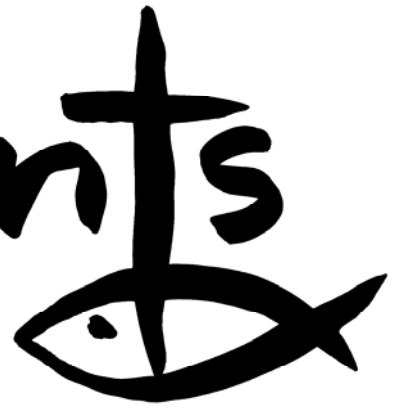


Cross Currents

Newsletter of the Haydenville Congregational Church
May 2011 *Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors*



FROM THE PASTOR

Sunday after Sunday we lift up our Joys and Concerns in our worship service. Sunday after Sunday you fill out small blue sheets of paper (for concerns) and yellow sheets of paper (for joys) and slip them in the white basket next to the pulpit. I read your requests for prayers for beloved parents, elderly grandparents, siblings far and near, friends in Montana and on Mountain Road, members of the congregation with whom you share a pew, cousins on the west coast, and colleagues in the next cubicle. You faithfully fill out the blue and yellow sheets and I lift them, each one with reverence, and read your prayer requests aloud.

I watch as the Joys and Concerns are read--people in the congregation pull out pens and write down each name on the front of their Bulletins. I watch as you listen with careful attention and take notes. I hear you say ah-h-h-h-h when something is especially moving and oh-h-h-h-h-h-h-h-h when something is especially sad. I see your faces as you look over at the person who made the request and you send her/him love by putting your sweet hand on your sweet heart. I see it all from the front of the Sanctuary.

People ask me if prayer works. I never know quite how to answer. Yes, I think prayer works. But I also have to define what I mean by prayer "working." Do I believe that we can ask God to cure Ann Loomis' father, Walter's cancer and God can do some celestial magic and cure cancer....no I do not think that. Walter's cancer may be cured, by some medical intervention, and influences I do not pretend to understand. There is ALWAYS hope, there are always possibilities. We fervently hold that vision. But my prayer life is built on the belief in an all-loving but not an all-powerful God. And I believe there is a difference between healing and curing. Curing may be out of God's hands...but healing--which is finding peace, being surrounded by a community of care, experiencing grace and spiritual uplift, knowing you are safe and loved--yes, healing can and does occur when people are prayed for. That I know. That I know for certain.

I believe strongly that when we hold Walter in prayer, when we ask God to give Ann strength and Walter courage, we send a ripple of love, concern and pure goodness into the world that touches their hearts. I believe that God is still speaking...God works through us and with us, God uses us, to send courage, hope and love to the one we are praying for and I believe our loving energy--as we channel God's loving energy--reaches their

hearts. I believe God can and does use us, our prayers and our hearts, to touch others and I believe we strengthen them with our care and concern.

The Church Deacons have divided up into prayer partners....we have formed pairs and each person is praying for his/her prayer partner both morning and evening. I believe our prayers in our pairs are strengthening us to do God's work in the world. Knowing that someone is praying for me every single day makes me feel comforted, loved, and whole. I become braver, strengthened and grateful.

I do not completely understand how prayer works and I do not think I need to completely understand. What I know is when heartfelt, earnest prayers are said, they bring comfort, peace and joy. Prayers are mysterious. That I do know. And I also know that prayers are powerful. There is power in knowing that someone is praying for you. There is power in feeling that someone loves you and will hold you in their thoughts and lift a prayer to God for your well-being. There is power in receiving that energy in some mysterious way through the universe.

When I had emergency surgery in July 2009 and our church family heard about my sudden sickness and operation, I knew many of you were praying for me and I felt comforted and lifted. I felt held in a web of love and concern. I felt God's presence and I felt your prayers. It is hard to say how...it wasn't exactly "zingers" experienced in little pulses or zaps. It was more like warm waves that would come over me and I would know someone was praying for me.

I believe in the power of prayer. I do not have to understand precisely how and why prayer works, I just know that when we lift one another in prayer we are sending such pure kindness and goodness into the world that something shifts, something gets better, something eases, something heals. God works with us and through us. So we need to be open, healthy, clear channels and vessels so that we can receive and send forth God's love and light.

