

STEEPLE TIDINGS

APRIL 2010

ISSUE 4-10

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from Rev. Dave
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Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus Christ, our mission is to make Christian

Disciples:

by using our spiritual gifts; by practicing the means of grace; and by living our



APRIL HAPPENINGS

at
HUMC

A Special Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, April 25

See page 3 for more information.

Worship at HUMC

Sundays at 10 AM

Children welcome at

Sunday School



We all know that the Bible has things to say about the really big issues facing our nation and our world. But what does it have to say about living our faith from day-to-day? How does what we talk about on Sundays and in Bible Studies impact our lives in a 9-5 world? Join Rev. Dave beginning April 11 as we go about "Finding Our Place in the World." Sermon topics for this series will include:

- April 11** The Bible says it. So what?
- April 18** What does the separation of church and state mean for Christians?
- April 25** How do we respond to those of other faiths?
- May 2** A look at hypocrisy and it's impact on our faith.
- May 9** Our faith calls us to help one another. But what if they don't want our help?



New
Sermon Series

Some Thoughts From Me—Rev. Dave



April is here, and that means Easter has arrived. For me, Easter is the greatest single day of the year. Now, I'm a romantic at heart, and so I love Valentine's Day; but as a living, breathing

testimony of love, Valentine's Day doesn't come close to Easter. I'm also a big kid, which means that I love Christmas; but in terms of manifesting God's greatest gift to humanity, Christmas is a distant second to Easter. I also love to eat, which means that Thanksgiving ranks pretty high on my list of holidays; but a feast of turkey is nothing compared to the feast of new life that Easter brings.

My favorite hymn finds its roots in the story of Easter. The hymn is called *Because He Lives*, and I just love the words. *Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know who holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives.* Those words remind us of the power of Easter to change our life—to change other lives. They remind us that Easter is the day that we celebrate Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death. They remind us that Easter is the day that makes possible the hope to which we cling; that there awaits for us a mansion in glory. They remind us that this world is not our home. They remind us that Easter is the day that proves that God's love is so great that nothing can stop it, nothing can delay it, and nothing can change it. In the words of that hymn I find a true expression of the truth that because of Easter Sunday there is new life and new hope.

Every year at Easter I remember the words Bishop Weaver spoke at my ordination service.

He told the story of flying across country one day, when the person next to him asked him what he did for a living. He said that normally he would answer that he was a United Methodist minister, which usually brought about a half-hearted, "that's nice" in reply. For some reason, he said, he decided to answer this query a little differently. Turning to face the person who had asked the question he said, "What do I do for a living? I raise the dead." You can imagine the look of shock on the man's face as he tried to process that answer. Bishop Weaver's point was that as ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our job, literally, is to raise the dead. And he was right.

We do raise the dead. We raise dead expectations and give them hope. We raise dead relationships and give them a future. We raise dead dreams and give them life. Truly, we are in the resurrection business. And we raise the dead not in our own name, or by our own power, but in the name of the One who rose from the dead on that first Easter morning. We raise the dead because He lives. We raise the dead because death was not strong enough to hold back the love of God. We raise the dead because life is worth living, simply because Jesus lives.

The message of Easter morning is that death has no power over us. The message of Easter morning is that pain and suffering are not the last word. The message of Easter morning is that this world, as wonderful as it can be at times, is not our home—there is a better one waiting for us. The message of Easter morning is that Love reigns supreme, that Salvation is gift from God given flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, and that there awaits for us a great feast celebrating the fullness of our relationship with God.

For me, Easter is the greatest single day of the year. How does it look to you?

Happy Easter.

Dave

175TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

A Special Anniversary Celebration

April 25 will be a very special Sunday in this anniversary year. That is the Sunday when we are celebrating the pastors who have guided and loved us over the years. We have invited them back for a very special worship service, which will be followed by a potluck luncheon and program. During the program, you will have an opportunity to share some of your memories of Hazardville United Methodist Church and these fine pastors. We will also be having a **“Photo Contest.”** We are inviting you to **bring a picture of yourself as a child into the church office between now and April 16.** We will scan it (no harm will come to the picture) and post it with all of the others around the Fellowship Hall. If you happen to have an electronic copy of the picture, you can simply e-mail it to the church office. As part of the day’s festivities, people will be invited to guess as many of the identities as possible. The winner will receive a prize, and everyone will receive a good time.



HUMC has something to celebrate!

