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- Some Thoughts . . 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.

January at HUMC

January 15, Job Bible Study (page 3)
January 16, Youth Group (page 7)
January 28, Evergreen (page 7) Road Race Meeting (page 1)

Worship at HUMC
Sundays at 10 AM
All Children are welcome at our Sunday School Classes

Road Race Meeting

Bishop Devadhar has challenged each church in our Conference to do something to help the Imagine No Malaria campaign, and we are planning to do our part. We are planning to join with the United Methodist Church of Enfield to host a 5K Road Race on Saturday, May 17, 2014, with all proceeds going to the campaign.

There are lots of ways to be involved with this exciting project. One way is to attend the kick-off meeting which will be held on Tuesday, January 28, at 7 PM, at the United Methodist Church of Enfield on Brainard Road.

We need lots of help, so we hope to see you there.
For more information see Rev. Dave.
Welcome to 2014! It’s hard to believe we’re about to start a brand new year. And as always, at such a time, my thoughts turn to what lies ahead. What does 2014 hold for us? What blessings are out there waiting to be discovered? What trials lurk around the corner waiting to ambush us? What will ministry at HUMC look like as the year unfolds?

Well, as I sit down to think about that, I think of several things that are likely to have an impact on our church. One thing that will have a huge impact on us is the Accessibility Team that we formed this past month. These nine people, led by Dennis Babcock, have accepted the responsibility of developing a plan to make our building completely handicapped accessible during the coming year. That’s a tall order to be sure. After all, we are blessed with a beautiful building, but as is true with many buildings as old as ours, it is not very friendly to those who cannot do steps easily. Our goal is to change that, and change it soon. The team is already meeting with an architectural engineer to determine what options we have, what those options will cost, which options are best, etc. It is a huge undertaking, but they have jumped into it with energy and enthusiasm. They are due to make their initial report to the church by Valentine’s Day, so stay tuned—things are about to get very interesting.

Out of all of the things on our plate, I think that perhaps this accessibility project has the greatest potential to bless us as a congregation. Not only will it become possible for folks who cannot currently attend services here to attend once again, but it opens up our building to the surrounding community. What a statement we will make to Enfield about the welcome we extend in Jesus’ name. This project will declare to everyone that no one is excluded at Hazardville; all are welcome, and we are serious. That kind of welcome has amazing and far reaching benefits and can take us places we can’t even dream of going. Talk about a blessing waiting to be discovered!

Another blessing on the horizon that I believe will impact our church concerns the Imagine No Malaria campaign. As many of you know, our bishop, Bishop Devadhar, has challenged each church in our conference to become involved in this incredible mission. Starting out as Nothing But Nets, several years ago, The United Methodist Church has helped raise enough money to cut the death rate caused by malaria in half. When Nothing But Nets began, a child died every thirty seconds from malaria. Today that death rate is one every sixty seconds. Imagine No Malaria picks up the pace and dares to dream of the day, in the not too distant future, when no child dies from this terrible disease. Remarkable? Yes. Crazy? No. This is one goal that we can actually reach as a human race, and we are going to do our part.

As part of our effort to eradicate malaria, (and because both pastors are running enthusiasts) HUMC is teaming up with the United Methodist Church of Enfield to host a 5K road race in mid-May. All of the proceeds from the race will go toward the Imagine No Malaria campaign. It is an exciting venture, because it is something that everyone can be involved in. We will need people to pray daily for the success of this race (which you can start doing today if you wish), we will need people to help with registration the day of the race, Continued on page 3.
to help at water stops along the race course, to help at the finish line, to get the word out, to hand out T-shirts, and to do a multitude of necessary but not too difficult tasks. To get things moving in high gear, there is going to be an organizational meeting on January 28, at 7 PM, at the church over on Brainard Road.

Imagine a world where malaria no longer claims the lives of innocent children. Imagine a world where this terrible disease no longer exists. Imagine being able to tell your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc., that you helped eradicate it. Imagine the blessings that kind of effort will bring about in the life of this church. Truly, it staggers the imagination.

