

# Cross Currents

Newsletter of the Haydenville Congregational Church  
April 2012 *Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors*

## FROM THE PASTOR

On April 8<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate a beautiful, colorful and joy-filled intergenerational Easter service with our Choir processing in and (during the service) singing two anthems, a new members ceremony to formally welcome new folks to our church family, a dramatization when we “transform the cross,” and other surprises (think flowers and balloons!). It will be a beautiful service. There will not be any Children’s Church that day...our Easter service is like our Christmas Eve service...we tailor everything for an intergenerational congregation.

In the Christian liturgical calendar, Easter does not actually end at the close of that day. What Easter celebrates is far too expansive to be confined to one day! The Easter message is extended across fifty days embracing eight Sundays—the first Sunday we call Easter Day and the last one is the Day of Pentecost. In the ancient church, fasting and kneeling (which were common) were banned during the fifty days of Easter because they were considered too solemn during this time of joy and celebration. And “alleluias” (banished from the liturgy throughout Lent) abound during Eastertide! Notice that the six stanzas of Charles Wesley’s beloved hymn “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” contain no less than two dozen “alleluias!”

The Gospels make it clear that Jesus’ Resurrection is not to be considered a Resurrection like Jesus had given to Lazarus, the daughter of Jairus, and the son of the widow of Nain—all of them live and then die again. Jesus’ resurrection is also not a ghost appearing to the disciples or a psychological trick.



The disciples experienced Jesus as with them—right there, close, and speaking with them. The Resurrection is a manifestation of a new kind and quality of life which has no words to describe.

The Resurrection is a mysterious gift from God. When people think they totally understand it and can explain it with precision, I get nervous! It is a mystery and a gift—and I believe we should let it remain both! Jesus was freed from the limitations of time and space. Therefore, the Resurrection is experienced again whenever we feel Jesus WITH US, close, speaking to us, comforting, guiding and inspiring us.

On the first Sunday in Lent in February, we made a cross of shells on the carpet in the Sanctuary. We took shells in our hands and placed the shells on the cross—this allowed our open and free hands to “grab a starfish” we had been too busy, too preoccupied, too despairing, too anxious, or too weary to grab. I trust that you have had a Holy Lent and that you have kept your hands free and open so that during Eastertide you can reach for the starfish you have been wanting to grab. Let us celebrate a joyous and freeing Eastertide together. Let us empty ourselves and rejoice—embracing the mystery that is the Resurrection and celebrating the power of the presence of God.

Love and Blessings,

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH MESSAGE

By Dawn Orluske

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10 - NIV)*

*Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me completely. (1 Corinthians 13:12-NLT)*

Recently, I had a rough morning before church started. I had arrived at church early to set up for Children's Church, and to be present for 'Adult Sunday School'. Everything was going smoothly and I felt fine about the day, until I started watching the video in Sunday school. The video was about the feminine spirit of God and showed a mother and her child traveling on multiple buses – the mother constantly nurturing, snuggling and talking to her child. The video was lovely, but set off emotions in me I had not planned on having! I knew why I was having these feelings, but it felt like an inappropriate time to be having them- I was about to welcome, sing to and teach our church's children. As I sat upstairs with the children, trying to be present with them, and trying to grapple with these overwhelming feelings, something amazing happened.

Joanne started telling the children about the mystery of Easter. In this story, we learn that it takes six weeks to prepare for Easter, because it is such a special day. Each week is represented by a wooden cut-out. After all the cut-outs are displayed on the floor, the kids guess what all the parts may be or mean. Eventually, the cut-outs are seen to be puzzle pieces that form the cross- one side of which is purple, representing royalty and sadness, the other side is white, representing light and hope. While Joanne was telling the story, I began to focus on the *good work* she was doing, by teaching so thoughtfully and lovingly. She fully had the kids' interest and focus. I felt so grateful for her leadership, and for Patti, who came to teach even though she had been very sick the week prior to Sunday.

