

# Federated Church of Ashland

## *“The Chimes”*

### April 2010

## From the Deacon’s Bench

It has been another exciting month here at the Federated Church!! The Sermons touch our hearts, music is uplifting and the kids have treated us with their musical talents. The Church has, at last, hired a professional Nursery Coordinator who is teaching a lesson each week and from what we hear, is great with finger puppets and loves stickers. Going forward we anticipate many more surprises from our Pastor, the Choir and the Children - so come and be prepared.

The Lenten Services have been a wonderful time of reflection and meditation. Palm Sunday we will be having our traditional donkey procession to church while we sing and wave our palm branches. Holy Week there will be services on Thursday and Friday evenings at 7:00. In addition to the Friday service there will be a labyrinth, which will be open from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. All this will culminate in a glorious Easter morning service at 9:30. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Awareness Committee continues to meet on Monday nights and has been very gratified by the continued enthusiasm we are seeing throughout the congregation. Once again we are asking that if you have any questions or concerns regarding church matters that you bring them to our attention. We are most willing to bring those concerns or ideas to our meetings for discussion.

One concern brought to the Deacon’s attention was communion styles and the reasons for the different ways in which communion is served. After much research by committee members it was determined that no branch of the church has a particular style associated with it and that our changing styles are just a reflection of our Church’s diversity.

The Deacons would like to remind everyone that the monies collected at the end of every communion service are put in a fund to be used to assist any member who may be in need. If you or someone you know are having difficulties, please call the church or speak with any Deacon. Please be assured that all inquiries for assistance will be held in the strictest confidence.

Once again we sign off with great hope for the future of our Church,

Pam Dunham and Nick Paternostro

## Annual Branch Meetings

### *April 25, 2010*

**American Baptist, United Church of Christ, United Methodist and Affiliated Branches**

The yearly meetings of the four branches of our church will be held on **Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** immediately following the worship service. These meetings are held to appoint Deacons (three are required from each branch), SPRC representatives, elect officers, vote on transfers of non-participating active members to the inactive non-voting list and any other items that may be brought before the group.

**We urge EVERYONE to attend their respective branch meeting.**

Lois Tougas, Clerk

## **Palm Sunday**

*March 28<sup>th</sup>*

Our Palm Sunday service will begin at **8:45 AM** in the parking lot across from the Ashland Library (Weather Permitting). Live Scillion donkeys will lead us as we proceed waving palms and singing praises into the Sanctuary.

## **Holy Week**

### **Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Our service will be held at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.

### **Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

4 - 7 PM Spiritual Labyrinth

We will hold a Dark Friday Service at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.

## **Easter Sunday**

April 4<sup>th</sup>

Please join us for this special service at 9:30 AM.

## **Theta Phi Delta's**

The next meeting will be **Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM in the Parlor.

## **Thrift Shop**

We will open **April 20<sup>th</sup>** to begin our Spring-Summer season.

We are open Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## **Schedule for April, May & June**

The Thrift Shop will be **closed** April 6 and 13.

April 20 & 27		10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
May 4, 11, 18 & 25		10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
June 1	<b>½ PRICE SALE</b>	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
June 8	<b>\$2 BAG DAY</b>	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Watch for periodic openings during the Summer.

## **MISSIONS NEWS**

### ***HELPING HANDS FOR HAITI HYGIENE KITS PROJECT***

In response to the terrible earthquake in Haiti, this past January, Church World Service asked area churches to help fill an urgent need for hygiene kits. To date, we have sent out 35 kits. We are continuing to make kits to be sent out the end of April. If you would like to help, you may donate any of the following items, or make one or more completed kits...

#### **TO ASSEMBLE A HYGIENE KIT YOU WILL NEED:**

- One hand towel approx. 16" x 28" (**No fingertip or bath towel**)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (**bath size in wrapper**)
- One toothbrush (**in original packaging**)
- Six standard size Band-Aids

Place all items in a **one-gallon plastic bag**. Place completed kits **OR** items from the list above in the donation box outside the church office. For more info see [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) or a Missions Committee member. **Thank you to all** who have generously donated to this relief effort! *A special thank you to the ladies of the Theta Phi Delta who generously donated \$500 to this project!*

## **WALK FOR HUNGER**

Please join our church's team on **Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** for Project Bread's annual Walk for Hunger. Walk all or part of the 20-mile route starting and ending at the Boston Common. Collect pledges by asking your friends, family, and co-workers to sponsor you. Your donations will help fund more than 400 emergency food programs and provide struggling families with a hot meal and hope; right in their own neighborhood. Your walk will help feed children, seniors, people with chronic illness, and the working poor, all right here in Massachusetts. ***So join us - together, we can make a difference!*** We will leave from the church at 6AM. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway across from the church parlor. See Vickie Mancini, Mark Heaton or Raman Krishnan for more details. If you can't do the walk - do the talk!! We need sponsors!!