Spring Festival Concert

May 2, 2010, 3:00 PM

Juliane LaRocca, director; Jane LaRocca, accompanist

We are having a music concert on Sunday, May 2, to celebrate the 175th anniversary of HUMC. There will be a women's group, soloists and a large combined group that includes not only members from our choir, but members from the Enfield Community Chorus and other local vocalists. The music showcases everything from Gershwin to Leroy Anderson, in addition to a medley of popular hymns, with explanations from the composers themselves.

The concert is free to attend; we will be taking a free-will offering to support the church.

Please mark your calendars to attend this wonderful afternoon of music, celebration and fun!

Anniversary Wishes

The following e-mail was received from Robin (Greene) Harry on March 18, 2010:

“Dear Rev. Williams,

“I saw the announcement about the Anniversary Celebration on April 25 in your newsletter on line. My brothers and I grew up at Hazardville Methodist in the 50’s and 60’s. Rev. J. Kenneth Pearson was the minister when I was a little girl, and his daughter, Nancy, was my best friend. I was honored to play the Angel in the Sunday School Christmas pageant in what was the “brand-new” fellowship hall when I was 5 years old. I now work for the NC Annual Conference in Raleigh and am married to a United Methodist minister. Happy Anniversary to HUMC!”

Finance—*John Sandford*

This year's book sale on March 12 and 13 was another success thanks to the hard work of many people involved in the set-up, check-out, kitchen, bakery and clean-up. We received many quality adult and children books, DVDs and games and puzzles. The net income from the sale was \$672 for books and jarred food products and another \$147 for lunch for a total of \$819. All income will be designated for Church Ministry and Mission.

We are up-to-date on payments of Mission Shares to Conference for January and February 2010 in all three accounts



(World Missions, New England Missions and Ministry Support). Thus far all bills are paid, and our

Mission and Outreach commitments are currently being met. A Financial Summary for the First Quarter of 2010 will be issued in early April.

Lenten Folders were distributed in Church, and we urge that you respond with an Easter Gift.

Fundraising activities for the remainder of the year will be on the Agenda for the Finance meeting on April 6.

Rural Mission—*Sandra Butcher*

We are at Rural Mission and have been surprised by a lot of happenings here. There are now 754 families in the county who need repairs to their homes, mostly roofing because of the multitude of leaky roofs. Right now there is a moratorium on taking in new files for worksites until the stack of files decreases.

Here with us this week are 48 students from Phillips Academy of Andover, MA. We are working on four rooftops (maybe six by week's end). This is a real blessing to those families who will be "water-free" inside their home the next time it rains. These students are high-school age and are getting their eyes opened by learning what a hard full day's work is like, as well as seeing the poorest of the poor in our country. (This Academy is for the "rich" kids as tuition is \$39,900/year ... most have maids in their homes and were born with a silver spoon in their mouth ...

what a contrast they are experiencing.)

Mission Project



Four of the Mission office staff have been laid off because of lack of funding. Right now I have spent all my time in the office doing the work that keeps the work teams coordinated and matching work with volunteers and fielding oodles of phone calls with clients asking for help in paying their huge electric bills after two cold months. I am also trying to catch up on the very delinquent thank you notes for gifts given to the Mission over the last quarter. As more funding comes in, hopefully, some of the staff positions will be reinstated.

Prayer for the Mission is most urgent. We look forward to coming home soon. It has been a good journey so far, and we have much to be thankful for.

United Methodist Women—Linda Borio



United Methodist Women

**SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010, 3 PM
YATES ROOM, HUMC**

PROGRAM: “Human Trafficking: In the USA?”

We had a great turnout for our March meeting, led by Colleen Williams in which she spoke about dementia and Alzheimer. There were approximately 27 in attendance, and Colleen was able to give us some ideas, suggestions and answered many significant questions. Thank you very much, Colleen.

We hope to have an equally good turnout for our April meeting. Sister Connie Gemme of the Missionary Sisters of O. L. of Africa will discuss human trafficking in the United States. I know we have all heard about human trafficking around the world, but to realize it goes on right here in the United states is, quite frankly, terrifying. We have scheduled this meeting for a Saturday at 3:00 PM. In speaking with moms, working moms, working women and retired women, it came to our attention that this timeframe might be very helpful to all involved.

