JANUARY 2011 ISSUE 1-11

#### Inside this issue:

- **⊕** Trustees
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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 faith.



### JANUARY at HUMC

January 5 & 6 New Bible Study begins

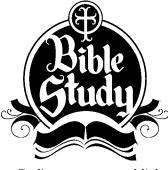
January 25 Evergreen (4th Tuesday each month)

January 30 Scout Sunday

Worship at HUMC Sundays at 10 AM

Join us for Sunday School





### **New Bible Study**

At the heart of the Bible's story is a relationship between God and people, sparked by God's initiative, sustained by God's promise, and sealed in covenant terms. Come, track the narrative as God holds steady while the people struggle to keep faith and fulfill their mission in God's world. Join us, beginning January 5 at 7 PM, or January 6 at 2 PM, for a seven week Bible study that explores the covenant relationship from Abraham through Moses, David, and the Prophets, up to Jesus - calling us to renew our place among God's loyal people. Weekly topics will include

God's covenant established, The world of the Old Testament, God's faithfulness to Israel, The prophets and God's covenant, The world of the New Testament, Jesus and Fulfillment, God's new covenant faithfulness. The study guide may be picked up in Fellowship Hall or by calling the office. As usual there is \$10 donation requested to help defray the cost of the material, and there is financial assistance available.

### Some Thoughts From Me—Rev. Dave



t's time for me to come clean—I'm a guy. Now I realize that most of you know that, but being a guy means there are certain qualities that are inherent to my character. Being a guy means that I don't always notice when my wife wears a new dress. O, I notice; it's just that it usually takes her wearing the dress several times before I get a clue. Being a guy means I don't

notice when the house needs cleaning. I'm glad to help; it's just that I don't have a clue that it is needed. Being a guy means that my idea of a romantic night is sharing a bowl of popcorn while we watch a John Wayne western or World War II movie. Hey, at least I am willing to share the popcorn. And finally, being a guy means that I loathe asking for directions. I'd rather get there myself. It may take longer, and I may not even get to my intended destination, but hey, I'm going to get there by myself.

That philosophy may work in the world of being "a guy" but it doesn't work when it comes to a church living out its mission as Christ's ambassadors in the world. We have good news to share. We have hope to give. We have joy to spread. There are people in need of what we have, and we can't waste time stumbling blindly in the hope that we will somehow or someday succeed. What we need is directions. What we need is a plan.

The start of a new year is a great time to sit back and develop such a plan, and that is what I am hoping we will begin to do here at Hazardville United Methodist Church. Last year we celebrated 175 years of faithful service to God and the community. This year we are beginning a new journey; a journey that marks the beginning of the next 175 years of faithfulness. But in order to be faithful we need to understand who we are and who God is calling us to be. That is the challenge before us, and it is the challenge I hope we will accept.

At this month's Church Council meeting I will be asking our elected leaders to commit to a process of communal discernment. We, as leaders and members of this church, need to look hard in the mirror and ask ourselves what it is God is calling us

to do. There are so many needs beyond our walls; how would God have us deal with them? Which of them is God asking us to address? Answering those questions takes deep prayer, an open mind, and a willing spirit. Over the course of the next several months we as a church need to take the plunge into that kind of discernment.

Our mission statement makes a bold claim. It claims that our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, and states that we will accomplish our mission by using our spiritual gifts, practicing the means of grace, and living our faith. To engage in this type of discernment is to utilize the means of grace as we seek God's direction in using the spiritual gifts He has given us for the purpose of living our faith in life changing ways.

The end result will be a plan that will guide our committees, our worship, our outreach, and our lives as a church. It is a bold undertaking which I personally find to be exhilarating. Imagine having a concrete plan for living out our faith as Christians. Imagine a church where each person, from the children in Kids-4-Mission, to the youth in our Youth Group, to our young families, to those who are more advanced in years is engaged in some type of mission. Imagine a church that is so on fire—using spiritual gifts in ways that we never dreamed possible; living our faith boldly and courageously—that people start showing up just to see what is going on. Imagine God looking down See Thoughts on Page 3.

### Thoughts —Continued from 2.

on HUMC, smiling, and saying, "Well done my good and faithful servants. You have indeed been faithful with the gifts I have given you. Here, let me give you even more." Just imagine.

