donnie Brennan on the death of his sister, Linda Barrett.



Newsletter items go in the mailslot by the chapel or to newsletter@churchbythepark.org

**Our Father...**

## Hear our prayers, Lord

*Please pray for these members of our extended church family:*

Podgie Wiessent, Nancy Aicardi's son Bill Clark, Penny Murdock, Peggy Cain, Peter Nixon's mother Louise, Jeff DiNicola's father Dan, David Welch, Cathy Feeley's mother Clara Stanzin, Cheryl Greene's son OD and daughter Nicole, David Senatore's father Andrew, Susan Challis' brother Charles Lawry, "Smitty" (Monica Smith's husband), Abby Henrich's "Uncle Jake," Donald Simpson (Becky Nolan's dad,) Ken Myers' sister Shirley, Judy Hamilton's mother Henrietta and cousin Marnie Haggard, Donna Gearty's mother, Mary Jane Lucas, Mary Dugdale's niece Corey Dugdale, and Leila Joseffer's grandmother Olga Accola

Please pray too for Genie Newton, Fran Scott, Vida Mudgett and Betty Anne Wissman.

*Please pray for friends of the congregation:*

Rhoda and John Hall from MINC Summer 2008 Trip I, Leila Joseffer's colleague Barbara Cook, Kristin Syrek's friend Amy's father, Marge Rawson Vignoni and Byrdie Jackson (Podgie's friends,) Joe Mahoney's cousin Kerri O'Brien, Sherryl Rudolph (friend of Cheryl Cain,) Sr. Anne Carabino (friend of Melissa Hubbard,) Laura Wahlberg (friend of Anne Cimone,) Helen and Greg (friends of Cindy Hanifin,) the Arcieri family (friends of Kristin Mirliani,) Carolyn and Jay (friends of Lauren Durso,) and for Matthew, who has mitochondrial disease.

Please update with specific information on the well-being of those we pray for, or with additions or deletions to this list, by calling or e-mailing the Rev. Judy Swahnberg (revjudy@mac.com) or Lois in the office – 508-668-1355.

**"The principal hindrance to the advancement of the kingdom of God is greed. It is the chief obstacle to heaven-sent revival. It seems that when the back of greed is broken, the human spirit soars into regions of unselfishness. I believe that it is safe to say there can be no continuous revival without 'hilarious' giving. And I fear no contradiction: wherever there is 'hilarious' giving there will soon be revival!"**

**O.S. Hawkins, U.S. Baptist pastor**

**The church office has a new e-mail address.  
It is: unionoffmanager@live.com. Please do NOT use the old e-mail address since someone else has gained access to it.**

## Discussion group

### *Living the Questions* class is back

“Wisdom is asking the questions for which there are no answers”

**Harrell Beck**

Again this spring Jon Paul will be leading a progressive seven-week theological and spiritual discussion, entitled *Living the Questions* (to learn more about this course visit [www.livingthequestions.com](http://www.livingthequestions.com).) This seven-week course strives to create an environment where all questions are welcome and no single answer is authoritative. Bring your faith, bring your doubt, bring your journey, and bring your questions, because all are invited. There won't be easy answers, but there will be rich discussions about God, Christ, and life.

When and Where? Thursday evenings, 7:30 at the parsonage (6 Moosehill Road) April 23 – May 26.

Can I come if I didn't come last year? Yes! Please do. Each session is an independent discussion. That said, we encourage people to attend all seven weeks.

An overview of the course: People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the world. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a “thinking” Christian and that “salvaging” Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic.

*Living the Questions* is a DVD and web-based small group study exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. *Living the Questions* will help seekers and longtime churchgoers alike in discovering the relevance of Christianity in the 21st Century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.

Have any more questions? Please contact Jon Paul ([abbyjonpaul@comcast.net](mailto:abbyjonpaul@comcast.net)). And if you are interested, e-mail JP anyway and let him know you are coming. Abby promises to make rhubarb pie for one of the sessions.

## Helping the poor

### Yoga class this Sunday night

Come and enjoy a gentle flow yoga class with church member and certified yoga instructor Lauren Durso with the money raised benefiting our church's mission work in upstate New York.

While you relieve stress and get exercise, you will enjoy all the benefits yoga can offer. The style of

yoga is a slow flow Vinyasa designed to improve your flexibility while establishing an awareness to your mind-body connection. This class will synchronize breathing while moving through yoga poses. You will leave feeling rejuvenated and relaxed. No experience necessary, all levels are welcome!

