

# Cross Currents

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

## FROM THE PASTOR

Our beloved Pastor Matilda will be leaving our Church this spring. You all know this news, by that I mean you are aware of this news, but I think many, many of you are still adjusting to this news. There is much sorrow in our Church family about Pastor Matilda's departure and yet there is also excitement for her as she begins a Fellowship at Smith in the Chaplain's Office. We are called at this time to hold conflicting emotions in our hearts...our own sense of loss and sorrow as Matilda leaves us, and our wanting to send her off with love and blessings and even joy as she begins a wonderful new chapter in her life.

I know this is a difficult time for many of you and I want to remind you that although things are changing at our Church, much of our Church life together will stay the same. Let us hold on to each other and to all that will continue even as Til leaves us. We have each other; we can pray together, take hands, share hugs and cry together as need be. But we also know with assurance that life at our precious Church will continue...we will carry on! Children's Church will continue with its wonderful Godly Play curriculum, dedicated teachers, lunch program, circle and singing. Children's Messages on Sunday mornings will continue with a variety of people offering those.

I am pleased to announce that very competent, committed and well loved Church leaders will take up the reins and serve in "interim" positions in Children's Church while we carry on a search to replace Pastor Matilda. Our wonderful Dawn Orluske, long an anchor in Children's Church, will serve as the Interim Head of Children's Church when Matilda leaves. Dawn is fully trained in the Godly Play curriculum and served as the Acting Head of Children's

Church when Til was away on a 10-week maternity leave last spring. Dawn is prepared, experienced and ready to go! We are delighted that CC will be in her able hands.

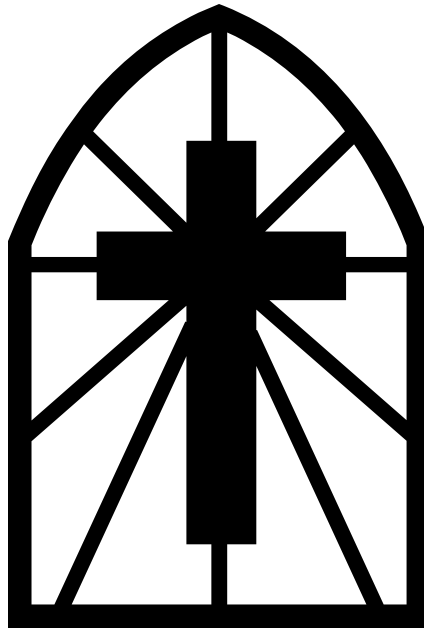
The Youth Group and Confirmands will be working with a powerful Youth Leaders' Team: Doug Renick and Toby Davis. Doug and Toby will share meeting with the Youth Group and Confirmands on Sundays and I hear talk already of some "field trips" to visit other houses of worship. Doug and Toby are excited to share this role and I know the Youth and Confirmands will enjoy working closely with these two remarkable men.

I know it is trite to say that endings are also beginnings but I need to say it anyway because it simply is true. An important chapter is ending at our Church, but a new person or persons to lead Children's Church will emerge as we do a search for new talent and energy. No one will ever replace Matilda in our hearts—she is dearly dearly loved and we will miss her powerfully. However, as she is already saying loud and clear: the programs will continue and, we hope, thrive. She has laid the groundwork and now we build on that strong foundation. Fear not. Church will continue. Children's Church will continue. We will miss our Matilda but we send her off with love, blessings, hugs, and so many wonderful memories!

Matilda's last Sunday with us will be March 25<sup>th</sup>. She will preach on that day and following our worship service, there will be a big potluck lunch during which time we will sing, thank and honor her. Please mark your calendars now!

We will go on. Let's take hands and continue strong and focused through this time of change. God is near.

With love always,



## NOTE FROM MATILDA YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES:

### On Re-membrance and Re-cognition

Dear Friends,

As most of you now know, at the end of March I will be ending my time here as Youth and Family Minister as I have accepted another position. On one hand, leaving this Church feels unimaginable because its members and friends (you) are my spiritual family. On the other hand, all you have given me has contributed to my ability to hear a call elsewhere. I am deeply proud to be able to say that in the last six and half years, I have had a small part in raising our “Church’s Children.” At the same time, it is not every church that can say they have “raised a minister.” Andrea, members of the congregation, church leaders and friends--you have all raised me, and now I feel you are sending me forth.