Let me invite you to begin the process already. Add our church to your daily prayer list. Ask God to open our hearts and minds to what God has in mind. Ask God to prepare you, so that as workshops and meetings and prayer times are announced you will find your own heart prepared, and your spirit to be willing. 2011 is going to be a great year. I can just feel it. I hope you can feel it too. And I hope you will join me in this quest to find out where God would have us go—after all, I am a guy, and this asking for directions stuff doesn't come very easy.

### Dave

### **Trustees**—Linda Chevalier.

The repair and restoration to sections of the church building is completed. This was necessary since the area was unsafe with the bricks so loose. The mortar had deteriorated so badly that it was like powder; consequently, there was no adhesion holding the bricks secure. The man working on this said he could grab a brick and just take it out. . .he didn't have to tug or loosen the mortar. The bricks were repointed where needed. The unused chimney was broken down to a lower level a little bit above the flashing and capped off. If we had taken it down to the roof line it would have required the expertise of a roofer to perform this work and extend the gutters. We went with a less costly option. We saved the old bricks that were from the chimney and used them to fill in the part of the building where there was a board, quite unsightly. It was an old cellar window blocked off in the back hall/stairway that was always getting smashed in. The east side of the church's lower cellar windows had no lentils, and the bricks were caving down towards the windows. This lack of support was jeopardizing the integrity of our magnificent stained glass windows, as indicated by the cracking up the church walls. A steel plate was installed for support, and the bricks

were reset and repointed. Some bricks, along the lower ground level on the east side, were also cracked, lacking mortar, that needed fixing.

The foundation at Carl's Appliance building needed fixing. It was cracked on top of the windows (middle on the side and back). Half of this project was paid out of money from the Together for Tomorrow Campaign, and the remainder from our investment general fund trusts. All repairs cost \$28,450.

Next we went to the Parsonage. There we replaced three windows—two in the kitchen and one in the bedroom. They were extremely drafty, rotting and moldy. Non skid tile was installed in the lower bathroom and hallway, and at the upper front door landing. This will be more durable and much longer lasting. Additionally, a new washer and dryer was purchased to replace the older models that were at the parsonage. These were a gift from Dick and Linda Borio, and our tenant, Carl's Appliance, made the switch for us. Our thanks go to Dick and Linda for their generosity. Our ongoing goal is to keep up with problems as they arise to keep our parsonage in good condition so the pastor and his family can have a well-maintained home.

### Christmas Tea—Cookie Walk—Linda Borio

On Saturday, December 11, HUMC held it's Eighth annual Christmas Tea and Cookie Walk. I cannot believe what a wonderful outreach this annual event has become. This year we topped our 82 (there were 85) different kinds of cookies from last year, and we estimated approximately 200 pounds of cookies were shared with our community. That is one awesome amount of baking done by the women of HUMC. I am very mindful of the time, effort and love that is put into each and every cookie that is brought to our church; as well as the care taken by those who handle those lovely, aromatic cookies displayed on the white trays. Esta Clarke and I put our trust and



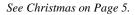
faith in the Lord that when the second Saturday in December arrives, we will have enough cookies for the Cookie Walk, as well as enough sandwiches, desserts and goodies for the Christmas Tea. You all take the time and effort to support our *trust and faith*.

This year was our most successful year yet in terms of financial return. Yet, as much as we focus on the financial outcome of this fundraiser, we are totally aware of the wonderful fellowship, camaraderie and love that happens in our own church and kitchen during the weekend of the cookie walk.

For instance, on Friday the kitchen is bustling with women scrubbing and cleaning everything in preparation of all the good food that will be arriving. Don Niemann and the men help set up every table we have at HUMC; the women decorate Fellowship Hall with festive tablecloths and centerpieces, as well as set up the window sill decorations, while Christmas carols play in the background. Colleen and her group transform the Yates Room into an exciting Christmas Shoppe haven. I begin removing the cookies from the freezer, accepting the cookies brought in on Friday and start putting labels on the trays. By Saturday morning women arrive to work on the food for the Christmas Tea and more women assemble in the Sunday school room to carefully display all the luscious cookies on trays and place them on the tables in Fellowship Hall; Alice and I scramble to make sure each and every tray is properly labeled. This year Linda Chevalier helped us to plan a better "traffic flow," which proved so successful, we will utilize her suggestions in the future. We set up the two card tables for the Christmas Tea sale of tickets, and the sale of the 2 lb. containers for the cookies side-by-side, thereby allowing those early patrons to purchase tickets/containers prior to 11 AM, freeing them up to peruse all the wonderful crafts in our Christmas Shoppe. By setting up these tables outside of Fellowship Hall, we were able to utilize two more tables in Fellowship Hall and then fill six tables with cookies, as well as a card table for the gluten free cookies.

