

Herald of Good TIDINGS



April

2005

"Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!'"

A Note From the Pastor

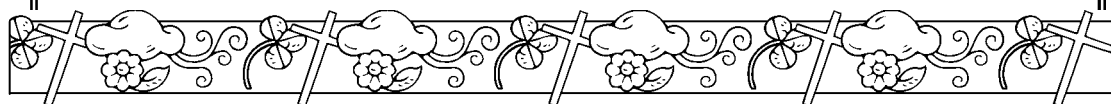
Now that Easter is past and we have celebrated the Good News of the Incarnation (birth) and Resurrection (rebirth), now is the time to live the Good News. The coming weeks and months are the time to convert the great themes of our faith into every day living. Joy, Praise, Gratitude, Faith, Forgiveness, Empathy, Caring, Helping, Blessing are all ways that others can see our relationship to Christ. Holy days are exciting and empowering, but that enthusiasm needs to be harnessed to our everyday lives.

Our faith needs to be evident in what we do, what we do not do, and how we do it. Throughout history, groups of Christians have stood out from society because of the way they lived their faith, Methodists, Quakers and Amish. The Mormons reflect their faith in their everyday lives. Quiet testimony expressed by one's quality of living is impressive indeed.

So do not let the coming months be a wasteland but an oasis or a garden or a riverbank from which you share the fruits of your faith with your family, your church, your workplace and your neighborhood.

God Bless,

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Knox
Pastor



Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." (John 14:12-

Here We Grow!

Is it really April? As I write this, I can see roughly 10" of snow in my backyard. I pray that we have seen the last of winter storms.

Highlights during the month of March were picture taking by Neal Primeaux on March 3rd & 4th, Easter parties were held on March 17 & 18, and vacation was March 21-25 which was Holy Week.

Here We Grow! is proud to announce two donations it has given this month. The first donation was a week of Summer Camp with a value of \$110 to Youth on a Mission's Auction. The second was a monetary donation to the new church office computer. Speaking of the new computer, the entire *Here We Grow!* staff would like to say "Thank You!", to Tammy for the help she offers and gives to us, her cheerful daily greeting, and the expertise and creativeness with the computer.

I'd also like to thank the Board of Christian Education for inviting me to their March meeting. It gave everyone a chance to meet face-to-face, ask questions and receive answers, and hopefully gave everyone a better idea of what *Here We Grow!* is all about. Something I shared with the Board of Ed and would like to share with you the church family is the *HWG* philosophy. So here it is:

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

"Here We Grow!" Preschool offers a program that is designed around the preschoolers' total well-being, keeping in mind that each child is an individual. A child's enthusiasm for knowledge and new experiences is never-ending. Our goal is to enable each child to develop a happy and healthy attitude toward themselves, others, and school.

Children will have the opportunity to grow and learn in each area of development which include physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development. Children will learn to develop and generate original ideas through exploration and experimentation with materials. Our school offers a nurturing environment with small class sizes and a qualified, experienced staff of teachers.

We offer a safe place to learn, a place where children can be both independent and be able to function as a member of a group. Experiences will be offered to stimulate growth through a variety of age-appropriate, hands-on activities in the areas of language arts, small and large motor development, science, arts and crafts, music, social studies, and mathematics.

Most important: when your child leaves "*Here We Grow!*" he/she will leave with a greater sense of self-esteem and confidence, the love of school and learning, and a feeling of being accepted for who they are.

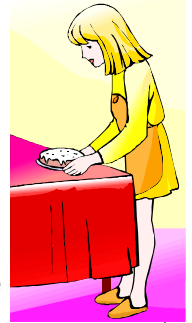
In ending, I'd like to extend an open invitation to the First Congregational Church family to visit *HWG* Preschool.

Dawn Murphy,
Director of *Here We Grow!* Preschool



Cake Walk

On Mother's Day, May 8th, we will be hosting a "Cake Walk". What is a "Cake Walk"? Well, there is cake involved!!! What could be better!! Your \$2 donation gets you (1) frosted cupcake which you can eat, **or** you can choose to upgrade your cupcake in our "Cake Walk". Your cupcake's frosting color will determine which table of cakes you get to walk around. For example: if green frosting is called, you may use your green frosted cupcake to gain entry into the "Cake Walk" around the cakes on that table. When the music is played you walk around the table with the other green frosted cupcake holders. When the music stops, if you are standing next to a cake on the table, you can upgrade your cupcake for the full size cake! Although rumor has it, we may let you keep the cupcake too, especially if you have already taken a bite! We are hoping to have a large variety of cakes donated and we will also have a low sugar cake table for those that prefer it. Please see Linda Graham for more details or call her at 508-832-9507. All proceeds are for the roof fund.



