

STEEPLE TIDINGS

MARCH 2010

ISSUE 3-10

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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.



MARCH HAPPENINGS

at
HUMC

Used Book Sale
March 12 and 13
9 AM—3 PM

See page 5 for more information.

Worship at HUMC

Sundays at 10 AM

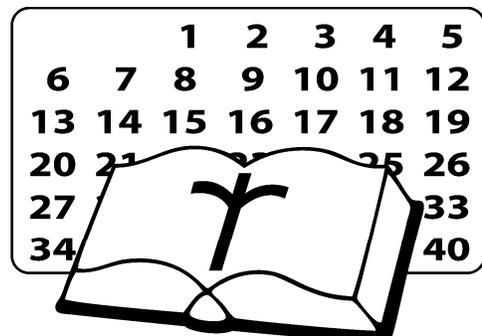


Lenten Sermon Series

Join Rev. Dave every Sunday during Lent for his sermon series **"We Are The Church."**
(Three Sessions left.)

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| March 7 | You Just Gotta Be There |
| March 14 | The Joy of Giving |
| March 21 | The Blessing of Service |

See Page 4 for more Lenten information.



Pastor's Message
for **Lent**

Some Thoughts From Me—Rev. Dave



Over the past few weeks I have had conversations with several people asking me about the stoles I wear on Sunday mornings, and why the paraments—the cloths that are draped on

the altar and pulpit—seem to change color periodically. Those are really good questions, so I thought I would take some time this month to try and answer them.

The United Methodist Book of Worship states that the Christian year is made up of two major cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent–Christmas–Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent–Easter–Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized by the color green. Thus there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year.

Purple is used during both preparatory seasons, because it represents both penitence (the key focus of Lent) and royalty (the key focus of Advent). In some churches or traditions blue is sometimes used instead of purple during Advent, in that it conveys hope.

White and gold are the colors used to celebrate the joy of both Christmas and Easter. They are also used on some other festive Sundays such as Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration, Trinity, All Saints, and Christ the King.

Green is a color of growth and is used in the seasons after the celebration seasons of Christmas and Easter.

Red is a color of fire, symbolizing the Holy Spirit, and is used very sparingly. It is primarily used on the Day of Pentecost and at other times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. Red is also the color of blood—the blood of Christ and the blood of martyrs, and so has recently begun to be used by some churches on Palm/Passion Sunday.

What does all of this have to do with the stoles I wear? It is really very simple. For the most part, the stoles I wear match the colors of the Christian year. During Advent and Lent, I wear a purple stole. During Christmas and Easter, and on various special days, I wear my white stole with the butterflies. During Ordinary time I wear green. Actually, I wear one of a two of green stoles that I have. Each was a gift to me from someone very special, and so I alternate between my two green stoles. On Pentecost, and at very special times, I wear either the red stole that a friend gave me when I graduated from seminary, or the red stole that I received at my ordination. It is hard deciding between the two, because often I only wear red once per year.

Then there are two other stoles I wear for special reasons. One is a communion stole, which I wear most communion Sundays (I don't usually wear it during Advent or Lent). The other is my "Children of the World" stole. This is a stole that Colleen bought me and that I wear either for some special service (such as the recent Scout Sunday) or as part of my Ordinary Time wardrobe.

There is nothing sacred about these color schemes; they are not prescribed in the Bible, and our worship is neither more or less authentic, nor more or less pleasing to God because of them. In the end, what matters most to God is what is in our hearts as we gather, not what color cloth lies upon the altar or is draped across my shoulders.

See Thoughts on Page 3.

Thoughts—*continued from page 2.*

These colors are merely an attempt to provide a visual association with certain key times and events in our Christian journey. Their purpose is to help focus our thoughts on the various aspects of our faith. As such, I think that they are important, and try to maintain their “proper” use even if our focus is elsewhere on a given Sunday. I pray that they serve that purpose well.

Dave

We have received a note of thanks from our District Superintendent, Rev. Heidi Chamberlain, on our Mission Share support. (*See full text of letter, dated February 8, on church bulletin board.*)

“HUMC Mission Shares paid in 2009 were 61.03% vs. 21.27% paid in 2008. Through your faith-filled giving you have helped mission and ministry commitments to be funded, such as supporting 1800 missionaries, help with natural disaster relief (including Haiti), grants, scholarships, development training and honoring our covenants with Nicaragua and West Angola. Thank you for the increased commitment. We are blessed to be a blessing for others.”