The laughter and joy coming from the women who were working, the chatter of the town folks who came early in order to be the "first in line," and the bright eyes of the children anticipating the opening of the doors at 11AM would have softened even Scrooge's heart. If you haven't been to our Christmas Tea and Cookie Walk you are indeed missing part of the magic of the Christmas Season.

Esta and I wish to thank everyone who cleaned, baked, cooked, made sandwiches, sorted and displayed cookies, ran errands, poured tea,



### Christmas —Continued.

filled and refilled plates and trays or collected tickets. Thanks to the men who set up and took down tables and chairs, and those who worked in the kitchen prior to and after the event and everyone else involved. **You all made this special day happen**. The final report is: Christmas Tea income \$1110; Cookie Walk income \$1048, and Christmas Craft income \$460 for a grand total of \$2,618.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone and rest up . . . is it possible to be even better next year??

God's Blessings to You, (written by Linda Borio Cookie Walk Chairperson; for Esta Clarke, Christmas Tea Chairperson, and Colleen Williams, Christmas Shoppe Chairperson.)



### Scout Sunday—January 30

Join us as we celebrate our church's commitment to the Boy Scout program and honor those who have served—and continue to serve—in order that our young boys might become men.

#### TAPES FOR SHUT-INS

Did you know that we tape each service? We do. That means if you or a loved one can't make it to church on a given Sunday, you can borrow a cassette tape of the service to enjoy at your leisure. Simply see Rev. Dave, and he will be happy to get you the tape. Take your time. Listen to it as many times as you like, and simply return it when you are finished.



#### ATTENTION!! WEDNESDAY MORNING CRAFTERS

The Wednesday Morning Crafters will meet at the church on January 12 (snow date is January 19) at 9 AM to begin planning for our 2011 Harvest Fair. Please bring ideas for crafts, including pictures and list of materials needed. Interested in joining this group? Please contact Colleen Williams (860-749-7098) or come to the meeting on the 12th.

### Here Wee Grow! Phyllis Phelan



It's
January...
Registration
Is open ."

The New Year is here but we must say thank you to 2010 for providing us with the largest group of preschoolers yet. We began in September of 2010 with 90 children, losing one to the economy and three to moving from the area. We have an incredible staff of nine who work diligently to provide the very best early education program possible. We have a waiting list and people are calling every day to see if we provide before-and-after school care, a toddler program, or a full-day prekindergarten or kindergarten. It's wonderful to be recognized as a high quality school where folks are trying their best to get on the list for 2011!

With that being said, enrollment is now open for fall registration. Hard to believe that it's January, and we're thinking about September. I used to complain that you would see swimsuits displays in the stores, when all I wanted was a new coat. . .it was January and the middle of winter! However, we are now doing the same thing - opening enrollment before this year is over. Why?

Because if you are a working parent, you'll need to plan now to make sure you have the school spot and the daycare spot called for. You'll need to think about the tuition and begin planning for how to pay for private school. But, I think the Number One reason is you want your child to have a positive learning environment where he or she can grow and be 'school ready' for kindergarten. Here Wee Grow! is that place. By maintaining our National Accreditation we are saying to the families who come into our school for enrollment that we are prepared to offer a high quality early childhood program in a safe and nurturing environment while promoting the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of young children.

Enrollment forms will be on our web-site by the end of January. If you have someone who is interested in attending HWG or know someone who has a child who is age appropriate, please ask them to call me at 860-749-2458. I love talking about **Here Wee Grow!** and the many things that we do during the school year.

May each of you have a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2011!

Until next time . . .



Start the New Year off right and make one of the delicious recipes in our 175th Anniversary issue of HUMC's cookbooks.

Contact Gerry Berozsky, Janet Wyatt, Noma Caldwell or the church office for a copy.

Still a bargain at \$10.00!!

### Resource Center Colleen Williams

God has charged us individually and as the Church to be good stewards of the earth.

