

Federated Church of Ashland

“The Chimes”

May 2010

From the Deacon’s Bench

It is the week after Easter and looking back over the last six weeks we are filled with gratitude for all those who helped to make this Lenten Season such a special one. The Wednesday evening services were held in the coffee house and the intimacy of this setting led to some very meaningful discussions. Thanks to the Worship Committee for taking charge of these services. Palm Sunday’s donkey processional was well attended and enthusiastic voices were raised in song, as we marched to church. The processional into church with the kids leading us was a great new way to kick off this day of triumph. Although I was not able to attend the Maundy Evening and Black Friday services, I heard through the grapevine that they were inspiring and thought provoking and those who walked the labyrinth found themselves deeply moved. Thanks to the Youth and their adult helpers for taking so much time to put together this wonderful experience. Easter Sunday was a beautiful day and the Sanctuary was brimming with tulips and lilies and so many people that we ran out of bulletins!! Thanks to all who generously donated flowers so that many of our shut-ins were able to enjoy their beauty blessed by the knowledge that they sat on the altar in their church. Thanks also to the kids and their families who delivered the flowers. After the service we took advantage of the sunny skies and warm weather to hold the coffee hour out on the front lawn....what a treat!

Looking forward, we are anticipating more exciting Sundays, with the children being active participants in the services. We are blessed to have so many talented kids among us. Our new Nursery Coordinator continues to provide lessons for our very young and is hoping that more little ones will soon be enrolling.

On May 16th, we will be holding another Leadership Retreat. It will be held in the church from 11:00 to 2:00. This promises to be an exciting day in which we will explore the different ways that we interact with each other. The goal of the exercise is to make us aware of each other’s particular styles of getting things done. Anyone interested in this program should speak with Jason. There will be a \$25 fee for the program that will be used for materials. For more details please call Jason at the church.

We have recently put the Scholarship applications on the church website and encourage all to take a look at it. If you know of anyone who is going to school, to camp or is interested in doing mission work, please let them know about the scholarship. Anyone who does not have access to a computer can call the church office for the information.

In closing, let us say that the Deacons are very encouraged by the spirited services being offered to us and as usual we close with great hope for the future of our church.

Pam Dunham and Nick Paternostro
Co-chairs of the Deacons

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 9th
7:00 PM

Please mark your calendars **NOW** and plan to attend. We need **YOU** to vote budget, leadership, programs and our future! The meeting will be held in our Sanctuary.

Summer Office Volunteers

The Summer will be here before we know it! Please think about **YOUR** summer schedule. We would like to have the Church Office open during July & August (**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9-Noon**). The summer duties include answering the phone, distributing the mail and retrieving the messages off of the answering service (**YES!...you will be given instructions...it's very easy!**). If you are available at any time during the summer months (1 day, 2 days, etc.) please call Linda in the Church Office at 508-881-1355 and let her know when you would like to volunteer. Linda will start filling in the calendar as she receives the information.

Brown Bag Sunday

Brown Bag Sunday is held the **third Sunday** of every month. Food items are collected and donated to *The Ashland Food Pantry*.

The Food Pantry is beginning to prepare for the long summer months ahead. **During the Summer, they see a large drop in donations and an increase in clients. Please give generously.**

Thank you for your continued support.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - July 1 thru April 12, 2010		
Income	\$115,442.40	
Expenses	\$108,751.12	
Net (Gain/Loss)	\$6,691.28	
Anticipated pledges to date	\$71,996.92	
Actual pledges received to date	\$73,696.82	
Variance	\$1,699.90	
Income from fund raising	\$22,569.96	

Notes from the Christian Education Coordinator Christine Taylor



We welcome nursery every nursery volunteer each contact Steve Howard.



Nursery/Preschool Now Professionally Staffed on Sunday mornings

Bobbie from Mother's Helper's as our professional staffer for the Sunday. The Nursery volunteer schedule has been redone by schedule coordinator, Steve Howard; so we only need one week. If you would like to be added to the volunteer list, please

CE has had a busy Winter and Spring, with tubing lots of games, arts & crafts, "Rock Band", pizza had over 20 kids from the Church and the Friday evening event. It was lots of fun for all!



at Nashoba, and Kids Night Out with and making your own sundae! We Community that participated in the

The Easter Event continued on Palm Sunday with Egg decorating, crafts, and Empty Tomb Buns (a favorite!) after many of the children sang in the procession.

We hope you have enjoyed listening to the musical offerings played during worship by some of our talented youth.