Then I looked over at Karen, who came with her kids in tow, and thought of how she is always giving- especially to our children. I felt God's handiwork in these women- these teachers- and in the beautiful children who had such reverent and thoughtful responses to the lesson and mystery of Easter. I knew I was upstairs because God knows me completely, and knows what I needed on that morning.

Our program is experiencing a huge transition with Til leaving. We will all miss her. I am so thankful for the spirit of God in Til that has inspired us and cultivated and loved

us. But I know now that all the pieces of the puzzle are here for us to continue to grow our wonderful children and our church program. God is so faithful and I know our community will faithfully uplift Children's Church during this time of rebirth.

## A NOTE FROM YOUR CLERK

By Jo Cannon

Some of you heard this at the first part of our Annual Meeting, but many of you didn't, so I thought I'd write to let you know how to find all the documents you have access to.

First, there is a white binder in the Library labelled Boards and Committees Minutes. Many thanks to Paula for keeping our library so well organized and for letting me invade it with all kinds of clerk stuff! In the binder you will be surprised to find all the minutes from 2011 from both Boards: Trustees and Diaconate; and all the committees: Stewardship, Music, Peace and Justice Steering, and Youth and Family. You'll also find minutes from a few of the subcommittees, such as A2A (Accessible to All). A copy of the Annual Report for 2011 resides in the binder as do draft versions of the minutes to the 2011 and 2012 Annual Meetings (both parts of both meetings).

Second, an electronic copy in PDF form of all the above documents can be found on a password protected page off the Documents page on our website:

[www.haydenvillechurch.org](http://www.haydenvillechurch.org). If you haven't checked out our website in a while, please do. Maggie and Laura are doing a great job of keeping us informed through the site! Oh, I almost forgot. I did say the page with all the minutes and reports was password protected. The password can also be found in the binder in the Library, or you can ask someone who was at the Annual Meeting, Part 1.

What you will not yet find is minutes other than the Annual Meeting Minutes for 2012. I'm a tad behind on those. It takes a month to get the minutes posted, because the board or committee has to approve them at the meeting following the one they are from, usually a month later. So at this point you should have January's minutes. I've been a slight bit busy lately - at least that is my excuse for not getting them to you yet. Sometime in April I expect life to begin to return to whatever passes for normal, so you should start seeing minutes for 2012 then. In the meantime I hope you will be patient with me and let me know if you have any ideas for other ways we can keep information flowing!



## FRIENDLY 8'S

By Pastor Andrea

In his wonderful book Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church, Michael Foss discusses what is involved in being a contemporary disciple of Jesus. According to Foss, these are the six characteristics that signal discipleship:

*Daily prayer*  
*Weekly Worship*  
*Daily Bible Reading*  
*Serving others*  
*Nurturing Relationships/Spiritual*  
*Friendships*  
*Generous Giving*

When I think about our remarkable congregation, I realize that so many of you are six for six!!! You are quite a remarkable group of disciples!

I also know that as our Church is growing, it is important for us to continue to cultivate "nurturing relationships and spiritual friendships" among our congregation. We need to help new people find folks to connect with because being connected to your Church family through spiritual friendships is key to living as a disciple and deepening your faith.

Consequently, the Deacons have decided to launch a new program within the Church—I am so excited, we'll see how it goes! The program is called **FRIENDLY 8's**. With Vicha's help (of course), we are going to alert people to the Church folks living near them in South Hadley, or Florence, or Easthampton, and so on. Then we are going to encourage folks to get in groups of EIGHT for evenings together on a monthly (or bi-monthly basis). Each Friendly 8 will have a Head Person to start with but the Head Person can (and should) change over time.

So (for example) if I were a Head Person for a Northampton Friendly 8, I would reach out to seven other people who live in Northampton and invite them over for a pot luck supper (all meals are pot luck). Then we might say a prayer, eat and visit together. There is no agenda but loving support, and deep connection.

I actually stole this idea of Friendly 8's from the Quakers. When I attended Mount Toby Friends Meeting in Leverett, we had Friendly 8 groups and they were very important to folks, and my Friendly 8 group was a source of huge support and strength for me. So you can thank the Quakers for this good idea.