John Sandford,
Finance Chairperson.

A Special Anniversary Celebration

April 25, 2010, will be a very special Sunday in this anniversary year. That is the Sunday when we are celebrating the pastors who have guided and loved us over the year. We have invited them back for a very special worship service, which will be followed by a pot-luck luncheon and program. During the program, you will have an opportunity to share some of your memories of Hazardville United Methodist Church and these fine pastors.

We will also be having a **“Photo Contest.”** We are inviting you to bring a picture of yourself as a child into the church office between now and April 16. We will scan it (no harm will come to the picture) and post it with all of the others around Fellowship Hall. If you happen to have an electronic copy of the picture, you can simply e-mail it to the church office. As part of the day’s festivities, people will be invited to guess as many of the identities as possible. The winner will receive a prize, and everyone will receive a good time.



HUMC has something to celebrate!



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

Lent at HUMC—Rev. Dave



Friday Lenten Services

Hazardville United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church of Enfield are joining together for a very special Lenten Worship Series. Each Friday during lent, we will have the opportunity to gather at noon for a short service of prayer, reflection, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. The remaining service will be held as follows:

~~February 19 - UMCE~~

~~February 26 - HUMC~~

March 5 - UMCE

March 12 - HUMC

March 19 - UMCE

March 26 - HUMC

Both Rev. Williams and Rev. Morgans will lead us in our time of worship. All are invited, and we hope you will plan to attend services at both churches.



Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28

Worship at 10 AM

Maundy Thursday

April 1

7 PM Communion

Good Friday

April 2

Ecumenical Good Friday Service

Noon - 3 PM

Presbyterian Church
343 North Maple Street
Enfield, CT

Easter Sunday

April 4

Worship at 10 AM



United Methodist Women—Linda Borio



United Methodist Women

The program, offered by Colleen Williams, will provide you tips and strategies for relating to those who have dementia and also ways that you can positively impact their lives.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2 PM
YATES ROOM - HUMC**

PROGRAM: “Alzheimer’s Activities”

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, upwards of thirty-five million people worldwide currently have Alzheimer’s Disease.

Although there is presently no cure for Alzheimer’s, there are things that we can do to help maintain the quality of life of those who have it.

Chair: Janette Young

Hostesses: Elsie Locke and Betty Steele



USED BOOK SALE

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, and SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010

9AM—3 PM

Hazardville United Methodist Church

330 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT

We are also planning some **SWEETS** for the event.

By popular demand, we will feature another

HOT DOG and CHIP LUNCHEON

during the two-day sale.

Invite your friends to the luncheon.

HUMC has committed a ten percent tith to go to a local community charity designated by HUMC Outreach.

Communion Offering—*Roberta Bragan*



The Communion Offering for March will go to the Nicaragua Covenant. The Mission Statement of the Nicaragua Covenant is: “The Covenant between the New England Conference and Le Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua is to accompany one another in solidarity as a self conscious response to the unjust and inequitable dichotomy between North and South, rich and poor. We do so for the sake of reclaiming human dignity and human rights – education, health care a decent place to live, potable water, a caring community for all persons.” This partnership is entering its 24th year.

Nicaraguan Statistics:

- 4 million Nicaraguans earn less than \$2.00 per day.
- 1 out of 22 Nicaraguan children die before the age of 5.
- 3 of 4 Nicaraguan children suffer from malnutrition.
- 1 of 2 Nicaraguans do not have access to health care.
- 1.1 million Nicaraguans do not have a home.

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere.

The Nicaragua Covenant provides funds support programs for children and adults such as the Mobile Health program and supports three feeding sites where children may receive two nutritious meals each week along with many other programs. The Nicaragua Covenant is solely fund through extra mile giving. None of the budget comes from the Mission Share budget.

Help Wanted for Book Sale!! Many positions available . . . No pay, but great camaraderie!!

