

STEEPLE TIDINGS

APRIL 2011

ISSUE 4-11

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from Rev. Dave
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Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus Christ, our mission is to make Christian

Disciples:

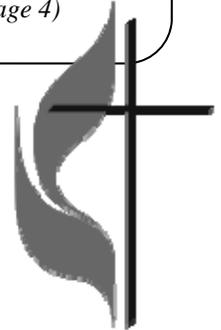
by using our spiritual gifts; by practicing the means of grace; and by living our faith.



NEW HAPPENINGS at HUMC

- April 1, 8, 15** Lenten Services *(page 3)*
- April 3, 10** District Healing Services *(page 3)*
- April 16** Visioning Retreat *(page 5)*
- April 17-24** Holy Week Opportunities *(page 4)*

Worship at HUMC
Sundays at 10 AM
Join us for Sunday School



Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!



Messiah

Last year we began what we hope will be an annual tradition—singing the Hallelujah Chorus at the conclusion of our Easter service. This year, we want to expand on the tradition by inviting you to be a part of the choir! If you have a copy of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, we invite you to bring it with you Easter Sunday. At the end of the service, you will be invited to join the choir and sing this great anthem. Don't have your own copy? No problem. You will be invited to join the choir as well. Come and raise your voice to the God who raised His Son for us.

Hallelujah!

Some Thoughts From Me—Rev. Dave



April is finally here! The snow is melting, the birds are singing, baseball season is here, and before the month is out the world will have turned a delightful shade of green, as trees start to dress themselves in their leaves. For me, April is a great month. Not only do Colleen

and I celebrate our anniversary in April, but April is also when we celebrate Easter this year. There is something about the new life of spring coupled with the new life of the Resurrection that just fires up my soul. But this April I am especially excited because of two other events that are taking place.

The first event is our church-wide Visioning Retreat, which will take place on Saturday, April 16. This will be a time for the whole church to come together for a time of prayerful reflection and discernment as we seek to answer—or begin to answer—the question, “Just where is God calling HUMC to be in ministry?” There are so many needs in the world around us, and so many opportunities to get involved. Just what is God saying to us? Where would God have us focus our time, our talent, and our resources? Who is God calling us to be? Those are important questions, and they deserve a well-reasoned, thoughtful answer.

I keep finding myself drawn back to our Mission Statement, which says in part that we are called to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Just how would God have us go about doing that? What is going to be our passion in the months and years to come? I am looking forward to traveling with you as we seek to find the answers to those questions. I hope you are looking forward to the journey as well, and hope to see you on the 16th.

The second big event that excites me is the creation of a new photo directory. It has been three years since we put

together the last one, and so much has happened. For one, there is a new minister here now. That is a big change in the life of a church. For another thing, there are a lot of new faces in our church. That is an even bigger change. Changes of that magnitude require a new photo directory so we get to know one another better.

Now I realize that not everyone likes having their picture taken. Others might say, “Well, I haven’t changed very much since my last portrait, just use that one.” I want to suggest that there are a couple of important reasons for not falling into that line of thinking. One is very practical; the church receives a cash payment from Olan Mills for each sitting. It is not a huge payment by any means, but our hope is to use that payment towards are mission shares. The more families that have their pictures taken, the more we can pay on mission shares; it is that simple. But more importantly, choosing to have your picture taken as part of this directory makes a statement about being a part of this congregation. We often use language of family in talking about the church. To be a part of this directory says that you are part of the family. To opt out is to make a completely different statement. I don’t know about you, but I want everyone to know that HUMC is my family.

Last year we celebrated our 175th anniversary as a congregation. We spent a lot of time looking back at where we had been, and celebrating how
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Thoughts —continued from Page 2.

far we have come. Now we are turning our attention forward. In effect you might say that the Visioning Retreat will help us determine where we are going, just as the Photo Directory helps us see who we are now. Like I said, April is a very exciting month. I hope you get excited. I hope you get involved. I hope to see you on the 16th, and in the new directory.

God bless,
Dave

Lenten Services

Once again Hazardville United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church of Enfield will be joining together to offer a series of Lenten noontime services. Each Friday during Lent we will gather at noon at one of our churches for a half hour service of reflection and celebration, in which we pray, mediate, and partake of the sacrament of Holy Communion. We hope that you will plan to attend one or all of these very special services.

