

STEEPLE TIDINGS

MARCH 2011

ISSUE 3-11

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Mission Statement

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

Disciples:

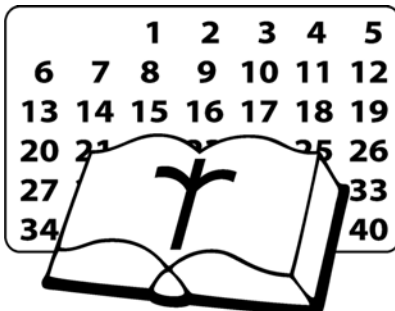
by using our spiritual gifts; by practicing the means of grace; and by living our faith.



NEW HAPPENINGS at HUMC

- March 9** Ash Wednesday Service *(page 3)*
- March 11** Lenten Services *(page 3)*
- March 13** New Sermon Series Begins *(see article below)*
- March 17** New Bible Study *(page 4)*
- March 5** Troop 108 Pasta Supper *(page 5)*

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



New Sermon Series

Sermon Series

As Christians we often pray. We pray the Lord's Prayer, we offer prayers of confession and supplication, we offer prayers of joy and concern.

What happens when we pray?

Does God really hear us?

Can we hear God in our over-connected, Twittering and Tweeting world?

What should we say to God?

And what happens when God says "No?"

Join Rev. Dave as we go *Looking For God on Our Knees*, beginning Sunday, March 13. This thought provoking series will cover all of the Sundays of Lent, and will invite us reconsider the role of prayer in our lives.

Some Thoughts From Me—Rev. Dave



Two things happened to me this week that had a profound effect, and that I'd like to share with you. First I received a letter from Heidi Chamberlain, our District Superintendent. It was not an unexpected letter, but it was an unwelcome one. The letter dealt with our 2010 Mission Shares. Mission Shares are part of our connectional covenant with all of our brother and sister United

Methodist churches throughout New England. Through Mission Shares we support the various camps, programs, agencies, and missions that take place in and throughout the New England Annual Conference. Our Mission Shares also support national and world missions, provide support for retired clergy, and help underwrite training for future church leaders. Obviously, they are very important. Heidi's letter reminded us that we did not meet our covenant responsibility for 2010; we paid only 57.4% of our Shares, which is a decrease from the 61% we paid in 2009.

I know that times have been tough, both for families and for the church. We have been improving each year, and 57% is a great improvement from where we were just a few years ago. Still, I dream of the day when we pay 100%.

The second event, which happened the day after I received Heidi's letter, took place at a meeting of the Conference Visioning Table, of which I am a member. In the course of a small group discussion, we got talking about Mission Shares. My colleague, the Rev. John Mueller, who is the senior pastor of Trinity UMC in Springfield, talked about his church's Mission Shares. He said, "You know, Trinity pays the most Mission Shares of any church in New England, and until a few years ago, we weren't able to pay our Mission Shares. That meant that lots of small churches were picking up our slack. That hurts. Now we can pay our Mission Shares, and we do. So we're helping to pick up the slack for other churches that aren't able to pay."

That's the way the system works. In each church's assessed

Mission Shares there is a factor for underpaying churches. That is to say, since we know that not every church is going to pay 100% we build in a factor to all of the churches to make up the difference.

Now, I have to be honest, my first thought as I listened to John was that it only seemed right that big churches helped carry small churches. But as I listened to him I realized that we are exactly where Trinity was a few years ago. It is not just the big churches like Trinity picking up our slack; it is small churches as well. There are numerous churches, less than 1/3 the size of Hazardville who are helping to make up the deficit we are unable to pay. As that thought took hold, I really heard the pain in John's voice, and I felt it in my own soul. And I came away convinced—we can do better.

I don't know about you, but I don't like the thought of little churches carrying us. I want to do the carrying. And I think we can! This year our Mission Share total is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$24,000. Our approved budget was more than \$10,000 in the red. That means we are on target to pay less than 60% of our Mission Shares again. That breaks my heart. As I said, I know we can do better. So I want to challenge us to step up; to help carry the burden for other churches instead of relying on them to carry the burden for us. I leave it to each person to prayerfully consider what God is calling us to do. If you can give more, great. Please mark the extra amount specifically for Mission Shares.