Do you ever feel as though we can't make an impact in this area and that your efforts are too small to make a difference? Hazardville United Methodist Church is now offering you a new way to be in stewardship in our community. A Resource Center is being developed at our church, and its goal is to help people see that they can make a positive impact on God's creation through the thoughtful use of our world's resources. The Resource Center Stewards would like to help you see the possibilities for re-use in items such as coffee cans, unwanted craft supplies or plastic baby food containers that you would normally throw away. These and other items will be collected, sorted and then made available for re-use.



We are still in need of <u>shoeboxes or other small boxes</u>, cardboard or plastic. If you have any to spare, please drop them off in the bin marked "Resource Center" that is located in the library.

We pray that you will choose to partner with us in this stewardship effort.

Questions? Please contact Colleen Williams at 860-749-9595.

#### Enfield Loaves and Fishes partners with Viridian Energy for Fundraiser to help fight

RESPONSIBLE ENERGY

Do you know you have a choice about your electricity supplier? Viridian Energy is a socially responsible energy company providing greener electricity at an affordable price. You will save

money, help the environment and support Enfield Loaves and Fishes. This is the only fundraiser where you don't need a check-

book. All you need is your utility bill.

By switching to Viridian Energy, your bill, service and delivery remains EXACTLY the same. It's safe and reliable. Free to switch. No contracts. No obligations. No termination fees. 20% Renewable Energy and still One Utility Bill.

The Viridian Energy fundraising program will save you money, raise money for Enfield Loaves and Fishes and help the environment—it's truly a WIN, WIN, WIN program.

For every household that switches to Viridian, Enfield Loaves and Fishes will receive a monthly payment of \$2 from Viridian for

every active Viridian Energy customer.

It takes less than five minutes to switch to Viridian Energy! Sign up online TODAY by visiting the link — http://viridian.com/loavesand fishes.

If you have questions or need help enrolling, please contact John Hayden at 860-205-3995 or send an email to JohnHaydenSr@aol.com.

In this world full of Blackberries, Ipods, Kindles, and all the other hi-tech stuff around, always remember. . .**Prayer is the original wireless connection!** 

### Heritage Notes—A Page from our History — Alice Allen

Here is the account of the digging of the Gilbert Pierce Room – missing from last month's history page. Bill Munsell submitted his account and then I asked Dr. Allyn Bridge of CA to submit his report because he was listed as one of the 'diggers'.

### The Gilbert Pierce Room **Submitted by William Munsell**

Via email in 2009

January-1938

The Men's Brotherhood of the Hazardville Methodist Church became interested in an activity room and much interest was heard about a crawl space below the Sanctuary. About the same time they founded and sponsored Boy Scout Troop #108 in January, 1938. Members of the Men's Brotherhood were an active group that included:

George Allen Jack Gordon

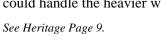
Herbert Allen George A. Hedenburg

Allyn Bridge Charles Knight
Harold Curtis Gus Magnuson
Richard Dickenson Judson Monson
Albert Dolge Robert Stevenson
Alec Gordon Ted Stimson

Charles Knight was a mason by trade. They thought the dirt could be removed by good old sweat and muscle at no expense to the church and so with great enthusiasm the project was started. The digging was done in evenings and on weekends. Naturally, they requested help from the older scouts. As I remember the following scouts helped as needed:

Thomas Birdsall Wayne Emery
Allyn Bridge Allan Gowdy
David Collins Everett Munsell
Walter Curtis William Munsell
David Dolge Gilbert Pierce
Ken Dolge Allan Stevenson

Most of the digging was done by the men. A plank was laid down the stairs to the large room called the Vestry. The scouts and some of the men rolled the wheel-barrows of dirt down the plank, usually at a fast pace out the door and deposited the dirt behind the carriage shed located at the rear of the church. As I remember every now and then a wheelbarrow of sand landed on the vestry floor but eventually the job got done. Most of the older scouts ended up in the service of our country. Gilbert Pierce worked on the Collins Farm. He had a strong body and was very interested in helping make the room possible. He was a hard worker and could handle the heavier wheelbarrow loads. PFC Gilbert M. Pierce was a





### United Methodist Women — Linda Borio



The United Methodist Women do not meet in January due to the probability of inclement weather. Therefore, our next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 10:30 AM. Everyone should bring a sack lunch to enjoy after filling the care packages. The hostesses will provide some desserts and refreshments. This is our annual meeting of "Valentine Care Packages" which we send to college students, military personnel, and Valentine cards to those unable to get out in the snowy, icy weather.