**When and What for:** March 25th will be my last Sunday with you, and after that I will be beginning a position in the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at Smith College. I am quite sure that at the end of the process of saying “goodbye for now” we will all be stronger, more deeply connected, and quite hopeful about what is to come in Children’s Church and the whole community. This transition is an opportunity to strengthen leadership, build on what we have, and see things in a new light—making room for possibilities we may not have imagined. As we walk this journey together and anticipate a change, the Bible verse that keeps ringing in my head and bringing me strength and inspiration is Romans 8:38—one of Andrea’s favorites: *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God...*

**My Final Sunday:** On Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, we will conduct a service of “Remembrance and Recognition,” which is the liturgical ritual in the UCC for marking a transition within the Church. I look forward to undertaking this ritual with you and am struck by what it is called—*remembrance and recognition*. To me the Christian life is all about “*re-membrance*.” This is not solely about reminiscing about all we have done together, but “*re-mem-bering*”—putting together in its most solid form our connection and the Ministry that I have served here at the Church. So in that way, despite the sadness of the change, for all of us, it truly is an opportunity to do what life in Christ calls us to do--go through a loss and emerge from it bathed in new hope and deep love. *Re-cognition*, by the same token, means to “*know again*.” This reminds me that we truly come to “know each other again” in a deeper way when our perspective shifts by way of a change, even one that involves loss. As hard as this is to swallow, the truth is that

whenever we are separated from a minister, teacher, healer, or prophetic friend, even a loved one—it is an opportunity to “re-member,” to “know again,” and hence, an opportunity to draw closer to God.

**What is Next?** When I first began announcing my departure to Church leaders and all of you, many of you asked the very same questions that I was asking myself: “*When can we see each other again?*” “*Can we be friends now?*” “*Will you still be a member of the Church?*” I was asking these questions because as I mentioned above, leaving my home church, my first ministry, the place where I had both of my children, the place where I walked with five confirmation students for three years toward and through their confirmation, the place where I witnessed and ministered to several beloved members of our church family in their last days and where I had the blessing to witness eight births—to name only a few of the events I have had the blessing to participate in-- seemed unimaginable. The love that has been given to me by Andrea and each of you through these watersheds has been colossal and it has changed me for the good forever... But having sought counsel and drawn on the wisdom of the UCC, the answer to these questions is as follows: My “Code of Ethics” as an ordained minister requires that I will “*not upon my departure interfere with the ministry of my successor*.” These guidelines are in place to honor the depth and specialness of the pastoral relationship, and to protect our spiritual well-being and the well-being of the church. Therefore, I will need to leave Haydenville Church for a period of time, so that the relationship as it has been can have time to be “re-membered” within us, and so that you can carry on with the ministries we have created together unimpeded. As to the future of our corporate and individual relationships, we cannot predict or plan, we can only pray for guidance and mutual satisfaction, joy, and growth in our respective journeys. There will be an interim plan for leadership in Youth and Family Ministries which will draw on lay leadership and provide the children with a sense of familiarity, and routine and surround them with the love of their community and their teachers.

And finally, I would like to close with another line from scripture that keeps ringing in my head—“*You will also do the works I do, and do greater works than these...*” (John 14:12) I believe this is true. I cannot imagine leaving the church in better hands—your senior minister is one of the most faithful, gifted, and dynamic leaders any community anywhere in the world could ask for! I cannot imagine leaving the church at a more whole, stronger time. I do believe that change is an opportunity, and that while Youth Ministry has flourished in my time here, there is so much more to be done, and indeed, “*you will do greater works than these*.”

In Faith, Love, and Gratitude,  
Til

## INTERESTED IN INEXPENSIVE RESOURCES TO HELP YOU CULTIVATE STILLNESS?

By Dana Gillette

Are you interested in inexpensive resources to help you cultivate stillness? Here are two invaluable resources:

First, Temenos, in nearby Shutesbury offers an opportunity for an "unplugged" retreat for less than \$50 a night. Temenos is a small rustic retreat and conference center, located on 78 acres. Temenos is a sweet spot to remember the sacredness of our natural world, rekindle our connections to the earth, water, and all the creatures and growing things inhabiting the land.

I serve on the Temenos Council, and would be glad to answer any questions about retreating there. Meg and Nicky Elias-Gillette are also experts on this special place.

