

First Community Church

Newsletter

March 2010



Our Mission Statement

We are a community of faith believing in the power of prayer and seeking earnestly to deepen our spiritual life and share the love of God with others.

The Pastor's Message

We can feel it! The temperature still hovers around freezing much of the time; the ground still carries vestiges of the last snowfall; and the trees are still bare. But we know that it's coming. As the winter draws on, we wait with hope.

There are little signs. The other morning when I was walking our dogs, I heard the sounds and songs of birds for the first time in many months. Seed catalogues are appearing in our mailbox. There are occasional days when we can feel it in the air. We know it's coming -- sometimes early, sometimes late, but it always comes.

It doesn't happen according to the calendar, especially not the last few years with our strange weather patterns. It is more than a specific day in March. It is an event, or the realization of an event. One day the leaf bursts forth from the bud; the crocus pushes through the mud to bestow a little bit of color on the drab and dirty landscape; the sun shines with a little more warmth than usual; and with a start of recognition we know that Spring is here.

This is a seasonal miracle. Brown lawns slowly turn green, ice melts, and hope rises like sap through the trees. That which was dead and barren mysteriously breaks forth into new life, witnessing to the Easter message -- that what happens in nature can also happen in us -- through the power of our risen Lord!

In the middle of the 17th century, a young man who came to be known as Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection had a powerful religious experience, an experience that changed his life. It was late winter. Lawrence happened to glance at a bare tree when it hit him like a bolt of lightning. He realized that in a short period of time, this tree would be bursting forth with new life. What seemed to be dead would once again be alive. Lawrence realized this tree was a silent witness to the creative and creating power of God. He felt he had discovered the meaning of life, and that in this meaning he experienced a call to ministry. He needed to help people experience this resurrection power in their lives.

As we participate in special worship and study throughout this Lenten season: Palm Sunday, our Maundy Thursday communion service, the United Parishes Lenten series on the meaning of the cross, the United Parishes Easter Sunrise Service, and, of course, our own Easter Sunday service, we prepare ourselves for the resurrection experience. This year I pray that we all might be moved as deeply as was Brother Lawrence by the new life that springs forth in nature, in our church, and in ourselves.

Peace and Blessings,
The Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

Adult Bible Study

We continue with our exploration of what it means to approach religion in general and the Christian faith in particular from a psychological perspective. We are presently reading Jung's article, "Christ as the Symbol of the Self." Please join us for this fascinating exploration of our faith!

The Adult Bible Study group meets on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of every month from 9:15 – 10:30 AM in the Vestry.

Missions Offering

Our March Mission Offerings are given to Abby's House in Worcester Mass. Abby's House, (Abby Kelley Foster House Inc.) incorporated in 1976, opened one of the first overnight emergency shelters for women with or without children in the U.S. Abby's House was formed at the beginning of the battered women's movement – there were no paradigms to follow in organizational development. Instead, the volunteers who ran the shelter listened carefully to the needs of the women and responded accordingly. The spirit of empowerment, sisterhood and mutuality embodied by the original volunteer activists continues to inform program delivery today.



Mission Statement

The mission of Abby's House is to provide emergency and long term affordable housing, as well as advocacy and support services to homeless, battered and low-income women with or without children.

We fulfill our mission by empowering women to lead self-directed lives filled with dignity and hope.

By offering warm hospitality, we seek to be in relationships of caring and support.

In naming the oppression that exists in women's lives, we strive to create change.

“Harmony! I don't want harmony. I want truth.” Abby Kelley Foster**Who is Abby?**

Abby Kelley Foster, abolitionist and advocate for women's rights, was born in 1811 in Pelham, Massachusetts, and moved to Worcester with her family that same year. Reared in the Quaker faith, Abby developed early on in life, a spirit of independence and commitment, both of which led her to embrace a long and difficult career as agitator and lecturer. She helped advance the feminist cause by opening public platforms to women. By her very presence, Abby awakened many young women to a consciousness of their own power.