I like praying for my church family throughout the week when we are apart. I like knowing that many of you pray for me. I believe in an all-loving God who wants me to be a conduit of God's love...and share it through my words, my actions and my prayers.

God bless you all.

NOTE FROM MATILDA:

Children's Church and Youth and Family Ministries



... Church is for the search. Wouldn't it be better if we said we were going to "search?" When you understand third grade math you don't belong in third grade math classes. If we understood what parent-

hood has to teach us we wouldn't belong in parent-hood...If we understood our oneness with God we wouldn't need churches or temples or mosques. Jeremiah envisioned such a day--"When no one shall teach his neighbor saying. 'Know ye the lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest" But meanwhile, thank goodness for the learning.

-Polly Berrien Berends, Gently Led

Dear Friends,

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY is upon us once again! This year Children's Sunday will be May 22nd, and this is the end and culmination of our Children's Church Year. Two very special things will be happening: We will focus in worship on the children, drawing upon the theme of Spiritual Gifts as it relates to Pentecost, the liturgical season. Second, we will have a Confirmation Service for five young people who are our future church leaders. In the UCC, "Confirmation" is the process through which youth join and become young adult members of the church. In spirit, it is similar to the process adults go through in the "exploring membership" series. However, it also delves more deeply into the spiritual formation of the young people, and it culminates in a service which has a "Coming of Age" element wherein each youth makes a passage from one part of their spiritual journey to the next.

Acts 2:1-13 says:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them...When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

Each year we focus on the Pentecost theme in the spring in CC because we believe the Holy Spirit works through each child, and Pentecost helps us understand the blessedness of our great diversity. We so love and cherish each

child and we work to understand each other *through* differences, just as the disciples understood different languages in this story in Acts.

The Children and Confirmation students will all be involved in the first part of the worship service, and the children will be dismissed for a children's picnic/party while the confirmation service takes place. We have found that while we want to peak the children's interest in confirmation, we also want to respect their attention spans and desire to run around! Volunteers to help supervise and cook for the children's party are needed—please see Pastor Matilda (tildacan@comcast.net) or Dawn Orluske (pafournier@earthlink.net) It has been an abundant and wonderful year in CC, and I am so proud of each child and so grateful to all our parent volunteers and teachers!

-In Faith and Gratitude
Pastor Matilda

INTERGENERATIONAL GAMES NIGHT!

Pizza, games, children of all ages!

Join the Deacons and the Confirmation Class
old and young and young at heart

Friday, May 13, 2011
from 5 to 7 PM



Church Dining Room
All welcome!

COFFEE HOUR FOOD!

Dearhearts, do not forget to bring food of some kind for Coffee Hour when it is your week (listing goes by last name). Cut up veggies, crackers and cheese, nuts, fruit, coffee cake, donut holes--everything is welcome! And please come early to help set up and stay after worship to help clean up! We do not want to leave "the Saints" in the kitchen doing 90% of the work! Thank you one and all!



May 1: D, E, F, G
May 8: H, I, J, K
May 15: L, M, N, O
May 22: P, Q, R, S
May 29: Blue Moon Sunday, No Coffee Hour

STORY CORPS EVENT ON APRIL 8

By Paula Spencer and Sally Lemaire

This year marks our beloved Church's 160th anniversary and we celebrated that landmark with a gala event on Friday, April 8. People started coming in the door at 5:30 bearing their contributions to the potluck supper. It was a feast that included scalloped oysters, shepherd's pie, Chicken on a Cloud, an impressive array of salads and cole slaws, and an assortment of delicious desserts. Some of the dishes were staples of church suppers in years gone by.

Pastor Andrea opened the evening with a prayer. During the meal and throughout the evening, a slide show of over 100 historic images of the village and the Church was projected on the wall. Photographs by Emily Dines were also included. Cindy McQueston and Diane Scott provided musical interludes.

