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The Unseen Easter Experience

By Jeff Braun, Senior Minister

If there is one moment in all of Christian experience — and, to be more specific, in all of Christ's experience — that remains utterly enshrouded in mystery, it is the moment when Jesus' tomb was breached. The moment when the rock was rolled away. The moment when Jesus, bodily, left his grave, and rose from the dead. The singular moment when Jesus, who was born of humankind, and who died a human death ... was reborn ... so that *all* humanity might live again, both here and in heaven (where Jesus eventually receives us all).

As the Gospel accounts testify, there were witnesses to Jesus' birth. Mary and Joseph were there. People witnessed Jesus' earthly ministry, his entrance into Jerusalem, his Last Supper, his betrayal in the garden, his trial (sham that it was), his Crucifixion, and even his last breath ... and his death. People were there for all these sacred moments.

People witnessed. And people saw. But *no* one — not a soul! — witnessed when Jesus rose from the tomb.

And nobody was supposed to.

It was a moment reserved for God, God's Son, and the Spirit that binds them. A moment sacrosanct. A moment unparalleled in its import. And in its *intimacy*.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, in all its meaning, may we reflect on this moment. A moment still shrouded in darkness, still utterly unseen. And yet, a moment that has strobed across time, itself. A moment that has raised countless witnesses to Christ's love. A moment that has given second sight and new perspective and new life to *legions*.

Such power. Such paradox. Such *salvation*. And all from a singularly unseen moment that reassures us how, through Christ's love, light does indeed rise from darkness, hope from the grave, and life from death!

On behalf of your thankful church staff,
I wish you a Happy Easter!

God's Peace,

Jeff

Service of Remembrance and Healing

In this season of Easter, we invite Christ's resurrection light to shine into places of darkness and pain in our lives in a worship service of Remembrance and Healing, to be held Thursday evening, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

This quiet and contemplative service, led by our clergy and Stephen Ministers, is offered to any who seek healing in their lives of a physical, emotional, or spiritual nature. It is also planned for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones; you need not have attended the recent Bereavement Group to come.

This service is open to all our members, their friends, and to our community and beyond. Please speak to Jeff Braun, Alison McCaffrey, Sue Chatfield, Jan Cowles, or Jan Garthwait if you have questions.



Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group has the following schedule for the next few months. The meetings, each month in a different home, start with a social time at 7 p.m., and end by 9:30.

For April, the book is "South of Broad" by Pat Conroy, at Donna Mead's home. May's book is "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, and the meeting will be at Charlene Black's home. In June, we will read "The Samurai's

April Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 4, Easter Sunday:

Services at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:30 a.m. Jeff Braun preaching. Communion will be served. Food offerings will be collected; the food of the month is chili.

Thursday, April 8: Service of remembrance and healing. See details at left.

Sunday, April 11: Services at 9 and 11. Alison McCaffrey preaching.

Sunday, April 18, New Member Sunday: Services at 9 and 11. Jeff Braun preaching.

Sunday, April 25, Youth Sunday: Services led by our young people at 9 and 11. You are asked to bring an item of non-perishable food to the service.

Garden" by Gail Tsukiyama (no hostess home yet). July's book is "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak, and the group meets at Kirsten Sullivan's home.

For more information, including directions to the various homes, please contact Leah Sanders at 203-272-7146 or Martha Lape at 203-272-9327.

**Have you remembered
First Congregational Church
In your estate planning?**

Notes from the Executive Board

On March 2, the Executive Board met in Whiting House. Ministers provided information about the Lenten schedule, and the church activities planned for the next month.

“Scripture by Heart,” a group of 14, has formed to work on the telling of the Passion Story on Palm Sunday, from the Gospel of Luke.

The Christian Education Director Search Committee has interviewed all but one of the candidates for the permanent Director of Christian Education. It is Linda Milton’s hope to have the new Christian Education Director in place between April 1 and April 15.

Concerning the church sound system, the source of one of the noises had been identified and fixed. The Trustees are waiting to receive a quote to see whether the entire sound system should be replaced.

Many church members attended the public hearing of the Historic District Commission, which was held on March 1 regarding an exemption on the replacement of the Whiting House porch. This request was approved at the hearing.

A meeting was held to ensure that the church is in compliance with the Safe and Nurturing Policy, and we are in compliance. A concern was raised as to whether there will be sufficient time for the new CE Director to do everything mandated, especially because the CE

Director’s hours have been cut back. This will be discussed further.