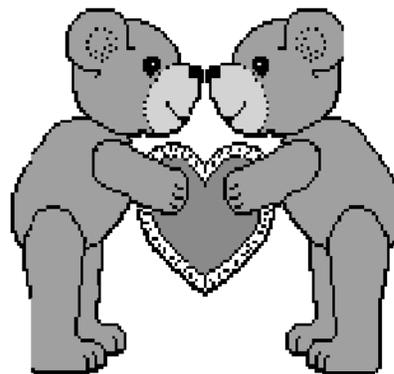
Please mark your calendars, and join us!

Chair: Linda Borio

Hostesses: Charlotte Stenlake and Judy Locke

February Valentine Care Package Meeting February 10, 2010

As they say “the best laid plans.....” Well, that is what happened in February. Our crack weathermen predicted a horrendous snowstorm would descend upon us in the wee hours after midnight on February 10. I called Candy Morgans at 10:30 AM on February 10 since the meeting was to be held at the Enfield church. We agreed we didn’t want women risking life and limb to get out to a meeting. Therefore, it was decided that HUMC would hold a quick meeting Tuesday evening in the Yates Room and put together the packages in order to get them mailed out as quickly as possible. Candy even drove to Somers to give me the goodies collected by the Enfield Church women. We ended up filling 18 padded envelopes for our college students, 5 flat rate boxes for the military, and wrote out 37 Valentines to mail to our members who are unable to get out in the winter months. Dick and I ran out early Wednesday morning (before the predicted “snowstorm” hit...which turned out to be a scant 1” of slushy snow) and mailed everything at the Somers post office. As you all know, postage rates have increased, so our mailing costs were over \$165.00. Added to that was the cost of the padded envelopes and valentine cards. But we all agreed this is an outreach we believe in and hope to do it again next year. Many thanks to all who came out Tuesday evening to help with the stuffing of the envelopes, and handwriting the Valentines. As usual it was a fun time of doing something useful with lots of laughter and fellowship.



Communion Offering—*Roberta Bragan*



Everyone Wins! CT

The communion offering for April will go to Everyone Wins! CT. Everyone Wins! CT is a reading mentoring program in the Connecticut Public Elementary Schools that consists of two parts: Power Lunch and Readers as Leaders. Power Lunch volunteers are adults who spend one lunch period a week reading with a student. Each fall volunteers are matched with students who qualify for the program. To qualify, the student must maintain high standards of conduct. The volunteer and the student work together over the school year. In Readers as Leaders, middle school students are selected and given leadership training before being matched with a kindergarten student. They read together over the course of a school year.

Many of these students have never had anyone read to them. Many of them are from single parent homes where they get little attention. All of the students are bright, fun-loving, and look forward to the one-on-one relationship with an adult. The goal of the program is not to teach them to read, but to teach them that reading is fun. The hope is that they will read better if they enjoy reading, and that they will read books other than those assigned to them in their class work.

Programs are now located in Hartford, Bloomfield, New Britain, Windsor, and East Hartford. The organization is looking to expand into other communities throughout the state if funding allows.



Salem Economic Ministry—*Sandra Butcher*

In the near future, we will be getting our church team together to go to the Salem Economic Ministry. There is a job for each member of our church when our church team goes to Maine. There are those who will be going and need support spiritually, physically, emotionally, and prayerfully while working on homes; there are those who will provide food upon our departure; others who will support our team financially; and those who, although unable to join us, will be praying for our ministry to reach those who are needy. This is a great chance to make our church shine and to make its mark at the Salem Economic Ministry. Before we head out, we will be asking our church to help supply backpacks for those students who are affiliated with the Mission so they head to school with new supplies. We will provide a list of

what will be needed for those packs.

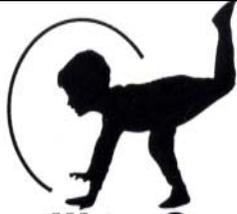
Our team is also planning to run a Vacation Bible School for the children in the area. We anticipate no more than 20 children in this program. If anyone has ideas of what we can offer the children, i.e., trinkets or small gifts, please let Sandy Butcher know.

Our goal is to try to make the Hazardville/Enfield/Glastonbury/Bolton/East Hartford/ Marlborough/ Manchester team (hope I didn't forget anyone) the best one that ever went to Salem Economic Ministry.

Pray for all of those in need as well as all those who can help.



Here Wee Grow! — Phyllis Phelan



Here Wee Grow!