Classes are April

5, 19, 26 and May 3 from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Drop in to any or all of the classes at Union Congregational Church in East Walpole. The cost of each class is \$12. You do not need to be a member of the church to attend the classes. Yoga mats available for \$1 rental — or get a free rental if you bring a canned good for the Walpole Food Pantry.



# We all have a calling

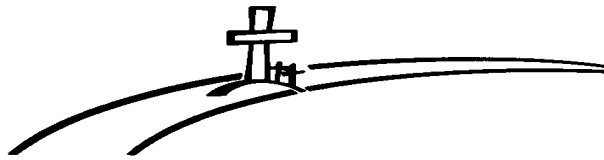
Coming back has been quite an adjustment — a re-entry process. I've been gone a while between my month long sabbatical and family vacation. I got out of the rhythm of things. I even got out of the rhythm of Sundays. While we were on vacation, I had to be reminded one morning by Josiah that it was *Sunday*. Good thing he reminded me since we wanted to hear a good friend preach at her Lutheran Church in Vero Beach.

While we were flying home, to be blatantly honest, I didn't want to return. I didn't want to return to a work week. I had been enjoying all the time I had to spend with my boys, to catch up on my to-do-list, to bake, and just to think and read. It was a wonderful time *and* a needed time away from the ministry. I also dreaded coming back, because I often struggle with my call to ministry and my call to parenting.

Although these conflicted feelings are mine, they might resonate with many of you. Haven't we all dreaded returning to work after a restful vacation? Haven't we all wondered if our profession is detrimental to those whom we love and value? Haven't we all dreamed of early retirement (perhaps not as early as your 30s, but still?) So at the beginning of this week, after dropping off the boys at school, I pulled into Rhoades Avenue, already an endless list of to-dos running through my head before I even entered the office. Certainly in this economic climate I remembered to be grateful to have a job to which to return as I sat down in front of my computer. I spent the first few hours catching up, sticking

post-it notes all over my desk, and trying to establish some order again to my tasks as a pastor.

Then something shifted. A few of you dropped by and your very presence reminded me why I love my vocation so deeply. A number of e-mails awaited me: some requested recommendations, others updated me on youth ministry events, others informed me of the latest news concerning someone our church has been praying for. These e-mails collectively reminded me of the far-reaching ministry of our church. And then I stopped; I ignored the accumulating piles and lists all over my desk and remembered that I was a pastor. I wasn't someone with just a job, but some-



one who was called to my work.

From the outside looking in, this may sound overly noble or even righteous, as if a call to the pastorate is the only true job in which we can serve God. *But this is not true.* I have no doubt that there are people in our church and in our community whose jobs are more challenging and faithful than that of a church pastor. Instead, what I found to be so life giving about my re-entry this week was the clarity with which God distinguished between my work and my ministry. Making sure I sent out follow up e-mails concerning the women's retreat was important, but speaking with someone about their loved one in chemo was essential to my call as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

You may have more details to attend to in your office than you can

possibly do in your work week. You may have more children who need your help with math that you can possibly reach in one school day. You may arrive at work harried and leave still having tended to only half of your boss's demands. You may hate your job; you may love it. You may want to change jobs; you may be unemployed. Yet each of us is called as God's own — each of us is Jesus' disciple. And each of us can live out this calling through our jobs, even if they are stressful or unrewarding. I'm not saying this is easy, but you might be surprised if you pay attention to your call as one of God's own how that may change your perception of your job. In fact your job might very well become your vocation, your ministry to the world for our loving God.

While I had time away from the day to day tasks of ministry, I didn't recall that the pastorate involves more than just to-do lists. I forgot that whether I was on vacation, at home on sabbatical, or in the church office, I was still called to ministry as a disciple of Christ. Thankfully my interaction with all of you this week has reminded me of my call and for that I am deeply grateful. I pray that each of you may find moments in your work day in which you feel certain that you too, in small ways or large, are serving God as one of God's very own.