Abby lectured throughout the country, forcefully promoting her causes of freedom for slaves and women's rights. Her views were not always welcomed by the people of the towns she visited, and Abby sometimes found herself without a place to sleep for the night. Abby's House, a place providing safety and shelter for women of all views and backgrounds, is named in her honor.

During her remarkable life, Abby Kelley Foster helped develop plans for the first National Woman's Rights Convention (October 1850) held in Brinley Hall, Worcester, MA, was an organizer of the founding convention of the New England Woman Suffrage Association and under the auspices of the American Anti-Slavery Society undertook the effort of organizing and financing passage of the 15th Amendment.

Before her death in 1887, Abby refused to pay property taxes because, as a woman, she was not allowed to vote. Surely her own words best describe the efforts of this vigorous woman, who, according to Lucy Stone “had no equal”: “Bloody feet, Sisters, have worn smooth the path by which you come hither.”

Since 1976, one woman at a time, Abby's House has helped thousands of women and children make their way out of the chaos of homelessness. Eighty-nine cents of every dollar donated to Abby's House goes directly to programs for homeless and battered women and children.

- ❖ Emergency Shelter - Seven nights a week, dedicated volunteers and staff welcome guests who are struggling with domestic violence, unemployment, emotional crisis, economic difficulty, or lack of safe, affordable housing. Warm hospitality, meals, clothing, and individualized advocacy services are offered to women and children. About 300 women and children each year stay in our emergency shelter. Abby's House is the only shelter serving domestic violence survivors who live in Worcester and the surrounding towns, a population of about 300,000.
- ❖ Service-Enriched Housing - Abby's House provides a total of 78 units of affordable, service-enriched housing at three separate locations in the Crown Hill neighborhood of downtown Worcester. Seventy-one units are single-room occupancy units for low-income women, and seven units are two-bedroom apartments for low-income women with children. This long-term housing provides a safe, stable, and affordable environment where each resident works with our housing advocate to pursue individual goals.

- ❖ Domestic Violence Services - Crisis counseling is provided to hundreds of survivors and their friends and families each year. Services are given in person or over the phone. They may include information on restraining orders, safety planning, supportive listening, and education on the elements and cycles of domestic violence.
- ❖ Women's Center - The Women's Center is a drop-in homelessness prevention program for women who are current or former shelter guests or residents of Abby's House. The program combines educational and social activities that enhance the health and reduce the isolation of women living in poverty.
- ❖ Abby's Kitchen: Food and Nutrition Services - Nutritious meals are available for our housing residents, shelter guests, and Women's Center members. Food is donated by community groups and individuals, and is purchased at the Worcester County Food Bank.
- ❖ Thrift Shop - Abby's thrift shop is run entirely by volunteers. It provides clean, seasonal clothing and household items in good condition at no cost for shelter guests and residents, with the remaining items being sold at low cost to the public. Thrift shop revenue helps to defray the organization's operating costs.
- ❖ Community Education - Speakers are available to present programs on various topics such as homelessness, women in poverty, women and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, domestic violence, and other topics. In addition, our newsletter, A Bright Spot in the City, reaches thousands of households and businesses.

United Parishes Lenten Series

For the ninth year in a row, the clergy of Southborough and the United Parishes of Southborough will be hosting a Lenten reflection series at each of their churches. This year's theme is "What the Cross Means To Me."

The meetings begin at 6:00 PM with a brief worship service in the host church. This is followed by dinner, a 15-20 minute presentation by one of the town's clergy, and then small group discussions with a time for questions. We end promptly at 8:00 PM.

Our church will be co-hosting the dinner at Pilgrim Church on March 16. We usually have an excellent turnout at these meetings from our church. Participants especially enjoy the opportunity to worship together, to listen to the presentations, and in sharing with each other, realize how much we have in common. The meal is also excellent! Child care will be provided.