The second resource is the book World Enough and Time by local author Christian McEwan. The description on her publisher's web site provides a good description of what you will find between its covers:

**Slowness can open doors to sustained creativity**, claims poet and teacher Christian McEwan in her new book, World Enough & Time: On Creativity And Slowing Down. Over the course of ten years training teachers to write their own poems in order to pass the craft along to students, McEwan realized that nothing comes easily when life is conducted at a high rate of speed. She draws not only on personal experience, but on readings ranging from literary anecdote and poetry to Buddhism, anthropology, current news, and social history, all supplemented by interviews with contemporary writers and artists. This is a real reader's book, one that stands up as both sustained narrative and occasional inspiration.

McEwan espouses the pleasure to be found in slowing down, both for the ease and comfort of the thing itself (taking time to go for a walk, to write down one's dreams, to read, to talk, to pray), and for its impact on creativity. There are chapters on walking, talking, drawing, dreaming, on "making space," on pausing/praying, on telling stories. World Enough & Time is aimed at the educated general reader, could be used as a creative primer, and will be of interest to creative writing students and artists in every genre.

Source: <http://www.bauhanpublishing.com/new-titles-2/world-enough-time>



*"The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything is to succumb to violence. The frenzy of the activist neutralizes his work for peace. It destroys his inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of his own work because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful."*

Thomas Merton from  
*Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*

## ALL ABOUT BOOKS!

By Paula Spencer

The Church Library is in the midst of spring cleaning! Collection weeding is in process, authors' names are being added to sign-out sheets (which previously had titles only), and the print catalogue of all library holdings is being updated. Part of this project involves tracking down books, CDs, DVDs, etc. that have been signed out for months, even years(!) ago and not returned. I'll be compiling a list of these wayward, way-overdue books and encouraging people to get those titles back so others can borrow them. You might want to start looking around your home to see if anything with a "Library/ Haydenville Congregational Church" label on the spine turns up!

Book Group will be reading An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith by Barbara Brown Taylor, and will meet for a discussion on Saturday, March 10. Please join us in the church dining room at 10 a.m. if you'd like to join us.

I'll be happy to provide more information and answer any questions on either of these book matters!

E-mail: [prspencer1@comcast.net](mailto:prspencer1@comcast.net)

## DID GOD MAKE YOU?

Submitted by Ellie Loomis

A little girl climbed into the lap of her grandfather and studied his white and balding head. She ran her fingers along the wrinkles on his face and neck. "Did God make you?" she asked. "Yes." "Did God make me too?" she asked. "Yes," the grandfather replied. "Well," the little girl said, "don't you think he's doing a better job now than he used to?"

## AM I LOVABLE?

By Ann Turner

Gulping coffee this morning as I threw dishes into the dishwasher and watched my husband tear around getting ready for work (where are those still, small moments of humanity anyway?), I saw Demi Moore come on “Good Morning America”. You remember it—it used to actually be a *News* show, now it’s almost completely about celebrities. But that’s ok because I was instantly sucked into this sad story about Demi Moore, a woman I had admired for her tenacity and courage.

There she was on the screen, looking beautiful, glamorous, and also tense and unhappy. She had been rushed to the hospital for what they called exhaustion, but which may also have had more to do with substance abuse. Whatever caused her collapse, what seemed deeper, more poignant, and more universal was her lament: She was afraid that when she died, she would find out she was not lovable, and that there was something basically wrong with her after all.

I believe this is a fear shared by many of us, that there is some stain in our personality, some jagged and ugly breakage which others can’t see, but we know is there, and God knows as well. We are flawed, unlovable at the base of our being, and there is nothing we can do about it.

Except that there is, but it requires a change in perception, seeing things anew through old eyes. Which I’ve always understood is what Jesus is calling us to do—to be awake, to see beyond the surface, as well as to love extravagantly. Why do so many of us labor under the misapprehension that we are not only unloved but not worthy of love? One thing I took away from the wise priest who helped bring me into the church was this—God sees each one of us as His only child. He loves us that much, and that intensely. *It’s as if I’m God’s only Child?* I struggled with that for years. But if you have ever experienced the powerful and overwhelming rush of God’s love flooding your body and soul, you will know what this priest knew—we are singled out for Her love. Marked by it. Claimed by it. For that is the only way we get changed enough to go out in the world and do God’s work.