Grace and Peace,

The Rev. Abigail Henrich

Unioncongregationalchurch@msn.com

## Did you know?



## How our church business gets done

*Third in a series.*

The **Financial Administrator** keeps record of receipts pertaining to each contributor of the church, provides a record of stewardship to the Treasurer and provides other reasonable support to the Treasurer, Financial Administrator, and Memorial Gifts Committee

The **Prudential Committee** provides for the care and needs of the physical assets of the church. They produce a budget for annual meeting and provide supervision of financial and accountancy functions of the church.

## Thanks

Dear Abby, Judy and Union Church members,

A special thank you for the wonderful memorial service and collation for our brother Peter Carroll and for all the support you have provided to our family.

Sincerely,

Paul and Sandy

## Love thy neighbor



## Be a good neighbor

**F**or many years, there have been little envelopes in the pews marked DEACONS FUND and folks have been encouraged to give to this fund, especially on the first Sunday of every month.

Well, the Deacons have decided to re-name this collection to more accurately reflect the intent and use of this fund. This money is not used for or by the Deacons, but is used to extend our outreach in the community to those who find themselves in immediate need. So, if someone stops by the church office and needs food for their kids, there is a Stop & Shop card on hand, purchased by the GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND. Or maybe on oil bill hasn't been paid and the family needs to choose between heat and food...a check could be written out of the GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND. The list could go on, but you get the idea....this is a discretionary fund, used by our pastors, as needs arise. Needs arise within our church, our neighborhood, our town, in hard times and in flush times.

We are a church that strives to meet these needs for ourselves and our neighbors. Please look for the new YELLOW envelopes and give what you can to your neighbors.

# Come with us on a mission trip

Dear Church Family,

The warm weather and the summer mission trips are approaching! This year we will be sending two groups to upper state New York to participate in MINC rural rehab. Attached is our mission brochure, covenant and a listing of those who have signed up for the 2009 mission trip.

The two weeks we have scheduled are **July 5-12**, and **July 19-26**. Space is limited, so sign up ASAP! If we have high demand, we may consider adding a 3rd week. The deadline for signing up is **April 15**.

Participation in three fundraising activities is mandatory. Upcoming events are the rummage sale April 4 and Palm Sunday pancake breakfast on April 5.

Here are a few important guidelines for youth's involvement in the mission trips:

1. No child under 10 will be allowed on a job site (our children's safety always comes first)
2. Youth ages 13 and under must be accompanied by a parent on the trip
3. Youth 14-17 that are not accompanied by a parent must have an adult on the mission trip sponsor them and act as their

guardian for the week.

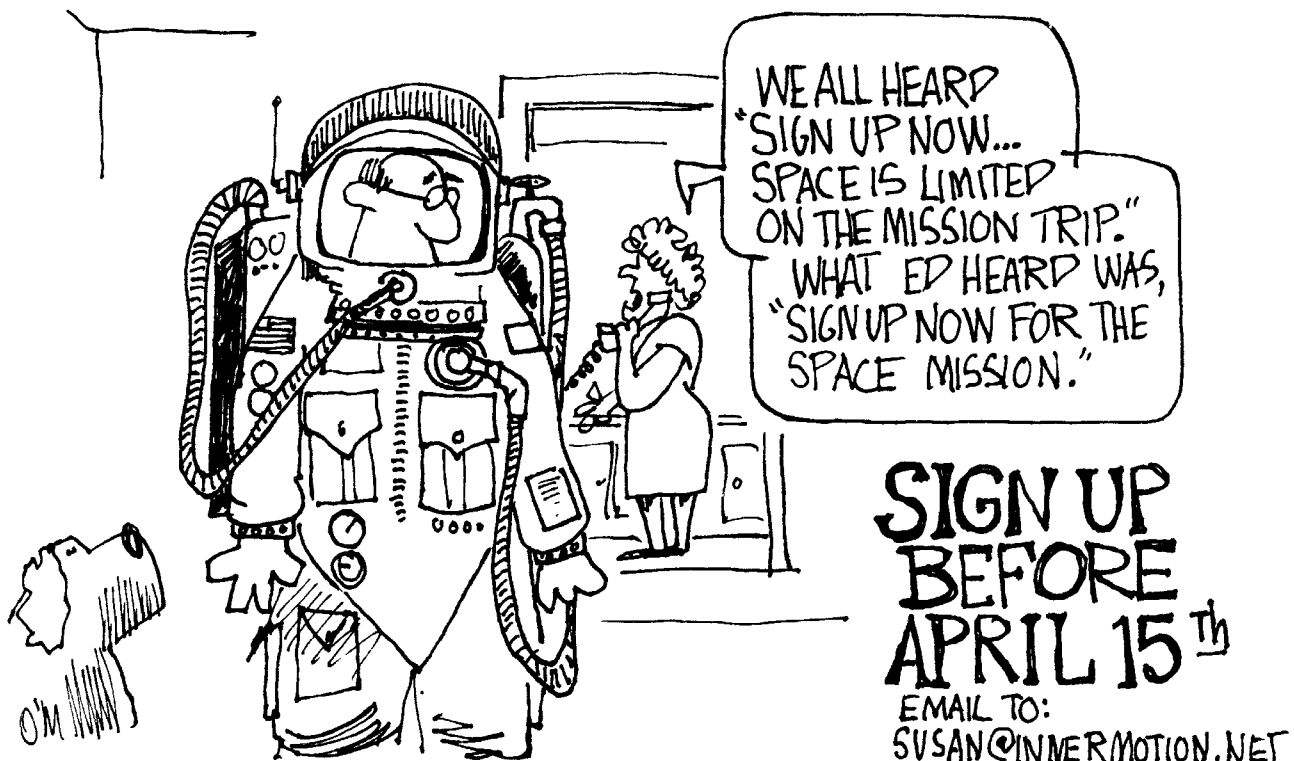
Those individuals who sign up after the April 15 (space permitting) and cannot meet the mandatory fundraising commitment will be required to pay a \$150 fee.