A proposal had been made in the February meeting to have an “All Boards Night”, when all boards (except the Executive Board) would meet on the same Tuesday night. The Executive Board would meet on the following Tuesday evening. This would free evenings for the ministers and parishioners to participate in other activities (family, adult education, etc.). The subject was discussed with pros and cons set forth, and then tabled for further discussion.

In February, several board meetings were rescheduled for the same night to provide a trial run of what an “All Boards Night” would be like. Jeff and Alison found that they were not attentive to the Board meetings that they attended, because they had to leave to move on to another meeting. While it seemed like a good idea to streamline the meeting process, it was decided we would not go forward with an “All Boards Night.”

Linda Milton noted that the Board of Christian Education is working on bringing back Vacation Bible School (VBS). There is no budget for CE to cover the costs of VBS, so Linda is asking to have a fundraiser to raise about \$2,000. Linda would like to announce that they would be going forward with the VBS as soon as possible. The fundraiser would occur after Easter, and some suggestions

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they have had would be to either do an 'open mike' night or hold some type of themed dinner with minimal expense.

A review of other churches that have VBS found that they have between \$3,000 and \$5,000 budgeted for VBS. The Executive Board approved The CE Board request to hold this fundraiser.

Alison stated that she would like to hold a "Mississippi Night" (or Morning) to use the leftover pancake breakfast ingredients. The Board approved Alison's request for a fundraiser in support of Mississippi Night.

The Board approved Outreach's request to implement the Baby Basket Ministry, to be announced to the congregation in the near future.

During the recent Leadership Retreat there was discussion about how others (outside the church) perceive our church. Each member of the Board was asked to think about how we perceive ourselves as a church and be ready to discuss this at our next meeting.

Ford Cole



Caring Crafts

The Caring Crafts Ministry will meet on April 26 at 7 p.m. at Donna Mead's home, 15 Conifer Drive, Hamden. All are welcome.



A Mission Trip Story

Those of you who were in church on March 14 heard many stories from the Adult Mission Trip to Mississippi. But there are many, many more to be told. Here is one example:

Many of us from First Congregational Church spent four days working to transform a former elementary school into a church center for children, youth and young adults. We were helped by some wonderful college students on their spring break, some of whom happened to be amazing artists. We rolled paint on the walls and they followed us, painting gorgeous murals in many rooms and hallways. One of their creations was particularly striking.

In the back of one former classroom was a tiny bathroom. I peeked in to see what they had done in that room and I stopped dead in my tracks, stunned. On the wall facing me was a stark, 6-foot cross. I just stared for several seconds. Then someone else came to see what had transfixed me so, and his immediate reaction was to say that that would be the bathroom that he would always want to use.

My reaction was the exact opposite. I might wash my hands in the tiny sink, but any other activity would just not seem appropriate in that suddenly sacred space.

Bob Giddings

Christian Education in April

In April, Church School will focus primarily on the Holy Spirit. However, additional time will be set aside each week in class to prepare for Children's Sunday on May 16 (please see blurb below).

Thou Art, Room 8:

Children in this workshop will learn about the Holy Spirit, and the symbols that represent it, by making banners.

Red Sea Productions, Room 9:

Children will study "the first Pentecost" story (when the Spirit was poured out upon the disciples). This workshop will use both scripture, as well as a play about the Holy Spirit coming to Cornelius and his friends and family.

Desert Tales, Room 10:

The first week, children will watch a short video that describes Pentecost. The second week, they will study the story from scripture and discuss it. In the following weeks, they will add singing to this rotation.

Gospel Games, Room 11:

This workshop will focus on invitation and hospitality, as they relate to celebrating the birthday of the church. We will prepare cupcakes for the reception between the two services on May 16 (Children's Sunday). Additionally, posters will be made that celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit to humankind.

No Church School on Easter: Please note that there will be no Church School on April 4, Easter Sunday. The Nursery will be open, and there will be a program for children PS through second grade during the 9:30 and 11:30 services (but not at the 8:00 service).