About a month ago I fell into an anxiety trap where I doubted that God really did love me, even though I’d had so many evidences of Her love over the years, of Her tender care of me. Suddenly I was afraid of dying, fearful that when I crossed over, I would see God sitting in some vast Captain’s chair, arms folded, looking at me with disgust and disappointment. I had not saved the world, I had not fed the poor, or buried the dead. Kneeling sadly by my bed in prayer I said, “I am afraid I have disappointed you,

again.” But the central prayer was this—*Do you love me, in spite of all my imperfections?*

The answer was swift and clear in words inside (I call it God’s CNN tape beneath the news): *Why would I love you any the less at the end of your life than I do now, Annie?* Sighing in relief, I knelt back on my heels, my heart eased, soul cleansed of anxiety.

Today I wished for that certainty to flow into Demi Moore’s mind; I wished to fly over big population centers in a plane with my prayer answer on a banner, fluttering out behind. You are loved. You are God’s beloved. Whatever you think is wrong with you, it is never enough to diminish God’s love for you.

I think we need to do a better job of telling people how beloved they are. In the midst of all we teach our children—prime numbers, social behavior, keyboard skills, music lessons, and soccer practice—we should wrap each one of our children in this certainty, like swaddling a new baby in comfort: *You are loved, you are precious, always and forever.*

***I have found that the happiest people are those who do the most for others.***

**Booker T. Washington**

## A Healing Moment

By Shirley Sicurello

I watch extraordinary things, often simple and filled with genuine kindness, happen in our Church all the time. And at the service on February 5, 2012, I experienced directly one of those simple and extraordinary moments. Some of my family members had been in town the week leading up to the Sunday service, and we were all worried and sad about changes in my mother’s health. As the congregation was blessing the new prayer shawls, I motioned to have one put around my mother. As that happened, and as I put my hands on my mother, I really heard and took in the song we were singing: “Don’t be Afraid, for I am with you always.” All of that sadness and anxiety welled up and I began to cry deeply. Within seconds a shawl was wrapped around me, hands were gently placed on me and my mother, and the singing continued. I passed my shawl to one of my sisters, and Barbara placed a shawl on my other crying sister. And all the while the silent witness of those laying hands and singing with us continued. The kindness, loving intent, healing hands and capacity of those around me to simply be with us in those sad moments was very special, and I thank all of you so very much.

## REVIEW OF "A NEW KIND OF CHRISTIANITY"

By Darien Gardner

**JOINT BOOK GROUP** In January both book groups (the regular book group chaired by Paula Spencer and the men's book group chaired by Pastor Andrea) were reading the same book: [A New Kind of Christianity](#) by Brian McLaren. When the possibility of meeting to discuss the book jointly was raised, we thought it would be an excellent idea, and scheduled it for 10:00 a.m. on February 11, open to both book groups and to anyone else who was interested. It turned out to be a very interesting and lively discussion. I (Darien) ended up writing a review which I was asked to submit to the newsletter. Here is the review.

**Brian McLaren, [A New Kind of Christianity](#) (New York: HarperCollins, 2010, 317 pages).**

In this book McLaren addresses a whole series of vexing questions in Christian religion and theology. I liked the book so much that it converted me from a McLaren critic to a McLaren fan. In this book McLaren performs a great service by showing how mistaken certain conventional religious ideas are and how profoundly true others are. He sheds light and makes clear many areas that had been obscure to me.

For example, I found his explanation about "original sin" very enlightening. The issue is discussed in Chapter 4 entitled "What is the Overarching Story Line of the Bible?" He shows that this was not part of what Jesus taught nor part of the Hebrew tradition that Jesus represented. He shows that "original sin" was an intrusion from Greco-Roman philosophy, imposed after Jesus died. Likewise, the idea of "the Fall" is foreign to Christianity as Jesus taught it. It gained a foothold in Christian thinking stemming from the dualistic ideology of Greco-Roman philosophy. As McLaren says (p. 43), "Every time we use terms like "the Fall" and "original sin", I believe, many of us are unknowingly importing more or less of this package of Greco-Roman, non-Jewish, and therefore nonbiblical concepts..."