The schedule is as follows:

DATE	HOST CHURCH	SPEAKER
February 23	St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Rev. Thomas Farlick
March 2	St. Anne Church	Rev. Kenneth Wolfe
March 9	St. Matthew's Church	Rev. James Flynn
March 16	Pilgrim Congregational Church Co-hosted by First Community Church	Rev. Dr. Paul Sanderson

Church Council

On Thursday, March 11, at 7:00 PM, the Church Council will hold their first meeting of 2010.

The Church Council meets four times a year. This is the time where one representative from every Board, Committee, and Organization comes together to provide a “central agency” to coordinate all of the Church’s activities. They consider all recommendations and suggestions of the various Boards, Committees and Organizations to be presented for action at Congregational Meetings. They are in charge of the current calendar of Church activities in order to avoid scheduling conflicts among organizations of the church.

The Council is much more. Please make sure that every Board, Committee, and Organization is represented.



A Service Of Tenebrae

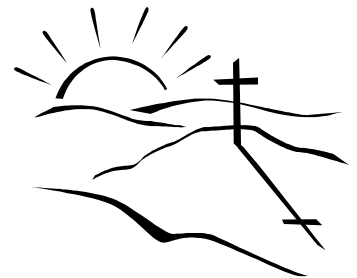
On Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 PM, we meet in the sanctuary to participate in the remembrance of the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. The word “maundy” comes from the Latin “mandatum novum” or “new commandment” that you *love one another*.

Our communion service is followed by an observance of the Office of Tenebrae, an early (4th century) office of worship. The word “tenebrae” means darkness. The gradual extinguishing of the candles following the recitation of the events of Holy Week symbolizes the betrayal, the approach of Jesus’ enemies, the moments of aloneness in the Garden, and the dark night of the soul. The moment of near total darkness recalls the three days our Lord was in the tomb. The relighting of the single candle is the prophecy of the resurrection soon to dawn.

We invite you to join us for this powerful and solemn ceremony.

Easter Sunrise Service

“He is risen, He is risen indeed”



Arise early and dress warmly to see the sunlight glistening off the water and listen to the variety of bird songs joyfully filling the air all around.

Join us at Hopkinton State Park on Easter Sunday morning, April 4 for our annual Sunrise Service sponsored by the Lay Council of The United Parishes of Southborough. The service will begin at 6:30 AM at the end of the parking lot next to the marina. In case of steady rain, the service will take place at First Community Church.

Reverend Paul Sanderson will deliver the Easter reflections. Following the service, a continental breakfast will be served at First Community Church.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship will be meeting on Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 PM. Please remember to bring any "Pillowcase Sundresses" that you have worked on.

We will be planning ahead for the months of April, May, and June. Bring your ideas for a May program that will minister to our Fellowship and the Church as a whole. Helen Varney will lead devotions and Marlene Joe will take charge of refreshments.

Mattie Cummings, Secretary

From The Desk Of The Collector

On February 21st, following our Church service, we held our 40th Annual Meeting as a Community Church and 88th Annual Meeting since the Church was Federated in 1922. If you attended and followed the necessary financial reports, especially the 2010 budget, you were reminded of several things.

1. There is no "fat" in our budget. Expenses as small as \$5.50 for a window screen repair were listed.
2. The final total of our 2009 expenses came in about \$8,000 under budget.
3. The total amount of our pledges for 2010 represents about 65% of our budget.

It should be abundantly clear that pledging is very important to our planning process. Pledging is a form of the honor system. If, due to unexpected circumstances, you find that you are unable to fulfill your well-intentioned pledge there are no "consequences."

Giving to our Missions and other special offerings is over and above our pledges. As indicated by the Annual Report, our Mission contributions exceeded 10% of our pledging, a level to which most Churches can only dream.