Help us categorize and set up our Book Sale. Set up days are Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 PM—4 PM. Be a cashier . . . Help us collect money on Friday and Saturday (March 12-13) during the sale. Sign up in Fellowship Hall!!

HUMC'S CHILI COOK-OFF/SUPPER BIG SUCCESS

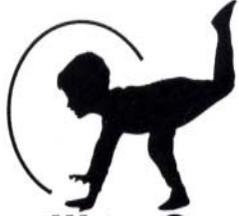


Over 68 people came to taste, feast and enjoy HUMC's first Chili Cook-off. Seventeen pots of chili were tasted and the winner of a crock-pot was Patrice Carson for her delicious, spicy chili.

Diners supped on their choice of chili while Mexican music helped the festivities. Everyone had a great time and almost \$500 went to our current expense budget after expenses.

Sombrero's off to everyone who cooked, attended and helped make this a success, with special thanks to Nancy Dyer, Pat Owens, Marie Prior, Lenny Chevalier and John Sandford. Thanks also to our Tasting Judges - Sue Fracasso, Kathie Kelley and Ed Dyer. **Ole!!**

Here Wee Grow! — Phyllis Phelan



Here Wee Grow!

**HWG
works on
Accreditation**

The candidacy papers are in and I have received notification that they were received and we should hear shortly from the academy. The next letter will be that they have accepted us as a candidate for re-accreditation. If accepted (and we have no reason that we will not be accepted) our site visit will occur by the end of the school year. As I have stated before, we will receive a two week window as to when the assessor might come to visit and then the night before they plan to arrive, we'll get a phone call that he/she will arrive bright and early the next day.

We now are anxiously trying to complete class and program portfolios. Once these are completed and we have had our visit from NAEYC, we'll share them with our **HWG** families and the congregation of HUMC. Hours and hours of preparation have gone into these books. The **HWG** staff has worked so very hard trying to present the best picture of our school. My main focus at this time is to write policies and procedures that are now being required by NAEYC. I do believe we will have a policy for just about anything and everything you could possible think of needing in policy form!

Our enrollment is at eighty-eight. The largest enrollment we have ever had! There are several reasons, I think, why this is happening. The office had someone who answered the phone every day during the summer....the personal touch is always the best marketing tool; we are sponsored by a church.....safe place, nurturing place; we have a Board of Directors who is stepping outside the box, making long-range plans that would benefit the school and the church; we do not have the staff turn-over that many places have.....staff is dedicated to working with young children and their families, offering the best possible education; AND we have maintained our National Accreditation which says that we are in this business for the long haul, we are committed to our profession, and we will work diligently to maintain this accreditation. All of these things and I'm sure a few more that I haven't mentioned could be included as to why **Here Wee Grow!** is doing so well. All of HUMC should take pride in the work we are doing as we minister to our community.

Please continue with your support and of most importance are your prayers for the school, its students and families we serve, the **HWG** Board and for the **Here Wee Grow!** staff.

Until next time. . .

BISHOP'S DAY on CT/WMA District - Saturday, March 6th

Manchester South UMC , 1226 Main Street , Manchester , CT 06040

AM CLERGY SESSION WITH BISHOP WEAVER

9:30 AM Gathering/ Fellowship for clergy
10:00-12:15PM Clergy Session with Bishop Weaver

LUNCH – Lay and Clergy

12:15-1PM Lunch provided for anyone who would like to share a meal. Please call to register : 860-871-7149 or cwmumc@neumc.org. The suggestion donation for lunch (to be collected at the door) is \$6.

AFTERNOON SESSION FOR LAITY AND CLERGY

1:00-3:30PM Laity and Clergy Session focusing on the theme: “*Mission Leap Year*”

Heritage Notes—A Page from our History — Alice Allen

**History of the Methodist Episcopal Church of
Hazardville, Connecticut, written for the
One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of
the Church
by Dr. John L. Bridge**

(Continued from last month.)

During the first thirteen years of our church's history the salary of the pastor was \$300.00 per annum. Most of the members at this time were farmers and among them cash was scarce. Doubtless a good part of the minister's salary was paid in provisions, cloth and wood. Living was very simple and wants few. It was not hard to keep up with your neighbors. However, as soon as money became more plentiful and a larger number received regular pay from the powder company, the pastor's salary was raised. In 1851 it was \$400.00. In 1859, \$500.00; in 1863, \$600.00; and in 1867, \$1000.00. This was soon after the close of the Civil War, - prices and wages had risen rapidly. The congregation showed a "share your wealth" spirit as it usually has done.