The schedule for these Friday services is:

- April 1 – UMCE**
- April 8 – HUMC**
- April 15 – UMCE**



District Healing Services. You are invited to participate in the Connecticut/Western Massachusetts District, LENTEN HEALING SERVICES that will take place on Sundays during the season of Lent. The theme this year is, *“A time for every season under heaven: a time for hurting and a time for healing.”*

A District prayer team has been established that will be in prayer throughout each service. Healing services start at 4 PM and will be Spirit-led, which means the Spirit, not the clock, will determine when the service is over. The locations of the various services are:

- April 3** Danielson UMC
8 Spring St, Danielson, CT
- April 10** First UMC of Williamstown and North Adams
(address to be added when newly merged congregation confirms where they will be located.)



Holy Week Opportunities

Holy Week, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter, is a time ripe with opportunities to deepen our faith and renew our commitment. This year, there are many ways for us to accomplish that, and you are invited to be a part of as many as possible. The Holy Week schedule is as follows:

Palm/Passion Sunday (April 17) – We will gather in the Sanctuary to worship at 10 AM for a service that reminds us of both the celebration of Christ’s entrance into Jerusalem and the events of his passion that took place over the course of the coming week.

Maundy Thursday (April 21) – We will gather in the Sanctuary to worship at 7 PM for a service of Communion and remembrance, as we remember the Last Supper that Christ ate on the night he was betrayed. We will also “strip” the sanctuary of all adornment—a reminder of Christ’s being abandoned.

Good Friday (April 22) – You are invited to attend the Enfield Council of Christian Churches Ecumenical service at noon at the Enfield Congregational Church. Clergy from various churches throughout Enfield will be taking part.

Easter Sunday (April 24) – Come and celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, and the promise of Life Everlasting, as we gather at 10 a.m. for a service filled with music and celebration.

Hallelujah!



*“What the caterpillar calls the end of the world,
the Master calls a butterfly.” —Richard Bach*

Tapes for Shut-ins. Did you know that we tape each service? We do. That means if you or a loved one can’t make it to church on a given Sunday, you can borrow a cassette tape of the service to enjoy at your leisure. Simply see Rev. Dave and he will be happy to get you the tape. Take your time. Listen to it as many times as you like, and simply return it when you are finished.



Visioning Retreat—Saturday, April 16, 2011



THE
Word
IS VERY NEAR YOU.
IT IS IN YOUR *Mouth*
AND IN YOUR
Heart....

DEUTERONOMY 30:14, NIV

Back in January Rev. Dave wrote in his column that the time was coming to gather together as a church to discern where God was calling us to go. That time is here. You are invited to be a part of a very special Visioning Retreat taking place on Saturday, April 16, from 9 AM to noon. We will gather for a time of reflection, prayer, and discernment as we seek to understand the ministry God is putting upon our hearts. There are so many needs, so many opportunities beyond our walls, and we have been blessed with so many gifts. Just how would God have us use those gifts to meet those needs? Which needs is God leading us to, and which is He leading us away from? This retreat is for everyone, not just the leadership of the church. Each member of each committee is encouraged to be present, and to bring a member of the church who is not on your committee. The more people we have the better we will be able to discern where God is leading us. So mark your calendars and come help us catch a glimpse of the vision.

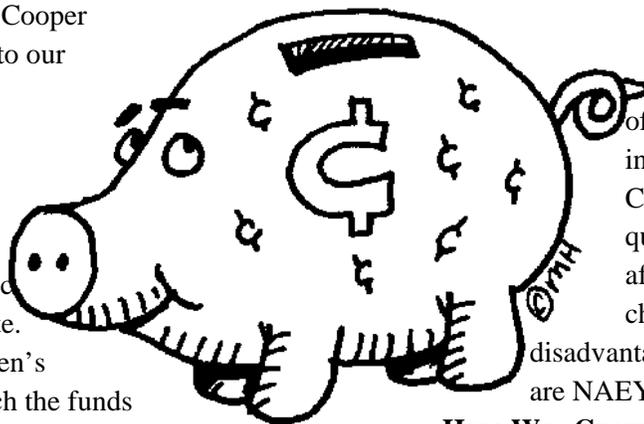
YOUTH-4-MISSION (Y4M) PLEASE FILL OUR PIG

The Cooper Community Center is facing some very difficult financial issues. As we all know the economic conditions are difficult, funding sources cut back and donations decrease, but expenses increase. Won't you consider helping Cooper Center by adding donations to our pig (located in the library)? Whatever you can afford. . . Change from the bottom of Your purse or pocket, a Dollar bill found in the laundry or set aside a specific amount during Lent to donate. Our United Methodist Women's Division has offered to Match the funds raised by each local church up to a total of \$500,000. These funds are used towards purchasing the building. See Bobbi Bragan for more details.