In some ways, pledging may seem less "glamorous" or even dry compared to a direct mission contribution. Your pledge is helping to pay those mundane electric and telephone bills, mow the lawn and heat the building. But you, our pledgers are the very glue that turns our building into a Church, supporting our staff and sharing the Good News.

As an old advertisement in the 1980's ended "Thanks for your support!"

Jim Holmes
Collector

Report Of The Trustees

The Trustees will be holding their next meeting on Sunday, March 7 after Coffee Hour. Among the topics to be discussed, will be the kitchen roof repair scheduled to begin sometime in March. Donations totaling \$350 have been received for the roof repair that is estimated to cost \$1,950.

A Blast From The Past

125 Years Ago

1885 -- March

- ◆ Our Southville correspondent properly speaks of the dangerous railroad crossing at Rocklawn, and refers to the several narrowly escaped accidents in that vicinity recently, and among them that of Mr. W. Loring, who was crossing with a heavy load of lumber. A flagman is called for, for that crossing, and the railroad corporation ought to heed the call. (Editors note: Rocklawn is the Old Flanders Road neighborhood ½ mile west of our Church. The Fruit Street bridge has replaced the grade crossing).

75 Years Ago

1935 -- March

- ◆ A very pleasant gathering took place in the vestry of the Southville Congregational church on the evening of March 2, when the Ladies' Home Circle and their families took part in a supper given to welcome the return of Mr. & Mrs. H.M. Rogers. Mr. & Mrs. Rogers had returned only the day before from New York where they have been with their daughter since December, and the gathering took the form of a surprise to them. The vestry was prettily decorated for the occasion and much good fellowship was enjoyed. Many expressions of regard were heard for Mr. & Mrs. Rogers as they have been greatly missed during their absence.

50 Years Ago

1960 -- March

CRADLE ROLL MEMBERS

Martha Mary, Dana Tripp, Douglas Michael, children of Mr. & Mrs. Francis Callaghan
 Thomas Copp, son of Dr. & Mrs. Edwin Meserve
 Dwayne Wesley, and Luann, children of Rev. and Mrs. Jack Kersenbrock
 Jeffery Alan, son of Mr. & Mrs. Seward Lisk
 Robert Arnold, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Onthank
 Robert Bradford, son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Miles, Jr.
 Calm Sinclair, son of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Bruce
 Margaret Sue, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Willis Landon
 Ann Schofield, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Lambert
 Richard Allan, son of Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Kennedy
 Louann Jean, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Warren Knight
 Ronald Dexter, son of Mr. & Mrs. Dexter Osgood
 Kevin David, son of Airman and Mrs. David Carlson
 David Allan, son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hilmer
 David John, son of Mr. & Mrs. Warren Clark
 Natalie Miriam, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Zolli
 Cynthia Ann, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Norman Lilley
 Cheryl Anne, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Perkins

25 Years Ago

1985 -- March

New members joining on March 3rd

Marsha Anzelmo
 Jeanne Hunt
 Emerson Pierce
 Meredith Pierce
 Naomi Pierce
 Rowena Pierce

Dedications: March 31st

Ashley Kristan Fletcher
 Jennifer Fletcher
 John Fletcher

Baptisms: March 23rd

Patrick Stephen Hubley

- ◆ Notice was received on March 8, 1985 of the passing of Ruth Lindsay in Kissimmee, Florida. She had joined the Community branch on Dec. 5, 1954.

10 Years Ago

2000 -- March

- ◆ Deaths: Alicia Jackman March 8th in car accident.
- ◆ Church Council meeting March 30th. Attendees: Bob L'Heureux, Paul Sanderson, Gayle Nitler, Martha Hubley, Bob Farmer, Arlene Williams, Jim Holmes, Sharon Willman, and Beverly Lees.

Reported: Cost of oil has been up to \$1.80 but is currently \$1.29/gallon. Service is now with Jamie Oil. Quotations are being sought for a cement foundation around the oil tank. Daniel's Painting will be hired to paint the stairwell.