While we enjoyed dessert, our Youth Group presented their ideas for a time capsule to be created this year and reopened in 2051 at the 200th anniversary celebration. Included in the box are drawings and writings about the future as seen by the young people; a copy of the church's mission and open and affirming policy; a current church directory; articles about the earthquake and tsunami in Japan; four CD's representing music listened to in 2011; a copy of Andrea's book "Psalms in Ordinary Voices"; two versions of the Bible; a copy of recipes that may have been used for church suppers in the mid-1800's; and a copy of the monthly newsletter.

An exhibit was set up in the dining room, documenting the Church's history from its founding in 1851. Highlights featured founding member Joel Hayden; martyred missionary Hattie M. Rice; Robert H. Life, our pastor from 1904-1934; the 1874 Mill River Flood; the various anniversaries (1901, 1951, rededication in 1976, 2001) and the Ladies Aid and Sunday School. The displays from the "Pageants of Brides" in 1957 and 1984, and the Church Suppers of the 1940s and '50s were also exhibited.

Later we moved into the Sanctuary where Tom McCabe served as Master of Ceremonies. We watched videos of interviews with our Saints that had been done in 2010. "Living History" speakers were stationed around the room, each sharing their memories of our church's history or information on historic events like the Mill River flood. There was a memorial moment in honor of Church members who have died recently-- Helen Warner, Marcia Nichols and Phyllis Webb.

It was a wonderful evening, honoring our Church's past and inspiring us to create new memories as we move into

the future. Warm thanks to all who worked to make the event possible, those who loaned us materials and contributed to the potluck, and to those who attended.



JUSTICE LED (LEADERS ENGAGING AND DEVELOPING)

By Doug Renick

Action Coordinator, Peace and Justice Steering Committee



The UCC nationally has rolled out a new initiative called Justice LED. National and regional trainers are now beginning to implement a program that helps local congregations move toward making more justice, more systemic change. This program

comes at a propitious time when the country seems to be in the grip of forces making life much more difficult (and unjust) for the poor, the marginalized and even the middle class.

My good friend, David Entin, who is chair of the Peace and Justice Committee at First Churches alerted me to training for regional Justice LED trainers in New England. We went to three days of training in Framingham in January. Four of those in the training were from western Mass. Now we are ready to work with representatives of congregations to assist them in moving toward both charity and change.

The vision is of a more just, peaceful and compassionate world that honors all of God's creation. Leaders are needed throughout our churches and communities to help share, pursue and achieve this vision. Justice LED is a program that offers training, leadership skills and support to local churches and UCC members who seek tangible ways to move our world towards this vision.

Our goal is to offer a Justice LED program for local churches in the UCC Hampshire Association in the Fall. To achieve that goal there will be a "taste and see" orientation to the program on May 15th in Hadley. Local churches will be asked to send representatives to see if they might want to participate in the full program in the Fall.

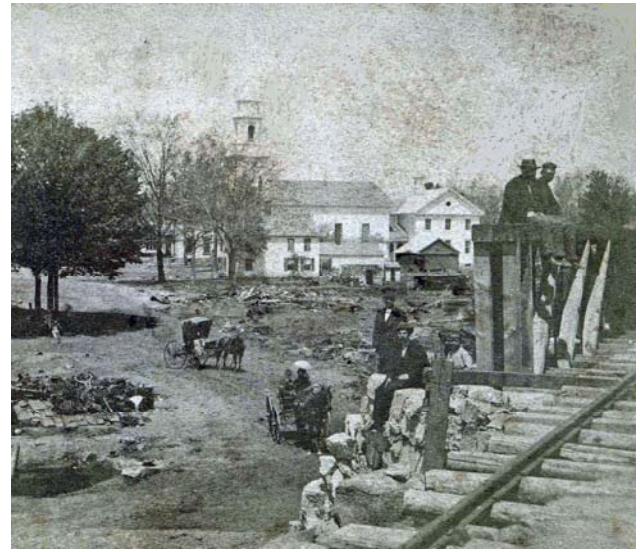
We have a reasonably strong peace and justice ministry here at HCC. It can be even stronger. The plan is to have several representatives from HCC at the May meeting who will become part of a full program later in the year. I will keep you informed as we move forward and get closer to May. Thanks for all the support you give to peace and justice concerns!