There are other blessings out there waiting for us; our children see to that. Sunday School, VBS, Kids-4-Mission, the new Youth Group, all bring about blessings. Our choir, our Here Wee Grow! preschool, our Boy Scout Troop, and countless other outreach endeavors all bring about blessings. And speaking of outreach, let’s not forget the blessings that roll down to us each year from the Salem Economic Ministry and the Christmas Angel Tree program. And I don’t have enough time or space to talk about Fall Fair/Book Sales, Christmas Teas, Cookie Walks, and more.

Wow! What a list. What a blessing. Truly 2014 has some amazing things in store for us. As for me—after looking over that list—I think I am going to start off the new year with a nap. Being this blessed sure takes a lot of energy.

God bless,

Dave

Job Bible Study

There was never a time when the book of Job was not relevant, but it is especially so today. This is not because the book of Job has changed, but because we have. We may be more ready to listen now . . . less certain of our own answers. So, when Job asks "why," we, too, strain to hear the answers. And if answers are not forthcoming, then we, like Job, will need to learn how to live without them.

The book of Job cuts straight to the heart of what it means to be human. It is the most profound exploration of the life of faith ever written, and wrestles with some of life's most perplexing questions. Why do bad things happen to good people? Is there a correspondence between sin and suffering, obedience and blessing? Why should we serve God if there are no guarantees of blessings and freedom from loss and harm?

Join Rev. Dave for this journey into the world of Job; a world that explores faith as an exercise in radical trust. The 7 week study will be offered on Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons beginning January 15 at 7 PM and January 16 at 2 PM.

Cost is $18 to cover the cost of materials, although scholarship assistance is available. Workbooks can be picked up in Fellowship Hall beginning sometime in mid-December.
11th Annual Cookie Walk - 2013

The HUMC Christmas Miracle happened again folks! I finally wrote down the names of the cookies in the 2012 Cookie Walk and discovered we had counted some of the cookies twice. Therefore, we had 71 varieties of cookies, plus 6 varieties of gluten free cookies in 2012.

On Saturday, December 14, we had 77 varieties of cookies, plus 3 varieties of gluten free cookies. Amazing! You folks continue to astound me and the community with great, flavorful, beautiful, delicious cookies.

The weather wasn’t particularly helpful this year, yet we were able to deposit over $2,100.00 into the HUMC checking account for the Cookie Walk, Christmas Tea and Christmas Shoppe.

Many thanks to Joe Braun and Jack Duga for coming in on Saturday ready to sweep the snow off the walks and help those who needed an arm into the church. Also a big thank you to Rich Prior for his beautiful music during the Christmas Tea and Cookie Walk.

Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much.” On December 14, we did “so much”! Thanks to everyone who baked, labeled the cards, worked as cashier, displayed the cookies, cleaned up, and made this a most successful Cookie Walk. . .even with the inclement weather. The laughter, fun and fellowship in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall was absolutely inspiring!

Just wait until next year! I’m already looking at mouthwatering cookie recipes to try in 2014 . . .how about you?

Cookie Walk Chairperson,
Linda Borio

NEXT PROGRAM MEETING WILL BE IN FEBRUARY

Happy New Year to all. Enjoy the January weather, and the after Christmas sales, if you so desire. We will be having our final program planning meeting for 2014 on January 6, at 10 AM in the Yates Room. We'll finalize the programs discussed in November, and welcome any other suggestions for this year, or the coming year.

Our next program will be held on February 11, 11 AM. This is our annual Valentine Care Package meeting where we put together care packages for HUMC college students and HUMC military personnel. We will be collecting snacks, gun, etc., for the packages, as well as donations towards the cost of postage. Look for the collection box in the library.

Again, enjoy January. Keep warm. We’ll see you all at the February meeting.

Blessings,
Linda Borio
We welcomed back our students and added a couple of new ones. Ava, Ann and Angelina have joined Here Wee Grow! Children were happy to be back in school and had much to share about the holidays. Parents also seemed happy to have the children back in school!