The Hattie B. Cooper Community Center, located in Boston (www.cooperctr.org) is the only

National Mission, as appointed by the General Board of Global Missions (GBGM), in New England. For 94 years, Cooper has Served thousands of Urban children, youth and families. Hattie B was the first Chairman of the community Center in Roxbury in 1916. Cooper provides high quality early education and after school care for children and families from disadvantaged backgrounds. They are NAEYC accredited, just like our own **Here Wee Grow!**.

During the summer, they offer Camp Unity, where children are bused daily to Hale Reservation for a day of camp activities not available in Roxbury.



Resource Center - Colleen Williams



Resource Center

The goal of our church Resource Center is to help people see that they can make a positive impact on God's creation through the thoughtful use of our world's resources. We are looking for items you may have on hand that you don't need but that are too good to throw away. Who knows? Someone else might just be looking for those items! If you can help out please bring in your items and place them in the box located in the church library.

Please consider partnering with us in this stewardship effort.

Harvest Fair. The planning for the Harvest Fair is underway! We are in need of the following items:

- Jewelry, whole or broken*
- Beads*
- Silk flowers and silk leaves*
- Autumn-colored fabrics*
- Country fabrics*
- Old blue jeans*
- New bars of soap*
- Scrapbook paper*
- Fabric ribbons of all sizes*
- Louvered wooden doors and shutters*

If you can supply any of these, please place them in the box in the church library.

Thank you.

Kids-4-Mission Club



Thank you!!

We have collected two jars of flip top tabs.

Please keep them coming as this is an ongoing collection. The tabs have been donated to the Shriner's Hospital. The "thank you letter" is posted on the Outreach bulletin board opposite the kitchen area.

United Methodist Women — Linda Borio



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
TUESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 12
2:00 pm—YATES**

PROGRAM: “Pentecost: A Mighty Wind”

This program will help us appreciate and commit to the continued building of the Body of Christ, which is the church during this time of Pentecost.

Join us as Alice Allen presents this program to help us have a better understanding of the deeper implications of the gifts of the Spirit.

Chair: Linda Borio

Hostesses: Isobel Skukowski and Connie Lamond

On Tuesday morning, March 8, at 9:30 we met at the HUMC parking lot and carpooled to Trinity Church in Springfield. Eleven of us took the tour. Thanks to Janette Young, we all enjoyed a most engrossing 1.5 hour tour of the sanctuary by a well informed woman named Cathy. After the tour, ten of us went to Friendly’s for a delicious lunch and good conversation. As one of our members commented “this sanctuary reminds me of the grand church sanctuaries my husband and I have seen while traveling abroad.” If you missed the tour, try to take one if it is offered again. It was most informative and not one bit boring.

Harvest Fair. October 21 and 22 are the dates for our Harvest Fair. If you are busy at home working on projects for the Fair, keep up the good work! If you would like to become involved and like the idea of working alongside others, the ladies in the weekly crafter’s group would be glad to have you join them. We meet on Wednesday mornings for a few hours of creative camaraderie. Unless otherwise noted in the weekly bulletin we meet at 9:00 AM at the church.

Questions? Call Colleen Williams [860-749-9595].



**Wednesday Morning
Craft Group**



Lenten Meditation

*Not betrayed, but Love misspoken
Not denied, but Truth revealed
Not demeaned, but Fear reflected
Not condemned, but Spirit healed.*

Here Wee Grow!— Phyllis Phelan



Spring brings smiles and plans. Children are anxious to get outside, and play. By the look of the snow that remains on our playground, spring is a long way off! However, we can make plans to play in the sand, ride the tire swing, use chalk on the sidewalk and play basketball - when the sunshine gets warmer and the snow does melt away. When Spring is really here, we will have a great time!

We had a wonderful month in February. Our parent group, under the direction of Mrs. Herzig, one of our teaching staff, along with other parents, created a carnival night that was fun and a great time for children and their families. It was truly a wonderful evening for all.