THE SHOW OF HISTORICAL IMAGES AND CATS

By Kathleen Kent

Looking around the dining room the night of the anniversary celebration, it was obvious the food was excellent and conversations were engaging. So I was glad that people watched the slide show of historical images as much as they did. But at one point it seemed that all heads were turned to the slide show. I looked to see which photograph caught so much interest and saw images of my cats flashing before me. Then images of my Honda from when it was attacked by a turkey, seriously. Apparently the slide show wasn't looping but instead going into a personal folder. Jo was busy with the videos so I tried to fix it myself. I pushed a button, unchecked a box, and restarted the show. That's when the Williamsburg Library archivist stopped in so I took her on a tour. She was so very impressed with everything. As I was walking her to the door she looked over to the slide show and again there were my cats. But she beamed and quickly pulled out her cell phone to show me a picture of her own cat. When I got home I realized the box I had unchecked was for captions. So probably there were no captions for most of the show and probably people were puzzled over many of the historic pictures.

But nobody ever acted like anything was wrong - as if my personal folder was part of the show and that was more than okay; and the pictures didn't need captions - they told their own story. Because of this community's charm, the entire evening was as smooth as silk. Nevertheless, I'd like to run the show again with some new images. If you're interested in contributing to the collection, know that pictures of family and pets (especially), are wanted.



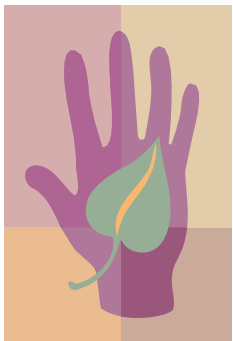
Actors in "Rebecca's Triumph"
given by the Ladies' Aid of the Congregational church, 1907.



Pictures in the slide show spanned 138 years and included the Haydensville Village, Church and community...and Kathleen's cats! Oops!

WHAT IS "SAFE CHURCH"?

By Pastor Matilda and Patty McManamy



"There was a time when terms like "Safe Church" and "Safe Environments" may have referred to creaky bell towers and youth groups cleaning up the woods. As the Safe Environment Coordinator for one faith community, I once called to inquire about a Safe Environment concern at a church school and was connected to the janitor: the Department of Slippery Floors, I guess. *In*

reality, a safe church protects children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse within our programs. Safe Church training teaches individuals who minister to these groups to recognize possible abuse and respond to concerns about inappropriate boundary crossings. Being a safe church prevents future abuse. Being a healing community helps individuals heal from past wounds."

—Patti McManamy, Haydenville Church Friend, Mother of Mesphin, Children's Church member

Haydenville Congregational Church is working on "Safe Church" issues on two fronts. First, the Policy and Procedure Committee will look at some of the recommendations made by a Haydenville Safe Church Committee that met in 2009, made up of an EMT, nurses, social workers, and a retired law enforcement official from within the congregation. Second, we will look at the physical and emotional safety of the young people in our midst. The 2009 committee made recommendations about how to best respond should there be a natural disaster within our community, how to protect and be aware of potential threats in the worship space on Sunday morning, how to respond to health emergencies, how to make the building accessible yet safe at all hours, and how to protect and serve the community's most vulnerable and/or at risk members. The mission statement of Safe Church is as follows:

The Haydenville Church respects and honors the dignity of all persons within the reach of its ministry, as understood through the teachings of Jesus Christ. Within our mandate to follow Jesus' radical welcome, the pledge of this committee is to equality, justice, safety and education. The Haydenville Safe Church Committee strives to provide holiness, sanctity, and education for all with the understanding that we are a dynamic, ever changing, ever-learning faith community.

The Children's Church Committee is reconvening a working group with the help of Patty McManamy who works on these issues for the Catholic Diocese of Springfield. We are beginning confidential CORI checks of all those who have any involvement in Children's Church. CORI checks will be

performed by a member of the congregation who is a mental health professional and has received specialized training. We will look more closely at our existing Children's Church Safe Church Guidelines (For example, we have a "two adult rule" in CC) and make sure they are being followed and see what obstacles there are, if any, to their success. In the fall we hope to have further training on prevention of childhood abuse, and draw upon the resources for Safe Church within the UCC. If you are interested in serving on the Children's Church Committee to look at Safe Church issues, please see Pastor Matilda.