Children's Sunday, May 16 at 9 A.M. and 11 A.M.: Pre-School (age 3) through Grade 8 will help to lead the worship service at both 9 A.M. and 11 A.M. on May 16, 2010. We have lots of speaking, singing, and non-speaking parts available as we focus the service around one of the themes we have studied this year! It will be important for children to attend the 4/11, 4/18, and 5/9 Church School sessions, because we are reserving a portion of each weekly session to assign parts and to prepare. Also, participants must attend a rehearsal on Saturday, May 15 from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

Silver Lake Summer Camp: As summer creeps up on us, it is time to start thinking about sending your child to a session at the United Church of Christ camp, Silver Lake, in Sharon, CT. This an overnight camp for children going into fourth grade through High School. For more information, see <http://silverlake.ctucc.org>. Please feel free to speak to Hope Reinhard, Acting CE Director; her daughter was a camper last year, and had a wonderful week of camp.



9:00

Date	Thou Art	Red Sea Prod.	Desert Tales	Gospel Games
April 4	Easter Worship	Easter Worship	Easter Worship	Easter Worship
April 11	Grade 2	Week Off	Grades 3 & 4	Grades 5 & 6
April 18	Grades 5 & 6	Grade 2	Week Off	Grades 3 & 4
April 25	Grades 3 & 4	Grades 5 & 6	Grade 2	Week Off

11:00

Date	Thou Art	Red Sea Prod.	Desert Tales	Gospel Games
April 4	Easter Worship	Easter Worship	Easter Worship	Easter Worship
April 11	Grade 2	Grades 5 & 6	Grades 3 & 4	Week Off
April 18	Grades 3 & 4	Week Off	Grade 2	Grades 5 & 6
April 25	Youth Sunday Worship	Youth Sunday Worship	Youth Sunday Worship	Youth Sunday Worship

YUTES News

The YUTES ask that everyone bring a canned good with them to Youth Sunday on April 25.

March was a fun filled month with the Yutes. Our trip to Mountain Fun was a blast. Thank you to everyone who participated, our RAs, and drivers who were willing to help. Thanks to all the kids and families that came out to our first annual Easter Egg hunt on March 27. We were glad we were able to host this fun event and look forward to it growing in future years.

It's April already, and we have our focus now on Youth Sunday and our 30 Hour Famine. They will both be on the same weekend, April 24-25. We are

Middle School Group: Our middle school group meets the last Monday of each month. We spend some time making bag meals that are distributed to the hungry in New Haven that evening by members of our church. We then have a meal and play some fun games. If you're a 7th or 8th grader and you want to join us, please check us out on April 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. Feel free to ask any of the middle schoolers who have been to one of our meetings if you have any questions.



Left in the Library?

Have you left personal belongings in the church library, or in the library area of the parlor? If so, now is your opportunity to retrieve them. This applies not just to individuals, but to boards, committees, and other groups who have used library space for meetings.

Spring Rummage Sale

The spring Rummage Sale will be held on Thursday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday, April 30 (“fill-a-bag”) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Spring is the time to take inventory or to replace an old item – the clothes, shoes or toys in the back of the closet that haven't been used for years, or perhaps small project materials



that are no longer needed. Please refer to page 2 of March's Parish Post for a list of items you may donate.

Donations will be accepted on these dates and times:

- Sunday, April 25 from 1 to 3 p.m.
- Monday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Do not drop off items at any other time or when there is no attendant.

Need help getting your donations to the church? Sherry Kovalesky will be in the Parish Hall after each Sunday service, or you may call her at 203-271-9860 with questions, donations or to sign up as a volunteer. Volunteers are needed the last week of April through May 1.

Outreach News and Notes

Midnight Run: By the time you read this, we will have been on our first two Midnight Runs. Thank you for your donations of ingredients for the 55 bag suppers, of warm clothing, toiletries, new socks and new underwear. As the weather warms up, we will continue to need the new socks, underwear and toiletries, but more sweaters and jackets and fewer parkas and gloves. If you are interested in being a driver for the run, please sign up on the Outreach board in the parlor. You would be assigned to accompany one of our experienced drivers at first. Our drivers leave the church at 7:15 and are usually back by 9:30.

Food for All: With more donations still coming in, we have received more than \$600 in response to our Food for All project. These donations will fund any costs we incur for the Midnight Run this year, and anything remaining at the end of the year will be donated to the area food pantries our church has traditionally supported. Many thanks to all who participated!

Parish Post by E-mail

If you are interested in helping the church save money by receiving your Parish Post electronically, please contact the office at 203-272-5323 and we'll put you on the list. While we are happy to send you the Parish Post by postal mail, getting it by e-mail means we don't need to pay for a stamp.

Spring Cleanup

The Church spring cleanup day is Saturday, April 24. We will need to pick up the leftover leaves and tree debris around the Meeting house, connector, Parish Hall, the Parsonage, the Whiting House, the Green and the perimeter of the parking lot.