Here Wee Grow! staff has attended a series of workshops. Some topics have been technology-based while others were to provide ideas to improve

environments where children learn and play.

Mrs. Glaspie and I attended a workshop to learn how to 'go green' in the early childhood setting. Attending workshops such as these is a State of Connecticut requirement, as well as part of each teacher's responsibility to improve and grow in the profession they have chosen.

Staff also took part in the local pre-school fair. We have been a regular participant in this community event for many years. If you are looking for a preschool and/or possible day care opportunity, there are many folks to talk with in one location. **Here Wee Grow!** attended this year, knowing that we already have our morning four year old programs filled. Hopefully our attendance at the fair will bring in children for our afternoon program as well as keeping our name in the public eye.

As always we thank you, the congregation, for your kind words, your gifts, your prayers and your support.

Until next time . . .



Our 2011 week at Salem Economic Ministry (Salem, ME) will begin on Sunday, August 7, and run through to Saturday morning, August 13. We plan to carpool just like last summer.

For those who attended last summer, we all had a wonderful time making the difference in three families' lives for a warmer winter ahead and a more comfortable home with the work that was accomplished. Not only did we meet some wonderful new friends, but we had a chance to work alongside some wonderful teammates.

An information meeting will be on April 27 at 7 PM so that we may discuss any concerns or questions you may have. We invite those who attended last year to come and share their experiences with those contemplating a new adventure. **Mark your calendars now for our April 27 meeting. Also keep the week of August 7 free.**



By now we hope you've heard the exciting news; HUMC is doing a new pictorial directory. Once again we have invited Olan Mills to come in and take our pictures and produce a directory. Why? It's really very simple. Our current directory is three years old. That means that there are a lot of people who aren't in it, and that is a situation we would like to fix. The directory will help us to connect names with faces and will be an ideal outreach tool. Furthermore it will capture the history of our congregation. But to make this work we need everyone. You can sign up for your sitting in the Fellowship Hall after church, or by calling the office. Every participating family/household who selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8x10 custom natural portrait, and while you will have the opportunity of purchasing extra pictures you are under no obligation to buy anything.

The Scheduled Dates for Photography and Portrait Viewing are

Wednesday, April 27 through Saturday, April 30.

So sign up today and be a part of this wonderful and exciting opportunity.

P.S. In the meantime, there is a directory of names only in the Narthex to tide you over until the new "*Picture Book*" is ready.



People today outlive their ability to drive by 6-10 years, but they no longer need to be housebound! ItnNorthCentralConnecticut is now offering rides 24/7 to seniors and adults with visual impairments in Bloomfield, East Granby, East Windsor, Enfield, Granby, Somers, South Windsor and Windsor Locks. ITN is a community supported nonprofit that does not use public dollars for operating expenses. One of two fundraisers is coming on May 1, 2011...Family Funday Sunday from noon—4 PM at the Sports World bubble, 226 Main Street, East Windsor. Get your team together and choose how to help raise money for ITN. Special events during the day include: Classic Car Exhibit; Concert by the Goldtones; Face Painting by Annabelle the Clown; Caricatures by Matt Ryan; Magic Beyond the Ordinary by Tom O'Brien; Tea Cup Raffle; Flower Sale by the Growth Company and a Bake Sale. Register at www.WalkForRides.org or call 860-758-7833.

Heritage Notes—A Page from our History — Alice Allen

137 year Heritage 1835 – 1972
By Ruth Bridge
Hazardville United Methodist Church
Enfield, Connecticut

(Continued from last month.)

As for the church itself, the land was given by Simeon Pease and the frame was raised in August 1835. The building was 32' x 40', very plain and simple, no tower or spire, no cushions for the pine seats, and just clear glass windows. There was a gallery for singers opposite the preacher, and places for large stoves in the corners near the gallery. There was no cellar under the building and some people brought foot stoves to services to keep their feet warm. The cost of this building was \$1,200. The dedication service was held on December 1, 1835. A minister stationed at Windsor, of the New York Conference, the Reverend Kellogg, preached the sermon and prayer was offered by the Reverend Francis L. Robbins, Pastor of the Enfield Congregations Church.

At this time the church was part of a circuit supplied by three different ministers. The first minister exclusively for the Hazardville Church was Walter Wilkie, appointed in 1838. There were 76 church members in his time.

