

# *First Community Church*

# *Newsletter*

March 2011



## *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*

**I**t feels like it has been a long winter. Although there have been a plethora of beautiful sunny days, the relentless cold, the depth of the snow that surrounds my house, and the wall of ice that clings to my roof is beginning to wear me down. I am looking forward to spring.

Perhaps because of the perseverance of winter, it feels like we are just emerging from the Christmas season and here we are already at the beginning of Lent. Lent is the forty days (excluding Sundays) when we prepare for the celebration of Easter, the central event of the Christian faith. It is a time when Christians from the three branches of Christianity -- Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox, try to be more intentional in utilizing a spiritual discipline or disciplines to deepen their faith. I think of it as taking a second crack at our New Year's resolutions!

The liturgical season of Lent is replete with symbols that help us connect on a deep feeling level with the last few months of Jesus' life on earth. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a day that calls us to a spirit of repentance. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. After the cleansing of the Temple, an act that still speaks to the need for cleansing in the Christian church, Jesus celebrates Passover with his disciples in the Upper Room. This year the first night of Passover is the Monday night preceding the Christian celebration of Maundy Thursday.

On Maundy Thursday, we gather in worship to remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. After communion, as we observe the ancient office of Tenebrae, we read the passages of scripture that describe the last few days of Jesus' life: his time alone in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial, Jesus' "trial," his scourging and crucifixion. All of these events are powerful parts of our history as Christians. They also contain a message for us.

We can, of course, celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday without any thought to the events that led up to it. However, I think that when we do this we fail to grasp the deeper meaning of the event. The resurrection means little without the crucifixion, either in Jesus' life or in our own. The triumphal feeling of the resurrection means little without remembering how Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the time of the Last Supper. If we are to experience Easter as a transformative event in our lives, not just as an historical event in Jesus' life, we need to reflect on the various themes that are raised to consciousness during Lent.

I invite you to join us in this spiritual journey both in Sunday worship and in your own Lenten devotions. During the six Sundays of Lent, I will be preaching on the theme of love. In our Sunday morning adult Bible study we will continue our exploration of the divinity of Christ as revealed in the Gospel of John. In addition to our two Spiritual Study and Growth Groups, the United Parishes of Southborough Lenten series this year will focus on the theme of ecumenicity.

Lent is about more than giving up cigarettes or desserts (though both are worthy resolutions!). It is about entering into the powerful events of Jesus' last days on earth in such a way that it enables him to enter into our lives more deeply. If we do this, we will not only celebrate the historical event of the resurrection on Easter Sunday, we will experience it more fully in our lives.

Faithfully yours,  
The Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

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## *Adult Bible Study*

Come join us as we study the Gospel of John, a poetic and mystical gospel account of not only what Jesus said but who he was.

The Bible study is open to all. No background in biblical knowledge is required. Please join us for a time of fellowship, study, and sharing as we seek to strengthen not only our understanding of our religion but also our personal 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.

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## *Pastor's Schedule*



On most weeks, the Pastor will be at the church on the following days/times:

Mondays	1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesdays	2:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Thursdays	2:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Please call (508) 873-0534 if you wish to make an appointment with the Pastor.

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## *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.*

### **Homelessness Still an Issue for Women and Children in Central MA**

Homelessness is a woman's issue. Homelessness in our community is often misunderstood due to the lack of visibility of homeless women and their children on city streets. Unlike many homeless single men, you will not see them panhandling with their children. Instead, they are "couch surfing" at friends' or families' residences or living in cars and shelters, in an effort to keep themselves and their children safe and warm. Ana, one of our most recent shelter guests, can attest to that fact. "If it wasn't for Abby's," she said, "I probably would have froze in my car this winter." Furthermore, those that are doubled up and living with friends and family might not wish to report their situation for privacy reasons and consequently, are not included in data reports or stories concerning the city's homeless population.

The data for homeless families in Massachusetts is startling. The income cutoff to be considered very low income in the state of Massachusetts is \$37,150; however, the average income for a single mother with two children in Massachusetts is \$20,400. It is no wonder women are forced to choose between basic necessities for themselves and their children; they simply cannot afford to pay for housing, food, child care, health care, and education.