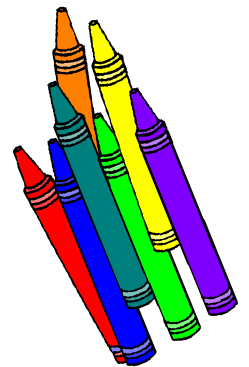
Smile Section

*In the beginning,
God created the
earth and rested.*

*Then God created
Man and rested.*

*Then God created
Woman.*

*Since then, neither
God nor Man has
rested.*



**We could learn
a lot from
crayons:**

**Some are
sharp, some
are pretty,**

**Some are dull,
some have
weird names,**

**And all are dif-
ferent col-
ors....but they
all exist very
nicely in the
same box.**

WWJD: WHAT WOULD JESUS DRIVE

This question has been posed by environmental groups: If Jesus were walking the earth today, what car would he drive if he got tired of walking?

One theory holds that Jesus would tool around in an old Plymouth because the Bible says, "God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden in a Fury."

Dodge pickup trucks were also popular in heaven's carpool, as evidenced by the warning to Moses' followers not to go up a mountain "until the Ram's horn sounds a long blast."

But most scholars agree that Jesus favored Honda, since it is written that, following his lead, "The Apostles were in one Accord."



Church Bowling League

In September we will be having our Church Bowling League Sign-ups for anyone who would like to have some weeknight fellowship and a nice fun night out. We bowl every Friday night at 7:30 PM in Webster. Regular bowlers will pay about \$10/week and Spare bowlers will pay about \$8/week.

This is candlepin bowling and all proceeds go toward our year end bowling banquet and also to gift certificates that we hand out as prizes at the end of the season.

Please direct any questions to Linda Hardy, Don Aker or Lori-Ann Stockhaus.



Thank You!

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all who answered our call to raise funds for a new computer. The new system for the church office has been purchased and is up and running. We are still hoping to receive another \$150 in donations so that we may purchase software that will allow us to distribute the Tidings through our website, www.AuburnFirstUCC.org.

A special thanks to the following individuals and groups who made donations:

Jennifer & Randy Bohn
 Peggy & Ernie Smith
 Carol & Bob Luther
 Gloria Whitehead
 Lori & Nick Stockhaus
 Women's Fellowship
 Here We Grow!
 Library Committee



Thank you and God Bless,
 Nick & Lori Stockhaus

Roof Update

The committee to raise funds for the roof has met and begun plans for the SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION to be held on June 18 (see page 7) and a "Cake Walk" on Mother's Day, May 8th (see page 3).

The first phase of the roof replacement will most likely begin in July. We are now in the process of talking with roofing companies. This will be the biggest project the church has faced in many years and will need the support and help from ALL MEMBERS of our church. Please don't think that "someone else will help, or someone else will contribute", we need each and every member, regardless of how active you are at present. If you have questions regarding this project, please talk with any member of the Board of Trustees.



Nick Stockhaus - Roof Questions 508-865-6439
 Ciny Dube - Fund Raiser Committee 508-832-6646

**Volunteers
 Needed!!!!**



INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Once again we at First Congregational Church will be hosting families in August. This year our guests will be arriving on Sunday, July 31st and staying for 1 week.

We would like to open to all the parishioners in the church, different opportunities for a simple act of showing kindness and hospitality to others in the way that the bible tells us we should. Offering our hands, hearts and time serves God in the way that Jesus taught us in the Bible. We are asking for people to bring a dinner/meal for our guests, stay overnight, set up the families "homes" (kitchen, living room and bedrooms), breaking down the "homes" when our guests move on. Or if you prefer, donate groceries, toys or your time. The joy you will experience has no measure.

Please let Shirley Hill (508-832-6335), know what night you are able to stay over. May Stone (508-832-2313), or myself would love to hear from any of you with suggestions or when you are able to bring a meal or donate any of your other gifts/talents. Thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of the families we will be hosting.