See Thoughts—Page 3.

Thoughts —continued from Page 2.

If you can't give more, that's okay too. There are financial realities that we all must deal with. But regardless of how you feel empowered to respond, please hold the church in your prayers as we seek to live out our connectional covenant more fully. And please say a prayer of thanks for those small churches that are picking up our slack today, because tomorrow we may do the same for them.

God bless,

Dave



Ash Wednesday

Lent begins this year on Wednesday, **March 9**. We will mark the beginning of this very important season of the Christian Church with a traditional service of the **Imposition of the Ashes** at **7 PM** that evening. The service will provide an opportunity for deep, spiritual reflection; the imposition of the ashes, which reminds us of our mortality; and the sacrament of Holy Communion. As is the tradition of the Church, the ashes that we use will be the ashes of last year's Palm Sunday celebration.

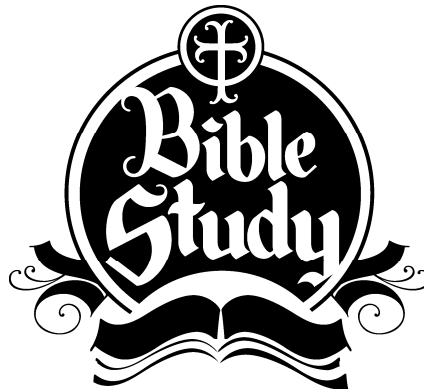
Lenten Services

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.

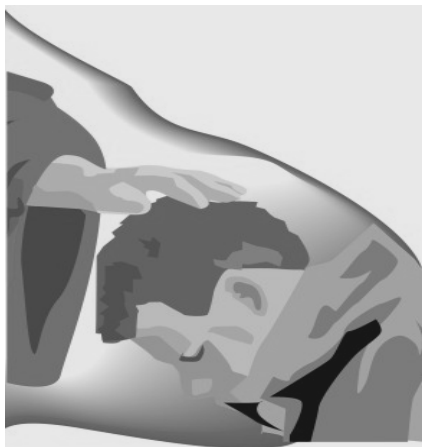
The schedule for these Friday services is:

- March 11 – HUMC**
- March 18 – UMCE**
- March 25 – HUMC**
- April 1 – UMCE**
- April 8 – HUMC**
- April 15 – UMCE**

New Bible Study. They are some of the most beautiful words ever spoken. They capture the essence of Jesus' heart, ministry, and teaching. They are the words of the **Beatitudes**. Join us beginning **Wednesday, March 16, at 7 PM**, or **Thursday, March 17, at 2 PM**, as we embark on



a six -week Bible Study entitled "Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and Life." The study guide may be picked up in Fellowship Hall or by calling the office. As usual there is \$10 donation requested to help defray the cost of the material, and there is financial assistance available.



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.

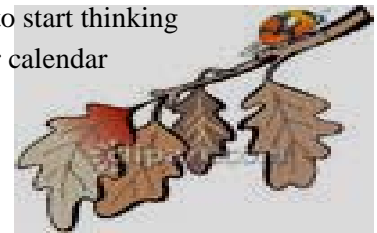
The locations of the various services are:

- March 13** – Wesley UMC
741 State St., Springfield, MA
- March 20** – Christ UMC
275 Rocky Hill Rd, Easthampton, MA
- March 27** - Manchester South UMC
1226 Main St, Manchester, CT
- 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.)

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.



Harvest Fair. Even though we are still shoveling snow it's not too early to start thinking about the Harvest Fair, which will be held October 21 and 22. Please mark your calendar with these dates and start thinking about how you can support the Fair. The Wednesday Morning Crafters are already hard at work preparing items for our upcoming Fair and welcome all who are interested in indulging in a few hours of creative fun and fellowship.