Watch out for a call or e-mail from Vicha or me about who is in your area and getting you clumped into a Friendly 8's group. If you know already that you would like to be the Head Person for Williamsburg or Haydenville or wherever,

please let me know. Also do not be alarmed if you are one of very few people in Holyoke or Amherst or Hatfield. We'll fold you into a neighboring community Friendly 8's group. No one will be left out!!!

So we hope you like this idea. We'll launch the Friendly 8's after Easter. You'll get word, I promise! And I hope SOME OF YOU WILL STEP FORWARD and be a Head Person for your area....remember it is NOT a life sentence....it is just for a while...to launch maybe the first few pot luck suppers. (And P.S. Friendly 8 groups can also hold their pot luck suppers at the Church! Just book your evening with Church Scheduler, Sue Carbin). Let the fun begin!

## YOUTH WORK UPDATE

By Doug Renick

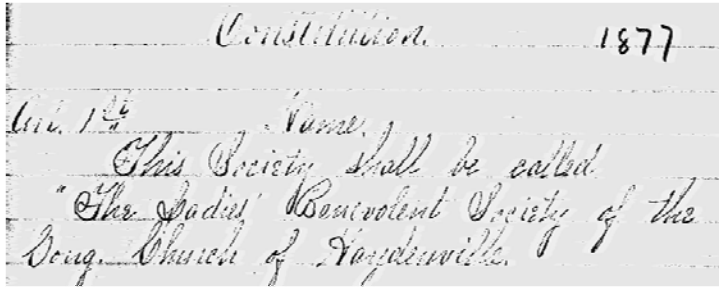
We have some pretty incredible young people at Haydenville Congregational. We have the confirmands from last year in their CHILL group (Gabe, Jon, Reilly, Will and Ileana). And now we have an emerging group of middle schoolers (Thea, Natasha, Wilson, Alexandra and Cara). In the interim time between Til's leaving and new children's church and youth leadership arriving, Toby Davis and Doug Renick have been asked to provide leadership for the youth group(s) for the next few months. Doug and Toby were mentors during the confirmation process. Sally Le-maire, another mentor, has stepped up to provide additional volunteer support for this youth work. Beyond hanging out, social outings, biblical explorations and a possible trip to Sally's lake cabin, the "curriculum" will emerge, we are sure, with guidance from the Holy Spirit, (as in "Come Holy Spirit! Come!" Please!). It is an open group and we invite any young person who is interested to get in touch with us to learn more about the possibilities, responsibilities, fun and friendship that they can enjoy.



Hospitality is not at the margins of scripture. Jesus wasn't kidding around when he said, 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'

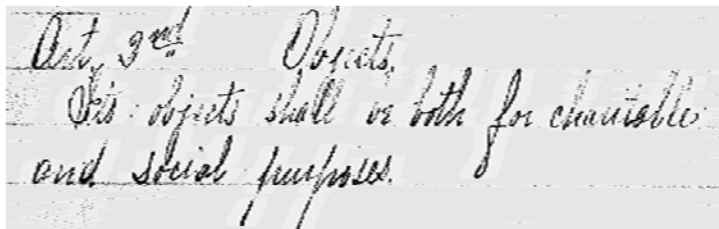
*Rev. Gabriel Salguero,  
president of the  
National Latino Evangelical Coalition*

**LADIES AID – A HISTORY: The Beginning**  
By Jackie Cloonan, 2012 Ladies Aid President



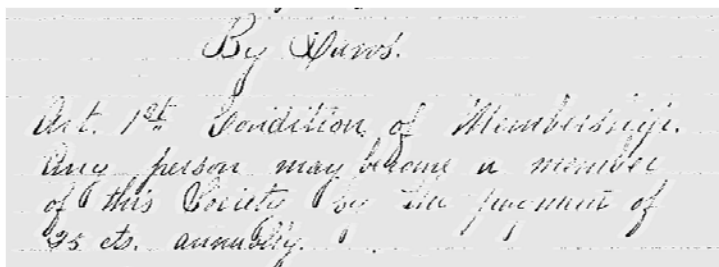
Constitution. 1877  
Art. 1<sup>st</sup> Name.  
This Society shall be called  
"The Ladies Benevolent Society of the  
Cong. Church of Haydenville."