The corned beef dinner was a hit with approximately 60 tickets sold.

The prayer chain has been revised incorporating e-mail and restructured to make the list smaller and more sensitive. This seems to be working much better. Sunday morning Bible study is centering on the Book of Mark and paralleling with the other gospels.

The Lenten Study series (at First Community Church) is continuing on Jesus Christ Super Star.

Bottles & Cans For Cash



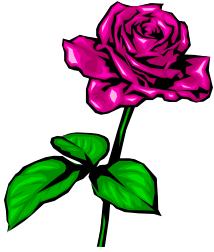
First Community Church is lined up for Wednesday, April 28 for our day in the "Cage" -- the day that we take our turn to sort and bag cans and bottles for cash! The Transfer Station's Bottle and Can Cage in Southborough is located off Route 85, near the Post Office.

By giving your time and efforts for just a few hours on that day, our Church has a great opportunity for a chance to earn money through this great fundraiser to go toward the General Fund.

Please keep the date open and be ready to put your name on the dotted line when the sign-up sheet is posted in the Vestry this month.

Mattie Cummings
 Chief Bottle & Can Collector

With Our Sincerest Sympathies



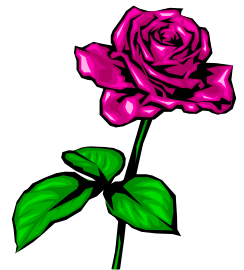
We were all deeply saddened at the recent loss of Gwen Sickles, our friend and member of First Community Church of Southborough for fifty years. Over the years, she served as our Church Auditor, a member of the Music Committee and sang in the choir.

Gwen was the wife of Tom Sickles who had passed away last June. She leaves her children, Sharon Willman and her husband Skip of Southborough; David Sickles of Westborough; Ronald Sickles and his wife Diane of Nashua, NH; her sister Janet Bishop of Lady Lake, FL; 8 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies go out to all of the Sickles family for their great loss. Gwen will be missed by each of you, and to each of us, her family at the First Community Church of Southborough.

Our love and prayers are with you.

Our most heartfelt sympathies to Beth and Peter Hook and Ann and Steven Kremer for their loss of their Dad, Edward Lambert. Ed passed away Friday, February 19 in Florida with his daughters, Beth and Ann, by his side.



Our love and prayers also reach out to his grandsons David Hook and Daniel Hook & his wife Elizabeth, and their daughter Sophie.

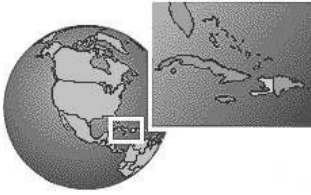
Report Of The Diaconate

The Lenten Series will begin on Tuesday, February 23. First Community Church will again be co-hosting the dinner on Tuesday, March 16 at Pilgrim Church. Carol Sherwood from Pilgrim Church is tentatively planning a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner for that night. She will contact local stores to see if they might donate the meat. Carol will be asking us to help peel potatoes as well as volunteers to cook the meat on the afternoon of the 16th at Pilgrim Church. She is grateful that in the past First Community has been extremely generous with their time and efforts.

There will be a service of Tenebrae again this year on Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 PM. This is a very beautiful and meaningful service and was well attended last year.

The Sunrise Service is set for Easter Sunday, April 4, at Hopkinton State Park. The service is sponsored by the United Parishes of Southborough and over the past several years has been organized by our own Bob L'Heureux. Dress warmly for this beautiful celebration. The service will be followed by a continental breakfast at First Community -- warm beverages will certainly be served!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, at 7:15 PM.