Currently, with the temperatures dropping and the economy frozen in recession, women and children are even more affected by homelessness in Central MA. On any given day, the Abby's House Shelter Advocate receives an average of 19 phone calls from women who are looking for temporary and permanent housing. Of the nineteen, approximately nine will come in for an intake and if available, they will receive a bed at our shelter. However, in light of the increase

length of stay from an average of 11 nights to 27 - there are times when we do not have a bed available and must help the woman find another place to stay. Often, this search for another place boils down to a choice to stay with a friend or relative, which is merely a short term solution.

In addition to an increase in demand, Abby's House has seen a change in the population we serve. There has been an increase in women age 55 and older who are losing homes due to foreclosure, layoffs, domestic violence, and divorces, an increase of women in their 20s who have aged out of the foster care system, and an increase in the working poor; many more employed women are staying at Abby's House because they cannot afford market rent. The struggle to find a place to live is a national, state, and citywide problem. Until safe, affordable housing becomes a priority, and we at Abby's stop receiving 19 phone calls a day, our doors will remain open for women and children searching for a place to call their own.

### **Abby's House Facts**

Abby's House is committed to ending homelessness, and in this spirit we have not expanded shelter services, rather we have greatly expanded our management of service-enriched, affordable housing. Beginning by renovating a former crack house into 16 beautiful, safe units of housing next to the emergency shelter, Abby's House now manages 78 units of housing in three locations near downtown Worcester, Massachusetts.

### **Every year at Abby's House**

- about 300 women and children stay in our emergency shelter, where they work with an advocate to achieve short-term goals and the stability needed to prevent future homelessness.
- over 100 women and children live in our long-term, service-enriched housing, where they work with advocates to achieve the highest possible level of independence.
- thousands of women speak with our emergency shelter advocate and obtain counseling and information on domestic violence and on emergency housing options.
- over 100 women access our Women's Center – providing homelessness prevention programming to current and former shelter guests and residents.
- thousands of meals are served, and celebratory feasts are held at major holidays, including International Women's Day.
- thousands of community members receive our newsletter, *A Bright Spot in the City*, and many community groups hear Abby's House speakers talk about issues of women living in poverty.
- about 200 active and enthusiastic volunteers receive training that will help them to provide welcome and a sense of safety to women and children who are trauma survivors.

Abby's House collaborates with many organizations in the community that provide specific services such as housing, legal services, mental and physical health services, and education.

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We provide our programs with the financial support of individuals, community groups, private foundations, family foundations and corporations. Eighty-nine cents of every dollar donated to Abby's House goes directly to programs for homeless and battered women and children.

## ***Report Of The Diaconate***

The Diaconate wants to extend a big thank you to Bob L'Heureux and Beverly Lees for their tremendous effort in preparing and putting together the Annual Report. Well done, Bob and Bev.

We also want to thank Pat Grogan for accepting the position of Coffee Hour Coordinator. Many thanks to Marlene Joe for having managed that time consuming job so well for many years. We all appreciate our famous fabulous Coffee Hours and appreciate all the time and hard work Marlene has given to keep them going week after week and year after year. Thank you!

We also want to thank David Sickles and Michael Larson for the wonderful "Hymn Sing Sunday" this past week. It was powerful, meaningful and a whole lot of fun. Also kudos and thanks to Bob L'Heureux for organizing the service – putting all the pieces and players in place.

Mark your calendars for some upcoming events. Tuesday, March 22 begins the first of the United Parishes Lenten Series, which will be held at Pilgrim Church with First Community Church co-hosting. April 10 will be our Choir Appreciation Sunday and May 15 we will all have the opportunity to participate in some way for the morning worship service on Laity Sunday.

Our next meeting is Monday, April 4 at 6:00 PM.