You can help by joining us and donating your time and energy. We will need rakes, shovels, tarps, wheelbarrows and a couple of chainsaws. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and plan on being done by noon. The rain date is Saturday, May 1.



Ground Cover Wanted

The Trustees think that we have finally gotten the upper hand over the Japanese Knotweed that has ringed the church parking lot for many years. Now they want to plant a variety of ground covers in its place. So, if anyone has any ground cover, please consider giving a few rootings to the church.

Examples include ivy, pachysandra, vinca (periwinkle), creeping phlox, Irish moss, and yellow archangel. And if you have others, they are welcome also. It will not damage your plants if you take a few root plugs out, and they will fill the space back in very quickly. The best time to transplant is April and May.

If you can help, please call Bob Giddings at 203-272-9347. Thanks! (We would like to do the planting on Spring Clean Up Day, April 24.)

New Member Orientation

The Membership Committee invites all who would like to explore joining the church to a New Member Orientation to be held on Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church parlor. New Members will be received Sunday, April 18 during worship with a reception between services.

If you have any questions, we invite you to call the church office, 203-272-5323, to speak with one of the ministers or to contact Bobbie Porter at 203-699-9988 or Marianne Eagleson at 202-271-2850, Co-chairs of the Membership Committee.

Easter Programs for Children

On Easter Sunday, April 4, during the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services, there will be a Children's Program for ages 3 through Grade 2. Children will leave during the first hymn and go to rooms 8 and 9. Nursery Care will be provided at the 9:30 and 11:00 am services. (Note that there will not be Nursery Care or a children's program at the 8:00 a.m. service.)



Hospitalized?

If you are in the hospital, or if you know of a member of the congregation who is hospitalized, please let us know! Hospitals are forbidden by federal law from giving out this information, even to clergy. We need to hear it from you.

About Those ‘Intangible Religious Benefits’

In recent years, people who have made monetary donations to a church received a form for tax purposes. It usually contained the statement, “No goods or services were provided (other than intangible religious benefits) for the tax-deductible value shown above.” That’s IRS-speak for “you gave some money, and didn’t get anything in return.”

Don’t tell the Internal Revenue Service, but they’ve got it all wrong. The so-called “intangible religious benefits” are all around us, and are tangible indeed.

Where are the “benefits” provided by our giving? They’re in the music that we hear every Sunday, played on an organ run by electricity that we must buy. They’re in the faces of homeless people in Waterbury and New Haven, kept warm and dry in shelters supported by our church’s donations. They’re in the many Parish Care programs at our church, often coordinated by paid staff. They’re in the Christian education provided for our children, facilitated by instructional materials purchased by the church. They’re in our historic Church on the Green itself, which needs to be maintained, heated, and insured.

Thanks to the many hundreds of people who donate financially to First Congregational Church, and especially to those who make yearly pledges, we are able to provide these “goods and services” not just to our own congregation, but to people living as far away as Malawi and as near as next door.

The IRS may consider that giving to the church provides no tangible goods and services, but we know better. Every dollar given comes right back to all of us, and to those we serve – “some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundredfold.”

The Board of Stewardship



Music Notes

Snowbeck in recital: On Sunday, May 16, at 3 p.m., Gary Snowbeck, former First Congregational Church organist, will present an organ recital in the sanctuary. Gary has been presenting this recital throughout Connecticut and is looking forward to presenting it here. After the recital, a free-will offering will be collected to help support the church’s music program. The recital will be followed by a reception in the parlor.

Jazz on the Green: This year’s “Music on the Green” event will feature, once again, The Heartbeat Dixieland Jazz Band, on the evening of Saturday, August 14. Last year, the Heartbeat Dixieland Jazz Band performed inside the parish hall due to rain.

Bill Logozzo, the band’s leader, was thrilled to be asked back to our Green again this year. He promises that the band will thrill and delight a full crowd. So, please plan to bring a picnic with your family and friends, and be ready to experience an unforgettable evening of fun, music, and festivities.

'Elijah' Oratorio Coming

The Greater Middletown Chorale, along with our church's Senior Choir and the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Chorus, will present Felix Mendelssohn's great choral oratorio "Elijah" at the new performing arts center at Middletown High School on Sunday, May 2, at 4 p.m.

