

STEEPLE TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 2011

ISSUE 2-11

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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

February 6 New Sermon Series Begins *(see article below)*

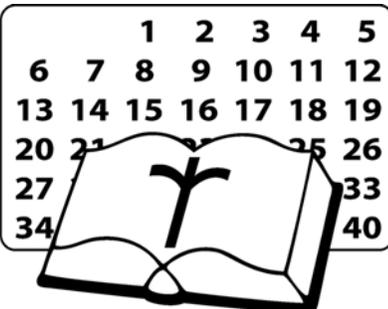
February 6 Souper Bowl Luncheon *(page 7)*

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



Sermon Series



New Sermon Series

A frustrated student shoots up his high school, killing several of his classmates; a disgruntled employee takes out his anger on colleagues, leaving several dead; terrorists wreak havoc on innocent people; earthquakes, tornadoes, and floods destroy cities, towns, and lives; young women are sold into the bondage of sexual slavery; and diseases and injuries cut short promising lives. Where is God when disaster strikes? Where is God when life's horrors come to call? Believe it or not, God is right there with us.

Join Rev. Dave starting February 6, as he embarks on a sermon series that takes us *Looking For God In Our Nightmares*. The sermons for the series will explore:

- Terrorism and Bullying (February 6)**
- Natural Disasters (February 13)**
- Human Trafficking (February 20)**
- Sickness, Disease and Death (February 27)**

Some Thoughts From Me—Rev. Dave



I believe it was Shakespeare who said, “What is in a name? A rose by any other name would still smell as sweet.” Well, that may be true, but there is something about a name that does more than simply tell us what a thing is; it tells us what that thing is about. Recently we have made a name change and a rather significant change at that. We changed the name on our

weekly offering envelopes from “Current Expense and Benevolence” to “Mission and Ministry.” I’ve had many questions about that change. What exactly does it mean? Have we changed where our money goes? What about the Current Expense budget? What about our bills? Those are all really good questions, so I thought I would take a moment to try and answer them.

What has changed? On the one hand, the answer is very simple; nothing really. What people give to Mission and Ministry is used in exactly the same way as the money given to Current Expense and Benevolence. Both of these fund our Current Expense Budget as approved by the Church Council. In effect, it is a name change. So as I said, nothing has really changed.

But on the other hand there is a big change. Both the Stewardship and Finance Committees of the church, as well as the Church Council, felt that there was something missing by designating our giving as “Current Expense and Benevolence.” It felt as if what we were giving to was a budget, but that is not what we, as a church, are about. We’re not about light bills, or oil bills, or salaries or office supplies. We, as a church, are about mission and ministry. We are about changing lives by shining the light of Jesus Christ into the world. We are about hope and promise and transformation and resurrection. Somehow, “Current Expense and Benevolence” didn’t capture that.

Our church mission statement is powerful. It states that we are called to make disciples for Jesus Christ, by using our

spiritual gifts, practicing the means of grace, and living our faith on a daily basis. To make our weekly offering to “Mission and Ministry” seems to better convey the essence of who Jesus Christ is calling us to be. Yes, the money still goes to the same place. There are utility bills that must be paid (after all, they make it possible for us to open our doors to various groups and ministries), salaries owed to those we employ, supplies for both the office and the Sunday School that we must purchase, and missional outreaches such as Loaves and Fishes that we have committed to support. That hasn’t changed. But what the name change does do is to remind us, each time we fill our offering envelope, of what it is we as a church are about; we are about mission and ministry to the world as we seek to make disciples in Jesus’ name.

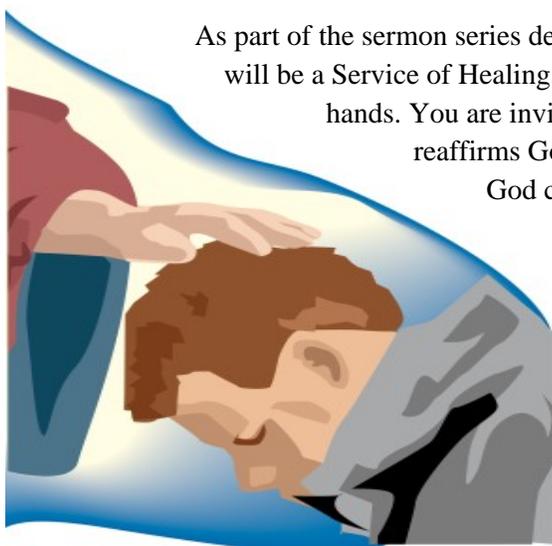
So I guess that means that Shakespeare was correct; the name doesn’t matter in that things are still the same. And yet, it also means that he was wrong. Names matter a lot in that they capture the essence of our purpose and declare what it is that we hold to be important. That is why we made this change.