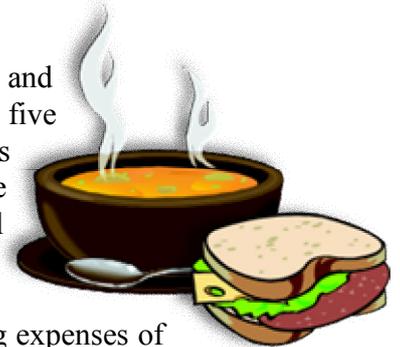
2011 Board of Deacons

Bob L'Heureux, Chairman and Church Council Representative; Dianne Simmons, Secretary; Joyce Harrington, Treasurer; Robert Farmer, Beverly Lees, and Scott McKeen

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## ***M'mm M'mm Good!***

On Sunday February 27, the Stewardship Committee hosted a \$5 Soup and Sandwich luncheon. With the help of a few other cooks, we served five varieties of soup - Karin's Potato Leek, Dianne's Corn Chowdah, Darlene's Lentil, Martha's Chicken Noodle and Marlene's Minestrone. There were many kinds of sandwiches to choose from, and as usual, there were several choices for desserts.



We collected \$160 that will be added to the General Fund for the operating expenses of the church. Thank you to all who planned, cooked, and attended the luncheon.

One of our guests at the luncheon summed it this way, "It is worth it, and it's not just the food, but, friends, companionship, family, sharing of the meal!"

2011 Stewardship Committee

David Crane, Sherrie Jodrey, David Lowry, Darlene Sanderson, David Sickles and Sharon Willman

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## *From The Desk Of The Collector*

'Tis the quiet season for the Collector. The end of year statements have been mailed to all who pledged in 2010. The report has been printed and read (or not) in the Annual Report. We are only two months into the new budget year. The amount pledged for the current year is \$47,456. This represents about 61.1% of our final annual meeting approved, budget of 2011 for \$77,684. Add in the "expected" loose offering and we are up to 68.9% of budget.

Our average pledge is about \$32.59 per week. Generally, the first week or two of the month is when we get the highest collections as pledgers often contribute their full month pledge at that time. This is also the low season for offerings and when the treasurer depends on contributions from our Investment Committee to "get over the hump" until Easter. Speaking of which, it is always good to let newer pledgers know that the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings are a depended upon boost to the General Fund. Last year these three special offerings added over \$2,300 to the General Fund.

Thank you!

Jim Holmes, Collector

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## *United Parishes Lenten Series*

For the tenth 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 "Not Disunity But Unity: The Body of Christ Across Denominational Lines." Each speaker will talk about "What ecumenism 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-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 22. 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!

The schedule is as follows:

DATE	HOST CHURCH	SPEAKER
March 22	Pilgrim Congregational Church Co-hosted by First Community Church	Fr. Tom Garlick
March 29	St. Matthew's Church	Fr. Phil LaBelle
April 5	St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Rev. Dr. Paul Sanderson
April 12	St. Anne Church	Rev. Julie Cedrone

## *Women's Fellowship*

*"Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders."* **Psalm 108:32**

I want to thank everyone and the Women's Fellowship who cooked and supplied the bread, salads, and the wonderful desserts for the Annual Meeting Luncheon on February 13. Special thanks to Pat Grogan who was willing to co-organize this event with me for a second year and again, thank you to all who made the meal and meeting a success.

Our next meeting will be on March 15 at 7:00 PM. Martha Hubley will be responsible for refreshments and I will have the devotions.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at this important meeting so we can plan for the next few months until our "Dinner Out" in June.

Mattie Cummings, Secretary

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## Celebrations Celebrations



On Sunday, January 30, we celebrated the Sacrament of Infant Baptism for Mason Matthew Renaud, son of Kelly and Matthew Renaud.

Mason is also the grandson of Cheryl and Jim Holmes.

May God's blessings be with Mason and his parents Kelly and Matt.

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## *Spiritual Study & Growth Group*

***90 Minutes in Heaven***

**Thursday Evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

We are discussing the many issues raised by/in the Christian pastor Don Piper's fascinating account of his experience of heaven following his death in a terrible automobile accident and we will be continuing to explore other accounts of "life after death" experiences.

The group meets on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Vestry. If you have not attended and would like to attend, you could catch up very quickly with where we are in the book and would be able to both benefit from and contribute to our personal sharing and discussion.