As a member of the United Church of Christ I find my beliefs are often in sharp contrast to those taught in fundamentalist communities. Yet if I were challenged I might have great difficulty explaining to a fundamentalist what I believe and why. Here is where McLaren's book helps. On a great many issues he explains WHY pretty convincingly:

- WHY trying to read the Bible as if it were a literal and inerrant document is mistaken. (p. 68, see also note 6 page 272)
- WHY reading the Bible as if it were a constitution (like the U.S. Constitution) makes no sense. It is *a community library* with poems, prophesies, historical records, fables, parables, letters, wise sayings, quarrels, etc. written over a 3000-year period. (pp. 78 - 86, see also note 10 on page 271)

- WHY we should welcome and love every human being, and should offer the Eucharist to everyone. (p. 183)
- WHY we should believe in giving the blessing of marriage to gay and lesbian couples. (pp. 173 - 190)
- WHY we should apply the Golden Rule and offer love and respect to true believers of other faiths. (p. 212)
- WHY we should read Paul in the light of Jesus rather than Jesus in the light of Paul. (p. 138)
- WHY we should see God's message as continually evolving (as in the motto "God is still speaking"). (pp. 92, 95, 99, 100, 103, 194)

Another aspect of the book is recording Brian McLaren's own spiritual Odyssey -- his difficult journey from growing up in the fundamentalist beliefs of the Plymouth Brethren to (what I would call) a far truer and more open understanding. His presentation is couched in terms that would make sense to members of a fundamentalist community. He always tries to persuade rather than condemn. He offers a ladder to people who were brought up fundamentalist as he was -- explaining each rung very carefully -- a ladder by which they can climb out of what he now sees as mistaken beliefs. In the process he has put into words truths that are very valuable to many others as well.

### BLESSING IN CHAOS

John O'Donohue

Let what distracts you  
cease.

Let what divides you  
cease.

Let there come an end  
to what diminishes  
and demeans,  
and let depart  
all that keeps you  
in its cage.

Let there be  
an opening  
into the quiet  
that lies beneath  
the chaos,  
where you find the peace  
you did not think  
possible  
and see what shimmers  
within the storm.

## LENTEN OFFERINGS

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 PM

### BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, February 29, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM  
Church Dining Room, Pastor Andrea facilitating

### MEN'S LENTEN POTLUCK SUPPER

Thursday, March 1, 6:00 PM  
Church Dining Room

### BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, March 7, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM  
Church Dining Room, Pastor Andrea facilitating

### THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Recited in its entirety from memory by  
the Rev. Bert Marshall  
Thursday, March 8~~Potluck Supper at 5:00 PM, Program  
begins at 6:15 PM

### BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, March 14, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM  
Church Dining Room, Pastor Andrea facilitating

### BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, March 21, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM  
Church Dining Room, Pastor Andrea facilitating

### BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, March 28, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM  
Church Dining Room, Pastor Andrea facilitating

### PALM/PASSION SUNDAY and Communion Service

Sunday, April 1, 10:00 AM

### MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 5, 7:00 PM

### GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 6  
Sanctuary open for silent prayer noon to 3:00 PM

### EASTER SERVICE

Intergenerational Service, 10:00 AM

## COFFEE HOUR GOODIES AND JOBS

We all SHARE in the success of our quite wonderful Coffee Hour. When it is your turn to bring goodies for Coffee Hour, also please remember to come early to help set up and stay later to help clean up. We worry that a very few Church "Saints" are in the kitchen doing triple duty most Sundays! Thank you for helping. Plus remember ANYTHING yummy is welcome at Coffee Hour--your contribution does not have to be homemade nor does it have to be sweet--nuts, peanut butter in celery, cheese, and hummus with veggies are all welcome along with coffee cake and donut holes! Thank you one and all. The line-up for March is below:

March 4: S, T, U, V

March 11: A, B, C and W, X, Y, Z

March 18: D, E, F

March 25: Pastor Matilda's last day, Big **POTLUCK LUNCH** and good-bye party

*"Nothing that is worth doing  
can be achieved in our lifetime;  
therefore we must be saved by hope.  
Nothing which is true or beautiful or good  
makes complete sense  
in any immediate context of history;  
therefore we must be saved by faith.  
Nothing we do, however virtuous,  
can be accomplished alone;  
therefore we must be saved by love."*

Reinhold Niebuhr

## DID A DEACON ASK YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN A POLL?

The Deacons decided to take an informal poll of church members, asking "Do you have a preference for communion by intinction or little cups?" Each Deacon was to poll 7 church members and we compiled the results at our February meeting. We thought everyone would be interested in the results: 26 people preferred intinction, 17 preferred little cups, 14 had no preference, 5 don't take communion, and 2 like alternating between intinction and little cups.