Thank you - Diane Moore 508-832-8078

From the Minister of Christian Education

The other day there were rainbows dancing around the room. They were beautiful, made by light reflected through a prism, which hangs in the window. I became captivated by the rainbows and the sheer beauty of the prism itself. The prism has hung in the window for a very long time, but it is small and insignificant, easily missed.

I had to stop what I was doing and thank God for the beauty of the prism and for rainbows. I asked God to help me to be like the prism, to allow God's light to reflect through me. Like the prism, I am many faceted and capable of pure, clear, undistorted reflections of God's brilliant light. But sometimes that reflection is clouded or even blocked by worry, doubt, distrust, un-forgiveness, selfishness and ingratitude. A prism reflects only the light that gets through it.

As I allow God to be in charge of my life, God can use me to shine love to others. I am only an instrument, but I can reflect God's love to others. We are all multifaceted prisms created by God, capable of reflecting God's love to others. Let God's light shine through you this spring as we head into more sunny days, and remember that the rainbows we see along the way of life are reminders of God's great love for us and his promises which will never end.

Wishing you a Spring full of love and rainbows,

Barb Jernigan



Jesus said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasure

Stewardship...A Way of Life

Recently, the Stewardship Committee was invited to preview a sample of the *Stewardship*. This publication is intended "to help stimulate a better understanding of true giving". We deemed this to be a worthwhile publication and have decided to purchase and include this as an insert to our monthly Tidings with the first being included in this month's April edition.

Stewardship thought for the month:

"A Christian steward does not dedicate his time, his talents, his treasure that they may become God's, but because they are God's."

Please take a few moments to read these simple but thought-provoking articles and continue to pray for the spiritual and financial well-being of our Church. Prayer, along with time, talent and treasure can make us all successful in achieving God's purpose.

In His Love,
The Stewardship Committee

Family Camping Weekend



This Year's Family Camping Weekend is scheduled for June 24th – 26th. This year we are moving the Camping Weekend to Oak Haven Family Campground (www.oakhavencampground.com) located in Wales just 30 minutes west of Auburn. Oak Haven offers the following amenities: Basketball & Volleyball courts, Playground, Baseball field, Swimming Pool, and many planned activities. Whether you Tent camp or RV, all are welcome. Non-campers are welcome to join us for our traditional potluck supper on Saturday followed by a family campfire. Please contact Lori Stockhaus at 508-865-6439 for more information. We would like to get an accurate count of families by May 8th.

✂

NAME: _____

Tel. No. _____

Rates: \$28/night for 2 Adults. Children (6yrs & up) \$1.00 per night.

Make checks payable to Lori Stockhaus, and mail to :
36 Linda Ave, Millbury, MA. 01527
please return by May 8th.

Summer Solstice Celebration Saturday June 18th



Save the date and join us for a day long, and into the night, celebration of the Longest Day of the year. Below is information about some of the activities planned for the day. A hotdog lunch will be available as well as a Chicken BBQ. We will be entertained by the Alethea Grotto Band (time TBA).

KID FEST

Games
Teddy Bear Clinic
Dunk Tank
Balloons
Decorate a cake for DAD
Dog Training Demo

We are looking for a volunteer to oversee games. We are open to and need ideas for games or activities. Call Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646 to volunteer or plan on saying yes when asked for help.



BOOK SALE

Including
AUDIO and VIDEO ITEMS
PUZZLES and BOARD GAMES

Donation may be left inside the door of the office wing. Please make sure all donations are in good working order and board games are complete.

Contact Sue Anderton 508-832-8799 to volunteer to help sort before hand or to help on the day of the event.



CHICKEN B B Q

Beginning late afternoon into the early evening. Contact Dave Sampson 508-832-5269 or Dave Clark 508-832-6832 if you can help with set-up, cooking, serving, etc.



PLANT SALE

Please be thinking about dividing your perennials as soon as possible to donate to this event. Contact Sue Klauke at 508-754-2487 to volunteer to help or with any questions you might have.



BAKE SALE

Linda Graham will be contacting you to bake, or let her know you will be bringing an item at 508-832-9507.



EVENING CAMPFIRE

To end the celebration of the LONGEST DAY, we will be having a campfire and sing-a-long on the lawn. Bring a chair or blanket and purchase your S'mores fixins here. Do you play the guitar or want to help with the sing-a-long? Talk to Mike Schillinger at 508-832-9049. Fire builder Mike Dube will also be reading a story around the campfire. Exact times to follow.