A Haiti Mission Update

Matt. 5:15
Rev. 1:20



"His Royal Ministry"

I Pet. 2:9

*Working with Haitian Pastors and Leaders
to Build Up Christ's Church in Haiti*

Mattie L. Cummings, Director
20 Flagg Road, Southborough, MA 01772

Tel. (508) 481-2086

Dear Members and Friends,

Mission E-4 out of Hubbardston MA is located in Leogane about twenty miles west of Port-au-Prince. The founder of that work in Haiti, Mr. Scott Long, has been such a blessing to our people in Bellevue, making it possible for them to receive 100 tents. There is still a daily struggle for food and all other needs. At present, there are several groups in Haiti digging clean water wells and we are pursuing them to find one willing to help us with a deep, potable water well.

Please keep this in your prayers and I will update you on this issue in the weeks ahead.

Water and housing are top priorities for all Haitians within the earthquake zone. Thank you again for all the efforts of our church family here at First Community Church who are giving real hope to our church families in Haiti.

Sincerely,

Mattie Cummings
Director - "His Royal Ministry"

Cookies For Haiti

We baked! We bought! Sugar cookies, hermits, oatmeal and oatmeal raisin, chocolate chip and chocolate-chocolate chip, carrot-orange, peanut butter, brownies, chocolate covered strawberries, and peanut blossoms with a Hershey kiss on top! What an amazing assortment! What an amazing show of support for the cookie drive sponsored by the Stewardship and Growth Committee!

Thank you all!!

Our total sales came to \$252 for the people of Haiti.





To Garcia and Roy on the birth of their first son, Nigel Joseph Pinnock.

Born on Sunday, January 17, he weighed 7 lbs. and was 20 inches long.



Oh The Weather Outside Is Frightful....



The decision of whether to hold or cancel church because of weather will be made by the Pastor, our Moderator Lou Dundin, and the Co-Chairs of the Diaconate Sandy McKeen and Dianne Simmons.

We will not post the cancellation on the telephone tape at the church number because that would entail someone trekking to the church and re-recording the message. We will also not be posting it on our website.

Notice of the cancellation will appear on the three Boston television stations:

Channel 4 (WBZ) -- Channel 5 (WCVB) -- Channel 7 (WHDH)

In addition, WBZ News Radio will read the list of cancellations twice every hour – at :05 and at :35 past the hour. We are listed as “First Community Church – Southborough.”

The decision will be made and the cancellation will be called in to these stations by 8:30 AM Sunday morning by the Pastor, who alone has the secret, encrypted code numbers that enable our church to appear on the cancellation list for each station.

Our Gifts We Bring

As most of you know, our Missions Offerings and Building Fund Offerings are donations made above and beyond our gifts of the Pledges that we make to support the First Community Church of Southborough's General Operating Budget.

Our Treasurer Bob Farmer, has provided us with an update of what we have collected and donated as of February 21, to the Missions that we have chosen to support this year.

<i>Missions -- January – February 2010</i>		
<i>MISSIONS</i>	<i>AMOUNT COLLECTED</i>	<i>AMOUNT DISBURSED</i>
Straight Ahead Ministries	\$470.00	\$475.00
Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling	\$190.00	\$0
Haiti Earthquake Relief	\$1,295.00	\$0
TOTALS	\$1,955.00	\$475.00
<i>BUILDING FUND 2010</i>		
	<i>AMOUNT COLLECTED</i>	<i>AMOUNT TRANSFERRED</i>
	\$85.00	\$0
<i>KITCHEN ROOF REPAIR</i>		
<i>(Amount to complete Kitchen Roof - \$1,950.00)</i>		
	<i>AMOUNT COLLECTED</i>	<i>AMOUNT TRANSFERRED</i>
2009	\$200.00	\$0
2010	\$150.00	\$0
TOTALS	\$350.00	\$0

From The Editor

The deadline for the April 2010 Newsletter is **Sunday, March 28, 2010.** Remember to include any dates for meetings or events you would like listed on the calendar. Articles may be submitted to Cheryl Holmes by:



(508) 460-0142



244 Flanders Road
Westborough, MA 01581



caholmes@charter.net

Thank You

From Our Missions

Dear Friend,

On behalf of The Salvation Army, I am pleased to acknowledge and thank you for your generous gift.