MINC charges us a flat fee of \$1,600 per group and then an additional \$175 per person if the group is larger than 15 people. In addition to this we must raise enough money to cover transportation costs and food for the week - which costs approximately \$1,200 per week. This is why participation in fundraising is so important! Please sign up for the

week you would like and write comments, such as, can do both week but would prefer week #2, or can only to week #1, or neither weeks work for us but we would like to go. Send your responses to Susan Akeley at [susan@innermotion.net](mailto:susan@innermotion.net).

If you have any questions please feel free to discuss this year's mission with Sue Akeley, Joe Maiewski, Pudge Mahoney or Susan Challis.

We look forward to having a great mission week!



WEEK ONE: JULY 5-11... WEEK TWO: JULY 19-25

**SIGN UP  
BEFORE  
APRIL 15<sup>th</sup>**  
EMAIL TO:  
[SUSAN@INNERMOTION.NET](mailto:SUSAN@INNERMOTION.NET)

# From your church travel agency

Think about Star Island for your 2009 vacation – one of the best kept secrets in New England! It is located 10 miles off the coast of Portsmouth, NH, and is one of the nine islands which make up the Isles of Shoals.

The Star Gathering conferences are operated by the Star Island United Church

of Christ, Inc. (SIUCC) and will take place on Star Island in 2009 during the first 2 weeks of August – SG 1, from Sunday, August 2 to Saturday, August 8 (6 nights) and SG 2, from Saturday, August 8 to Saturday, August 15 (7 nights).

Our conferences are open to all – people from diverse faith traditions and denominations; an array of family configurations – single, married, young adults, young families, families with teens (who register with the concurrent youth conference), grandparents, retirees; and from a wide scope of vocations – clergy, educators,

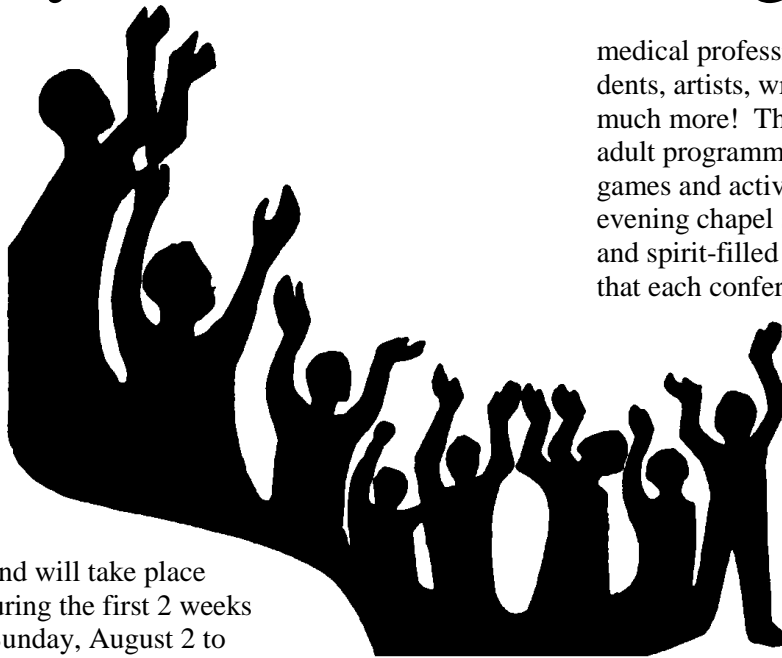
medical professionals, musicians, students, artists, writers, lawyers, and so much more! There is morning chapel and adult programming, children's groups, games and activities, discussion groups, evening chapel services, and the beauty and spirit-filled nature of Star to ensure that each confer-