In the records of 1869 the first mention is made of a donation in connection with the pastor's salary. I know, however, that donations were customary before this. In 1869 the pastor's salary was \$900.00 and a donation of \$117.00. In 1870 the pastor was voted a salary of \$1000.00 and a good donation. The last mention of a donation was made in 1873 when the salary was stated as \$1200.00 and donation. In 1879 the pastor's salary was \$1200.00 and house rent. It was about this same sum until 1917 when Rev. Thomas Tyrie's salary was raised to \$1400.00 and house rent. In 1923 the salary was raised to \$2000.00 and house rent and has not been below this since that time. This has been done in spite of the fact that the incomes of the congregation have been very much reduced.

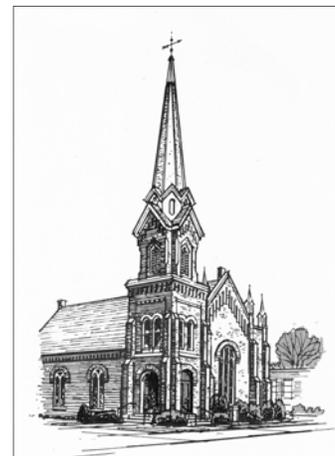
A brief description of some of our former pastors will not be out of place in our records. These men were not better than others who went before or came after them but are types of men who preached and practiced among us.

Rev. Edward H. Hatfield was the first pastor to preach in the new church. He was a spare man with light colored thin hair and side whiskers of the same nature. He was an excellent preacher. His chief recreation was driving a good horse, which he thought was fast, in a sort of a four-wheeled gig. He wore a cap when driving, and was quite a figure when passing through our streets. He greatly enjoyed this sport. I never knew of his racing or driving fast, but this amusement was severely criticized by some members of our church, as was his habit of playing on the violin. Most of our ministers did not drive a horse because they did not have money enough to buy one and we are thankful they didn't try to play on violins.

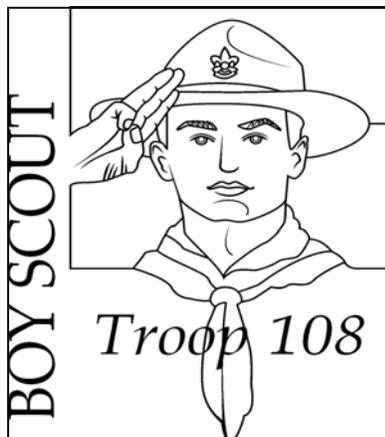
Rev. N. G. Axtell was a military man, having served as an officer in the Union Army throughout the Civil War. He had 1000 men under him during part of this service. He was a very able man and a good preacher, but frequently forgot that he was not commanding a regiment. However, he was a man of deep religious feeling and during his pastorate on of our most marked revivals took place.

(To be continued next month.)

Submitted by Alice Godard Allen
Church Historian



Troop 108— *Bill Munsell*



Boy Scouts of America's 100 Anniversary is here ... so lets see where it leads us.

Scout Sunday Service was well attended by 41 members of Troop 108 (all Scouts and Leaders in complete uniform). Pastor Dave Williams, sermon was very inspiring to both our scouts and adults alike. Many of the members did not know Dave was an Eagle Scout. Many scout parents attended and were inspired with the presentation of Scouting and its association with God.

Our banquet was well attended by nearly all of the troop scouts and many parents, grand parents, siblings and friends. The fried chicken dinner, with white rice, vegetables, cake, coke, tea/coffee, and many bottles of soda were on the tables prepared by Mike Murray and his able assistants. They did a super job of cooking and serving a great meal. Young men eat hearty and there was plenty for everyone. Kathy Tracy, advancement chairperson, does a super job of providing Scout Master Peter Uricchio with the printed information, Merit Badge cards, rank advancements, special activities patches and plaques as needed and the official documents that the scouts look forward to receiving. Scout master Peter Uricchio can be so proud of the scouts for their enthusiasm, the assistant scoutmasters, councilors and members of the boards of review, Mary Ellyn Uricchio, Mary Volodzko and Kathy Tracy for all the paperwork, record keeping and getting recorded at Council Office in Hartford and all the other chores that keep Troop 108 in motion.