SAVING JESUS

During May and June, Pastor Andrea will be leading twelve sessions to view a new DVD series called "Saving Jesus." Each week we will view a new 30 minute session and discuss it.



Here are some words about the "Saving Jesus" DVD series from their website that describe what the twelve-week study sessions aim to cover: "Sifting through the competing claims as to who Jesus was and what his teachings mean for today has left many simply throwing up their hands in frustration. It almost seems that Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right and discarded by the Secular Left. Can Jesus be "saved"? Should he be? As we embark on the task of wrestling with those questions, we will find that history, theology, and the latest scholarship have much to say about who Jesus was. "Saving Jesus" will help us determine if the Jesus of our expectations can or should be saved. In the course of these twelve sessions, we will discover how we might live our lives in ways that contribute to "Saving Jesus" for the 21st Century."

Everyone is welcome to join us. Please note that the sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings AND Saturday mornings. All sessions will be held in the Church Dining Room. This will be a provocative series! Mark your calendars now and be a part of these exciting twelve sessions.

Session 1: Wednesday, May 18 from 5 to 6:30 PM

Session 2: Saturday, May 21 from 9:30 to 11 AM

Session 3: Wednesday, May 25 from 5 to 6:30 PM

Session 4: Saturday, May 28 from 9:30 to 11 AM

Session 5: Wednesday, June 1 from 5 to 6:30 PM

Session 6: Saturday, June 4 from 9:30 to 11 AM

Session 7: Wednesday, June 8 from 5 to 6:30 PM

Session 8: Saturday, June 11 from 9:30 to 11 AM

Session 9: Wednesday, June 15 from 5 to 6:30 PM

Session 10: Saturday, June 18 from 9:30 to 11 AM

Session 11: Wednesday, June 22 from 5 to 6:30 PM

Closing Session: Saturday, June 25 from 9:30 to 11 AM

"AN APARTMENT IN THE CITY OF DEATH"

poem by Kabir, an Indian Mystic,
translated by Robert Bly
submitted by Annie Turner

Friend, hope for the Guest while you are alive.
Jump into experience while you are alive!
Think...and think...while you are alive.
What you call "salvation" belongs to the time before
death.

If you don't break your ropes while you're alive,
do you think
ghosts will do it after?

The idea that the soul will rejoin with the ecstatic
just because the body is rotten--
that is all fantasy.
What is found now is found then.

If you find nothing now,
you will simply end up with an apartment in the City of
Death.

If you make love with the divine now, in the next
life you will have the face of satisfied desire.

So plunge into the truth, find out who the Teacher is,
Believe in the Great Sound!

Kabir says this: When the Guest is being searched for,
it is the intensity of the longing for the Guest
that does all the work.

RECOVERING THE PROMISE MINISTRIES

By Charla Kouadio

Recovering the Promise Ministries seeks to create a place
where all may feel free to worship, serve, and grow spiritu-
ally - without regard to race, ethnicity, social class, age,
gender/gender identity, or affectional orientation. We
offer a safe place for all persons to flourish – especially
women, same-gender-loving individuals, transgender per-
sons, persons in recovery, the recently incarcerated, the
economically disenfranchised, persons of varied physical
and mental abilities, persons infected and
affected by HIV/AIDS and their allies.

Because we affirm the priesthood of all believers, we pro-
claim the same message proclaimed on the day of Pente-
cost: that God continues to pour out God's spirit upon all
persons .

Worship Services are held at Christ Community Church, 18
Pearl Street, Chicopee, MA. We are a new church start

that offers a place of exuberant praise and worship for ALL
who wish to partake. Our Doxology would be Psalm 150:

"Let everything that have breath Praise the Lord! Praise
the Lord" There is nothing quiet and still about praise
here! Listen to the noise! Imagine the instruments and
singing and dancing. Each person is encouraged to worship
the God of their understanding without reservation. God
loves each of us and calls us near! Let's Shine some light
in the darkness !