Yes, this is from the original constitution of Ladies Aid in 1877 and it does say that the society shall be called the Ladies Benevolent Society of the Cong. Church of Haydenville. So what else does this notebook with all the minutes for Ladies aid meetings from 1877 – 1892 say? Well, much the same kind of thing you would find in our ByLaws and minutes today. For example:



Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> Objects.  
This objects shall be both for charitable  
and social purposes.

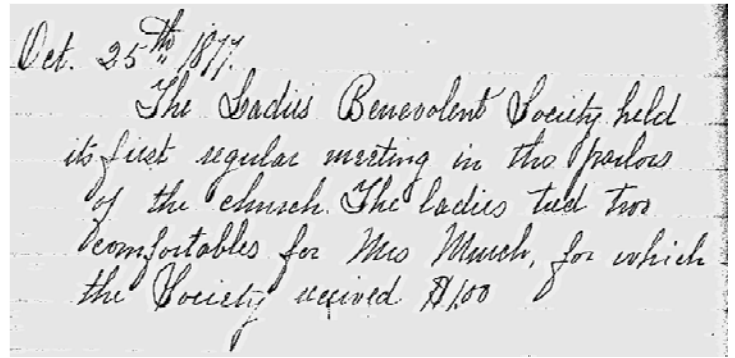
(Art. 2<sup>nd</sup> Objects. It's Objects shall be both for charitable and social purposes.)  
and



By Laws.  
Art. 1<sup>st</sup> Condition of Membership.  
Any person may become a member  
of this Society by the payment of  
25 cts. annually.

(By Laws Art. 1<sup>st</sup> Condition of Membership. Any person may become a member of this Society by the payment of 25 cents annually. ) Article 3 of the Constitution does specify that "Any member of the Congregation represented by this body shall be entitled to membership in this Society upon the conditions prescribed by the By-Laws." I guess that would be the 25 cents annually, which, by the way, we do not currently charge for membership.

October 1877 was an important time for what was to become the Ladies Aid Society of the Haydenville Congregational Church. On October 16<sup>th</sup> "The ladies of the village met to consider the desirability of organizing a society for benevolent purposes." And on October 25<sup>th</sup>:



Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> 1877.  
The Ladies Benevolent Society held  
its first regular meeting in the parlors  
of the church. The ladies took two  
comfortables for Mrs. Marsh, for which  
the Society received \$1.00

(Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, 1877. The Ladies Benevolent Society held its first regular meeting in the parlors of the church. The ladies \_\_\_\_ two comfortables for Mrs. Marsh, for which the Society received \$1.00.)

The records of this time reflect that the Society started raising funds and supporting the church and surrounding community right from the start.

Today the Society is not all that different from these foundations. The first officers of the Society were: President – Mrs. E. F. Miller, Vice President – Mrs. W. S. Hawkes, Secretary and Treasurer – Mary L. Price(?), and Directresses: Mrs. Graves, Mrs C. D. Waite, Mrs. Marks, Mrs. Thos. Hayden, Mrs H. C. Smith, and Mrs. C. Hasford. Today our President is Jackie Cloonan, Vice President - Kim Waddell, Secretary – Barbara Estes, Treasurer – Kate Davidheiser, and our Board of Directors is made up of past Presidents.

To learn more, look for more "Ladies Aid – A History" articles in future newsletters.

**WOW, WOW, WOW, WELCOME PASTORS!**

The Haydenville Congregational Church is delighted and honored to have NINE pastors who sometimes or regularly worship at our Church! Wow, wow, wow, how blessed are we? We hope to lean on some of these fine folks to offer Communion in Children's Church on the first Sunday of every month. We also hope to drag a few to the pulpit for some good guest preaching!