Questions: contact Colleen Williams 860-749-9595

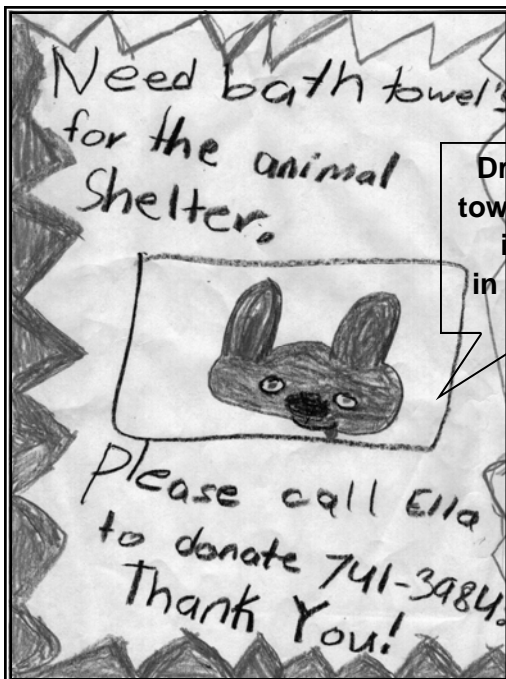


Community Stewardship

Resource Center. The church Resource Center is really taking off, thanks to your great donations. The goal of our Resource Center is to help people to 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 that you may have on hand that you don't need but are too good to throw away. We are looking for items such as any kind of beads, ribbon, scrap-booking items, unused greeting cards, front panels of used greeting cards (Christmas and any occasion cards), pens, pencils and markers. We are also still in need of more shoeboxes. Please put your donations in the box located in the church library.

We pray that you will choose to partner with us in this stewardship effort.

Colleen Williams, Resource Steward, 860-749-9595



Drop off your towel donations in the box in the library!!

Boy Scout Troop 108 Pasta Supper Saturday, March 5, 5-7 PM Fellowship Hall

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 11 and under, and are available after church or from any member of Troop 108. All proceeds will go towards supporting troop events.



United Methodist Women — Linda Borio



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 8
9:30 AM**

MEET at the HUMC Parking Lot

**PROGRAM: “A Tour of Trinity United Methodist Church
in Springfield, MA”**

Join us for a tour of Trinity Church’s sanctuary and its beautiful stained glass windows, led by Cathy McGovern of Trinity. If you have never been to Trinity Church, you will be amazed at its beauty.

We will meet in the parking lot of HUMC at 9:30 AM to car pool. After about an hour of touring the church, we will adjourn to the Friendly’s Restaurant just down the street for “dutch treat” refreshments. If you are willing to drive, please contact Janette Young at 860-749-7842.

Chair: Janette Young

*Our February meeting was almost snowed out . . . just like last year. However, four of us were at the church by 10:30, and we had enough goodies to fill all the packages. We mailed 11 packages to college students, 4 to military personnel, and sent out 40 Valentines to those unable to get to church during these winter months. Many thanks to all who provided snacks for the packages as well as financial donations that applied to the postage. Without all of your help we would not be able to continue this wonderful outreach to our college kids and military. **God Bless, Linda Borio***

Harvest Fair. The following items are needed for projects for the Harvest Fair. There is a drop-off box in the church library for donated items.

Autumn-colored fabrics

Country fabrics

Old blue jeans

New bars of soap

Scrapbook paper

Fabric ribbons—all sizes

Louvered wooden doors and shutters.



HUMC Participates in Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 6, the HUMC committee gathered together with church communities across the country to help fight hunger. Sue Braun and Jessica Duga introduced the event with a skit at the end of the service. The Kids-4-Mission group, dressed in either football jerseys or in aprons, collected soup cans and money as parishioners left the sanctuary. Most people stayed for the “Souper Bowl” lunch, enticed by the delectable aromas that wafted

throughout the church. The event raised \$202. The monies from this, as well as the communion offerings for the month of February, will be divided between the Enfield Food Shelf and Loaves and Fishes. Many thanks to the HUMC community for their contributions of food, funds and time. Special thanks to the chefs who provided a variety of delicious soups.

Here Wee Grow!— Phyllis Phelan



The snow is still hovering in places, but the thoughts of our children and staff turn to warmer climates and outside activities. For the month of March we'll study jungle animals, rainforest adventures, unusual creatures, and why the rainforest is so important?

We'll learn the meaning to such words as "camouflaging", "endangered" and "extinct". We'll create our own terrarium to represent the rainforest environment. We'll take the layers of the rainforest and study each one separately. We'll compare and contrast the layers by what we see, who lives there, and what valuable resources are obtained from this area.

