

# THE TALE

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Which door would you be behind?

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what heaven and hell are like."

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms, and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handles were longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, "You have seen hell." They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.

The holy man said, "I don't understand."

"It is simple," said the Lord. "It requires but one skill. You see they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves."

Which door would you be behind? As Christians and members of this church our goal is to feed one another, not worry just about ourselves. Think of the change we could make in the world if we tried to make this a reality and put it into practice in our daily lives.

See you in church,

Greg





## OUTREACH

### **Mission Family THANK YOU!**

In October we helped the family welcome baby Anthony with gifts of clothing, toys, diapers and a diaper bag. We also celebrated Monica's birthday with gifts of clothing, books and a stuffed animal.

Christmas gifts were sent along to the family and your generosity was greatly appreciated.

In January, committee members visited the family's apartment to insulate windows, install window treatments and deliver donated home furnishings.

Maritza is the oldest child and celebrates her birthday on February 14. We have collected gifts for her. Again thank you to all who helped out.

Looking ahead:

Gabriel will turn 3 on March 16. Missions is looking for someone who is willing to coordinate birthday gifts. If you can help, please contact Marcia Conant.

We are supplying a monthly food delivery of non-perishables. Deliveries will be made the last Thursday of every month and donations can be left in the basket in the Narthex. The basket is labeled "Mission Family" If anyone is interested in donating perishable food such as meats, fresh fruits or vegetables or homemade goodies, please contact Marcia Conant at [conants4@charter.net](mailto:conants4@charter.net) or 456-9814.



### **Loaves and Fishes**

Support for our local food pantry remains an important outreach. The need continues to grow. You are encouraged to bring donations to the church any time you are able. Donations of any perishables are appreciated as are donations of personal care items and diapers. There is a collection basket located in the Narthex.

#### Needed items:

- Canned meats
- Meal helpers
- Coffee
- Baked beans
- Canned tomato products
- Personal care items
  - Soap
  - Diapers



Musicale– March 1, 2 pm



## MUSICALE 2009: Make a Joyful Noise!

Join us for an afternoon of music as we hold our annual Musicale, Sunday, March 1, at 2PM. If you'd like to sing or play an instrument--and we encourage everyone to try!--contact Michael Lauer at [mrlauer@gmail.com](mailto:mrlauer@gmail.com) or 978-456-9039.

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## CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

We're getting a jump start on Craft Fair 2009! Come to a workshop on February 11th, at 7 pm, at Susan Barber's (1 Oak Hill Road). The plan is to try to meet every 2nd Wednesday to work on projects. Please come and bring your ideas. If you have any questions call Susan at 978-456-8847

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## KAIROS SPIRITUAL LIVE CENTER

The Kairos Spiritual Live Center is a ministry of All Saints Church, Worcester and takes its name from the Greek word, *kairos*, referring to "God's time" or "holy time". The Kairos Center is grounded in a contemplative spirit and in the belief that God is present in all times and people. Its many programs offer resources for those who seek to explore and deepen their spiritual lives and grow in their awareness of God's loving presence in our lives and world. The Kairos Center is also a resource for people interested in spiritual direction. The Rev. Nancy Elder-Wilfrid is the Center's director.

Regular offerings include:  
Centering Prayer  
Labyrinth Walks  
Mindful Stress reduction  
First Friday Films

For more information on these and seasonal programs you can visit the All Saints website ([www.allsaintsw.org](http://www.allsaintsw.org)), email: [kairoscenter @allsaintsw.org](mailto:kairoscenter@allsaintsw.org) or call 508-752-3766

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Lenten Booklet:** As a way to share our stories of faith, the CE Committee is preparing a Lenten Booklet of daily devotionals for use during Lent. It is our hope that in each story a different dimension of faith will come alive. To begin, choose a favorite Bible passage and write a short response. Perhaps you will share why it has meaning for you or how it reflects faith in action for you, your family or community. If you would like to contribute, submit your piece via e-mail to [pccocchrane@gmail.com](mailto:pccocchrane@gmail.com) or hard copy to the church office by February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Booklet of Graces and Prayers:** Sunday School Children are creating a Booklet of Graces and Prayers. If you have a favorite prayer or grace you would like to share, please send a copy via e-mail to Pam Cochrane at [pccochrane@gmail.com](mailto:pccochrane@gmail.com) or drop off a hard copy in the CE Mailbox located in the Church Office.