Here is the stellar line-up of pastors who regularly or sometimes worship with us at Haydenville: Rev. Mitzi Eilts, Rev. Peter Ives (sings in Choir), Rev. Phil Hall, Rev. Melody Foti, Rev. Susannah Crolius, Rev. Audrey Walker, Rev. Carol Rinehart, Rev. Tom Leamon, and Rev. Julie Olmsted.

Phil, Carol and Susannah are members, and Audrey and Mitzi are joining in April. We are so happy that all these wonderful folks have found us and chosen to grace our church with their loving presence. Even though Pastor Andrea gets nervous preaching in front of so many esteemed colleagues, we want to welcome them warmly!!

## PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE 101

By Ann Loomis



Like many of you at HCC, I was aware there was a Peace and Social Justice Steering Committee, and I was also aware that I had no clue what the Committee did! During Woolman Hill Day Camp I had the opportunity to remedy that situation.

I attended a small but lively discussion concerning social justice issues and discovered that I had a personal interest in many of the topics that the Committee wanted to tackle in the coming year. So I joined and began attending meetings and monthly Soup, Salad and Social Change events.

Before attending meetings I felt that, as an individual, I had no impact on the world around me. I was nervous, thinking I needed to be a social justice expert. What if I were expected to protest or join rallies? Everyone would find out how little I knew about today's social concerns.

Over the past few months I have come to realize that my membership is how I can educate myself and learn what I can do, as an individual, to make a difference. It feels good to expand my worldview, and I have learned that my individual voice can be heard when I raise it with others.

I urge everyone to attend a meeting and see what the Peace and Social Justice Steering Committee is all about. The first step in changing the world is educating yourself about what needs to be changed and joining with others who want to make those changes. Hope to see you soon!

### RAINBOW BRIDGE

Submitted by Maureen Ricksgers

Just this side of Heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill or old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss some-



one very special to them who had to be left behind. They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling to each other in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together.

*Author Unknown*

### AN OPEN LETTER FROM JO COMERFORD

Executive Director, National Priorities Project

Dear members of the "Rock Star" Haydenville Congregational Church,

On behalf of the entire staff and board of directors of National Priorities Project, I write to extend my gratitude for your work to facilitate Greg Speeter's memorial service on March 3, 2012.

From the moment the Speeter family approached Pastor Andrea, I felt a surge of unbelievable support come forward from church members.

I know many of you are personally aware that this memorial necessitated a good bit of heavy lifting. Plainly put: it would not have been possible without the Haydenville Church community.

Church members were generous with your time, your expertise, and your volunteer help. Without you, we would not have managed all the parking and road logistics. We would not have been able to record the service from the balcony or hear the videos. We would not have been able to manage the reception or the crowd.

We would not have been able to create a memorial experience fitting for Greg -- who we all miss so much.

Over the years, I have witnessed the Haydenville church community being generous and courageous. I have seen you rise with grace to challenges. You are a group of amazing and inspirational souls.

With all best wishes for the days ahead.

## IS GOD ALL-POWERFUL OR ALL-LOVING?

By Ann Turner

In a recent sermon, (“You’re Not What We Had In Mind”) Pastor Andrea spoke of God as all-loving but not as all-powerful. I realize many pastors and theologians would agree with this assessment, but I want to respectfully disagree.

Throughout his ministry in 1<sup>st</sup>-century Palestine, Jesus’ disciples often upbraided him for not being a figure of power—as they saw it and wished him to be. The disciple who cut off the Roman soldier’s ear in the garden of Gethsemane violated the kind of power Jesus brought into the world. And so he healed the man’s ear immediately (now, that is power for you!) reminding us that those who live by the sword will die by the sword. “I do not come as a conqueror,” he said over and over. He did not ride into Jerusalem on a white charger, trappings glittering in the sun. He rode a lowly donkey, close to the ground—as he is close to us.