March also brings our annual Pre-School Carnival hosted by our Parent Group. Mrs. Herzig and "friends" have worked hard in putting this together for the children of HWG.



Parents, grandparents, siblings and friends will join us for a night at school. We very much

appreciate the work of our families in helping with this event.

Registration for the fall is ongoing. As of February 15, our Pre-Kindergarten and morning four-year-old classes were filled. The phone continues to ring with perspective families wanting to come in for a visit. We are truly blessed to have the support of new and returning families for our program.

I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to attend technology classes through CT Charts-a-Course. These classes are geared to directors and are presented by New Horizons Computer Learning Centers. I have one more class scheduled for later this month. Even though these classes are technology classes, when directors get together we spend our free time talking about our school, the classes, staff and students. It is wonderful to have time to brainstorm with others who have your job in other places. We learn from these times together, as well as help our peers by offering suggestions with what has worked for us.

As always, we ask for your support and prayers.

Until next time . . .

FRIENDLY'S FUNDRAISER FOR HERE WEE GROW PRESCHOOL Tuesday, March 22, 5-8 PM



Join us at Friendly's, Elm Street, on Tuesday, March 22, between 5 and 8 PM. Friendly's will be donating a percentage of all sales that night to Here Wee Grow! Preschool.

Take your family out for dinner and support our school at the same time.

Tell you friends, too! See you there!

Heritage Notes—A Page from our History — Alice Allen

Note: Portions of Ruth Bridge's history repeat some of the original 100 year history that we have already read but in the interest of truth and accuracy, her entire history is herewith reported.

137 year Heritage 1835 – 1972

By Ruth Bridge

Hazardville United Methodist Church

Enfield, Connecticut

Over the years the history of the Hazardville Methodist Church has been written several times. A detailed account of the first fifty years - - 1835 to 1885 - - was written by the Reverend Charles W. Gallagher who was Pastor from 1884 to 1886. Doctor John L. Bridge, who, as a boy, attended services in the Old Church has left a number of thumbnail sketches of early ministers. Two later accounts were written by Mr. Fred E. Root and Mr. Herbert W. Allen. All these have been used in putting together the following account.

As early as 1789, Methodism was introduced into New England by Jesse Lee, a native of Virginia, who is called the Apostle of Methodism. He preached from Connecticut to Maine and the next year the Hartford Circuit was formed, of which Enfield became a member. By 1792 a prosperous society existed in Enfield and two years later Bishop Asbury preached here during his travels around the region. The building used for these early Methodist meetings was located on Enfield Street at the north corner of what is now Oliver Road. It belonged to a group who had seceded from the Congregational Church and were called Separatists. It disappeared long ago.

The interest and enthusiasm of those early years apparently died out and when, in 1829 a camp meeting was held on Job's Hill (in Somers) there was no Methodist organization in Enfield, though there may have been individuals who retained an interest in the movement. As a result of this camp meeting, classes were formed in Thompsonville, Scitico, and Jabbok, and later on in Wallop. There was preaching every two weeks at a schoolhouse which stood approximately on the east corner of the present Holiday Lane and Hazard Avenue. In time this schoolhouse became too small for the congregation and the problem of building a church arose.

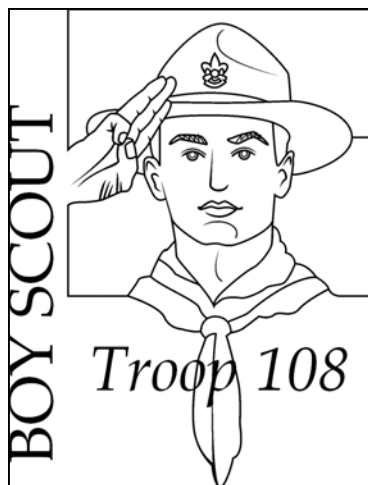
In those days when roads were poor and travel was by horses, oxen, or walking, it was a matter of some importance that the church be conveniently located for all sections where its members lived. For this reason, a wooded mount on the straggling care path that went from Enfield Street east to Scitico and Somers was chosen as the site for the new church. It's only near neighbor was the cemetery across the road which must have been in use for a number of years judging from the dates on some of the gravestones. There were only three houses within half a mile. Two of them must have been the house on the east corner of Cooper Street and Hazard Avenue built in 1820, and the large which house farther east, about opposite the Telephone Building, built in 1800. No such place as Hazardville existed,--largely pine woods and swamp land where Hazardville is now. Even some years after the church was built a traveler going east told a man he met in Scitico that he had found a Methodist Meetinghouse back in the woods, and if he knew of anyone who had lost one he could find it there.