Please see the box in the Library for donations for the "Care Packages." We've discovered college students really appreciate snacks, specifically, granola bars, snack foods, gum, microwave popcorn, etc. For those in the military, we need to be aware that since packages may take sometime to get there, chocolates in any shape or form are really not a good idea.

The United Methodist Women wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

### **Heritage** – Continued from page 8.

member of the 393<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and was killed during the Battle of the Bulge on December 17, 1944. Some time after World Was II the members of the church named the Gilbert Pierce Room in memory of our fallen member. The name remains today. Upon returning home we found the cement floor had been added and the room was now being used by The Men's Brotherhood and other members of the church. A pool table had been set up that entertained many for years.

### The Gilbert Pierce Room **Submitted by Dr. Allyn Bridge**Via email in 2009

January - 1938

Allyn reports as follows: Yes, I was one of the original diggers who helped create a new room at Haz. ME Church. (note – Hazardville Methodist Episcopal Church) At the start there was only crawl space, - not allowing optimal digging posture. We crouched or kneeled while shoveling. It was said one had to eat a peck of dirt before dying. We made significant progress toward that requirement.

We put planks over the stairs to the vestry over which we wheeled our laden wheelbarrow out to the carriage shed area, - a considerable challenge. There, the scene changed with a cluster of piles of earth.

My help with the project tapered to zero. My parents had moved to Westerly, R.I. I got home from EHS (Enfield High School) about 1 p.m., and had an afternoon job much of the time. Also had chores to help my 3 grandparents, and to earn some of my room & board with sister, Janet, & Douglas Brown. Also, knew it was important to keep honor roll status.

Bill Munsell was the real leader and backbone of that "Big Dig".

Gilbert was such a conscientious young man. It's so appropriate to have a room bear his name, both to honor Gilbert and as a symbol of good works & sacrifice. All that – going on 70 years ago. EGAD!!

Submitted by Alice Godard Allen, Church Historian

#### LIBRARY NOTES

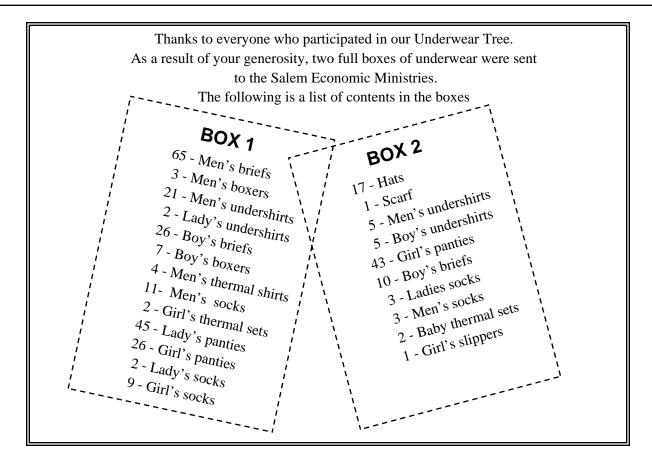


Have you stopped by our church library recently?
We have many kinds of books, including those on Prayer and Devotion, Christian Living, Family Dynamics,
United Methodist History and Christian Biographies.

We also have an extensive collection of biblical and historical resources that may help as you research Bible passages for Bible studies, prepare to teach Sunday School

or simply to enrich your spiritual life.





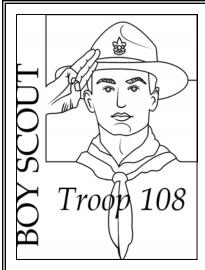


Dear Friends in Christ,

We have been overwhelmed by the many expressions of love that you have shown us this Christmas season. Thank you for the cards, gifts and good tidings. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and pray that 2011 is a joyful year for you and one in which your relationship with the Lord is made deeper and richer with every passing day.