So, why are we surprised when terrible things happen in our world, to people we adore and yet God does not ride in on a white charger making all things right? The pattern of nonviolence and non-interference was established early on, and I believe that it is our very God-given freedom that keeps God from micro-managing our lives. But that being said, I would like to recount a personal experience which helped me to better understand the locus of Jesus’ power. Some of you know that a few years ago one of our family members was quite ill. Ill enough to turn me into “Mrs. Afraid,” as Anne Lamott called it, afraid that our family would not survive this illness, that my beloved might not make it. One night as I lay in bed practically in despair, wrapped in a spiritual darkness so intense that I truly felt as if I were sliding down the mouth of hell—a strong “knowing” inside said, *Read Romans 5*.

“Huh,” I mumbled. “Romans? Chapter 5?” Grumbling, and still sniffing, I took out my small blue New Testament from Sunday school decades ago and opened to Romans 5. This is what I found.

*And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5: 2-5; NIV)*

I blew my nose, patted my heart—which was now full of this astonishing love and reassurance, so deep and so complete that I could never doubt it. THIS is the power I am talking about. Not the power to prevent tragedies, the

power to regenerate cancer-ridden bodies (although I do believe God can do this from time to time; it is a mystery.), or the power to keep tsunamis from devastating countries. I knew God was with me. Always. To the end of the world no matter what happened. This is the power of a mother’s arms. It is the power of a lover’s embrace. It is the power of the breath that created and continues to drive this world and keep it in being. It is the power in the new shoots springing up in the garden, which Dylan Thomas called, “The force that through the green fuse drives the flower”...

It is the same force that coursed through Jesus when he exorcised demons, called the little girl out of death back into life, healed the mute, restored sight to the blind, made the lame to walk, and stopped the flow of blood in a woman simply when she touched the hem of his garment. How is this NOT power?

It’s simply a different kind—not what we expected, certainly not the power of the world. But it is the power of a love so encompassing, so compassionate that we will never plumb the depth of this deep river which runs beneath our lives.



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April	2	Michael Estes
April	4	Johanna Newcomb-Gerken
April	5	Karen Guiel
April	6	Sasha Klare-Ayvazian
April	7	Deb Luekens
April	11	Beth Howland & Danny Hathaway
April	12	Darien Gardner
April	15	Will Demarais
April	16	Ruth Parsons
April	17	Delia "Dee" Watts
April	18	Ellianna Chappluis
April	19	Lisa Ellingsen
April	22	Norma Kellogg
April	23	Tammy Walker
April	27	Carol Prior & Cheryl Nugent
April	29	Claudia Downey & Mary Meg Elias-Gillette

## HAYDENVILLE'S COFFEE HOUR: TO BE OR NOT TO BE

By Jo Cannon



By the time you read this we will be in the midst of our third rotation with our new letter arrangement. The goodies have been great, with lots of healthy, yummy and yummy-healthy choices. We've also made some progress in sharing the setup and cleanup responsibilities more evenly but we could do better.

If you haven't come early to help setup or stayed to help cleanup either of the last two times around please consider doing one or the other this time around. There are enough people in the rotation so that if each adult took a turn one in three times that their rotation came around, we'd be fully covered. With six groups that would mean that each of us would only have to pitch in 2-3 times a year!

We only need:

2 folks to help setup

2 folks to ready things during announcements

4 folks to help cleanup

During a recent week the average age of the people cleaning up after coffee hour until it was done was 82! This doesn't count me, as it was not my week. I did stay to help, and we did have one other wonderful person pitch in during serving and early in the cleanup process.

I don't mean to be ageist; it just doesn't make sense to me that with all the younger, able-bodied people in our church, we keep relying on the folks who have been doing more than their share for longer than I've been alive. Although I don't often get to sit down for coffee hour, I enjoy the friendly atmosphere, the time to chat with all of you and the community that we are. Each of you has a chance to vote for or against continuing coffee hour by stepping forward a couple times a year.

Yes, it takes time and none of us have much of that! It might mean that you don't leave church until as late as 1:00, although with four people helping, it is unlikely to take that long. Couldn't you give an hour to an hour and a half to your church community a couple times a year?