The Salvation Army exists to serve the many needs of the community and relies on you for your generous support. To insure that our needy clients receive the aid they require, we provide basics like food and a roof to sleep safely under. Many contact us, or are referred to us, with a variety of emergency needs. The Salvation Army also offers a number of other services to help improve the lives of others.



In many communities, our work is carried on by committed volunteers who live and/or work in the same communities they serve in. There are many volunteer opportunities available in your area to continue to meet local needs. If you are interested in finding out more information on volunteer opportunities in your area, please contact us at (617) 542-5420 and ask for the Service Extension Department. We would be glad to help.

We do all these things and more, and have put your donation to work upholding these vital services. Your contribution is making a world of difference in many lives. May God bless you.

Sincerely yours,

Wil Leslie Jr.
Service Extension Director
Disaster Services Coordinator
Massachusetts Division

From Our Members

To all the Members and Friends of First Community Church,

We would like to thank everyone for the beautiful plant we received after our Mom passed away. It was another wonderful expression of kindness from our church family.

During the past few months and especially the past few weeks, we all got comfort from the prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, and flowers that were sent our way. Our Mom appreciated everything and so did we.

Thank you again.

Love,
Dave Sickles, Skip & Sharon Willman, and Ron & Diane Sickles

To the Members and Friends of First Community Church,

We all want to thank you so much for the flowers you sent to our Mom's funeral. They were beautiful and she would have loved them.

Your kindness, thoughtfulness, support, cards, visits, prayers, and phone calls meant so much to us during this sad time.

Mom and all of us are very fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

Love,
Skip & Sharon Willman, Dave Sickles, and Ron & Diane Sickles

Dear Members & Friends,

Thank you all for the beautiful plant you sent me. Also for all your love and support. It means a lot.

Love,
David Sickles

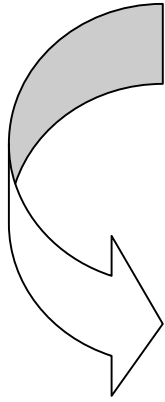
With Our Special Thanks To --

- ◆ Skip Willman for making sure that our parking lot and walkways are plowed each and every snowy day.
- ◆ Beverly Lees for all her long hours spent to gather, edit, and collate the many reports, budgets, and other vital information for the Annual Report that tells the story of our church boards and committees. Thanks to Bob L'Heureux for assisting Beverly to get all the Annual Reports printed, collated, stapled and ready for everyone to review before our Annual Meeting.
- ◆ Everyone who helped to make our Annual Meeting Luncheon delicious and filling. A very special thank you to the Women's Fellowship who again and again take on the task of feeding the flock and doing it so well!
- ◆ Darlene Sanderson & Richard Curtis (Trustees); Evelyn Till & Skip Willman (Diaconate); Kathleen Lirette (Christian Education & Sunday School Superintendent); Scott McKeen (Stewardship & Growth Committee); Carol Port (Rep. to United Parish Lay Ecumenical Council); and Peter MacGregor (Head Usher) for completing their final terms on their respective boards and/or committees.
- ◆ All the members of the Stewardship Committee for helping to make the Cookies for Haiti a success. Thanks to Darlene Sanderson and David Sickles for helping to set up and sell the dozens and dozens of cookies baked by so many church members and friends, to Mary Coldwell for providing the bakery bags for us, and to all of you who bought, and surely enjoyed, the variety of cookies.

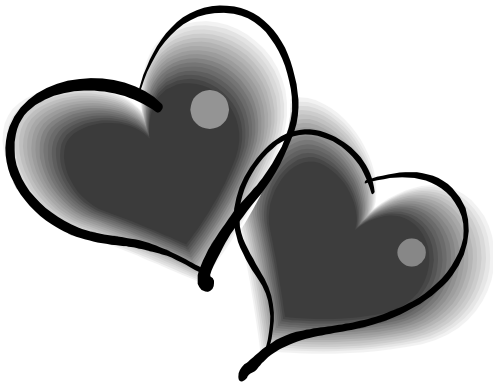
LOOKING AHEAD

Spiritual Study & Growth Group
Topic and Dates To Be Announced

“Bottles & Cans for Cash”
Wednesday, April 28




Write down these dates!!