Recovering the Promise Ministries:
ReThink Religion,
ReConnect with the Spirit,
ReEngage your Purpose &
ReDiscover the Possibilities God has for You

EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP CLASS SERIES

May 1, 8, 15, 22 after Church in the Pastor's Study

We'll be discussing our spiritual journeys, the history
of the UCC, the history of our Church and more!

Please see Pastor Andrea if you are interested in attending
but the class times do not work well for you. (We may
shift the times!)

GOD SAYS YES TO ME

By Kaylin Haught

I asked God if it was okay to be melodramatic
and she said yes
I asked her if it was okay to be short
and she said it sure is
I asked her if I could wear nail polish
or not wear nail polish
and she said honey
she calls me that sometimes
she said you can do just exactly
what you want to
Thanks God I said
And is it even okay if I don't paragraph
my letters
Sweetcakes God said
who knows where she picked that up
what I'm telling you is
Yes Yes Yes

from *The Palm of your Hand*, 1995
Tilbury House Publishers



HAYDENVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH INVITES YOU TO SUMMER CHURCH DAY CAMP!

WHO:

You - our church family and friends

WHAT:

A day long summer retreat filled with worship, singing, games, small group activities, quiet time, activities for children and much more!! 3 Meals included.

WHERE:

Woolman Hill Conference Center, Deerfield, Mass.

Car-pool available from the HCC parking lot

WHEN:

August 25, 2011 – 9 AM – 7 PM

FEE:

\$10 per person. \$40 Maximum fee per family, regardless of number of family members. Scholarships are available, no one will be turned away for lack of funds. (Please contact Carolyn du Bois, Camp Registrar, regarding scholarships)

TO REGISTER, PLEASE COMPLETE A FORM WITH PAYMENT ENCLOSED BY AUGUST 1ST TO:

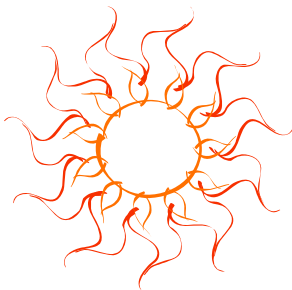
**Carolyn du Bois
Camp Registrar
P.O. Box 39
Williamsburg, MA 01096
(forms found in the Church Dining Room)**

COME ONE, COME ALL!

By Lynn Fogg

Spring is in the air and it is a great time to mark your calendar for upcoming summer events! This year we will be embarking on a day long camp outing on Thursday, August 25th, at Woolman Hill in South Deerfield, MA. It will provide a similar experience to those of you who were unable to attend the "much talked about" weekend retreat that we had last year at Craigville Retreat Center on the Cape. For those of you who did attend last year, our day at Woolman Hill this year, will offer you some more of the things that you enjoyed so much at Craigville.

Our time together will include worship services, preparing and eating meals, and having fun as a Church community. So stay tuned for more details later in the Spring.....



HONORING MARY

By Annie Turner



Dear friends, do you remember visiting your Uncle and Aunt's house when you were a child? The food was always good (at least, we hoped it was good); jokes were told around the table while the grownups sipped their coffee; and at some point, a relative brought out the thick black-covered photo album to look at pictures of our ancestors and cousins.

On May 8th, the "Catholics in the UCC" group will be presenting a service to honor Mary the mother of Jesus and all mothers in our lives. It is not an attempt to convert anyone or force any kind of views or theology on any one. It is an opening of the photo album to let all of us, as a congregation, look at some snapshots of Mary.

This service will incorporate music from the Catholic Church—which has seeped deep into the bones of many cradle Catholics--; a Children's Message about Mary, as Jesus' mother; a sermon about "How I Came to Mary,"; and some testimonies by people now in the UCC church about their memories of Mary and her importance to them.

Think of it as a visit to a kindly relative, looking at some photos that have deep meaning for people. Think of it as a chance to get to know each other better and in a deeper way.