ence is filled with fun, fellowship and spirituality. Come join us!

For more information on the Star Gathering conferences, please visit: [www.starisucc.com](http://www.starisucc.com) or call Kris LoFrumento, Acting President of SIUCC, at 508-875-5233 x274. For general Star Island informa-

tion, visit [www.starisland.org](http://www.starisland.org).

A brochure of 2009 conferences is also in our church office if you'd like to take a look at it.



---

## February altar flowers

### **Feb. 8**

In Celebration of Boy Scouts of America's 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
by Joe & Barb Maiewski

### **Feb. 15**

In loving memory of My Father,  
Stanley M. Stanzin  
by The Feeley Family & Clara Stanzin

### **Feb. 22**

In Celebration of Alexandra's  
13<sup>th</sup> Birthday by Mom, Dad, Ian  
& Ryan

Want to purchase the altar or piano flowers? For a birthday, remembrance or other occasion? Flowers are \$40. (Or, if you'd like to donate flowers without the flowers, and instead give the money to the Deacon's Fund, this is now an option. Your dedication for the donation will still be printed in the bulletin, listed as something like "in lieu of altar flowers, the NAME HERE family, made a donation today to the Deacon's Fund.") Call church office manager Lois Thomas at (508) 668-1355.

---

### **Bulletin announcements**

Please note that the deadline for Sunday bulletin announcements is Friday at 8 a.m.

E-mail office manager Lois Thomas at [unionoffmanager@live.com](mailto:unionoffmanager@live.com).

If there are any other announcements that come up later, please *write them out* and hand them to Abby on Sunday.

## What is that 'Love Table?'

Come and be part of the Love Table. This month's table is this Sunday — April 5.

All proceeds benefit our soup kitchen mission work at St. Paul's in Brockton.

Baked goods sell well — perhaps you could bake something!

Bake or just come by and spend some cash. If you bake, bring the goods to Corinne in the hall before church.

## Helping the needy

# The perfect Mother's Day gift

We need materials to build 'green' birdhouses

The mission crew will be selling hand-made bird-

houses on the two Sundays before Mother's Day during coffee hour after church.

What a thoughtful gift this would be for Mother's Day. A hand-made, one of a kind bird-house, lovingly painted and decorated by mission folks at church. A present that benefits our church's mission work in upstate New York. And they're made from recy-

clered materials!

We are looking for small construction leftovers to



build birdhouses as a Mission Trip fundraiser.

Did you recently change your drawer pulls or knobs, but didn't throw out the old ones? They make great perches. Do you have leftover tile — small or large? They make great bases and decorative pieces. Got small pieces of lumber, or a whole sheet of plywood that you don't need? How about leftover paints from your last project? We can probably use it. Other ideas/materials welcome, too. See Ken Sandahl or Joseph "Pudge" Mahoney.

## Yutes

# Special program for our teens on abuse

Three years ago our senior high youth attended a one woman play entitled the *Yellow Dress*. The play, produced by Deana's Fund, was a powerful portrayal of the realities facing teenagers in abusive relationships. This year we have again hired Deana's Fund, but have chosen an interactive play entitled *Remote Control* which also deals abusive relationships.

Deana's Fund will be performing *Remote Control* for our senior high youth in our church's fellowship hall on **May 3 at 7 p.m.**

**All senior high youth (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders) and their parents, regardless if they have participated**

**in the OWL program this year, are invited and highly encouraged to attend this event.** Please, only senior high youth. This program is not appropriate for younger youth.