FIRST EVER FLAGTOWN USA ART CONTEST

Show off your talent by showing your true colors. Paint anything you wish, 3-D or flat, in a RED, WHITE and BLUE, stars and stripes motif. Be creative with what you choose to paint a lawn chair, wagon, wall decorations, just to name a few. Entry fee is \$15.00. All entries will be displayed on the church lawn and voted on by those wishing to purchase a flag pin and ballot. Winners will be announced during the BBQ. We are hopeful that we will have a float in the July 4th parade and some or all of the entrees will be on the float. If you have any questions or want a copy of the entry rules, please contact Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646.





Choir Tidings

From the Choir Room:

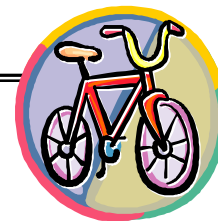
Recently I came across an interesting text, pertaining to song, taken from the book "Living the Message" by Rev. Eugene H. Peterson. Many of you probably know him as the author of "The Message", his popular translation of the Bible.

There are songs everywhere in scripture. The people of God sing. They express exuberance in realizing the majesty of God and the mercy of Christ, the wholeness of reality and their new found ability to participate in it. Songs proliferate. Hymns gather the voices of men, women and children into century-tiered choirs. Moses sings. Miriam sings. Angels sing. Jesus and his Disciples sing. Paul and Silas sing. When persons of faith become aware of who God is and what He does, they sing. The songs are irrepresible.

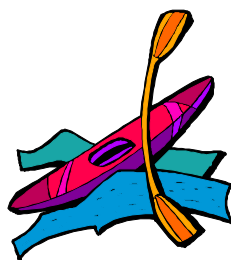
Then I heard every creature in heaven and earth, in underworld and sea, join in, all voices in all places singing: "To the One on the Throne! To the Lamb! The blessing, the honor, the glory, the strength. For age, after age, after age." (Revelation 5:13)

Blessings,
Heather Moore
Director of Music

Youth on a Mission



Youth on a Mission would like to thank everyone who purchased Easter chocolates from us this year. We raised approximately \$150.



I would like to remind everyone about our up coming auction on April 10, 2005. We will be joining forces with the senior youth group of Sutton First Congregational Church for this exciting event. The youth group from Sutton will be joining us on our mission trip this summer to Wheeling, WV. We are very excited about this new joint venture. The preview of auction items and light lunch is from 11:30 to 12:30 bidding begins promptly at 12:30. We hope that the change of date will alleviate some of the conflicts that kept so many people from attending the auction last year. We'll be auctioning off a huge variety of items, everything from restaurant gift certificates to a vacation rental and a Kayak. Please make every effort to attend this very worthwhile event and support the youth of both our church and Sutton First Congregational. We will be welcoming back Tate Conkey as our live, professional auctioneer. Tate made last years auction a lot of fun and a lot of laughs.



I would also like to remind ALL youth 6th grade and up that we will be participating in the 30 hour famine (24hrs) at the Sutton church. It will take place Friday night April 29th at 7pm until 7:30 pm Saturday night April 30th. There will be more information available in up coming bulletins regarding the kick off and obtaining supporters.

- Randy & Jen Bohn with Youth on a Mission

Joyful Noyse Rehearsal Schedule

Sunday, April 3, 10, 17 - 11 A.M. rehearsal

Sunday, April 24 - 9:00 A.M. rehearsal

Anthem to be sung: "He is Mine"