The salary of this first Pastor was \$300 a year, and probably part of it was paid in provisions and firewood. The sexton in those early years was paid \$50, lighting, which was no doubt by candles, cost \$10 or \$12, and fuel about \$20, so that the entire annual expense was not more than \$400. For many years the church's principal source of income was the annual sale of pews. This was not changed until 1917. (Note: Today the discipline of the Methodist church specifically prohibits the sale of pews).

A previous writer states that in the early years of the church Sunday was not a day of rest. Morning service was at 10:30, Sunday School at 12:00, and afternoon preaching at 2:00. About 1880 the afternoon service was discontinued. On Friday evenings class meetings were held in the different sections of the parish at some member's house.

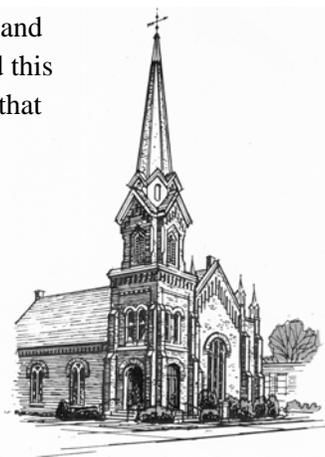
For the first fifty years there were no special meetings for young people. It was not until 1888 that a Christian Endeavor Society was organized.

The first parsonage was built in 1842. It was used only until 1848 when it was sold and another parsonage was built "more convenient to the church", next to it in fact. And this second parsonage can still be seen, right where it was built, just east of the building that was once the church, and is still called by many "the Old Church".

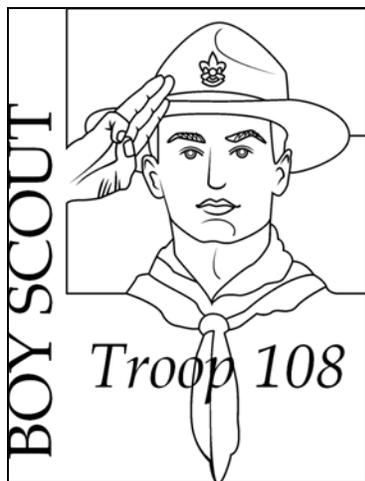
The bell, the one we still use, was bought in 1844. It seems likely that some sort of belfry was built at this time. Later, in 1852 when the church building was repaired and an addition built on the north end, a spire was erected. This addition provided the church with a vestibule over which was a gallery for singers. It was in this vestibule that the sexton rang the bell.

(To be continued next month.)

Submitted by Alice Godard Allen
 Church Historian



Troop 108 — Bill Munsell



SCOUTING FROM THE TOP RAIL. I just have to keep refreshing my mind on all the great programs scouting in Troop 108 has to offer. Leadership is best shown as the older scouts step forward to teach new skills and ideas to the younger scouts as they step into a new world of challenge and excitement coming from Cub Scout to Boy Scouts. We are lucky to have these older scouts so interested, sincere and proud of sharing their knowledge while continuing to push their own advancement through Life scout and on to Eagle. Just in case we haven't praised you lately. Our Top THANKS to all the leaders.

The February Campout and Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge was held at the Connecticut Air National Guard Base at Bradley Airfield, actually in East Granby. This is another tough badge to earn as there is much homework and paperwork that has to be completed before actually doing the hands-on requirements. This merit badge is to teach a boy to realize everything is slower and harder for a person who has disabilities. To go a bit further on February 9 at the regular scout meeting the Fidelco Guide Dog association visited the Troop . This was very interesting, as explained when a Fidelco Dog and its master are together, the dog is at work-- No touching or any kind of distraction is allowed (requested). These dogs are very well trained -- work hard and when off duty usually are relaxing to be ready on a moment's notice by its owner/master. It takes a lot of doing to train a dog and then more time to train the person and dog to work together. Disabilities of members of our own church is on the increase, and there is a need to do something about it. The scouts understand how important it is to be there for a person who has some type of disability and to show concern. At the Troop banquet, a scout volunteered to get my meal for me...it was a welcomed surprise and indeed a pleasure. What more can I say but. . "Thanks a million."

"Scouting can be Contagious!"

SAVE THE DATE VBS—MUSIC & Arts Camp 2011 Weeks of July 5-8 and July 25-29

Last year we had 100+ campers. Our two-week program was such a success we are offering it again.