"Elijah," one of the world's most well-known and beloved choral masterworks, tells the story of the Old Testament prophet, in English, through Mendelssohn's powerful and dramatic music. The concert also will be staged with lighting and sound. Joseph D'Eugenio, Artistic Director, will conduct the combined 200-voice chorus and professional soloists, accompanied by full orchestra.

Tickets are currently on sale in the church parlor on Sundays, as well as throughout the week in the main office. They are \$40 for preferred seating; \$25 for general seating; \$20 for seniors; and \$10 for students. A 52-passenger school bus will leave at 2:30 from the church's parking lot on May 2, and travel directly to and from the concert. An additional approximate \$5 - \$10 charge for the transportation will be collected on the bus to cover for its cost.

Please save the date now so you can attend this thrilling performance.

On Sunday, April 18, at the 9:00 and 11:00 services in our church, the Senior Choir and members of the Greater Middletown Chorale will present two choruses from "Elijah" during morning worship.

UCC Women to Meet

The 82nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Women of the UCC, called "Bridging Faith and Works," will be held on Saturday, April 24, at the United Church of Christ in Southbury from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. An offering for Silver Lake furniture will be received.

Guest speaker will be Hartford Courant columnist Susan Campbell, whose latest book is "Dating Jesus." Registration cost, including lunch, is \$15 until April 14. After that date, the cost is \$20.

Three workshops will be offered:

- Fitting Faith and Works Into Your Everyday Life, presented by the Connecticut Women's State Board Service Committee. It's a discussion on how we bridge faith and works in our daily lives.
- Spooner House. Susan Agamy, Executive Director for Area Congregations Together, explains how Spooner House, the only shelter in the Lower Naugatuck Valley, provides services for homeless people.
- Health Kits for Church World Service. Work side by side with Kathy Burton of Church World Service as we transform all the makings of health kits into actual, ready-to-be-shipped and used packages. We are asking that all attendees please bring one (or more) of the components of a Health Kit. To register for information, see lobby bulletin board.

Parish Care Report for January and February 2010

Here is a summary of the Parish Care events for the months of January and February. As you can see, we are blessed with many devoted care-providers, but also have many needs to fulfill.

Birth/Baptism – We provided commemorative gifts to the parents of four children who were baptized in January and February.

Bereavement – A new Bereavement Series started on February 25 and will meet every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Room 10. The last meeting will be a healing service held on April 8. We are encouraging those who own a prayer shawl to wear it during the service. These shawls provide a physical embrace of God's love and help those who wear them to feel his love.

Cards and Telephone – Your letter writers have been busy writing 38 cards to people who have had birthdays, get well, sympathy, thinking of you and thank you. The cards also included handmade Valentines made by the Church School children.

Caring Crafts – Thanks to the generous and talented crafters in our congregation, we now have a good supply of shawls. We would also like to thank the Assumption Catholic Church, where Lori Braun's mother works, for the 12 beautiful shawls that their ministry donated to our church. The Wednesday Women's Workshop that meets every Wednesday in the Church Parlor at 12:30 has proven to be a big success. All are welcome to bring their

project and join this lively group of women. They are also very willing to teach those who would like to learn a new craft. We have instituted a new system in order to keep track of where our shawls are going. Thanks to Kathy Duffendack, each item has a yellow card that is filled out at the time the shawl is taken and kept by the Parish Care Coordinator. In this way, we have a general idea of who has shawls, blankets, Alzheimer quilts and fleece throws.

Caring Visitors – A couple in our congregation have agreed to become our latest Caring Visitors and have been assigned to a member in the congregation who has trouble getting out. This ministry has proven to be a very effective way of showing others that they are not forgotten and truly cherished by us even when they are not able to be with us.

Small Chores – One chore was done by John Bates. Please call him if you have something that needs to be done that you are unable to do yourself. He is a very willing and able craftsman.

Meals – There were 24 meals delivered to five families in January and February. The Meals Coordinator for April is Marianne Eagleson. If you know of anyone who could use a meal during a busy or stressful time, please call Marianne. In May, Jackie Cole will be the coordinator. Through the generosity of one of our parishioners, we now have gift cards that can be used to purchase food by

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people in our congregation. The ministers will be the ones who will disperse them to those in need.

Prayer Pagers: During the past two months, five of our six pagers were in constant use. Currently three are available. Feedback is positive from those who are on the receiving end of these electronic symbols of God's love. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from knowing that others are praying for them, please contact Donna Mead.

Rides – The Rides Ministry has been seldom used and is currently up for review.