Before Christmas HWG received some monetary donations from our ‘angels’. These funds will help our scholarship fund, as well as provide some new materials for our children. One child offered the reason for new toys in the classrooms was because “Santa likes Here Wee Grow! too”. We appreciate our donors who are indeed ‘angels’ for helping the children who attend our school. Their kindnesses are greatly appreciated.

This month we begin a new year and our theme for January will be all about prehistoric creatures. Games for math and science will evolve around this theme. We have books to share with pictures of these fascinating creatures. It is amazing how many of our students can give you the names of dinosaurs such as, velocirapter and dilophosaurus, not to mention our favorite ones, such as tyrannosaurus rex, stegosaurus and triceratops. It will be an action packed month for sure!

January will be a busy month for parents as the Enfield Early Childhood Collaborative (better known as KITE) invites Enfield parents and preschool educators of incoming kindergarteners to attend “Preparing for the Kindergarten Transition”. As a member of KITE and as a member of the Kindergarten readiness committee I encourage parents to attend this session on January 15th at 6:30 p.m. JFK Auditorium. This will be a time for parents to receive information about beginning school and learn some of the expectations of a child entering kindergarten. There will also be a time for questions.

January will also bring a special workshop for teachers and other educational professionals in the area as HWG sponsors a workshop on “Creating a Classroom Environment Where Every Student Thrives”. This workshop will be held on January 22nd at 6:30 at HUMC. Our guest speaker will be Peggy Hoime. There is a $5.00 charge per person.

As the New Year begins
we wish each of you a very happy and healthy 2014!

Until next time......
Communion Offering — Holly Fisher

The January communion offering will be used to help the Palmera United Methodist Church in the Philippines. The 120 members of this church actively support their community with a Medical Mission Program that includes Bible Study sessions. The church also sponsors a Feeding Program where free food is provided to children who come to church and attend Sunday school. Since most of these children live quite a distance from the church and have to find their own way, many by foot, this program is viewed an incentive and reward for their effort. The Palmera congregation is also sponsoring a newly-formed church in the area, a “sister” church of the same faith. Don and Lety Sim have family connections to the Philippines and this church.

Let’s Celebrate
It may be cold and snowy outside, but it is warm and fun inside and we plan to celebrate. As we do every month, we will gather on Wednesday, January 8, 2 PM, at Friendly’s to celebrate all of that month’s birthdays. Join us as we indulge in some “cool” celebration. It doesn’t have to be your birthday month to enjoy the fellowship and the delicious dairy delights. So come, join the party. The more the merrier.

For more information, see Doris Mack.

We would like to thank everyone for their cards and kind words of condolence expressed over the deaths of our sister and brother-in-law. Their deaths were very sudden and devastating, however your thoughtfulness helped to ease our pain. Knowing we were in the thoughts and prayers of friends helped sustain us during a most difficult time.

In Christian Love,
John and Vernell Sandford

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY
February 2, 2014

The Sunday Kids 4 Mission will be organizing a luncheon at church to collect food and raise money for the Enfield Food Shelf and Loaves & Fishes.
Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a difference in the world as they collect food and raise money to help the hungry. Be part of this nationwide movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Attend the luncheon to experience a sense of community and give generously. (Also, the food is always great!)

See you all on Sunday, February 2. Bring a can of soup and a healthy appetite.
Youth Group
Did you know that we have a Youth Group? Well, we do, and we meet on Thursday nights from 7-8 in the Youth Room (downstairs, next to the choir room). We gather for some sharing, some Bible Study, and some fun (and of course, goodies as well). Every so often we even go out for a night of fun (last time we went bowling). The group is open to kids from 7-12 grade, and we love when you bring a friend. So come check us out. Our next meeting will be January 16. Hope to see you there.

Offering Envelopes
The offerings we make to Hazardville United Methodist Church are an essential part of the church ministry. These monies are processed and deposited by a team of counters after church each Sunday. It is a task that requires a lot of care and attention to details. Good recordkeeping is essential. Here are a few things you can do to make the process more efficient.