I hope as you fill your offering envelope that you will pause to reflect on just what the mission and ministry of our church is. I hope you will consider what that new name is saying to you. And I hope that you will continue to be generous in your support of the mission and ministry of our church.

God bless,

Dave

Healing Service



As part of the sermon series dealing with the nightmares of life, the service on February 27 will be a Service of Healing, which will include anointing with oil and the laying on of hands. You are invited to come and be a part of a very powerful service that reaffirms God's involvement in the difficult moments of our lives. Truly God can and does heal our infirmities and our diseases.

Spiritual healing is God's work of offering persons balance, harmony, and wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships through confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Through such healing, God works to bring about reconciliation between God and humanity, among individuals and communities, within each person and between humanity and the rest of creation. The New Testament records that Jesus himself healed the estranged and sick and sent out his Disciples on ministries of healing (James 5:14-16a) calls us To pray for and anoint the sick, that they may be healed.

All healing is of God. The Church's healing ministry in no way detracts from the gifts God gives through medicine and psychotherapy. It is no substitute for either medicine or the proper care of one's health. Rather, it adds to our total resources for wholeness. Healing is not magic, but underlying it is the great mystery of God's love. Those who minister spiritual healing are channels of God's love. Although no one can predict what will happen in a given instance, many marvelous healings have taken place.

God does not promise that we shall be spared suffering but does promise to be with us in our suffering. Trusting that promise, we are enabled to recognize God's sustaining presence in pain, sickness, injury, and estrangement.

Laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and the less formal gesture of holding someone's hand all show the power of touch, which plays a central role in the healings recorded in the New Testament. Jesus often touched others—blessing children, washing feet, healing injuries or disease, and raising people from death. Biblical precedent combines with our natural desire to reach out to persons in need in prompting us to touch gently and lovingly those who ask for healing prayers. Such an act is a tangible expression of the presence of the healing Christ, working in and through those who minister in his name.



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.

United Methodist Women — Linda Borio



If you have a family member who is going to college (whether they are a resident or commuter) or a family member who is in the military, please contact Isobel Skukowski at isobl@aol.com or 860-749-7451 with the name and address of that family member.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 8
10:30 AM, YATES**

Program: Valentine Outreach via Care Packages and Cards

We will begin at 10:30 AM and end with a BYO lunch. . . in other words, please *bring your own sack lunch* . . . dessert and drinks will be provided by the hostesses for this month.

This program is always a very interactive, fun program where we mail Valentines to those unable to attend church regularly. We also fill Valentine Care packages for our college students and military personnel. This outreach has been ongoing for more than a decade and is very much appreciate by all.

The 2011 Program Booklets will be available at this time.

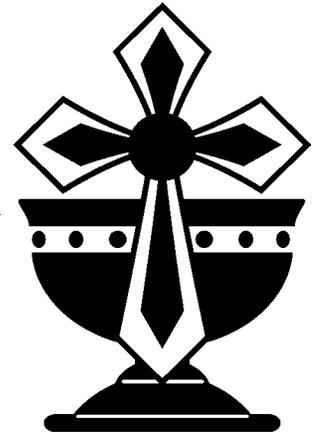
Chair: Isobel Skukowski

Hostesses: Linda Borio and Nancy Dyer

Outreach — Holly Fisher

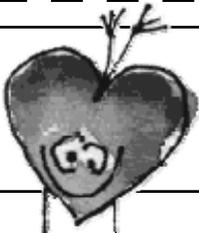
The February communion offering will benefit the hungry. The Outreach Committee has elected the February communion offering to go equally to the Enfield Food Shelf and Enfield Loaves and Fishes.

This outreach is in conjunction with the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday on Super Bowl Sunday. This is the largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving. All of our donations will count towards the Feinstein Foundation \$1 million challenge. The Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among anti hunger agencies nationwide using it as a spur to raise funds towards hunger. The more we collect during our February communion offering on Souper Bowl Sunday and the free will offerings at the Souper Bowl luncheon, the larger the percentage of the donation match that will be sent to The Enfield Food Shelf and Enfield Loaves and Fishes.



HUMC is reaching out to everyone to support this drive.

Together, as a nation, we can help stamp out hunger!!