To be continued next month.

Submitted by Alice Godard Allen
Church Historian



Troop 108 — *Bill Munsell*



Scouting, Snow and Cancellations. During January and February several meetings were called off because of snow conditions. Usually wind, rain or snow are taken in stride, and the programs continue. This year, as we all have come to realize, Mother Nature has put us to the test. This has made it very difficult for the Merit Badge councilors and the scouts accomplish what's needed, but as we New Englanders say, "*we will prevail*" and the M.B. programs will be accomplished. This is too important to let fall by the wayside.

To go back to the January campout, winter survival skills were the topic of concern and building a fire by friction was a challenge. For fun they built snow shelters since Mother Nature had provided a new cover of 26 inches of snow. This also provided the learning

experience of hiking for food, identifying and collecting edible plants that were used to make witch hazel and pine needle tea. Some brave soul did the sampling which is not my kind taste for sure. I would say at 12 degree temperature the scouts had a grand time and were awarded an ice cream treat. . . a big hit to be sure.

Scout Sunday was a great success as usual. I guess 33 scouts, leaders and families attended the Worship service with Rev. Dave Williams which was assisted by Scout Andrew Cain giving the Invocation and Brian Sackett doing the readings. The Banquet and Court of Honor followed in Fellowship Hall with a large attendance. Some thirty merit badge certificates were presented to the scouts. Zachary Vujs has completed 40 merit badges. (No doubt he will soon be an Eagle). Many other awards were also presented. The banquet, consisting of chicken cordon blue, shells, salad, soda, water, tea and coffee, was prepared by the troop culinary parents, Mike and Marci Murray, Jeff Golovich, Dan Lavoie, Stan and Beth Suleski. A super meal and great time was had by all..

Again this year the Troop attended the Four Chaplains Mass at St Adalbert's Church on Sunday February 5 to remember the four chaplains of all denominations who gave up their life vests and seat in life boat so that others might be saved when the USS Dorchester sank.

We have booked a pasta supper fundraiser on March 5, 2011, in the Fellowship Hall, from 5 to 7 PM. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 11 and younger.

Also please keep in mind our Mother's Day plant sale in May. More information will be forth coming.



Congratulations to HUMC parishioners. During 2010 you contributed 895 pounds of food to help the Enfield Food Shelf continue to fight against hunger in Enfield. ***Hats off to for your generosity!!***

~On the Personal Side~

To My Church Family

I want to say thank you for all the cards, telephone calls and especially the prayers during my recent illness. The prayer shawl I received has been put to good use during these cold winter days helping to keep me cozy and warm

Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.

Don

To Everyone at HUMC -

Thank you all for your heartwarming calls, visits, cards and prayers wishing me well. Your prayers and kindness meant more than you'll ever guess.

Peace to all,

Elsie

To All of you at HUMC,

First I want to thank everyone for the interest you took in me, when you found out about my five level heart bypass. I thought they were doing four levels, but found out after surgery they did five. After the first day everything went smoothly. I'm feeling great and can't wait to see you all.