**Sunday School Offering:** As we begin the New Year, all classes are invited to renew their weekly offering commitment and discuss which organizations they would like to support with the offering money collected. To date the Sunday school classes through 5th grade have together raised \$150. We have more work to do over the next six months. Look for more information in the classrooms on Heifer, Loaves & Fishes and Habitat for Humanity in the weeks ahead. Help remind our children that their offering helps.

**Night Watch – An Overnight Adventure for Middle School & Senior High Youth Group** - The UCC is sponsoring an overnight trip to St. John's Cathedral in New York, March 28-29<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements will be made to leave Framingham by bus Saturday late morning returning Sunday evening by 8 pm. Cost (transportation included) per person is \$100. We will join other youth from Massachusetts as we explore this amazing cathedral. The overnight will include music, games, the great labyrinth, candle light service and dinner. Visit [www.macucc.org](http://www.macucc.org) and click on Youth Ministry and Night Watch to read more about St. John's Cathedral. To sign-up contact Pam Cochrane, 978456-2349 or [pccochrane@gmail.com](mailto:pccochrane@gmail.com) by February 8<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms and checks must be in the church office by February 13<sup>th</sup>



**Bible Study**

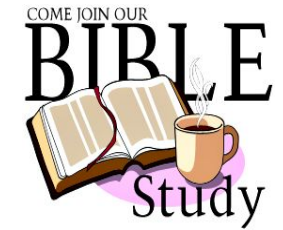
The Bible Study group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am. You are invited to join in the discussion any time you are able.

Readings for February (from the lectionary)

Feb. 4: Josh 4:12-5:1	John 6:16-27	1 Cor 7:8-11
Feb. 11 Josh 8:1-21	John 7:14-24	1 Cor 8:7-13
Feb. 18 Josh 24:16-23	John 8:31-41a	1 Cor 10:23-11:1
Feb. 25 Joel 2:1-2,12-17a	Matt 6:1-6,16-21	2 Cor 5:20b-6:10

**Movie Discussion:**

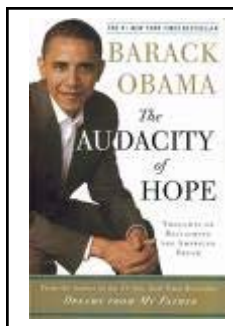
The next gathering will be Monday, February 2, 7:30 pm, in room 3. Please watch *Rails and Ties*. Synopsis: On a beautiful stretch of California coastline, a suicidal mother parks her car on a railroad crossing and awaits the arrival of a speeding train, the sleek and unstoppable Coastal Starlight. Thus begins the story of two families in physical, emotional and psychological collision - of the victim's relatives and of the train engineer who couldn't possibly have stopped time. Please view the movie before the meeting.



**Movie Discussion**  
February 2, 7:30 pm

**Book Group**

The group will meet in room 3, on February 16, at noon and again at 7:30 pm to discuss *The Audacity of Hope* by Barak Obama. Synopsis: With his second book, Obama engages themes raised in his keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, shares personal views on faith and values and offers a vision of the future that involves repairing a "political process that is broken" and restoring a government that has fallen out of touch with the people.





Our prayers are with:

Lucy Wallace and her family on the death of her father, Robert Browning

Peter Boehm (Gretchen Henry's brother)

Hannah Moccaie (Friend of Schmidt Family)

Jim Wallace                      George Mayo

Chrissy Audibert              Sue Hildreth

Nancy Schmalz                Dick Reed

Edward Culverhouse        Richard Wells

Dauida Crabtree              Jim Capobianco (Ellicks' son-in-law)

Clayton Guyett                Gary Newman

Claire & Bob L'Heureaux    Bill Swangren (Judy Cavanaugh's father)

All those serving in the armed forces and their families

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## Congregational Church of Harvard

United Church of Christ  
5 Still River Road  
Harvard, MA 01451

Phone: 978-456-8788  
Fax: 978-456-9779  
Email: [office@harvarducc.com](mailto:office@harvarducc.com)



*No matter who you are or where you are  
on life's journey, you are welcome here.*



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*Ash Wednesday Service*

*February 25, 2009  
7:30 pm*