- Put your envelope number on your check
- Put your name on the envelope
- If you include cash, write CASH on the envelope
- Do not seal the envelope
- If you are paying for multiple weeks, use only one check and one envelope

The information you give allows the counters to more easily give credit to each of you for your contributions. It is also required by the auditors. Please help.

Many thanks to Linda Borio for her years of service as the Coordinator of the counting teams. She is stepping down as of January 1. Her scheduling prowess and her willingness to step in to help, as well as her ability to answer all questions, is greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed. I will be assuming this responsibility. Linda did the schedule for Jan – Jun 2014. If you are interested in becoming a counter, please let me know.

Holly Fisher

Nursing Home Outreach Opportunities
Our next opportunity to be in mission to local Nursing Homes takes place on Tuesday, January 28, at 11 AM, at Evergreen Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility. The worship service will last approximately one half hour and includes old favorite hymns, prayers, scripture, a very brief message, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. We are always in need of folks to assist in the singing and to just generally greet the residents who come to the service.

It’s fun. It’s easy. And it really does make a difference. Hope to see you there.
Happy New Year to the families of HUMC from Troop 108!

Troop 108 extends our best wishes for a safe, happy and prosperous New Year to the families of HUMC! We continue to appreciate the many blessings bestowed on us with all that you do to support our troop!

December was another busy month for the troop. The scouts completed the Game Design Merit Badge on our campout. The troop also actively participated in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Saturday. Our annual Christmas Holiday Party was another huge hit as scouts and families participated in a pizza dinner, the “Lefty & Righty” gift exchange, remembered our Men & Women serving our country in the Armed Forces by sending them holiday cards, and shared in the fellowship and spirit of the holiday season.

The New Year also is an opportunity for any young man who is at least 11 years old or in the 5th grade to join Boy Scouts. If you know of a potential scout that would like to come and visit our troop on Wednesday evenings, please have them contact Larry Juhasz, Scoutmaster, at ctroop108scoutmaster@gmail.com for more information.

January’s campout will feature the theme of “Scouting Heritage” and outdoor scout skills as we will camp at Scout Hall in East Windsor, CT. The scouts will have the opportunity to learn more about the begins of the Scouting movement in the USA from 1910 to present as well as learn more about the beginnings of Troop 108 in 1938. They will also work and complete outdoor skills necessary for rank advancement.

Some of the upcoming events for January and February include attending church on Scout Sunday (January 26th), Klondike Derby (February Campout), Scrapbooking fundraiser (February 1st) and our annual Pasta Dinner fundraiser (March 1st). For more information about these events please contact Rich Stroiney at ctroop108chairman@gmail.com.

The scouts have also been busy with rank advancements. The troop currently has 3 scouts that are pending their “Boards of Review” for their Eagle Ranks – the highest rank a scout can earn. Hopefully I will have good news next month and let you know that all three scouts passed their reviews.

Until next month Troop 108 is signaling all clear and is signing off.

Troop 108 thanks the HUMC for its continued support of our troop!

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January Birthdays

We would be happy to include your name on our birthday list. Simply call the church office at 860-749-7098 to be included.

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Please keep the following in your prayers
Ernie Avery, Claire Avery, James Burkhardt, Jacob Carlander,
Mark Chevalier, Jane Clark, Berta Clawson, Mary Jane Dyer,
Alex Fisher, Raymond Grandon, Janice Holmes,
Carrie Ingalls, Molly Johnson, Susan Klecha, Roland Murray,
Dot Prest, Ken Owens, Dave Steele,
Ron Uricchio, Millie Witkowski, Betty Williams

Pray also for these Members
Babs Baker, Redstone Rehab Facility,
135 Benton Dr, E.Longmeadow, MA

In Christian sympathy
To Evelyn Thompson and family on the passing of her father,
Asa Waller, who went home to the Lord and Hildegarde.

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