On behalf of those of us who have already voted for coffee hour,

Jo Cannon



## ONE WAY DOOR?

Submitted by Trish LaFreniere

Does Heaven have a one-way door—  
once you're in  
you cannot leave?  
Or can you wander off sometimes  
to check on those you left  
who grieve.  
Can you do a fly-by overhead,  
a circling hawk  
with echoed screams?  
Or visit in the lonely dawn  
at edge of sleep  
slip into dreams.

He's come to me a time or two  
when I thought  
I couldn't deal  
with all the sorrow locked inside.  
It's not a dream...  
I know it's real.  
He showed me where he's living now,  
a room of windows  
full of light,  
the ocean crashing on the left,  
and fields of home were to the right.  
A big screen TV on the wall,  
two easy chairs,  
a blazing fire,  
an easel set with brand new paints,  
our favorite foods,  
a bluesy choir.

"See, Lovey, I have saved a place  
for you in Heaven—do not grieve.  
It's not time for you  
to come here now,  
but I am waiting.  
Just believe."

## COFFEE HOUR FOOD AND JOBS!

Don't let a few people carry the load! Please note the dates below that indicate when you bring goodies for Coffee Hour, come early to help set up, and stay later to help clean up! We need you! Thank you!

April 1: G, H, I, J, K  
April 8: L, M (Easter Sunday [and yes, there still is Coffee Hour!])  
April 15: N, O, P, Q, R  
April 22: S, T, U, V  
April 29: **BLUE MOON SUNDAY**, no Coffee Hour  
We do Community Service Projects.

## REFLECTIONS FROM SUE CARBIN



Several months ago I got a call from a co-worker asking if I could cover her shift on Thursday. Since I have Thursdays off, I said “sure”-- then came Thursday. Of course, it was a beautiful day, sunny, bright and clear;

one of those days to be doing anything except working. So I spent most of the morning berating myself for agreeing to do the shift. “Why am I doing this? Thursday is my day for myself. Why didn’t she call Tom, he could have worked. He would have worked. Why didn’t I call Tom?”—and so it went until I stopped whining and went to work.

It wasn’t bad once I got there and settled in. At least I was outside and it wasn’t too busy. Then I saw a small pick-up making its way through the gate. As it came down the hill I noticed it had an outdated vehicle permit. Oh great, just what I needed. Now I had to launch into my “Sorry to tell you, sir but your permit...yada, yada, yada, and you need to get a new one before yada, yada, yada” speech, a speech which can sometimes turn into a lengthy confrontation which isn’t always pretty.

A young man emerged from the truck and started walking towards me. I met him half-way. I started into my “sorry, sir” speech when something he was saying cut through my “yada, yada, yada’s” like a knife. It sliced through my program and brought me back into consciousness. He was saying, “My mom died today.” Everything stopped. I heard myself saying, “I’m so sorry.” As his eyes welled with tears he said “Thanks.” Then he pushed back the tears and said, “I can buy the permit. I’m sure I have the money.” I said, “No, no, not today. You can get the permit another time—not today. Just do your trash today.”

He walked away and I took care of other customers but I could not get his words out of my head—“My mom died today.” Why did he tell me this? I could hear his pain. I could see it in his eyes. Dear God, I have to say something. It can’t end like this. Talking about trash cannot be our only interaction today. He did not come here today for trash. As I finished up, I looked over and he was standing behind his truck. I started walking towards him. I had absolutely no idea what I was going to say. He saw me coming and turned towards me. I said again, but this time with a lot more heart, “I’m so sorry about your mom,” and I opened my arms. This complete stranger, who I had never seen before, walked into my arms and cried on my shoulder. As impossible as it seemed, we were the only two people in the yard. I held him for all of, maybe, a minute. I asked him his mom’s name and told him I would say a prayer for her soul. He thanked me and welled up again.

I walked back to the shed. He finished his trash run, waved, and drove away. As I waved back, I said a prayer for him, “Please, God, let him find someone at home today who will give him care and comfort and not more errands.”