CELEBRATIONS



	
<i>Birthdays</i>	
Lee Cummings	3 rd
Rowena Robertson	4 th
Jon Willman	5 th
Dorothy Larson	5 th
Richard Curtiss	7 th
Cathy Ten Eyck	7 th
Emily Hite	10 th
Walter Hite	11 th
Jan Norcross	12 th
Susan Elias	12 th
<i>Anniversaries</i>	
Stan & Jan Norcross	30 th

For we are laborers together with God...(1 Corinthians 3:9)

Lay Leaders

March 7 - Bob Farmer
March 14 - Martha Hubley
March 21 - Sandy McKeen
March 28 - Sherrie Jodrey

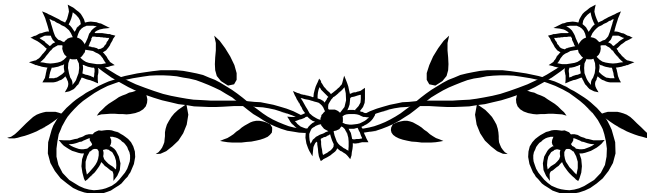


Greeters

March 7 - Lou Dundin
March 14 - Skip Willman
March 21 - Lee Cummings
March 28 - Scott McKeen

Coffee Hour Hosts

March 7 - Marlene Joe
March 14 -
March 21 - Pat Grogan & Beverly Lees
March 28 -



Memorial Flowers

March 7 - Pat Grogan
March 14 - Marlene Joe
March 21 - Myra & Ralph Claflin
March 28 -

Deacons for March

Bob L'Heureux and Dianne Simmons

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM United Parishes Lenten Series held at St. Anne Church	3	4 7:15 PM Diaconate Meeting	5	6
7 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Coffee Hour following Worship Service Trustees Meeting following Coffee Hour	8	9 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM United Parishes Lenten Series held at St. Matthew's Church	10	11 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	12	13  <i>Set Your Clocks Ahead 1 Hour</i>
14 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service	15	16 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM United Parishes Lenten Series held at Pilgrim Church Co-host First Community Church	17  Happy  St. Patrick's Day	18 7:00 PM Women's Fellowship	19	20  <i>Spring</i>
21 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service	22	23 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	24	25	26	27
28  Palm Sunday 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service April Newsletter Deadline	29	30 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	March 2010 Missions – Abby's House			

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Holy Week April 2010

1



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

7:00 PM
Tenebrae Service

2



**GOOD
FRIDAY**

3

**HOLY
SATURDAY**

4

Easter Sunday

6:30 AM Sunrise Service
10:15 AM Choir Rehearsal
11:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship Service

Sacrament of Holy Communion

No Coffee Hour



Two Pieces of Wood

*Two pieces of wood formed the old rugged Cross
That stood on a hill far away;
One had its roots in the evil of man,
The other brought redemption that day.*

*Two pieces of wood formed the old rugged Cross
That once held the King of all Kings;
One carried hope to the earth from the sky,
The other drew to it all things.*

*Two pieces of wood formed the old rugged Cross
I can see it all clearly again;
One pointed upward to God and His love,
The other reached out toward all men.*

*Two pieces of wood formed the old rugged Cross,
But they met near the heart of our Lord;
They joined human need with mercy from above
And brought them in sweet accord.*

*What love! What compassion Christ had for us all
As He patiently bore His loss
On that symbol of faith and of life evermore --
Two pieces of wood -- His Cross!*

By Phyllis C. Michael