Currently, the Sunday school is learning about the healing powers of Jesus, and his miracles. Soon we will be doing a unit on "The Lord's Prayer" and preparing for Children's Sunday.

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!

Theta Phi Delta's

This year, the banquet will be held on **Monday, May 3rd** at the **45 Restaurant** in Medway. It is located at the corner of route 126 and 109. *The room will be available at 6 PM and dinner will be served at 6:30 PM.* If you have any questions, please call Sue Wallace @ 508-881-4265.

Thrift Shop

We need books! Please drop off any Books to the Thrift Shop. **Do not put them in the bin.** The Thrift Shop staff will keep what they want and put the rest in the bin. *Thank you!*

May 4, 11, 18 & 25		10 AM - 4 PM
June 1	½ Price Sale	10 AM - 4 PM
June 8	\$2 Bag Day	10 AM - 4 PM

The Thrift Shop will close for the summer after the June 8th Bag Day.

The Thrift Shop will be in need of a Director beginning in September. Anyone who is interested may contact Elaine Bethel, Alice Bixby or Sue Wallace.

The FAIR!

We Need to Talk About the Fair!

The Fair activity has begun. As ever, we are hoping for new ideas that will spice up the Day, November 6th. Our goal is to beat last year's number...\$9000-\$10,000...sounds great to me. Of course, we welcome help from every source possible. So, talk to Margot or Melanie, if you have a project you'd like to help with or an idea to inspire some excitement.

We'll keep in touch. Start thinking great things.

Thanks!

Margot

The "M" Word

During a science lesson, a second-grade teacher demonstrated how a magnet can pick up metal objects such as nails and screws.

Afterward, she said, "My name begins with the letter 'M'. I pick up things with my power. What am I?"

A boy quickly answered, "You're a mother!"

Note From Hospitality

Hello everyone. Spring has been great so far and more wonderful things are being planned by hospitality.

We want to thank everyone who purchased and donated flowers for Easter. The Sanctuary never looked so spectacular. We also want to thank the kids who helped deliver some of the plants. A special THANK YOU to Margot Ellsworth, Melanie Conner, and Mark Nelson. They put together our Easter Coffee hour on the front lawn. It was a special treat that everyone really enjoyed.

We have a spring brunch planned for **Sunday, May 23rd**. Start thinking of idea's of what favorite dish you would like to share and please fill in the form below.

Hospitality is planning some special events for the summer. Margot & John Ellsworth will be hosting a summer picnic and some other idea's are being "tossed" around. Stick close to the website for more details.

With many thanks,

Nick Paternostro

Springtime Favorites Brunch May 23rd - 11:00 AM

Please fill out the information below and put it in the offering plate **or** leave in the Church Office. ***Thank you!***

The Hospitality Committee is asking the congregation to help with the Brunch, which will be held upstairs in Fellowship Hall.

Will you please bring one of the following: An Egg or Breakfast Casserole, Jell-O Salads, Muffins/Breads, Bagels & Cream Cheese or Fresh Fruit

Hospitality will provide the Coffee, Tea, Milk and Juice!

Name _____

Phone _____

I/We will bring: _____

of Adults _____ # of Children _____

Thank you for your willingness to help in this way. We look forward to a fun day of food and fellowship!

The Hospitality Committee

Generosity Makes Good Things Happen

“The World of the generous gets larger and larger”

Proverbs 11:24 The Message

Stewardship Campaign for 2010/2011

Our campaign will be completed **Sunday, May 2nd** which is **Dedication Sunday** when we will receive and dedicate our pledges (cards mailed April 21st) as a visible act of our commitment to support the body of Christ which is our church.

With her message Sunday, April 11th, Lois Tougas briefly covered three ministries (Carlos and Elsie Avila, Donald and Susan Rudalevige, and Robert and Cathy Robertson) and the focus for each ministry and how they differed from one another. Our church hosted a number of missionaries from overseas as well as sewing and packing clothes for Church World Service and Indian Reservations when Carlos and Elsie were with us. Christian Social Action was the key focus for Donald and Sue Rudalevige. Numerous mission field trips both here and the Dominican Republic were executed during Robert and Cathy's tenure. Lois also reminded everyone that our church building opened for Sunday morning worship 175 years ago as the Congregational Church and became a Federated Church uniting the American Baptist, United Methodist and the Congregational (Now United Church of Christ) Churches 91 years ago.