~Valentine Smile~

**On Valentine's Day we think of those who make our lives worthwhile,
Those gracious, friendly people who we think of with a smile. . . (Is that you??)**

Here Wee Grow!— Phyllis Phelan



The New Year is here and we are back in full swing at **Here Wee Grow!** We welcomed two new families, Tyler Ayr and Isabella Porcello. Tyler is in our two-day three-year-old class and Isabella is in a four-year-old three-day class. We are happy to have two new school friends.

The month of January was a fun-filled month. The dinosaur theme was a huge hit. It is amazing how much children already know about these prehistoric creatures AND can pronounce the names of them as well! (That can be challenging!)

February is quickly approaching and this month we will be studying Eric Carle and his books. The Eric Carle Museum is a short distance away and some of our friends have been there to visit. Eric Carle books, such as The Hungry Caterpillar and The Grouchy Ladybug are favorites. Eric Carle's illustrations are interesting in that he uses different collage materials, painting over materials, textures, etc. We will learn about these and how to create some of our own.

Our Parent Group is working hard on in-house and outside activities for our children for the spring.

There are many parents who are giving their time and talents to help with functions at HWG and fundraising to sponsor the outside activities. The Winter Carnival is in the planning stages now and will be happening soon. This is a wonderful time for HWG children, their sibling, parents and grandparents!

Registration for the 2011-2012 school year has begun. It's hard to believe that the time has arrived to think about next September. If you know of a family who is looking for a preschool for their child, please ask them to call us. We'd love to take them around to see our wonderful facility and our classrooms.

As always we want to say thank you to you our school and church families for your support through the year. We especially want to thank the church folks for the delicious cupcakes you provided for the children of HWG. The Cupcake Challenge was not only a way to help others in our community by bringing in food items for the Enfield Food Shelf, but it was also a way for the school and the church family to come together. We appreciate your delicious baking talents and the time you gave by serving them to the children. You're the BEST!

We ask for your continued prayers and support.

Until next time . . .



Give your Valentine a present of our 175th Anniversary Cookbook. Find recipes for . . .Appetizers, Soups and Salads, Main Dishes, Breads and Rolls, and Desserts, as well as a few recipes from 1906.

Cookbooks are available from Gerry Berozsky, Janet Wyatt, Noma Caldwell or the church office.

Pick up your copy today!! It's the best \$10 bucks you'll spend!!



Heritage Notes—A Page from our History — Alice Allen

(Continued from December)

In February 1964, after a fund drive started five years earlier, and many hours of volunteer labor, the present Scout Lodge was completed. Since 1938, when the Reverend Homer Ginns was Pastor, the men of the church have sponsored a Scout Troop.

By 1966 the influence of Pope John XXIII had reached Enfield and an Ecumenical Council had come into being with an unprecedented feeling of goodwill and fellowship among the many denominations represented in our town. At a Thanksgiving Service held at Saint Bernard's Roman Catholic Church in 1967, our Pastor, The Reverend J. Arthur Dahlstrand, preached the sermon. Several ecumenical worship services are held each year. An ecumenical course in Family Life was held in 1970. This course was taught six days a week for two months and was very well attended. Enfield Church Women also meet in several ecumenical sessions each year.

An event of an unusual nature occurred in 1970 when lightning struck the church steeple. The following is taken from the Reverend Dahlstrand's account in "Steeple Tidings":

"Only twice in my ninety-eight years of life have I been struck by lightning. The first time was about 1905 and the second time was on Thursday evening, October 15, 1970. Many voices have drifted up to me since this second bolt of lightning caused me to tingle all over. They seem to imply that God must have been saying something to his people. I am certain that God must have been watching over the people who faithfully worship in and support the church for which I am a symbol.

"It happened that the good firemen of the Hazardville Fire Department were looking at me when the lightning bolt struck. They saw the fire start to creep around the windows half way up my height and they were there quenching the flames within a few minutes.

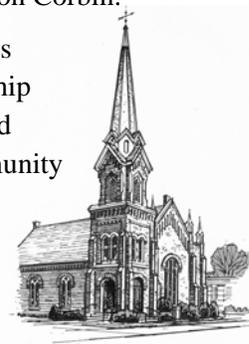
"It happened that the Trustee Chairman, hearing the sirens and seeing the lights dashed to the church and unlocked the front doors just before it became necessary for the firemen to break them down to gain entrance.

"And it happened, because there is a secondary roof under me, and because of the training and carefulness of the firemen, that there was no damage to the church below me. I'm certain God was watching over his people."