For more information visit [www.projectbread.org/walk](http://www.projectbread.org/walk).

## Shelter Meals

On the **fourth Wednesday** of every month, a meal is prepared and served to the men at the *Crossroads Shelter* in Framingham.

**Please note:** This is an **Adult** Friendly Shelter.

On the **third Thursday** of every month, a meal is prepared and served to the *Women's Shelter* in Ashland.

**Please note:** This is a **Kid** Friendly Shelter.

**If you are able to provide a side dish, bread or dessert, or if you would like to come help serve, please call Vickie Mancini at 881-3263 or Mark & Dee Heaton at 881-2968. Thank you!**

## Brown Bag Sunday

Each month the Missions Committee donates **\$200** worth of food to the **Ashland Food Pantry**. A Committee member heads to the stores with the list of “needed now” foods and other necessities, which they then deliver to the Ashland Food Pantry. On our most recent visit, my first impression was “Wow!” the pantry was well stocked, (there had been several food drives during the past month) but a second look drew my attention to several empty shelves. Apparently these shelves, intended for condiments, are frequently bare. So, the “needed now” items for the present are:

Jelly (grape and strawberry are favorites)

Mayonnaise

Mustard

Ketchup

Pancake Syrup

Pancake Mix

Shelf Milk

Shampoo

“**Brown Bag Sunday**” is observed on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month**, but donations are welcome at any time. Remember...if each of us gave one item on the list, we could fill up those empty shelves. Raman and I make a food pantry run at least once a week.

Thank you, Lavonne Krishnan

## Hospitality “Spring” News

Hospitality is planning some fun things for spring. We will be having a spring brunch soon. We will keep you posted with date and time!!!! We are planning some activities for the summer too. Margot and John Ellsworth have offered to host a summer barbecue!!!! We are also planning a Homecoming Picnic for the fall. There are lots of fun and exciting things coming up.

I would like to thank all of the committee members and friends that helped us during our Community Suppers. We could not do it without you. Thanks to all the guests who attend and support our efforts to raise a little money and enjoy each other's company.

Flower donations have been so wonderful this year. I want to thank all who donate so generously. They make our Sunday services beautiful and the people that receive them always enjoy the thoughtfulness behind the gift. I have met some wonderful people during the process. It truly reminds some of the recipients that we love and care about them.

Thank you and God bless,

## Altar Flowers

Generosity Makes  
Good Things Happen



"The World of the  
generous gets  
larger and larger."  
Proverbs 11:24  
The Message

Altar flowers may be donated at anytime. We have a **flower sign-up sheet** across from the Parlor. You may sign up to place flowers on the altar for a designated Sunday. The cost is **\$20** for two bouquets. Your check should be made out to the **Federated Church of Ashland. Please be sure to write Hospitality Flower Fund on the memo line!** Flowers are usually given to sick and shut-ins, however, you may choose to take them home with you, following the service **or** you may designate to whom they should be given. *Please call Linda in the Church Office at 508-881-1355 and let her know your intentions, so that she can place your order for flowers and your flower information will be listed in the church bulletin on Sunday morning.*

**Note: Deadline is Wednesday @ 9 AM!**

## Stewardship Campaign for 2010/2011

**Generosity Makes Good Things Happen. "The World of the generous gets larger and larger." Proverbs 11:24 The Message**

"Generosity is a spiritual issue of the heart. A person cannot move toward spiritual maturity until he or she understands that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also".

Our culture works overtime to convince us that there is no correlation between our faith and our finances. A first-time reader of the New Testament could not miss the plentiful teaching about our faith directly impacting how we live not only now, but also how we build our treasure in heaven. Spiritual transformation's last obstacle is our wallet."<sup>1</sup>

"In the past when people are asked to stretch in their giving, there are voices that cry out:

"Who me?"

"Who us?"

"We are not talented enough."

"We are too poor."

"We do not have the leadership."

"We are too old or too young."

"We can't meet the budget we have."

"If only we had more people."

"If only we have more youth."

God has given you and our church opportunities to join Jesus in loving the world. We are called to continue the work that Jesus began. God expects that the church will love mercy, do justly and walk humbly. Jesus states that we are to "love God" and to "love our neighbor" as Jesus loves each of us. Jesus commissions us to make disciples.

God provides all we need to do what God calls us to do. We have more than enough talent, leadership, imagination and money available. God is extravagant with us. We can do far more than we ask or imagine."<sup>2</sup>

The pledge cards will be mailed out the week of April 18<sup>th</sup> and will be received on Dedication Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The cards will be placed on the altar as visible acts of your commitment. As you read the above messages, please prayerfully and carefully consider the amount of your pledge. We invite you to consider increasing your gift by 1 percent of your total annual income.