In light of these results, Deacons concluded we will continue to alternate communion by intinction and then with little cups. If you want to know which form of communion will be served in a particular month, please ask one of the Deacons or Pastor Andrea.



## MARCH 2012 CALENDAR

Thursday, March 1:	6 PM	Men's Lenten Potluck Supper, Church Dining Room
Sunday, March 4:	10 AM 11:45 AM	Worship Service with Communion. Children's Church Lenten Reading Group #1, <u>Children's Spirituality, What it is and Why it matters</u> ~by Rebecca Nye
		Also after our worship service: "Exploring Membership" Class #1, in Pastor's Study upstairs
Monday March 5:	6 PM	Diaconate Meeting, Church Dining Room
Tuesday, March 6:	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting, Church Dining Room
Wednesday, March 7:	5 PM 6 PM	Bible Study, Church Sanctuary with Pastor Andrea Potluck Supper and Gathering with speaker Dr. Rose Sullivan, CC Committee Member as well as Pastors Matilda and Andrea. TOPIC: "Good Good-byes: Helping Children and Ourselves Keep God at the Center in Times of Change and Transition"~~ All Welcome
Thursday, March 8:	5:00 PM	Thursday Night Live! <b>Gospel of Mark Spoken Word Performance</b> ~~ the entire Gospel recited from memory by the Rev. Bert Marshall
Saturday, March 10:	10 AM	Book Group. <u>An Altar in the World</u> by Barbara Brown Taylor. Contact Paula Spencer for details. Church Dining Room
Sunday, March 11:	10 AM 11:45 AM	Worship Service. Children's Church Lenten Reading Group #2, <u>Children's Spirituality, What it is and Why it matters</u> ~by Rebecca Nye
Wednesday, March 14:	5 PM 7 PM	Bible Study, Church Dining Room. Shepherd's Meeting, Church Dining Room
Thursday, March 15:	1 PM	Ladies Aid, Church Dining Room
Sunday, March 18:	10 AM 12 PM	Worship Service Council Meeting, Church Sanctuary
Monday, March 19:	6 PM	A2A Meeting, Church Dining Room, Contact Toby Davis for details
Tuesday, March 20:	5:30 PM	<b>Soup, Salad &amp; Social Change Program</b> ~~ Willot Joseph speaking about his knowledge of and experience in Haiti. Church Dining Room
Wednesday, March 21:	5 PM	Bible Study, Church Dining Room
Sunday, March 25:	10 AM	Worship Service. Pastor Matilda will preach—this is her last Sunday at HCChurch. Potluck lunch and party to honor Matilda to follow.
Monday, March 26:	5:30 PM	Peace & Justice Steering Committee Meeting, Church Dining Rm.
Wednesday, March 28:	5 PM	Bible Study, Church Dining Room



# Haydenville Congregational Church

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

*"Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness,  
and bearing one with another,  
and forgiving one another - and helping one  
another up with a tender hand,  
if there has been any slip or fall."*

Isaac Pennington, 1667

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARCH BABIES!

March 4	Maggie Solis
March 6	Kathleen Kent
March 7	Amy McElligott
March 8	Bonnie Atkins
March 10	Susan Farrell & Olivia Schiaffo
March 11	Jacob Carbin-O'Brien
March 12	Jonathan Roberge
March 16	Hannah Karpman-Hull
March 17	Kenneth Nichols & Gabriel Fournier
March 18	Shirley Sicurello
March 19	Sally Lemaire
March 20	Shelby McQueston
March 26	Robert Davis
March 28	Barbara Stowe & Hannah Durrant
March 30	Maureen Bourbeau

To my Church Family,

Thank you so much for the love and support you have sent my way this month. Although I would not wish the past few weeks on anyone, I do wish that each of you could experience the overwhelming feelings of being cherished and cared for that you have given me. For many of us, it is difficult to ask for help. While singing to the new members recently, I really paid attention to the words I was singing, "let me have the grace to let you be my servant too." I have come to realize that it is just as important to receive love and kindness as to give it. All your prayers have worked, the tumors removed were benign! I have always known our church was special, but all I can say now is WOW!

With infinite love and gratitude,  
Ann Loomis