HWG'S ACCREDITATION

“**Here Wee Grow!** Preschool has been confirmed as a Candidate for NAEYC Accreditation.” This was the first paragraph in a letter I received from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Wonderful news! We are a “candidate” for re-accreditation. This means we are ready for the final step in which we demonstrate that we can meet and will be able to maintain their high standards.

Sometime in the coming weeks or months we will have a two-day visit from NAEYC. Within the next two weeks our assessor will call and give us a calendar. We will be asked to mark off days that we are engaged in activities that might interfere with a visit. After she reviews the calendar she will give us a two-week window. Anytime during that period she will call the night before she intends to come to **Here Wee Grow!**

We are anxious about this visit. There is much work to do in order to maintain this accreditation. Many,

many hours have gone into the preparation of Classroom Portfolios and Program Portfolios. Policies and Procedures had to be put in writing, a new Parent Handbook has been written, a new brochure developed, and we’re still not complete. Every waking hour seems to have some job that needs to be completed for NAEYC. My Saturdays have been spent at school working on the Program Portfolios. My office, at school and at home, look as though a hurricane just hit. Hopefully no one will touch the stacks of papers. I know what is in each pile, and if I need a paper from a certain pile, there is easy access. This has been my life and the life of my staff since September. It has been a long road, but we can ‘see the light’.

When all is done, we hope you, the congregation of HUMC and the families in our school, will be as proud of this accomplishment as we the staff of **Here Wee Grow!** are. Rev. Dave asked what he could do to help. I asked him to pray. We ask the same from you, keep the staff and the school in your prayers. We hope all the hard work will be rewarded ... soon!

Until next time. . .

APRIL 11 PLANNING MEETING



Although spring has barely arrived, it’s not too early to begin thinking about the annual Fall Fair. There will be a brief meeting to talk about the Fair right after church on April 11. If you are interested in being part of this important event in the life of our church, please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

What should you bring? Bring ideas for new crafts, exciting ideas for tables, thoughts on publicity and lots of enthusiasm.



To that wonderful volunteer production staff... Heartfelt thanks to the gracious, considerate production staff whose nimble fingers made short work of our March issue of Steeple Tidings . . . **Pat Owens and Nancy Dyer** . . .

with special thanks to Don Niemann for all his support and help.

Heritage Notes—A Page from our History — Alice Allen

**History of the Methodist Episcopal Church of
Hazardville, Connecticut, written for the
One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of
the Church
by Dr. John L. Bridge**

(Continued from last month.)

Rev. Charles W. Gallagher, who wrote the history of the first fifty years of our church, was pastor from 1884 to 1886 inclusive. He was a remarkable man, well educated, scholarly and an excellent preacher, as well as being a fine pastor. During the latter part of his life he was in educational work as head of a college. He was a practical business man.

Rev. Porter M. Vinton was a man of very fine physique. He walked down the center aisle of the church to his pulpit like a prize fighter. In the pulpit he gave many graphic descriptions of events, such as shipwrecks. I remember once he preached against the theater and displayed more dramatic powers than many an actor. He enjoyed life immensely. In a report to a quarterly conference he told how good his health had been and how much he enjoyed preaching here.

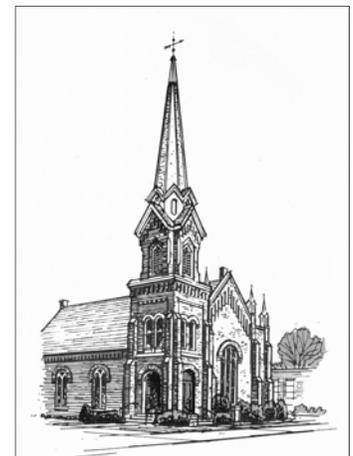
The man who stayed the longest with us and seemed most like one of us was Rev. Thomas Tyrie. He was preacher, pastor and friend. Again and again in reports to the Quarterly Conference he spoke of the joy he experienced in walking around the streets of this beautiful village visiting people in their homes and preaching the Gospel from the pulpit. Everyone felt that he was sincere. Of him it could be said, as the poet Chaucer said of a parson nearly six hundred years ago, "Of Christ's lore and his apostles twelve he taught, but first he followed it himself."