Lois Tougas, Stewardship Committee

1. Article Author Brad Leeper - 10 Stewardship Issues Every Church Leader Should Consider in 2009
2. Article Author: Jerry Hoffman - More Than Enough

## Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

Our Church hosted the IHN families the week of March 7<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed 3 families with a total of 5 adults and 5 children. It was a very successful week in spite of the heavily touted blizzard, which missed us, much to the disappointment of the children -- no snow day. The snowstorm did impact our week, with many of our guests arriving at the Church at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, which is early release from school, to avoid heavy traffic during rush hour. We had a cozy afternoon with the children watching movies and playing games, and the adults chatting and becoming better acquainted. We had pizza brought in for dinner, so that volunteers wouldn't have to come out in the storm.

Thanks to all of our volunteers, we had delicious meals and lots of snacks and good things for brown bag lunches. The desserts were outstanding --- we complained about the calories as we dug into the wonderful variety of desserts. The cookies and brownies were the anytime snack for the adults as well as the children. The cakes, pies, torts and the delicious homemade chocolate sauce over brownie sundaes kept us on a sugar high all week. Thank you to each of you, but please don't stop.

Another highlight of the week for the children was making valentine cards for their school and within the network. Nancy Lynch and Chris Taylor brought in paper, stencil cutters, glitter, markers, etc. and the children had a wonderful time for several hours. Then a new contribution of valentine supplies from Sue Lankton-Rivas and CE produced more lovely cards. These activities kept the children engaged in a quiet activity and gave the parents time to relax.

During the course of the week, positive things were happening for our families. Melba and her twin daughters; Tiara and Kiara, were able to find special housing in Framingham. Aloris, John, Amelia and Jack, who had been in the program for more than 6 months, have moved into an apartment in Milford. What a relief it is for them to have their own space. We rejoice for both of these families as they move forward with their lives. During our hosting week, both John and Aloris told me how grateful they were for the IHN program and all of the host churches. The program is working and we are all making a difference in people's lives.

On Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> the IHN held its first annual Walk-a-thon at the Natick Collection. The event was well attended as Raman and I saw many groups of people wearing IHN T-Shirts walking around the Mall. There were also contests and games for the younger members. The event raised more than **\$24,000**, which is twice

the anticipated goal of the organizers. It was a special time for all who participated and we look forward to it next year.

I would like to thank each of you for your contributions to our IHN hosting week. Large or small, each contribution is important in making the host weeks successful. You are fulfilling a need for someone whether it is a delicious meal, doing laundry, bringing in bananas or apples, etc.... I'm truly amazed by your generosity. **THANK YOU!**

Our next hosting week begins Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please think about how you can participate during this week. The sign-up board will be up by mid-April. Please pray for us and the new families who have joined the network.

Sincerely,

Lavonne Krishnan, Lead Coordinator

## **A Note From Our Pastor**

In Biblical times names were significant, often corresponding to a person's national identity, family of origin, as well as pertaining to their spiritual lives. For example, Jacob (meaning supplanter) was changed to Israel (prince with God) after he wrestled with an angel of the Lord. And, not uncommonly, a name might tie a person to a particular quest or fate, as in the case of Israel, who was promised a land and descendants numbering like the dust of the earth.

It still holds true today that names connect us with our racial or national identity, as well as our family and ancestry. However, in the Christian life, our individual birth names are only part of our story. The nametag each and every person shares and can wear if willing, is that of "God's Child." God's child does not negate national or racial identity, but does connect us with each other in a powerful way. And, with respect to our many measures of diversity, there is a solidarity among us that trumps so many of our individual traits and idiosyncrasies. How exciting to know that when we join together for worship, we are one body, setting aside our individual selves for a few sacred moments to join together in celebration of what God has done in our lives. This celebration will outlast our jobs, hobbies, interests, routines, and even our life on this earth.

Members of our church meet together on Sunday nights for a Bible study and prayer time. One of the verses we discussed recently is from Ephesians, chapter 2, "In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually, into a dwelling place for God." Sharing together our common identity as God's Children is both sacred and eternal, and when appropriately revered, becomes a tie that binds, even in some of the most stress-filled times in our church life. I want to encourage you today to not magnify the trifles, but instead embrace what is of truly significant proportion for our faith. Then, consider what is shared as God's children as sacred, eternal, and holy.

May God's blessing encourage you this day.

*Jason*

# Annual Church Fair

*Just a reminder...* We will be starting to work on our Fall Fair soon. Please keep your eyes open for the first meeting to be scheduled in early April.

Thanks, Margot

## An Easter Carol

Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;  
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;  
Stronger than the dark, the light;  
Stronger than the wrong, the right;  
Faith and Hope triumphant say,  
Christ will rise on Easter Day.

*-Phillips Brooks*