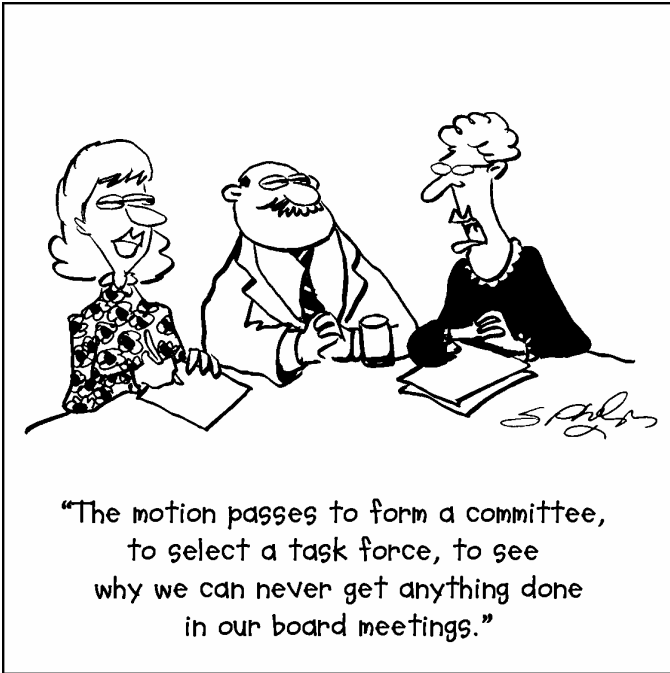
Sunday, May 1,8,15 - 11 A.M. rehearsal

Sunday, May 22 - Joyful Noyse Recognition Day

9:00 A.M. Mini-musical TBA

Church World Service would like to thank everyone who donated to the S Asia Earthquake for emergency and disaster relief fund. Our church and committees donated \$6,057 to this immense tragedy as of February 8, 2005.

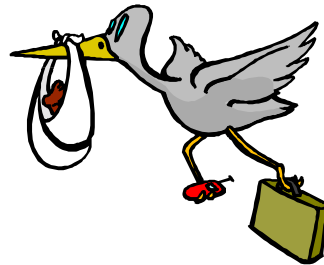
Thank You!



I would like to thank all of my friends from the church who have sent me cards and notes since my fall and surgery last month. I am making good progress with my physical therapy and will soon be able to move in with my son and daughter-in-law in East Falmouth.

Russell Romkey

Since receiving this note, we had news that Russell is living with his family and doing very well.



Congratulations....
to Thomas and Mary Brown on the baptism of their son Seamus Matthias Brown on March 13, 2005.

And to

Gary and Tracy Knox & Grandparents Ken and Jackie Knox
On the baptism of Mindy Chen Knox on March 20, 2005

Congratulations to Barbara Cowden on becoming the grandmother to Casey Weldon Holland, born on March 12, 2005 to James and Dr. Wendie Holland.

Library Tidings

By Gloria Whitehead

Glistening snow will soon be replaced by colorful spring flowers. It's been a year when winter lasted too long, so dust off a lawn chair, find a sheltered spot where the warm sun is brilliant and begin reading that book that you borrowed from the Church Library. Drumming up business? We are! Can you believe that there was a year when 2,910 books from the Adult Library were circulated? Or when the Children's Library loaned 2,250 books in a 9 month period? We had supplementary reading lists related to the curriculum for teachers, had meetings with R.E. occasionally and the Children's Library featured books related to the curriculum.

With a number of additional pluses, this was a banner time. Conversely, without effort, I can count 9 major changes in our lifestyle that have taken place since then, but none eliminates the benefits of reading to a little child. None displaces the value of encouraging children to read.

Soon, on a Sunday morning, you're going to find children's books randomly scattered on the pews. Thumb through any within (or out of) your reach to see the beautiful illustrations and the variety of texts - not all are religious. You're welcome to take home any that interest you. There'll be a sign out sheet on the Adult Library stand and when returning, just put the book in the top drawer of the same stand.

This Weeks Book Review:

Why Do People Pray by Jean H. Richards - ages 6 & 7 - The text asks the question then gives the answer as though the child had thought it out by himself.

Mama, If You Had a Wish by Jeanne Moderitt - ages 1-5 - A picture book that warmly expresses unconditional love that is reassuring at bedtime.

A Calf is Born by Kiyonori Kaizuki - ages 6 & 7 - Richly dramatic oil paintings capture the winter night of a miraculous event and a young calf's first day.

The China Route by John S. Major - ages 8 & 9 - The amazing story of the astounding 7,000 mile trade route, of centuries past, of this precious silk cloth.

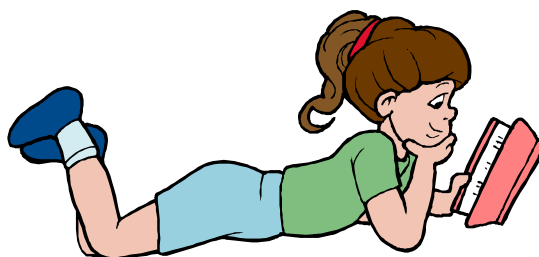
Why People are Different Colors by Symeon Shimia - ages 8 & up - Helps to explain the biological characteristics of different races etc. Interesting.