OUR CHURCH LEADING LAUREL PARK SERVICE

By Pastor Andrea

The Laurel Park Tabernacle holds worship services during the summer months--services that are led by a different pastor and/or church group each week. Our Church has been asked to lead the worship service at Laurel Park on Sunday, August 28th and we agreed. So mark your calendars now! There will not be any worship service at our Haydenville Church on that day, and I do not think there will be a Coffee Hour (they don't usually do Coffee Hour). But we'll have a full worship service, there in the outdoor Tabernacle in the heart of Laurel Park in Northampton! We'll need Greeters, Readers, Ushers and our Choir and the service will be much like one in our own Church but transported to Laurel Park. It will be lovely. Please plan on being with us that day!

"At root, sin is about spending our lives on things that are not worth spending our lives on."

Rev. Quinn Caldwell



AN OPEN LETTER FROM DEBORAH KARAN

Dear Rev. Andrea & Members of the Haydenville Church,

I did not know what to expect at my visit to your church this past Sunday, March 6. Rev. Andrea's invitation to speak as part of the Lenten Series was so unexpected.

I received such a warm welcome from the minute I walked in the door and it continued through my visit. There was a hum in the air as everyone gathered for worship; greetings and exchanges between one another.

I loved all the words up on the railing in the Sanctuary – Peace, Faith, Family, Joy, etc., a reminder of the important things in life planted right up front. There were touches everywhere on walls and sills and corners – God is present.

I was happy to witness the membership ceremony. The introduction of each new member was heartwarming. I felt comfortable enough to add a few stones to the cross; to lay aside my burdens for the Lenten season (and hopefully beyond!).

I was honored to be a part of the Lenten Series. Speaking to many of you about my faith and job was an incredible experience for me. I enjoyed the exchanges, comments, questions and ideas for help. Also the thought provoking statements about politics, social justice and the role of the Church; I would love to have more conversations.

To the teacher in Holyoke – you are doing your best and I am sure you are touching the lives of so many children despite the daily challenges.

Thank you for all the “popcorn” words at the end of the discussion. Housing issues have been complicated and stressful this year. Hearing your words energized me and I realize how important my role is.

A big Thank You for the money from the green giving pocketbook! And a big Thank You to the gentleman and his wife who gave me money as I was leaving. I will use it wisely and with love. I know I will buy some new books for my public health welcome wagon bags. I believe reading is the greatest gift you can give a child other than your love.

Thank you for the bears, food, watches. I never expected to walk out with both my arms and heart full!

Rev. Andrea – you have such an energy about you – it's contagious! I am so happy we made the connection at the UCC Conference in Ludlow. I would love to come and visit again.

Sincerely and blessings to all.

KIDS IN CHURCH

Submitted by Meghann Parkinson

'Our Father, Who does art in heaven,
Harold is His name.
Amen.'

Reese, 3 years old

A little boy was overheard praying:
'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am.'

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

One particular four-year-old prayed, 'And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.'

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan, you be Jesus!'

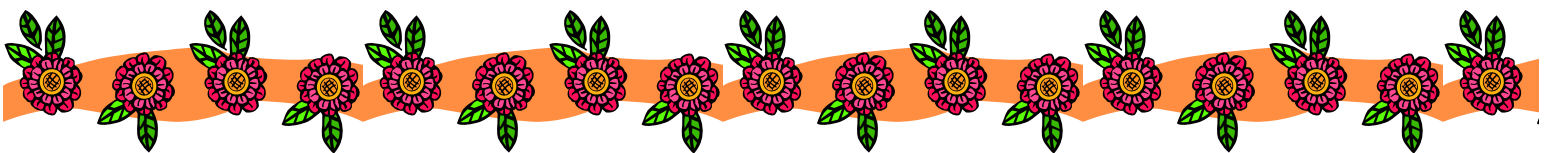
A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. 'Daddy, what happened to him?' the son asked. 'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, 'Did God throw him back down?'

In search of a new pastor, our congregation advertised for someone "able to walk on water and move mountains." We knew we had the right person when a candidate arrived for the job interview sporting a life jacket and carrying a shovel.