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## *A Blast From The Past*

### **125 Years Ago**

#### **1886 – March Southville**

- ◆ The musical and literary entertainment given in aid of the Congregational chapel last Thursday evening was a complete success. The local talent assisted by the Southboro quartet, presented an excellent programme of songs, dialogues and recitations some of the most noteworthy of which were the quartettes, “pro Phundo Basso”; “Forsaken”; and “Don’t mind what they say.” The duet, “A.B.C.” by Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Moore won a hearty encore. The recitation, “The Guardian Angel” by Miss Edith Lowell, and others by Master Walter and Miss Mamie Barker. At the close of the entertainment, refreshments were served in the vestry, which was heavily patronized by all present.

### **100 Years Ago**

#### **1911 – March**

- ◆ About 2 o’clock last Friday night a horse and empty sleigh came down Parkerville road. As the night was cold the horse was cared for by Mr. Cross. The next morning the outfit was claimed by Mr. Tom Fetherstone whose horse gave him the slip while doing some trading just outside of the village.
- ◆ Many people from Southville attended the farce “My Uncle Will” presented at the Cordaville hall last Friday evening. Characters included Solon R. Works.
- ◆ For the next 5 Sundays, at the Congregational church in Southville the pastor plans for a series covering some of Jesus’ Lenten Interviews. They will be as follows: March 12, “The ten lepers,” subject, “Ingratitude.” March 19, “The rich young ruler,” subject, “The things that keep us from the true life.” March 26, “The blind man at Jericho,” subject, “The things that draw us to the true life.” April 2, Zaccheus, subject, “Reparations and Jesus’ acceptance of it.” April 9, “The triumphal entry and the part one man had in it,” subject, “Christ’s use of our gifts.”
- ◆ It is reported that the petition to have train No. 14 stop on signal will be given serious consideration at the next change of time.
- ◆ P.S. Lincoln, chairman of the trustees of the M.E. church, called a meeting of the trustees Wednesday evening, at the church where matters of importance were talked over. They adjourned to Saturday evening, March 25.
- ◆ Beginning the first Sunday in April the Congregational Sunday school will adopt the system of giving pins for regular attendance. Every member of the school will start with a bronze pin. At the end of six months of perfect attendance these will be exchanged for silver pins, and at the end of a year for pins of gold and enamel. This system has been tried in other places with marked success.
- ◆ The ladies home circle will serve a cold meat supper in the vestry of the Congregational church on Wednesday, March 29. The supper will be followed by an entertainment which will consist of tableaux, special music, and an amusing comedy entitled “Thirty Minutes for Refreshments.” Bracket lamps will be auctioned off after the supper.

## 75 Years Ago

### 1936 -- March

- ◆ A group of members of the young folks society of the Federated Church have enjoyed a skiing party to Wilton, NH.

## 50 Years Ago

### 1961 -- March

- ◆ Sunday School teachers with perfect attendance were: Mrs. Austin Dobson, Miss Evelyn Hoisington (now Till) and Mrs. Robert Smith.
- ◆ The Women's Fellowship held their first Mother and Daughter Banquet with a magician to entertain children and adults alike.
- ◆ The Men's Club traveled to Clinton, Mass for a meeting and classes with the Methodist Executive Committee District Board of Lay activities. The men found the meeting full of ideas for projects for the Men's club.
- ◆ A special meeting of the members of the Federated Church was held after the morning worship service, March 12 to hear a report of the Pulpit Committee. 59 were present. Mr. Earl Killam reported on Rev. Richard Glessner who was studying at Andover-Newton and teaching at Emerson College. The committee had heard him preach, quite by accident, when they went to South Acton to hear the minister there, who was soon retiring. Mr. Glessner made such an impression on our representatives that Mr. Killam followed up with another meeting. A motion was made by Louie Hoisington that we call the Rev. Glessner, seconded by William Merchant, at a salary of \$50 plus the usual utilities. The vote was unanimous.
- ◆ It was moved that the Pulpit Committee proceed to hire Mr. Glessner, to start immediately, subject to the progress of those working at the parsonage.