The leadership profile this month is on Assistant Scoutmaster Scott Vujs (pronounced Voice). Scott started his scouting experience as a Cub Scout in Pack 108, sponsored by the Nathan Hale School in 1971, advancing to Bob Cat and the Arrow of Light rank in 1974. Upon graduation he entered Boy Scout Troop 93 sponsored by the Hazardville Fire Department and later entered Troop 189 where he earned the Rank of Eagle Scout. He attended Scout Summer Camp at Lake of Isles as Councilor of Camp Pequot as the Senior Patrol Leader, In 1980 as Provisional Assistant Scoutmaster. Scott was very active in Highland District of Long Rivers Council in 1981 Post #1 working practically in the District Camporee Planning and Logistics area ... something very interesting, I'm sure. After a short break in scouting Scott became active in Pack 108 at the Nathan Hale School as advancement chairman and Cub Master 1999 to 2005. In 2003 to 2005 he held dual membership in Highland District Activities Committee for Cub Scouts. When his son Zachary earned the Arrow of Light Rank in 2005 and came to Troop 108, Scott signed on as Assistant Scoutmaster and continues to have a very important role as coordinator of scout reviews that requires a scout to be in complete uniform with all badges, patches and rank in place, also 3 or more adults (leaders and/or interested adults) so that all reviews are operated under the same procedures. Scott also serves as the Troop's cook and oversees messing arrangements in the field on campouts with the patrols to insure members are well fed.

The Enfield main Library has set aside an area where the names of all Enfield Eagles from all troops over the years are listed as a permanent honor and record for the Town of Enfield. Scott continues to serve on the Enfield Eagle Scout Committee as Co-Treasurer and maintains the plaques and adding of the names of new Eagle Scouts. Scott is totally committed to the Scouting programs and sets the example. Thanks, Scott, for all you do for Troop 108.

"A Scout's Smile is precious"

Kids-4-Mission—Jackie Michaud

Kids-4-Mission
Club



The **Kids-4-Mission** want to thank all of those who supported our recent Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. We hope you enjoyed our skit and our soup. Thanks to those who cooked for us (Frank Newport, Bill Newport, Barbara Sackett and Cathy DiSalvo).

We collected \$281 that will be divided equally between The Food Shelf and Loaves and Fishes. We will add the money collected during the Penny Wars and the February

Communion offering to this amount which will be donated in time to qualify for the Feinstein matching grant program.

Kids-4-Mission declare “Penny Wars”

That’s right! You heard us! We and a few of our friends (the HUMC choir, Worship and Arts committee (includes the Ushers), Sunday School and Outreach committee) have declared a PENNY WAR to benefit the Enfield Soup Kitchen and the Enfield Food Shelf.

Now in case you don’t know what a penny war is ... every Sunday during Lent there will be two collection containers (K-F-M will use our piggy bank which we used last year) in which you may place your contribution. You can place anything you want in either jar. **ONLY PENNIES HAVE A POSITIVE COUNT TOWARDS WINNING THE WAR.** Any silver coins or bills collected will be subtracted off the penny count.

The team with the highest count at the end of Lent will win and will get bragging rights by having their team photo published on our web site. The game is afoot and **WE WILL WIN!!**