Busi Maswoswe spoke Sunday, April 18th about her birth in Zimbabwe and her early childhood memories of Easter there. Then she moved to Sri Lanka where she was enrolled in a Buddhists English speaking boarding school but her parents arranged for a couple from the local Methodist church to come and take her to church every Sunday. Then she moved to England with her family and met her future husband as they both were in graduate school. She attended a federated church near the college, which accommodated students with various religious backgrounds. After her marriage, Busi and her husband moved to Ashland as her in-laws lived in Boston. All three of her children have been confirmed at our church.

Nick Paternostro spoke about his faith background on Sunday, April 25th. This article had to go to print before we could provide a synopsis.

Keep the following list in mind as you complete your pledge for the New Year.

1. Give intentionally. Make a yearly pledge.
2. Give regularly. Don't slip up if you are away or unable to attend church.
3. Give generously.
4. Give first off the top of your paycheck, not what is left over.
5. Love entails getting priorities straight.
6. Increase your pledge by 1% a year. This method has worked for millions of Christians
“Such giving expresses our love for our God, for our neighbor and for our community”

We look forward to seeing everyone Sunday, May 2nd.

Lois Tougas
Chairperson, Stewardship Committee

Missions News

HELPING HANDS FOR HAITI HYGIENE KITS

PROJECT UPDATE

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 **84** kits. We are continuing to make kits to be sent out the middle of May. **Help us to reach our goal of 100 kits being sent from our church!** 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 above list in donation box outside the church office. For more info see www.churchworldservice.org or a Missions Committee member.

Thank you to all who have generously donated to this relief effort! *Thanks again to the ladies of the Theta Phi Delta who generously donated \$500 to this project!*

WALK FOR HUNGER

Sunday, May 2nd

Please join our church's team on Sunday, May 2nd for Project Bread's annual Walk for Hunger. Walk all or part of the 20-mile route starting and ending at 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 illnesses, 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 6 AM. Sign-up sheet in hall across from 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 info see www.projectbread.org/walk.

A Note From Our Pastor

Isaiah, chapter 11 begins, “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” I want to take a few moments and allow these words of Isaiah to sink in. Full of symbolism and quite apropos for this time of year, a shoot, or a young branch of new growth, became the hope of the world. After generations of promises, broken promises, wars, infidelity, redemption, and idolatry, a young branch, a thread of hope, is born and became one of us. I am speaking, of course, of Jesus.

Imagine for a moment reading scripture and thinking of your life from a new perspective. Imagine seeing, not through your own eyes, but through the eyes of one who sees the whole world. Imagine seeing the diversity of people, species, color, health, wealth, opportunity, pain, and confusion, and wanting to bring relief and salvation to all creation. Imagine our Lord, our Creator who can see and provide a Savior, doing this on our very behalf. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit looking into the world and willing to do something – anything – to help the dire situation. Do you hope to be a part of this reconciliation? Are you ready to receive the Lord, and as a result, be a part of serving a starving world?

Our church has historically had ups and downs, joys and sorrows. This is not inconsistent with the world at large. The joys remind us that life is good, and our sorrows will serve to ground us in empathy for one another. We are the Body of Jesus Christ, and as part of this Body, also a part of the hope for the world. As we approach our congregational life, we can and should do so with joy. We can and should do so in gratitude, remembering the mercy of God in our own life. We can and should do so willingly, remembering the Spirit of God is ready and willing to bring relief and salvation to the whole world. And finally, we can and should do so without grumbling and keeping score, remembering we are all in dire need of the salvation Jesus brings to the world. I encourage you then to imagine your life as a recipient of the fullness of God’s grace, and respond with enthusiasm to the grace of the Lord.

Currently there are opportunities for service to the church and community. Also, there are opportunities for Bible Study and fellowship with one another. Finally, there is our weekly worship of our one, true God. I want to encourage you to embrace these opportunities. Furthermore, I want you to consider what other ways we can provide spiritual service to one another and the community at large. New ministries are welcome and ideas are emerging as we speak. Consider what your spiritual offering will be to your God and your church family, and prepare to step forward today as a minister of Christ Jesus. And remember, the heart of God is to meet people where they are, care, and respond to the needs of the people.

Jason

Remember Your Mother

Whoever you are, wherever you are, on Mother’s Day, remember your mother. Without her and your father, you would only have been a dream and a hope, never a reality. No wonder God gave us the commandment: “Honor your father and your mother...” (Exodus 20:12, NRSV). God gave us life through them.

-Charles Ferrell

Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 9th

Blood Drive
(In Memory of Nora Guidi)
Tuesday, May 18th
2:00 - 8:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

YOU can save up to three people by donating just one pint of blood.
Give Blood. Become a Hero.

If you would like to be a donor, please call Linda in the Church Office at 508-881-1355.

Thank you! ☺