Colleen and Dave

### Troop 108 — Bill Munsell



Every holiday has a special meaning to a boy, especially when they are in Boy Scout Troop 108. A campout highlight that is looked forward to each year is the weekend before the Thanksgiving Feast,, complete with a turkey dinner and all the fixings that is prepared and served by the leader. (See the menu on our bulletin board. . .they call themselves the culinary staff of Troop 108. This is just another reason boys join our Troop since they know this Troop has a top notch camping program. If you know a boy 11 to 18 who is looking for some fun, in a learning environment, have him visit a Troop meeting any Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 PM. It's amazing how well the Troop operates under the youth leadership. But don't take my word for it; just come and see.

The scrap booking program fund raiser was well attended. If this is of interest to you, and you would like to attend the next one, see me, and I

will let you know the date. We hold this about twice a year, and it's very successful. It's a all-day affair with the culinary staff serving a chicken cordon blue dinner that is included in the ticket price. I tell you we like to eat and don't mind showing our pride in the cooking and eating.

We have another Life Scout , Tim Pisano, so this means another Eagle is on the way. Congratulations Tim--way to go!

The staff never fails to surprise me with their camping program. The November campout at Mashamoquet Brook State Park in Pomfret, Connecticut, was well attended by 24 scouts and 6 adults/leaders. There was plenty of activity for advancement --the temperature fell below freezing, (actually into the 20's) so everyone qualifies for the Iceberg Patch for the year 2010 and 2011 scout years. Two scouts completed our Board of Review and were advanced to Second Class Scouts. They also pick up other skills such as lashing, making a camp tool of gadget from wood or stone, Orienteering and backpacking four miles for completion of the camping merit badge. One scout took charge of the evening camp fire in preparation for setting a flame and exercising control to earn credit towards the communications merit badge.

Five Webelos Cub Scouts and their parents from Pack 108 arrived on Saturday for the activities and a special treat of thanksgiving dinner. I may be a bit proud but Troop 108 knows how to do those extra treats that keep scouts and adults in high spirits.

Our Scouts grow in heart and spirit, learning essential skills, mature in character, feed the spirit of adventure which allows them to prosper.

A lot of this information is received from Committee Chairman Scott Vujs and Scouting magazine. It' great to share. Thanks, Scott.

So long for now; let's enjoy the New Year and keep smiling.



#### **2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes for 2011 are now available in the Narthex. They are in alphabetical order. If you are not included and would like envelopes, please contact Elaine Folkers or the church office.

Please be sure to pick up your envelopes. Thank you!





### Birthdays

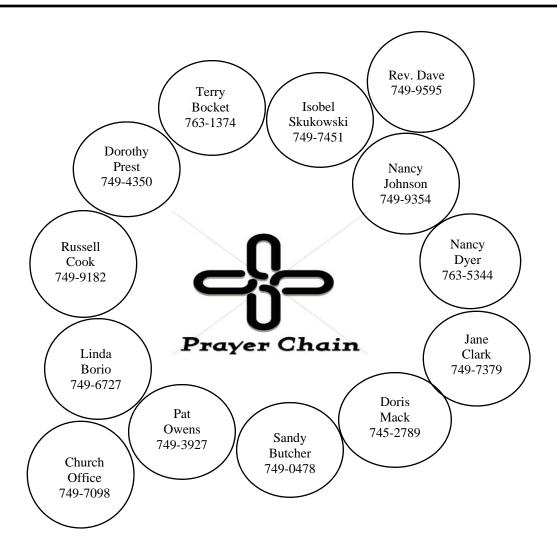
- 1 Marie Prior Jackie Michaud
- 6 Jennifer Baker
- 8 Chick Comparetto
- 12 Cathy Schultz
- 15 Janice Holmes
- 16 Linda Versteeg
- 19 Janette Young
- 27 Bertha Somero
- 29 Doris Mack

Call the church office at 860-749-7098 to have your name included on our birthday lists!!



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

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



#### 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.

John and Marilyn Allen, Berta Clawson, Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Elsie Locke, Leroy Miller, Doris Murray, Mary Nickerson, Peg Smith, Florence Stimpson, Ron Uricchio, Gloria Wages

#### **Pray also for these Members:**

Babs Baker, Redstone Rehab Facility, 135 Benton Dr, E.Longmeadow, MA Mildred Doreski at Blair Manor, 612 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT Asa and Hildegarde Waller, Suffield House, 1 Canal Road, Suffield, CT

## LIGHT

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

#### What you need:

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- · Craft knife

### What you do:

- 1. Remove the screws from the cover.
- 2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
- 3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
- Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
- 5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
- 6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
- 7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.