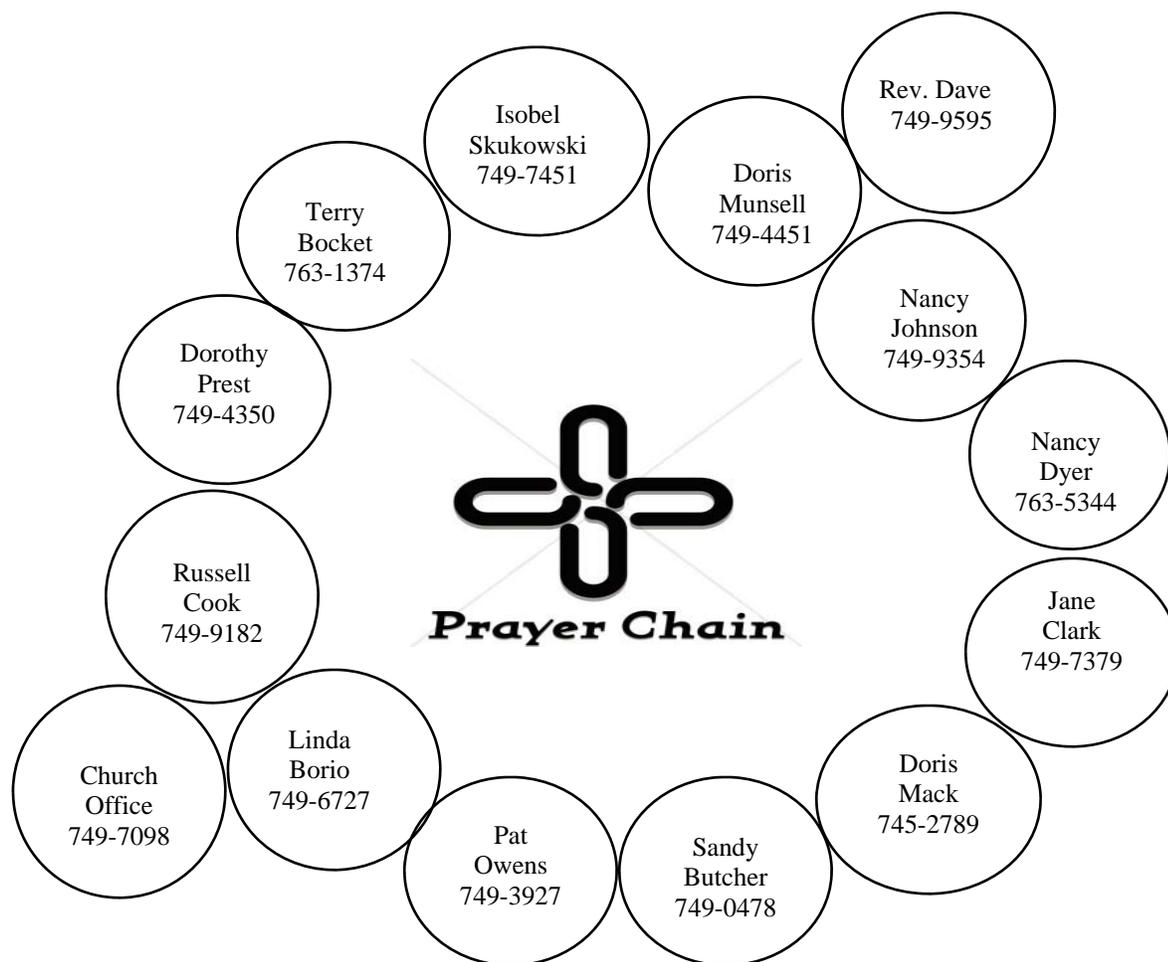
HUMC, are you up for the challenge???



With a heartfelt thank you.

Many of you knew that our son, David DiBattista, was very ill with cancer. We want to thank everyone for their prayers for David and his family; unfortunately God had another plan than we did. Without loving support of family and friends we would never be able to endure this most difficult time. With a heavy heart, we sincerely thank you.

Karen and Axel Anderson



Please keep the following in your prayers:

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

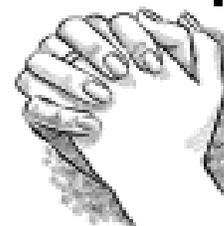
Roger Avery, Berta Clawson, Louise Heald,
Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Betty Mientus, Leroy Miller
Mary Nickerson, Christine Riley, Eric Sackett, Peg Smith,
Ron Uricchio, Asa Waller, Gloria Wages

Pray also for these Members:

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

In Christian Sympathy

Ted Riley and family on the death of his
brother-in-law, Bob Donaldson.



Children's Page

* A JAR OF *

Love and Appreciation



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!

Just for KIDS

Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.

... your heart and with all your soul ..."

Answer: " ... fear the LORD ..., to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."