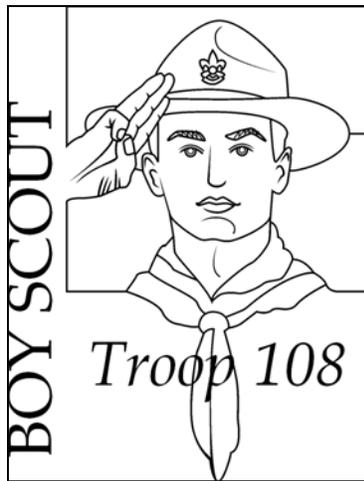
To finish the story of the steeple - - the structure was reinforced and repaired where needed, the windows were Removed and the entire steeple was re-shingled. The cost of \$5,120 was covered by \$4,965 in insurance. A steeple lightning rod has been added - - since we have discovered that lightning can strike twice in the same place - - the cost of which was taken care of by a memorial gift of \$1,000 in memory of Anson Corbin.

IN CONCLUSION – And so we reach 1972 and the end of the story for the time being. It is a comparatively easy matter to sum up the material progress of a church - - from a membership of 76 and a building worth \$1,200 in 1835, to a present membership of 661 and buildings and assets valued at \$580,000 in 1972. But the inner life of a church and its influence in a community no man can evaluate.

Submitted by Alice Godard Allen
Church Historian



Troop 108 — *Bill Munsell*



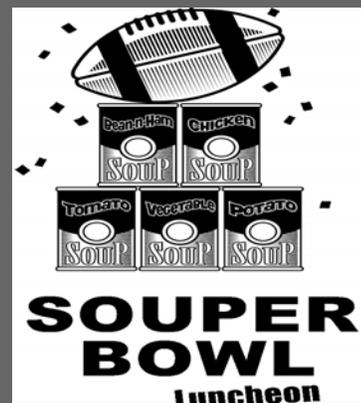
“Scouting another year.” Troop 108, with over 73 years of challenges that face boys and leadership, is here for your enjoyment. Our new staff is keeping many programs alive and, in some cases, expanding them. Each year, usually in late February or March, webloes Cub Scouts graduate and several come into Troop 108. Cub Scouting is the greatest fun-learning program available and the Boy Scouts continue a higher level of learning and leadership experiences; Troop 108 is geared to carry this forward. This helps prepare the boy for adulthood. OOPs, here I go again - - I just get so upbeat when our scout anniversary comes around every January that the computer keys seem to rattle on.

Each year Troop 108 arranges the opportunity for its scouts to earn several required merit badges during the winter months. Registered, qualified instructors offer classes that each scout can participate in and qualify for one or more of the four or five badges offered. The scouts are also allowed to make up classes missed because of sickness, although there are very few missed classes. This also means scouts advance quite rapidly, and this requires Boards of Review. Anyone aged 18 or over can sit on a Review. Mr. Daniel Lavoie sets up the boards, so if you would like to enjoy a great experience please stop by any Wednesday night from 7 to 8:30. You may be amazed with the wealth of knowledge a boy MAY have. We all can learn; this can be a fun experience for you and the boy; why not try it. You do not need to know anything about scouting to participate in a Board since we provide a book that helps, and we will train you. Boards of Review are held in a room in the church where there is privacy and quiet where three or more adults and a scout can carry on a conversation.

As we are only two years away from the 75th Anniversary, we need one or more people to start some plans. I’m sure the leaders are thinking. I know I am. Lets see if this gets the ball rolling.

“Scouting is here to stay; thanks to your sponsorship.”

Join us for
a Bowl of Soup,
Camaraderie and friendship
in Fellowship Hall following worship
as we celebrate the 2011 Super Bowl
at our Souper Bowl of Caring luncheon
February 6, 2011



On the Personal Side

To my Church Family. . .

I want to thank all the people who sent cards and e-mails, said prayers and made calls during my recent bout of illness. I was overwhelmed by the caring and concern of our great church family.

Thanks so much. . .

God Bless you all.

Walt

I'm extremely grateful for the outpouring of well wishes and prayers that I've received during my recovery from surgery and feel confident that my journey back to good health will continue because of it. I value my church family for the love, comfort and support that you've shown and keep you all in my prayers as you do for me.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Peace and Love,