*Remote Control* is a highly interactive program that explores issues, attitudes, and beliefs about dating relationships, and incorporates skill-building exercises designed to encourage healthy decision-making. Specifically, *Remote Control* helps students "identify and understand the early warning signs of abusive relationships, understand the prevalence of violent relationships, why victims stay in relationships and

why it is hard to break up, and learn how to help a friend who is a victim of abuse." The play lasts approximately 1 hour for performance and discussion. After the performance our teenagers will remain with the actors and one facilitator from our church to discuss further their reactions to the play and its content. Parents will be excused to the chapel to discuss their reactions with Joanne Grant.

To learn more about *Deana's Fund* visit their web site at [www.deanaseducationaltheater.org](http://www.deanaseducationaltheater.org) or feel free to talk to them directly at 781-438-5604. If you have any other questions, don't hesitate to contact Abby.

# April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7-9 p.m. AA Mtg – Youth Room 7:30 p.m. Choir	2 7 p.m. Diaconate - Parlor	3 7 p.m. Rummage Sale Setup	4 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Rummage Sale - HHH 6-9 p.m. Girl Scouts Dance - HHH
5 9:15 a.m. Jr. Choir; 8:30-10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast - HHH 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion; communion class during worship; Love Table during coffee hour 7:15-8:30 Yoga	6	7	8 10 a.m.-12 Cabin Fever-Youth Rm 7-9 p.m. AA Mtg – Youth Room 7:30 p.m. Choir	9 Maundy Thursday	10 10 a.m.-12 Kid's Good Friday Activity 6:30 p.m. Supper – HHH 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service	11
12 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Children's Easter Service 10:30 a.m. Adult Easter Service	13	14 7:30 p.m. Cabinet Mtg -Parlor	15 7-9 p.m. AA Mtg – Youth Room 7:30 p.m. Choir; 7-8 p.m. Cub Sets Pack Mtg – HHH	16 4-6 p.m. Den Mtg – Youth Rm & Nursery 7:30 p.m. Outreach Mtg -Parlor	17	18 St. Paul's soup kitchen in Brockton Team B
19 9:15 Jr. Choir & Questioning Faithful Class – Parlor 10:30 a.m. Worship 7:15-8:30 p.m. Yoga	20 CIA Info Due HOLIDAY	21	22 1:00 p.m. Overlook Farm 7-9 p.m. AA Mtg – Youth Room 7:30 p.m. Choir	23	24 10-11 a.m. Mom's Group – Youth Room	25 2:30 p.m. Wedding – Cindy Walendziewicz & Jason Brooks
26 Walk for Hunger Sunday 9:15 Jr. Choir & Questioning Faithful Class – Parlor 10:30 a.m. Worship After Worship - New Members Class - Parsonage 7:15-8:30 p.m. Yoga	27	28	29 7-9 p.m. AA Mtg – Youth Room 7:30 p.m. Choir	30 4-6 p.m. Den Mtg – Youth Rm & Nursery 7:30 p.m. Prudential -Parlor		

# Christian farm fun for the kids

**T**he Christian Education Committee is inviting the children of our church to

a very exciting day at Overlook Farm in Rutland, Mass., on April 22 – vacation week!

Do your kids start getting stir crazy during April vacation? Or do you? Join other church families for a road trip to Overlook Farm in Central Mass (a one and a half hour drive) on April 22. Overlook Farm is a Heifer Project learning center. We will enjoy an hour plus program entitled “Animal Connections” during which we’ll learn more about Heifer and their mission around the world.

Overlook Farm, home to Heifer

International, in Rutland, Mass., is a 270-acre working farm that educates the public about world



hunger, poverty and solutions through animal agriculture. You can purchase gifts from around the world in their fair-trade Global

Goods Gift Shop. Heifer International is a nonprofit organization working to end world hunger by

giving cows, goats and other food and income-producing livestock to impoverished families around the world. For more information about Heifer International, including directions to the farm, or the Heifer International Learning center, go to [overlook.farm@heifer.org](http://overlook.farm@heifer.org) or [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

Please RSVP by March 22 to Madelene Senatore 508-668-0041 [madelenes@verizon.net](mailto:madelenes@verizon.net) or Joanne Stratton 508-

668-9177 [jojostrat5@aim.com](mailto:jojostrat5@aim.com).

More info to follow closer to the event.