From READER'S DIGEST
Submitted by Beth Howland

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 1:	10 AM	Celebration of the LGBT Community~~Worship Service with Communion and the Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Choir singing. Exploring Membership Class #1 in the Pastor's Study upstairs after worship
Monday, May 2:	6 PM	Diaconate Meeting, Church Dining Room
Wednesday, May 4:	7 PM	Confirmation Class Meeting: work with mentors on Statements of Faith
Friday, May 6:	4 PM	Confirmation Class, Service Project with Pastor Matilda
Sunday, May 8:	10 AM	Worship Service, Mother's Day, Service led by the Catholics in the UCC group. Exploring Membership Class #2 in the Pastor's Study upstairs following worship service
Wednesday, May 11:	7 PM	Shepherds' Meeting, Church Dining Room
Friday, May 13:	5-7 PM	Join the Deacons and Confirmation Class for Intergenerational Games Night. Pizza, snacks, games for old, young and young at heart. Church Dining Room
Saturday, May 14:	10 AM	Book Group Meeting, Church Dining Room, <i>Mary of Nazareth: A Novel</i> by Marek Halter Contact Paula Spencer for questions, prspencer1@comcast.net
Sunday, May 15:	10 AM	Worship Service Exploring Membership Class #3 in the Pastor's Study upstairs following worship service.
	12 PM	Church Garden Plot, Intergenerational Garden Planting Day. See Pastor Matilda for more information
Tuesday, May 17:	6:30 PM	Trustees Meeting, Church Dining Room
Wednesday, May 18:	5-6:30 PM	First of Twelve Sessions to view new DVD series called "Saving Jesus" HCC Dining Room.
	7 PM	Confirmation Class to meet and work on final plans for Confirmation Sunday
Thursday, May 19:	1 PM	Ladies Aid, Church Dining Room
Saturday, May 21:	9:30-11AM	Session 2 of DVD series called "Saving Jesus" HCC Dining Room
Sunday, May 22:	10 AM	Confirmation and Children's Sunday Worship Service Confirmation Class will read their Statements of Faith Exploring Membership Class #4 in the Pastor's Study upstairs following worship service.
Monday, May 23:	5:30 PM	Peace and Justice Steering Committee Meeting, HCC Dining Room
Wednesday, May 25:	5-6:30 PM	Session 3 of DVD series called "Saving Jesus" HCC Dining Room
Saturday, May 28:	9:30-11AM	Session 4 of a DVD series called "Saving Jesus" HCC Dining Room
Sunday, May 29:	10 AM	Worship Service and BLUE MOON SUNDAY~~ Community Service Projects following worship





Haydenville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
143 Main Street, PO Box 257
Haydenville, MA 01039

MAY BIRTHDAYS! HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

May 1 Mary Vaughan
May 3 Susanne Anderson & Walter Kellogg
May 4 James Morin & Karla Hathaway
May 6 Tom Adams & Alice Pannoni
May 8 Kristine Pollard
May 10 Donique McIntosh
May 11 Jane Hall & Ann Vanderburgh
May 14 Richard Loomis
May 15 Susan Molano, Kayla Gilman-Solomon,
Keenan Pellot & Alexandra Bertuch-Wallace
May 19 Jennifer Miller-Antill
May 21 Kathleen Donoghue
May 25 Kathy Bonnet & Pete Solis
May 26 Coni Gilman-Solomon
May 28 Gina Ayvazian
May 29 Olin Rose-Bardawil
May 30 Abigail Avakian
May 31 Micaela Newcomb-Gerken

CHURCH PICNIC COME ONE, COME ALL!

Sunday, June 26, 2011

immediately following our worship service
Duckbrook Pavilion, Look Park
(please note this is a new site!)

Please bring a potluck picnic dish to share!

All meats, drinks and paper goods provided!

Lawn chairs, games, balls, toys welcome!

~~Volunteers needed to help~~

Contact Jil Blake and Christine Russell, Picnic Coordinators

*God speaks to each of us as he makes us,
then walks with us silently out of the night.*

These are the words we dimly hear:

*You, sent out beyond your recall,
go to the limits of your longing.*

Embody me.

*Flare up like flame
and make big shadows I can move in.*

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.

Just keep going. No feeling is final.

Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.

You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand.

-Rilke

*"You are not obligated to complete the task,
but you are not free to withdraw from it."*

Rabbi Tarfon

Submitted by Barbara Dreyer