The membership of the Hazardville M. E. Church has never been large. At first this church was in a circuit; that is, two ministers had charge of several churches. When this church was placed in the care of a minister in 1838 the number of members was 78. In 1848 it was 75. In 1859 there were 80 members. It is interesting to note that the number of church members in Thompsonville M. E. Church at that time was 182. It will probably be news to many that a prosperous M. E. Church was located in Somers in 1859. At this time it had 79 members. As late as 1880 our minister preached regularly in Somers. Probably Sunday afternoons.

In the old days Sunday School was very well attended. In 1865 although there were only 66 church members, there were 160 in the Sunday School. In 1869 there were 95 church members and 223 in Sunday School. These were the days of large families and children were taken to church.

In 1870 in the old church, and again 1875-6 in the new church, a remarkable group of men visited us and held revival services. This group of men, recruited chiefly from M. E. Churches in Springfield, was called "The Praying Band." In 1875 they were led by a Mr. Bryerly and there were fifteen members of this "Band." They were given to no spectacular practices, but spoke and prayed with

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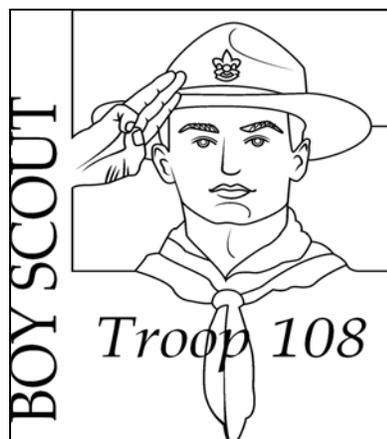
Heritage Notes—continued.

great earnestness. They practiced self-restraint and used good common sense. Their influence was felt for years. In 1875 there were 130 probationers and 117 full members. While a good many never got beyond the probationer stage, a good many others remained to the end. During this period and for many years afterward, our prayer meetings were full of enthusiasm and largely attended. A Christian who has not been present at a good revival service and an enthusiastic prayer meeting has missed something.

This concludes the History of the Methodist Episcopal Church written for the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of the Church by Dr. John L. Bridge

Submitted by Alice Godard Allen
Church Historian

Troop 108—Bill Munsell



Well, the stampede has started ... 5 Webloes Cub Scouts from Pack 396 crossed over to Troop 108 during the Month of March. One of the scouts has a brother in the Troop and their father, Mike, is in the military in Afghanistan. Members will send letters or cards to the father.

A very interesting speaker, Mr. Paul Martinello, a Civil War Re-enactor, visited the Troop on Wednesday, February 24. He lives in Somers and has appeared on Public Access Television programs and in the Film "Gods and Generals." The Troop is going to Gettysburg in April during school vacation and the scouts were excited to learn about a soldier's everyday life style, the equipment and uniforms that weren't really that great. Scouts were wide-eyed at some of the similarity that are used today in scouting.

The Pasta Supper was a huge success; 160 suppers were served with many good comments. Assistant Scoutmaster Jim Russell and Mrs. Iocco organized and distributed the tickets, bought the food, and with the help of other scouts and parents, the meal was delicious. The Troop Wishes to thank the many members of the church who attended the supper. Your showing was greatly appreciated. Thanks again to all of you. BTW, I've heard this might be a annual event.

On March 24 Mr. MacGregar's merit badge music class entertained the Troop. This was "a first." More about this in next month's Steeple Tidings.

Please don't forget our yearly "Mother's Day" flower and plant sale on May 8 and 9 right in the church courtyard. The usual great selections will be available. The scouts will help you bring the plants to your car. This is our main fundraiser for the April Mystery trip that is held every year. The scouts earn money by being at the sale site on a hourly basis; a credit is made to each scout as partial payment for next year's

(continued on Page 10.)

Troop 108—*continued*

mystery trip that is scheduled during school's April vacation. This year's trip is to Gettysburg, PA.

As of this writing the bus still has a few seats available for siblings. (A parent must accompany them.) This is a good History Civil War information trip and most certainly will be very enjoyable.

This month's **Profile** is the husband and wife team of Mike and Mary Volodzko.

Mike signed up as Assistant Scoutmaster when his son Patrick joined Troop 108. At that time Mike was volunteering as a fireman at the Hazardville Fire Department and as a Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with Suffield Ambulance. He likes to put his skills in these areas into teaching First Aid to the scouts. With scouting keeping him busy he dropped back from the Hazardville Fire Department but continues to volunteer as an EMT in Suffield.