## Music

### A bluegrass kind of day

The Bluegrass band Southern Rail is tying up its whirlwind 30th anniversary celebration with a special Sunday afternoon concert in Westwood. Southern Rail has a brand new CD in the works, and will be performing songs off this upcoming 11th recording at the First Parish. Southern Rail's music is high energy exuberant fun, with riveting harmonies, irreverent humor and sparkling banjo and mandolin solo work.

All are welcome at First Parish Church of Westwood for the Family Bluegrass and Gospel concert Sunday, May 3 at 4 p.m. The church is at 340 Clapboardtree St., Westwood. For tickets and info, call 781-326-5344. Adult tickets are \$15, seniors and kids \$12, with a family cap of \$45.

Listen to the group at [www.SouthernRail.com](http://www.SouthernRail.com) (you can link to their myspace page to hear music.)

## Poverty

### Walking to erase hunger

With poverty and unemployment rising at unprecedented rates and 522,000 people across the state struggling to put food on the table, this year's Walk for Hunger on May 3 is more important than ever. Since 1969, The Walk for Hunger has relied on support from religious organizations. Over the years, that support has grown from one to more than 1,000 religious and community organizations. Your pledges feed people through emergency food programs throughout the state and through many food programs in schools, after school programs, and pediatrician offices. Celebrate the spirit of giving along with over 40,000 other concerned citizens by participating in this Massachusetts family tradition. For more information, visit [www.projectbread.org/walk](http://www.projectbread.org/walk) or call 617-723-5000.

# Pledge your love — and money — to this church

*Editor's note: Did you miss this speech in church? Well, you missed something else, so we've reprinted it for you.*

**G**ood Morning! In case you don't know me, I'm Bob MacKenzie, and this morning I'm coming to you as the newest member of the Stewardship Committee.

I'm new to this, so I'll try not to make this sound like Pledge Week on Channel 2, but today's service comes to you commercial-free and uninterrupted ...

It's an exciting time in stewardship, not the same old usual thing. We've got a big challenge, and it's not just for those of us in the committee, it's for US...all of us, and that is good news.

Yes, it is good news that this congregation took the leap of faith in passing the deficit budget.... And it's good, good news that people are stepping up and pitching in to close the gap.

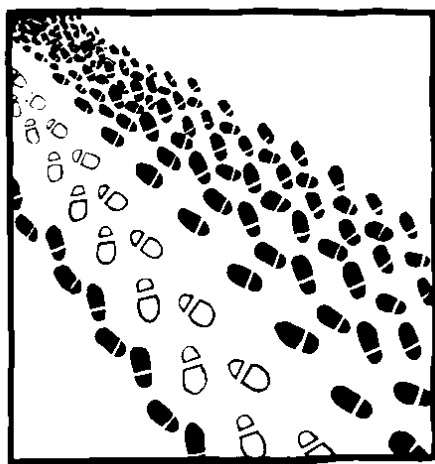
Last week it was announced that towards our \$20k deficit, just over \$10k in rededicated pledges has been raised. This week, more pledges came in, and we are now looking at an \$8800 gap between our goal of being the church that we want to be, and where we stand financially.

The church that we want to be .... The church that we are. I mean where else can you find programming like this? ..There I go sounding like Channel 2 again.

But seriously, this is a great, great church. I mean the building is nice, but as the kids have told us during children's message, the church is really the people. I've never met a finer group of people than all of you, the people who make up this congre-

gation. What a caring bunch you all are, willing to give of your time and talents for others, and for God, which after all, is practically the definition of Stewardship.

Now that I've embarrassed you, I'll embarrass Judy, our Associate Pastor. Rev Judy Swahnberg is a treasure. She does so many things in her low-key way. She's not flashy, but she is a real angel. I'm forever grateful for Judy's visit to my Mom when she was recovering in Harrington House, It was such a nice thing to do, and for person she never even met before.



Amazing.

Thanks Judy.

Linda is not here today, so I can't embarrass her, but let me tell you, this woman's talent is mind-blowing. All of us who are in the choir, or have performed with her are totally in awe. Linda is good with us, and especially with the kids. The way she encourages us and teaches us is totally rewarding.

I'm running out of time, but I must say something about Abby and Jon Paul. Abby's joy for life, her faith, and her enthusiasm, are infectious. Abby cares about others like no one I have ever known. I went to Abby

with a problem that I had, and not only did she set my mind at ease, a while later she contacted me for a follow-up.