Esta



FEBRUARY



Birthdays

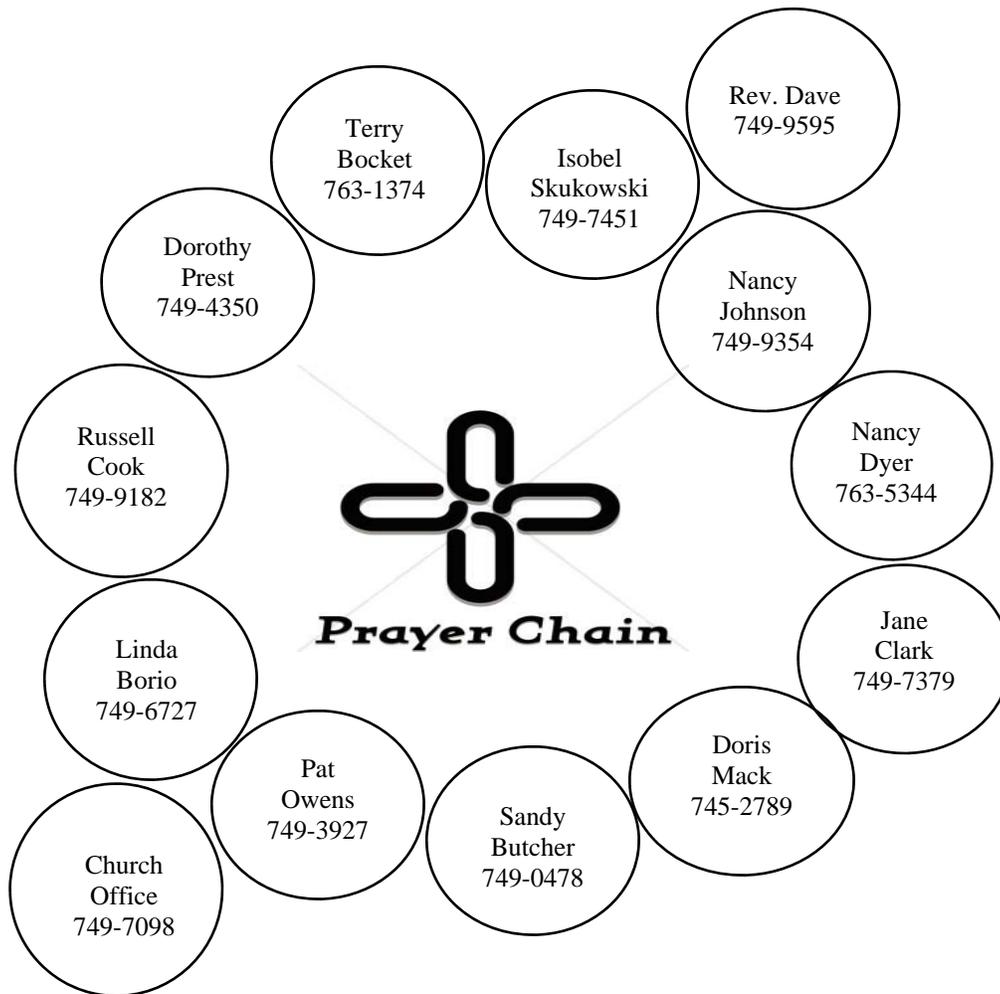
- 1** *Lety Sim*
- 2** *Barry Sackett*
- 4** *Donald Niemann*
- 10** *Betty Mientus*
- 13** *Peg Steinert*
- 15** *Christian Fracasso*
- 19** *Charlotte Stenlake*
- 22** *Kerry Fracasso*
- 25** *Eleanor Weisel*

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 January 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 and Marilyn Allen, Louise Barnes
Esta Clarke, Berta Clawson, Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Elsie Locke,
Leroy Miller, Mary Nickerson, Don Niemann, Bertha Somero,
Peg Smith, Florence Stimpson, Ron Uricchio, 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

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



PIECES OF LOVE



Send special reminders of your love by creating messages that people can assemble and enjoy.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft sticks
- Tape
- Permanent markers
- Scissors
- Zippered sandwich baggies

What you do:

1. Make a rectangle out of seven craft sticks by placing them next to one another, long side against long side.
2. Tape the sticks together.
3. Turn the sticks over and draw a special picture or message. You can include this Bible verse: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV).
4. Cut through the tape to separate each craft stick.
5. Put all the sticks in a baggie.
6. Give your special messages to family members, friends or teachers — along with directions for viewing them.



A Love Letter

In the New Testament, John writes a letter about God's love and the love we should show to other people.

DIRECTIONS: Working from left to right, write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's. Then read about love, from 1 John 4:11-12, NIV.

lives 3	in 3	us 3	Since 1	and 3	God 1	so 1	loved 1	his 3
us 1	love 3	we 1	If 2	also 1	is 3	made 3	we 2	ought 1
to 1	love 2	love 1	one 1	complete 3	one 2	another 1	in 3	us 3
another 2	God 2							

1 John 4:11-12, NIV

Answers: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.