Mike enjoys the outdoor activities and is doing many things with Patrick that he didn't do as a kid. He is very busy as a first aid/CPR/EMT instructor for Troop 108. The scouts are so lucky and are receptive to Mike's presentations. He plans to re-certify the scouts as required every two years.

Troop 108 is very proud to have so many professionals who share their talents and knowledge freely. Thanks, Mike, for your interest in Scouting and for sharing.

Mary was a Girl Scout growing up in Brownies and Girl Scouts for several years. She enjoyed doing Merit Badges and having fun with friends. She was not really into the camping part but did try a few weekend trips.

Patrick was interested in being a Cub Scout because our nephew, Tim, and his father were involved in a pack and troop in Vernon, Connecticut. Pat had been to a few Pinewood Derbies with them and heard a lot about the activities and camping.

There were no Tiger Cubs in the area when he went into first grade so Mary signed on as Den Leader all the way through Cubs. Scott Vujs and Mary teamed up after Tigers and eventually six cubs crossed over to Troop 108 ... four are still in Troop 108 (three Life scouts and one Star scout).

Mary enjoys volunteering in Scouting and, as she says, "It keeps me in touch with what Patrick enjoys, and I have met many great kids and adults. Troop 108 is a great Troop to work with; the people are wonderful."

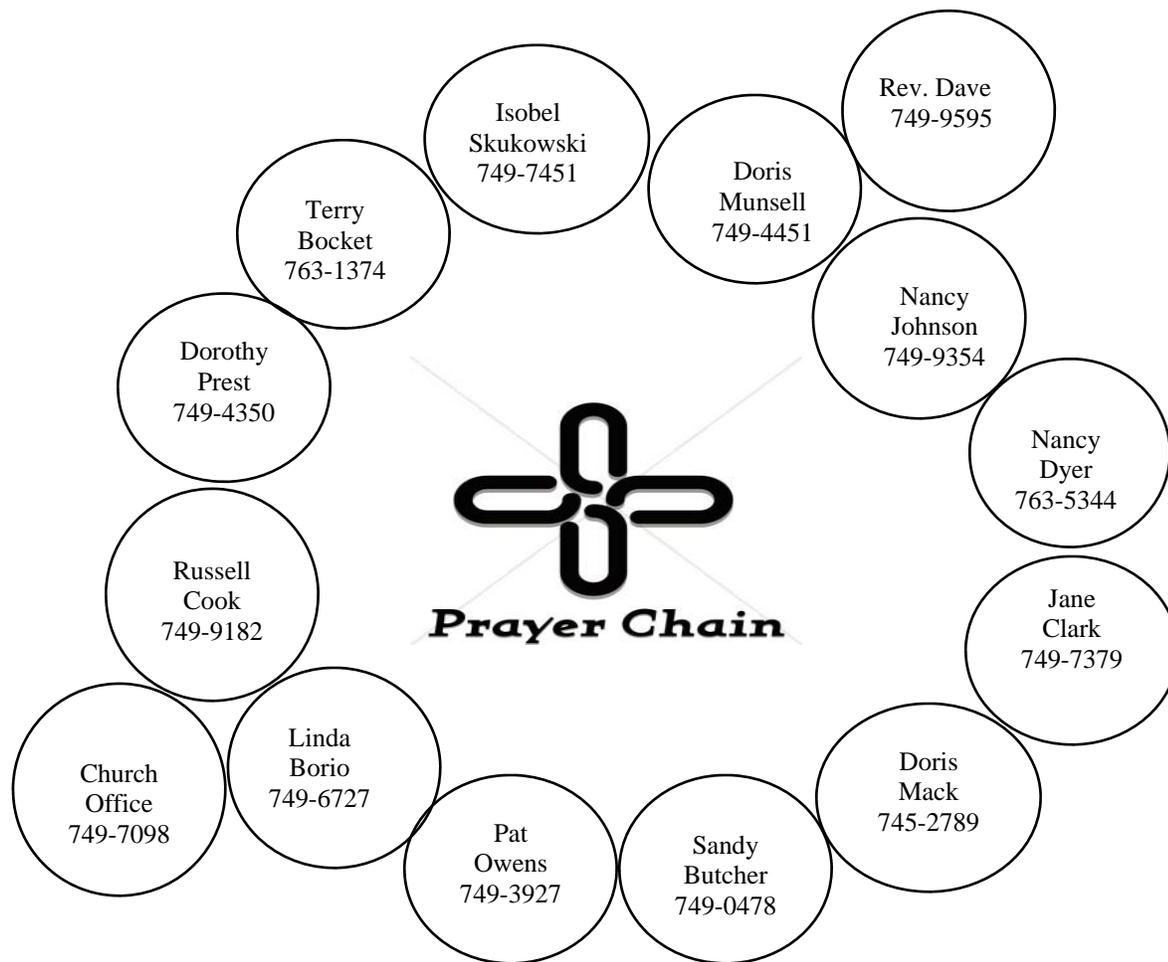
Mary is responsible for the monthly newsletter that is so eye-appealing and informative. The newsletter keeps everyone (scouts and parents) up to date on up-coming programs and advancements. Patrick is the Troop Historian; his historic news of campouts and trips are very creative and refreshing. He was also appointed (and well earned) Troop Instructor by Scoutmaster Peter Uricchio