## 25 Years Ago

### 1986 -- March

- ◆ An adult Bible study course offered by Pastor Riggles was on C.S. Lewis' Reflections on the Psalms as a guide for study and discussion.
- ◆ An endowment Fund of \$1,000 was started by an anonymous donation. This fund must remain untouched for five years and then, only the interest may be used, if necessary, to cover unplanned excessive budget outlays which cannot be met by any other means.
- ◆ Funeral held for Carl E. Hunley (non-member) March 18.

## 10 Years Ago

### 2001 -- March

- ◆ Church council met on March 13. Norman Wicklman of the Trustees reported that blueprints are out to determine costs of an addition (including a septic system). Approval process for septic system is going forward. Beautifying the vestry is the next project to be undertaken. They are considering expanding the parking area down along Highland St. Financing and fundraising will be looked at very carefully.
- ◆ Pastor Sanderson spoke to the Women's Fellowship about his Tibetan trips as well as the plight of the Tibetans whose land is being taken over by the Chinese.

## *With Our Sincerest Sympathies*



Our heartfelt sympathies reach out to Teri and Kayla Wallace for the loss of their husband and father, Scott Wallace. Scott died after a very brief illness at the age of 49 on February 6, 2011.

Scott was also the brother-in-law of Cheryl and Jim Holmes.

Rev. Sanderson officiated at a Celebration of Life Service for Scott at First Community Church on February 12.

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## *Spiritual Exploration Reading*

### **Monday Afternoons with Rev. Sanderson**

Our Monday afternoon spiritual exploration group will continue its reading of and reflection on the parallel sayings of Jesus and the Buddha that were compiled by the biblical scholar Marcus Borg. One member of the group reads the saying of Jesus and another reads the (often almost identical) teaching of the Buddha. Then we discuss whether they seem to be saying the same thing – and what it is that they both are saying to us.

In a time that is fraught with religious prejudice, discrimination, and even outright conflict in our country and around the world, it is not only illuminating but also healing to discover how much we have in common with believers of other faiths.

The group meets every Monday afternoon (except Monday holidays) at 2:30 PM in the Vestry. If you have not attended and would like to attend, you could catch up very quickly with where we are in the book and would be able to both benefit from and contribute to our personal sharing and discussion.

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## *Calendar Girl*

To all the wonderful generous people who donated so many calendars to the patients on my unit – We are very grateful for each calendar – people really do use them with gratitude. It provides a great deal of comfort not only for knowing what the date is but also for getting a sense of where you are in the context of time. Helpful also in keeping track of what is going on when you are in a position of the days just blending together. Helpful for remembering when you started a new medication or had a test or procedure done. The calendars are just so helpful to my patients and I think I have enough this year that I can share with other units.



Thank you all so very much!

Dianne Simmons

## *Just In Case...*

With Spring right around the corner, we are printing our Church Cancellation Policy just one more time (or at least until this December).



In anticipation of snowy or icy days, when we would not want people to go out, the Diaconate and the Minister have put together a policy and procedure for the cancellation of our Sunday service. The decision of whether to hold or cancel church because of weather will be made by the Pastor who lives in Foxborough, the Moderator Lou Dundin who lives in Grafton, and the Co-Chairs of the Diaconate Sandy McKeen of Ashland and Dianne Simmons of Southborough.

We will not post the cancellation on the website or on our telephone at the church.

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.

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## *From The Editor*

The deadline for the April 2011 Newsletter is **Sunday, March 27, 2011**. 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](mailto:caholmes@charter.net)

# Thank You

## *From Our Missions*

Dear Friends,

Aftercare continues to be a major focus for us as we are seeking God's direction for 2011. We see so many young people in lock-up who attend our Bible studies, PROMISE drug and alcohol recover groups, and special events – but the challenge is always when they go back home.

What is exciting is how God seems to be bringing so many pieces of all of this together. In Maine, the vast majority of youth return to two primary communities: Portland and Lewiston. This month Ken Hawley has come on staff with us full-time with a calling to help kids who are transitioning back to those areas.

In the past, the state of Maine has not been open to aftercare, but that is also now changing. Please pray for Ken as he takes a bold step of faith here. He is working to raise support to cover all that he believes God has called him to there, as well as forge partnerships with other organizations in these two communities.