Stephen Ministry – 10 of the 15 Stephen Ministers tended to 12 care receivers and spent a total of 87 hours in January and February. If you or someone you know could benefit from having a Stephen Minister, call Sue Chatfield at 203-235-6294 or one of the ministers for a consultation.

Parish Care Coordinator – I have spent time coordinating Parish Care efforts among the Parish Care Committee, the ministers and other care givers.

One aspect of my ministry is to provide the link between those in need and those who have expressed a desire to provide some measure of care. Here are a few examples of my weekly activities: identifying members to receive Easter lilies, determining who would most benefit from receiving sanctuary flowers following Sunday services and insuring that the volunteer who delivers those flowers has the correct address, passing on the names

and addresses of those who benefit from cards, telephone calls, meals, rides, chores, or specially crafted and comforting shawls and blankets. Finally, I strive to serve as a focal point for those who wish to volunteer their services or those who wish to pass on the name of someone in need. For January and February, this took approximately 68 hours.

This is a most rewarding experience and I strongly solicit your continuing support.

Donna Mead, Parish Care Coordinator
donna.mead@comcast.net 203-248-9576



Vacation Bible School To Return

The First Congregational Church Christian Education Board is excited to announce the return of Vacation Bible School in 2010.

We are planning a program for 4-year-olds entering kindergarten in the fall through those children who will be 6th graders in the fall. The dates of the school are August 2 through August 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every day. Before-program and after-program care will be available at an additional cost.

More details will be available over the next month.

We are planning a fund-raising event, probably at the end of April or the beginning of May, to defray the expenses of the Vacation Bible School curriculum and supplies. More information will be available in the Bulletins on Sunday mornings.

We Give Thanks

I would like to thank all who called, sent cards, or visited during Chuck's long illness. I particularly want to thank Mark Sullivan and Jim Parys for the lovely flowers delivered on your behalf. The flowers brought for our 65th anniversary were very special, as well as beautiful. Lots of people stopped to see them.

Nora Adams

I want to thank the church for loaning me the prayer beeper. To be perfectly honest, when I first learned of it, I thought it sounded kind of hokey, but the very first time that it beeped at me to announce that someone was praying for me, I cried. Since then, the sound of it going off has become a source of confidence and reassurance that everything will be okay. God willing, I will be able to return it to you very soon. Thank you so much, and bless you all.

Mark Minor

Many thanks to Susan Hostage and Kirsten Sullivan for preparing and delivering delicious dinners during Betty's absence necessitated by our son Steve's illness. Their visits gave me a chance to show off pictures of Steve and his young family. We are very fortunate to be part of such a caring congregation.

Roy Pritchard

I would like to express my gratitude for the beautiful floral arrangement that was delivered by Kirsten Sullivan. It was very nice of the church to think of me. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to be involved in the activities of the church.

Bill Eagleson

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers brought by Anne Giddings after my surgery. They really brightened my day. Also, for the tasty meals brought by Christine Fitzmaurice, Jan Cowles, and Kevin Ross. Most of all, I thank all of you for your cards and prayers. I am feeling much better and my progress is very good. May God bless you all.

Faye Gagne

Barbara and I would like to thank everyone for the many prayers, calls, cards and words of concern and comfort during our difficult times. The beautiful prayer shawl and lap robe we received have been such a comfort. The love we have received has been such a blessing. And if Jesus were our minister, I think he would say "well done, good and faithful servants."

Rich Grudzias

Lectionary for April

Sunday, April 4 (Easter): Acts 10: 34-43; Isaiah 65: 17-25; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24; I Corinthians 15: 19-26; John 20: 1-18; Luke 24: 1-12.

Sunday, April 11: Acts 5: 27-32; Psalm 118: 14-29; Psalm 150; Revelation 1: 4-8; John 20: 19-31.

Sunday, April 18: Acts 9: 1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5: 11-14; John 21: 1-19.

Sunday, April 25: Acts 9: 36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7: 9-17; John 10: 22-30.

Milestones

in the life of our church family

Baptisms:

Dylan John Paul, child of Kevin and Renee Paul, on February 21.

Camryn Alexis Rivera, child of Luis and Wondeline Rivera, on March 14.

Deaths:

Charles “Chuck” Adams, husband of Nora Adams, on March 3.

Mae Csuthy, on March 15.

Announcing a Change in Church Office Hours

Beginning immediately, the church office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., as before. On Fridays, the office will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.