Mary is also interested and active with advancement recording in helping Kathy Tracy with the recordings for the scouts. Mary fills an important job for Troop 108, and we appreciate her willingness to keep active

"Scouting benefits adults just as surely it benefits boys"

EACH OF US HAS a unique combination of personality traits and gifts. When we are able to put into practice the design that God has put within us, we find high levels of energy, fulfillment, and purpose. Ideally, what we are to do as Christians is to live in loving service to God in the world, according to the way we were created. We share in the ministry of Jesus who gave himself completely to us.

Gerrit Scott Dawson *Companions in Christ: Participant's Book, Part 4*



Please keep the following in your prayers:

*If you have a name to add or notice a name that is missing,
please contact Isobel Skukowski or the church office.*

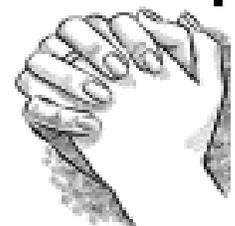
Roger Avery, Berta Clawson, Louise Heald,
Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Betty Mientus,
Leroy Miller, Mary Nickerson, Eric Sackett, Peg Smith,
Ron Uricchio, Asa Waller, Gloria Wages

Pray also for these Members:

Beryl Comparetto at Parkway, 1157 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT
Babs Baker, Redstone Rehab Facility, 135 Benton Dr, E.Longmeadow, MA
Mildred Doreski at Blair Manor, 612 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT
Hildegard Waller, Suffield House, 1 Canal Road, Suffield, CT

In Christian Sympathy

Elsie Locke and family on the death of her brother, Earl Colson.
Jane Clark and family on the death of her brother, Don Trumbull.



Children's Page

A colorful
CROSS



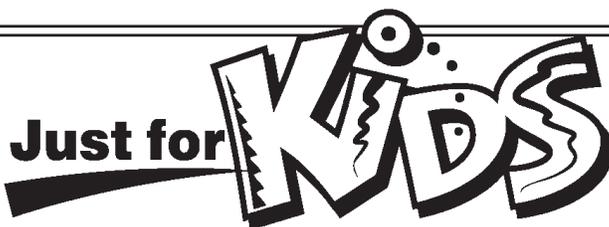
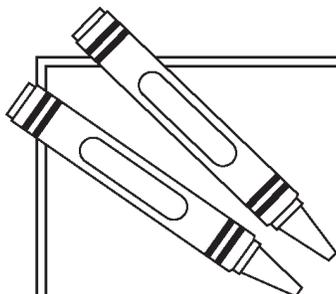
Create a beautiful decoration for your window this Easter. It will remind you that Jesus rose from the dead to save you from your sins.

What you need:

- 8½" x 11" sheet of paper
- Pencil
- Clear transparency sheet (or clear report cover)
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Colored tissue paper
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Scotch tape

What you do:

1. Draw a large cross that takes up most of the paper.
2. Put the transparency over the paper and trace the cross onto it with a permanent marker.
3. Cut the colored tissue paper into 1" x 1" squares.
4. Using a paintbrush, spread glue onto the tissue paper squares and then place them on the cross. (Add a few drops of water to the white glue to make it more spreadable.)
5. After the glue is dry, cut out the cross. Then tape it in a window and enjoy the beautiful colors.



SYMBOL OF SACRIFICE

At this time of the year, we see many crosses draped in purple, black or white cloth. They remind us of the loving sacrifice Jesus made for us – and that he rose again.

Use the code in the big cross to complete 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NIV.

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Answer: Christ died for our sins ... he was buried ... he was raised on the third day.