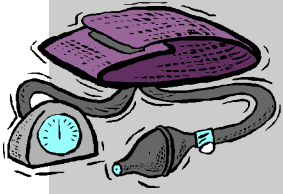
Now I lay the Down to Wonder by Bernice Hogan - ages 3-5 - Prayers that are simple expressions of wonder and delight in everyday things.

Jesus & The Big Picnic and Other Stories retold by Tim Dowley - Ages 8-10 - Bible stories with detailed illustrations and references to the location of the stories in the Bible.

Thank You God For Spring!

The Library Committee





Parish Nurse

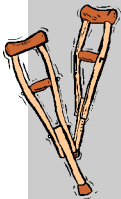
Happy Spring!!!!

April is Cancer Control Month, National Occupational Therapy Month, Counseling Awareness Month, National Autism Awareness Month, National Youth Sports Safety Month, Women's Eye Health and Safety Month, National Donate Life Month, Sports Eye Safety Month, Foot Health Awareness Month, National Facial Protection Month, and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. April 2nd is YMCA Healthy Kids Day, April 7th is World Health Day, April 13th is Kick Butts Day- Campaign for Tobacco- Free Kids, April 4-10 is National Public Health Week, April 17-23 is National Volunteer Week, and April 24-30 is National Infant Immunization Week.



I would like to inform people about MESOTHELIOMA an ASBESTOS related cancer. It is showing up now in former sailors who served their country aboard ships in the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam War eras. It is also found in people that worked as electricians, plumbers, and any other occupation that dealt with asbestos covered pipes. One other occupation that I'm aware of is, those that worked with brake linings. I have web sites and information about getting compensation for this illness. This cancer is in the lining of the lungs and isn't curable. There is new treatment that the FDA has approved to slow the spread of the cancer and give a better quality of life. It is best if the cancer is caught at the onset of symptoms ie: shortness of breath, chest pain and/or persistent cough. These symptoms may be caused by other conditions and only a doctor can make a definite diagnosis!

Wednesday May 11th at 6:30 p.m., I have a speaker coming from Fairlawn Hospital to talk about "Feet First" This relates to diving into pools, water safety, and they will also talk about bike helmets. This is a free program and I hope that we will have a good attendance. Please spread the word. I have invited scout troops and "Here We Grow" families, but everyone is welcome. The program is about 45 min- 1 hour long, so it won't be too late for young school-aged children.



I would like to remind people that I have bath seats, walkers, canes, wheel chairs, and other Durable Medical Equipment (DME) that is for your use. Rev. Knox told me that he thinks the walkers are multiplying in the closet. Please, if you know of anyone that needs to borrow this equipment, call me or the church office. I don't even need to know before you take something. I would just like to know that some of it is being used! Have a Happy, Healthy Month.

We have all been hearing the news regarding Terri Schiavo. This could happen to any one of us or our loved ones. We have Health Care Proxy paperwork at the church and we would be happy to help you with this matter. You can find papers on the health table in Fellowship Hall. If you want to take care of this issue—it can be done any morning Mon– Thurs in the church office. You can bring your witness/es with you or Tammy and Rev. Knox can witness for you. Please don't let your family go through the pain that Terri's family is going through. It isn't necessary and it is painful. Please make your wishes known to your family.

Also if you or anyone you know is a notary public, please let me know. I recently was asked by a parishioner and I don't know of any in the church.

Sincerely,
Debbie Pranaitis
Parish Nurse

The Bulletin Board

- April 1 Pinewood Derby, 6 PM in Fellowship Hall
- April 3 Turn clocks ahead one hour
- April 10 Youth on a Mission's Auction (Page 8)
- April 10 Phantom of the Opera trip, bus departs at 3PM
- April 15 Scholarship applications due
- April 16 Roast Beef Supper, 5 P.M.
- April 20 Tidings Articles Due
- April 29 Sutton Youth 30 hour Famine ages 6th Grade and up (Page 8)
- May 1 Confirmation Day
- May 8 Mother's Day with Cake Walk (Page 3)
- May 11 "Feet First" Pool Safety and more seminar (Page 11)
- June 11 Golf Tournament (see insert)
- June 12 Children's Sunday w/ picnic on the lawn after church
- June 18 Summer Solstice Celebration (Page 7)
- June 19 Father's Day
- June 24-26 Camping weekend (Page 6)

This list does not include weekly reoccurring meetings. *All* meetings are listed on the calendar insert. Please notify the church secretary immediately if something is *not* listed on the calendar. 508-832-2845.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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