Last week the Worcester Police Department asked to meet with us, as they had heard about the drastic reductions in the re-arrest rates that have occurred in Lynn. They asked if we would be open to partnering with them more strategically, and even going in on some grant proposals to do intensive prison re-entry and mentoring with youth there. Please pray for God's leading in this as we continue meeting together.

At the same time that was happening, Orland Perez, a very gifted young man who has been working with us as a volunteer mentor, began to sense God leading him to leave his job and focus full-time on ministering to youth transitioning back in to Worcester. He will be joining Angel, who is already working with 85 kids who are transitioning back there. Please pray for all the necessary funding needed to support Orlando coming on staff.

Things continue to progress around the vision of a Christian Community Center in Worcester as well, with several ministries coming forth who have a heart to work together to minister to these young people and their families.

So there is much to pray about these days. We're so grateful for your partnership both in prayer and in giving. God is doing mighty things because of you. If you need a boost of encouragement, take a look at the new 5-minute video that was just completed on the story of Bloods and Crips in Lynn reconciling. It's posted on our homepage at [www.straightahead.org](http://www.straightahead.org).

In His Service,  
Scott and Hanne Larson  
(Founders of Straight Ahead Ministries)



## *From Our Members*

Dear Members and Friends of First Community Church,

Now how many of us can say they are sitting by the window watching the pure white snow cover the trees and land, yet have a vase of brightly covered fresh cut flowers sitting on the table?

I so thank you all for such a cheerful bouquet and most of all I thank you for your prayers, notes, and phone calls.

The gift of our caring church is a gift of a lifetime.

Love to all,  
Marlene Joe

## *From Our Members & Friends*

Dearest Members and Friends,

Teri, Kayla, Jim and I would like to thank you all for the cards and prayers for our family during the recent and sudden loss of Scott.

Many thanks to Rev. Sanderson, Bob L'Heureux, Michael Larson, and Dave Sickles for helping to make Scott's "Celebration of Life" Service special and memorable.

Our many thanks also, to the Women's Fellowship for all their time and talents to put on the collation after the service. Their tireless efforts are well appreciated especially at a time when there is just so much sadness in your heart and yet so much to do.

With our love and gratitude,

Teri & Kayla Wallace  
Cheryl & Jim Holmes

## *From Our Friends*

I would like to thank all the people at Southborough Community Church who contributed to my Hygiene Kits for Haiti project. Your generosity enabled me to assemble about 300 hygiene kits for those in need in Haiti. The hygiene kits contained toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, conditioner, band aids, Q-tips, comb, razor, many with hand towels and deodorant.

I would like to give a special thanks to Mattie Cummings for all her guidance and time she contributed towards this effort.

With your help I earned my Silver Award in Girl Scouts but much more importantly I hope we helped make life just a little better for the people in Haiti.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Hooper

## *With Our Special Thanks To –*

- ◆ Skip Willman for making sure that our parking lot and walkways are plowed each and every snowy day. He has earned his weight in gold this winter!



- ◆ Beverly Lees for all her long hours spent chasing us down to gather up the many reports, budgets, and other vital information then putting it all together for the Annual Report. 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!
- ◆ Marlene Joe & Scott McKeen (Trustees); Sandy McKeen & Jim Holmes (Diaconate); Joyce Harrington & Garcia Passley (Stewardship & Growth Committee); and Marlene Joe (Coffee Hour Coordinator) for completing their final terms on their respective boards and/or committees.



- ◆ All those fun loving "kids" who braved the cold night to get together for a fun and enjoyable night of playing games, eating pizza & goodies, and lots of laughs. Thanks to David Sickles and Cheryl Holmes for organizing the evening and to Jim Holmes and Bob L'Heureux for offering their "Chauffeur Services." And for those of you who couldn't make it to game night – "Are you ready for "Bunco Night?"



- ◆ The infamous "Wreath Fairy" who sneaks to the front doors of First Community Church and leaves her mark. Don't worry Sharon Willman, we won't tell anyone who it is. Your secret is safe with us!