Jon Paul's analysis of issues and the way he finds ways to deal with events with our adults and our youth is a very valuable resource for us.

I really think that Abby and Jon Paul are the best thing that has happened to this church in the 20-plus years that I've been coming here.

So where else can you find programming like this?

So what I really came to talk about... Pledging. Martha and Horace came up with the idea of tithing your tax return, that is pledging to the church 10 percent of what you get back from the IRS. It's a great idea. I'm doing it, and I just found out that I'll be getting back much more than I thought.

Just think ... if you can deduct your charitable contributions, get your refund, and then give *back* to the church, it's quite a cycle. It's almost like money for nothing.

I've talked too long. There are pledge cards in the narthex, drop them in the offering plate, or drop them in the mail... oh and if you do have some supplemental impulsive pledge money to donate, you should put it in an envelope or something, ok?

Please remember: When you pledge to Union Congregational Church, you don't get a free umbrella, or a CD box set, or a book, but you get something far, far more valuable.

# Just what is a collation?

The origin of our word “collation” – a repast, following a funeral service or remembrance, has a curious history. The word itself comes from the Latin word *collatio*, “bringing together.”

A French priest of the fourth century, Joannes Cassianus was credited as one the first to establish monastic orders in Western Europe. He founded two orders in Marseilles, one for nuns and another for monks. Cassianus lived in several monasteries in the Palestine/Egypt area. As a result of this experience, he was requested to provide some written information, as a guide for his followers. One of these writings had the title “*Collationes Patrum in Scetica Eremo Commorantium*,” translated as

“Conference with the Fathers dwelling as hermits in Egypt.”

It later became the custom of the Benedictine Orders, at the end of the day, to read aloud from these passages or from Scriptures, and to later confer over them. After this reading, it became a custom to have a light repast. In England this light repast was associated with reading from the “Collation” as the treatise was called in England. These readings, and sometimes other similar readings were called “Collation.” The term later evolved into meaning any light repast served at any time.

Our church often honors this tradition with collations in Herbert Harrison Hall following funerals and memorial services at our church.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our former church edifice at the corner of Union and Wolcott Streets was purchased by the Bird Family in 1916, after our congregation relocated to our current edifice. The first use of the old structure was to house the Wednesday Morning Club led by Mrs. Anna (Charles) Bird. The club originally met at the Endean Farms estate. While at the newly purchased facility, the Club was fortunate to have as a guest the famous Helen Keller. Helen Keller is depicted on one of our United States quarters. This particular issue (2003) honors the state of Alabama.

## Good news, bad news

**Do you want the good news first? People in our church community have stepped up and added to their pledge amounts. Stewardship announced at the end of February that the total was over \$11,200. You can add to that the George Washington Birthday coffee hour from Horace and Martha Thayer as well as their pledge to tithe their tax refund. We are also the beneficiaries of a generous grant from Carl Novotny through The Boston Foundation for \$5,000. What was once a \$20,000 deficit is now under \$3,800. Unfortunately with the good news comes a reminder that we still have a deficit budget. Our church’s budget needs are greater than our pledges. This needs to be resolved or else we will continue to face a deficit budget each year. Please bring it up at your next committee meeting. Prudential is looking for any and all suggestions to help solve this enormous problem.**

Union Congregational Church  
55 Rhoades Avenue  
East Walpole, MA 02032-1128



## If you think getting up on Sunday morning is hard, **Try Rising from the Dead...**

We invite you to come and experience the entirety of the Easter story this year. Celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Help your children learn the story of Holy Week at the Children's Good Friday Activity. Experience the Passion of Jesus through a simple meal and quiet worship service the evening of Good Friday. And then, rejoice as you never have before over the empty tomb of Easter morning. And don't forget to invite a friend.

### **Palm Sunday, April 5**

8:30 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast to support mission
10:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship
	Children's Parade and Children's Chapel
	Communion Sunday
	Communion class

### **Good Friday, April 10**

10 a.m.-Noon	Children's Good Friday activity at the church
6:30 p.m. Sharp	Good Friday Service ~ a simple meal followed by a worship service

### **Resurrection Sunday, April 12**

6:30 a.m.	Sunrise Service followed by breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Family Easter Service especially for children
10:30 a.m.	Traditional Easter Service