Love,

Len



MARCH

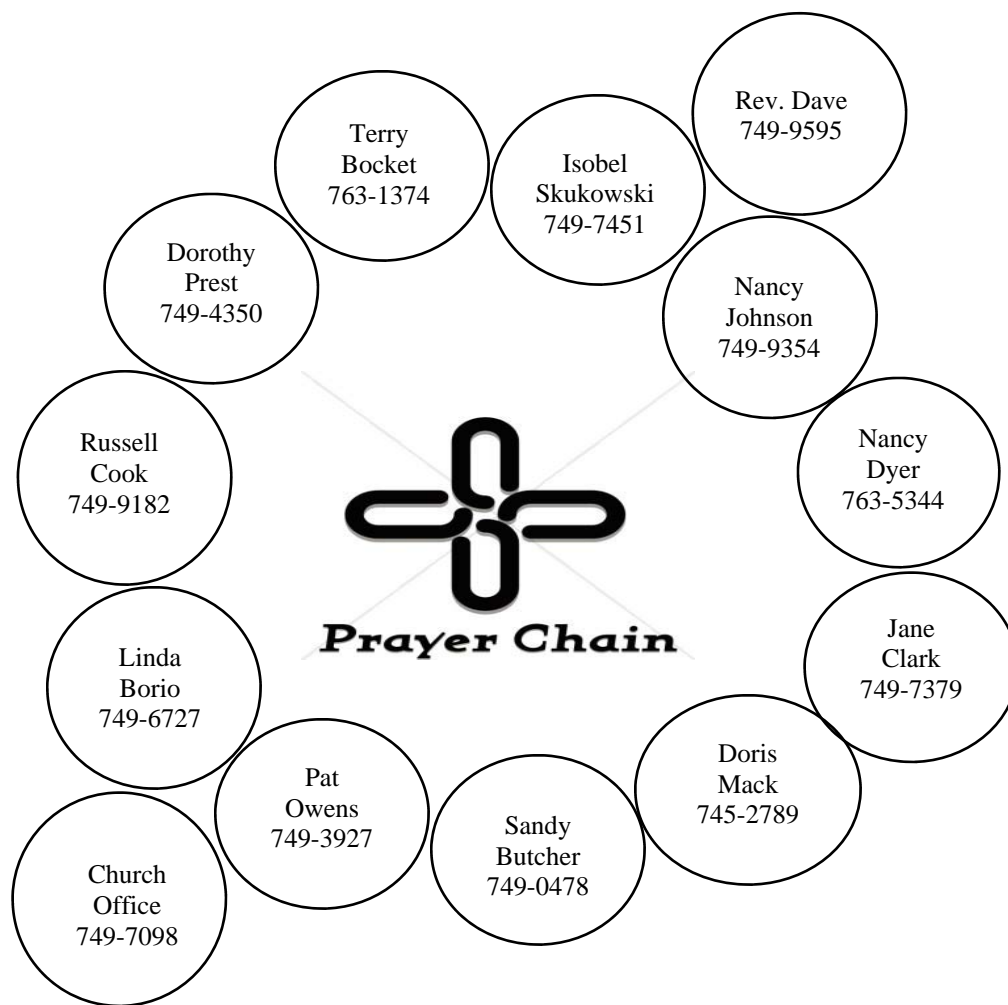
- 3 Cathy DiSalvo
Sue Comparetto
- 5 Dennis Babcock
- 11 Lenny Chevalier
- 20 Linda Chevalier
Ann Stanzione
- 24 Tom Phelan
- 26 Viola Landry
- 30 Judy Locke

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 February issue of Steeple Tidings . . . **Pat Owens, Nancy Dyer.** . .

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



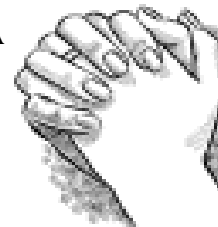
Please keep the following in your prayers:

Noelle (Williams) Adams, John and Marilyn Allen, Louise Barnes
Lenney Chevalier, Esta Clarke, Berta Clawson, Joan Hammond,
Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Leroy Miller,
Mary Nickerson, Barry Sackett, Bertha Somero, Peg Smith,
Florence Stimpson, Ron Uricchio, Gloria Wages, 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.*





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ENFIELD, CT 06082

The United Methodist Women are holding a spring fundraiser:

*Now here is what we are going to do,
and we hope you are in the mood.*

*We are going to have a Food Sale,
but we don't want any Food.*

*No bread or buns, or luscious pies,
no cookies or fancy cakes.*

*The food we want from you is the dough;
the dough that you cannot bake.*

*The price you think your food would bring,
if you were asked to bake;*

*You would place inside an envelope,
and that is what we take.*

Your participation in this project will
be greatly appreciated.

Please bring your "dough"
to the next meeting or mail it to
Janette Burkhardt, 9 Boyle Drive, Enfield, CT 06082.



Bakeless
Bake Sale