- ◆ All the members of the Stewardship Committee and friends for the delicious Soup & Sandwich Luncheon. It was a great way to help raise money for the General Fund and send us home with a warm feeling on a cold Sunday afternoon.

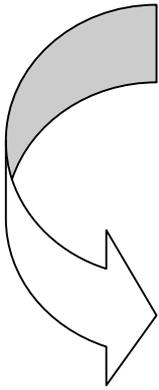


# LOOKING AHEAD

Choir Appreciation  
Sunday, April 10

“Bottles & Cans for Cash”  
Wednesday, April 20

**Write down these dates!!**



 <p><i>March</i></p>	
<b><i>Birthdays</i></b>	
Lee Cummings	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Rowena Robertson	4 <sup>th</sup>
Jon Willman	5 <sup>th</sup>
Dorothy Larson	5 <sup>th</sup>
Richard Curtiss	7 <sup>th</sup>
Cathy Ten Eyck	7 <sup>th</sup>
Emily Hite	10 <sup>th</sup>
Walter Hite	11 <sup>th</sup>
Jan Norcross	12 <sup>th</sup>
Susan Elias	12 <sup>th</sup>
Marjorie Lowry	22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b><i>Anniversaries</i></b>	
Stan & Jan Norcross	30 <sup>th</sup>



# CELEBRATIONS



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

## Lay Leaders

March 6 - David Crane  
March 13 - Bob L'Heureux  
March 20 - Pat Grogan  
March 27 - Cheryl Holmes



## Greeters

March 6 - Bob Farmer  
March 13 - Cathy Ten Eyck  
March 20 - Joan Brunelle  
March 27 - Mattie & Lee Cummings

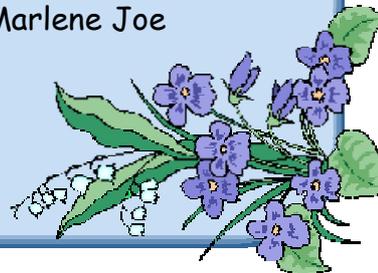
## Coffee Hour Hosts

March 6 - Sandy & Scott McKeen  
March 13 -  
March 20 - Beth Hook & Martha Hubley  
March 27 -



## Memorial Flowers

March 6 - David Sickles  
March 13 - Hazel Watkinson  
March 20 - Beverly Lees  
March 27 - Marlene Joe



## Deacons for March

Bob L'Heureux and Dianne Simmons



## *Boughs of Spring*

*A song of spring is in the air –  
A promise to behold.  
Curling tendrils seek the sun;  
Green boughs of spring unfold.*

*And in my heart that song of spring  
Is in each bough of green,  
For God is in the heart that sings  
And seeks tomorrow's dream.*

*There's promise in each bursting bud  
With blossoms yet to be,  
Lifting petals one by one  
In springtime rhapsody.*

*The world awakes refreshed anew,  
Again remembering  
That sweet rebirth returns to earth  
With greening boughs of spring.*

*By Mildred L. Jarrell*

## *Springtime*

*Each spring I see a brilliant color  
Burst forth from Mother Earth.  
I learn anew that God creates  
Each flower in new birth.*

*Each spring a fragrance fills the air,  
And butterflies will hover  
To carry pollen for new growth  
And make a floral cover.*

*Each spring I hear a redbird sing  
To winter day's farewell.  
There's warmth and joy upon the earth  
As Springtime casts her spell.*

*By Laurie Wilcox*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2011</h1> <h2>Missions - Abby's House</h2>		<b>1</b>  5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal  6:00 PM Diaconate Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>  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	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  	<b>10</b>  7:00 PM Church Council	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>    <i>Set Your Clocks Ahead 1 Hour</i>
<b>13</b>  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	<b>14</b>  2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group	<b>15</b>  5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal  7:00 PM Women's Fellowship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group   Happy St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>  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  	<b>21</b>  2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group	<b>22</b>  5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal  6:00 PM United Parishes Lenten Series held at Pilgrim Church Co-host First Community Church	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>  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  March Newsletter Deadline	<b>28</b>  2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group	<b>29</b>  5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal  6:00 PM United Parishes Lenten Series held at St. Matthew's Church	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		