Volunteers are needed...a week...a day...an hour...pre-camp work done at home. Let us know how you would like to help as there are always things to be done and we will find a job for you.

Please sign up now. See Jackie or Becky Michaud or use the sign-up sheet on the Outreach bulletin board opposite the kitchen.



~On the Personal Side~

A great big thank-you to all who sent cards, visits, phone calls, good wishes and prayers my way after my knee replacement surgery. I am home now, having physical therapy and getting back to a routine after being pampered at the hospital and rehab center. A special thank-you to my card and game group who are driving me to doctors and rehab appointments and home again. I especially appreciated all the visits from Pastor and Colleen. Also to one special lady who brought me the most delicious stew I've ever had! There is no doubt in my mind that this church has to be one of the most caring groups ever. Hope to see you soon.

Love,

Joyce Young

To my church family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, love, warmth and concern shown in the many cards, e-cards, e-mails and phone calls which I received during and following my recent trip to the ER and brief hospitalization for tests. Each one was very much appreciated.

Love and Peace,

Jane



APRIL

- 1 *Nancy Dyer*
- 3 *May Buonanducci*
Julie LaRocca
- 5 *Kayla Moody*
- 7 *Sue Braun*
- 16 *Lois Osier*
- 19 *Don Sim*

Call the church office at 860-749-7098 to have your name included on our birthday lists!!



To that wonderful volunteer production staff...Heartfelt thanks to the gracious, considerate production staff whose nimble fingers made short work of our March issue of Steeple Tidings . . . **Pat Owens, Nancy Dyer.** . .

with special thanks to Don Niemann for all his support and help.



Please keep the following in your prayers

Noelle (Williams) Adams, John Allen, Louise Barnes
Esta Clarke, Berta Clawson, Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson,
Leroy Miller, Mary Nickerson, Barry Sackett,
Florence Stimpson, Peg Smith, Joyce Young

Pray also for these Members

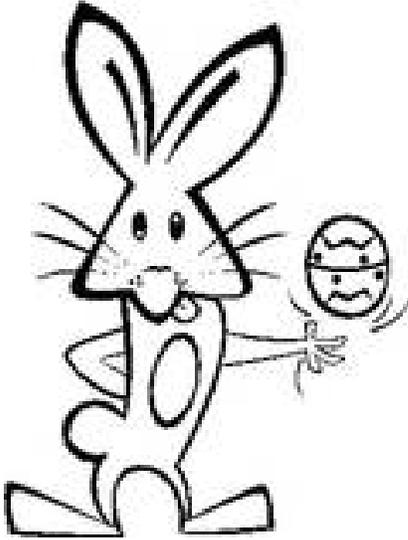
Babs Baker, Redstone Rehab Facility, 135 Benton Dr, E.Longmeadow, MA
Mildred Doreski at Blair Manor, 612 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT
Asa and Hildegard Waller, Suffield House, 1 Canal Road, Suffield, CT
Bertha Somero, Parkway Healthcare, 1157 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT

In Christian Sympathy

The Family of Gloria Wages on her death.
Vivian Stewart and family on the death of her brother, Andrew Gibson.

*If you have a name to add or notice a name that is missing,
please contact Isobel Skukowski or the church office.*





Easter Time (By William F. Heffner)

Easter time is here again,
 And bunnies everywhere,
 Don't salute, a substitute,
 There is no holy hare.
 So colored eggs and jelly beans,
 Don't mean a bunny thing,
 Cause bunnies do, what bunnies do
 And have no gifts to bring.
 So Easter Time's, the time to know,
 A lie could not survive
 And here's the proof in gospel truth;
JESUS IS ALIVE!!

If you would like to decorate our altar for Easter, please fill in this form and give it to Pat Owens or send to the Church Office by April 17.



Easter Flowers

**Order deadline
 April 17, 2011
 \$6.00 Each for Hyacinths/Tulips
 \$7.00 Each for Lilies**

_____ Daffodils _____ Lilies _____ Hyacinths _____ Tulips
 (Please indicate the number of each plant you would like to purchase.)

No. of Plants _____ Total \$ _____

Please make check payable to Karen Bologna and give (or mail) to Pat Owens,
 3 Cloud Street, Enfield, CT 06082. Any questions, call Pat at 749-3927.

Please check, if applicable:

In memory honor of _____.

In memory honor of _____.

Please Note: All plants should be picked up following Easter Sunday service.

_____ NAME