Thank God Tom didn’t work today. Funny, I thought, how things work out.

I wasn’t supposed to be here today—or—was I?



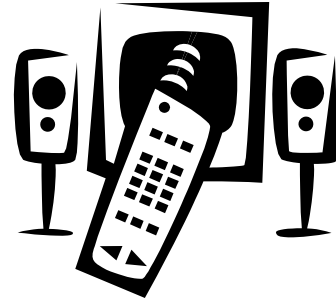
## A PIECE FROM FRIDAYS AT FOUR

By Emily Dines

Music is the sea, the rushing roaring brook,  
Music is healing, harmonious, and happy,  
Music is a loving mutual language that is understood by all.

## WISH LIST

We would love it if you own any of these things and would like to contribute them to the Church! If yes, see Pastor Andrea! And thank you so much!



### *Clipboards*

*Scissors for kids in Children's Church*

*also Scissors for adults in CC*

*Doilies for covering bread for Communion in Children's Church (cloth ones)*

*Hand Sanitizer for Children's Church*

And this wonderful addition to the Wish List from our beloved Toby:

How about a *flat screen TV* to mount on the wall? I know it's a big item, but how cool would it be to never have to wheel the tv back and forth...plus we could have photos showing during coffee hour.

“I'm dreaming big, as usual!” - Toby



## APRIL 2012

Sunday, April 1:	10 AM	Palm Sunday Worship Service with Communion. Seder in Children's Church
Monday April 2:	6 PM	Diaconate Meeting, Church Dining Room
Tuesday, April 3:	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting, Church Dining Room
Wednesday, April 4:	5 PM	Bible Study, Final Class, Church Dining Room
Thursday, April 5:	7 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, April 6:	12-3:00 PM	Sanctuary Open for Good Friday Prayer and Meditation
Sunday, April 8:	10 AM	Easter Sunday Intergenerational Worship Service and Service to Welcome New Members
Wednesday, April 11:	7 PM	Shepherd's Meeting, Church Dining Room
Saturday, April 14:	10 AM	Book Group: <i>Bread of Angels</i> by Stephanie Saldaña Contact Paula Spencer for details. Church Dining Room
Sunday, April 15:	10 AM	Worship Service

COFFEE HOUR: Haydenville Church Committee Fair!

Every wonder what the Deacon's do? Or what the Trustees talk about? What happens on Fridays at 4? What sort of Aid do those Ladies provide? Peace and Justice, Accessible to All, Grounds, Maintenance, Children's Church and more - we have so many wonderful committees here in our church, sometimes it's hard to keep track of them! So we are presenting our first ever Committee Fair on April 15 during Coffee Hour. Representatives from our church committees will be available to answer questions, provide information and help YOU find the best committee (or 2 or 3) for your talents! Join us! Contact Toby Davis for more information.

12 NOON Council Meeting in Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 16:	6 PM	A2A Disability Meeting. Contact Toby Davis for details. Church Dining Room
Thursday, April 19:	1 PM	Ladies Aid, Church Dining Room
Sunday, April 22:	10 AM 11:45 AM	Worship Service. Children's Spirituality book group meets upstairs in CC. Please direct any questions and RSVP to Susan Molano at <a href="mailto:smmolano@gmail.com">smmolano@gmail.com</a> . Childcare provided.
Monday, April 23:	5:30 PM	Peace & Justice Steering Committee Meeting. Church Dining Room
Saturday, April 28:	9 AM—2 PM	Cookie Walk, Church Dining Room. Come buy cookies!
Saturday, April 28:	11:00-12 PM	Peace Vigil, corner of King and Main Streets, Northampton. Invitation from the Peace and Justice Steering Committee
Sunday, April 29:	10 AM 11:45 AM	Worship Service. Children's Spirituality book group meets upstairs in CC. Please direct any questions and RSVP to Susan Molano at <a href="mailto:smmolano@gmail.com">smmolano@gmail.com</a> . Childcare provided.



## **Haydenville Congregational Church**

United Church of Christ  
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