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*From the Associate Minister*

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Dear Friends,

The blessing of Easter with its promise of new life transformed and renewed and the dawn of spring has always led me to the poetry of prayer. As we celebrate spring and Earth Day on April 22, I would like to share with you some of the poems that I hope will enliven your thoughts about our earth as a sacred reality entrusted to us for its safe keeping.

At a certain point you say to the woods, to the sea, to the mountains, the world, Now I am ready. Now I will stop and be wholly attentive. You empty yourself and wait, listening. After a time you hear it: there is nothing there.

There is nothing but those things only, those created objects, discrete, growing or holding, or

swaying, being rained on or raining, held, flooding or ebbing, standing, or spread. You feel the world's word as a tension, a hum, a single chorous note everywhere the same. This is it: this hum is the silence...

The silence is all there is. It is the alpha and the omega. It is God's brooding over the face of the waters; it is the blended note of ten thousand things, the whine of wings. You take a step in the right direction to pray to this silence, and even to address the prayer to "World." Distinctions blur. Quit your tents.

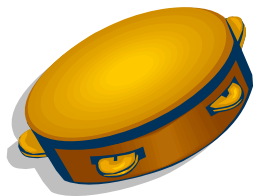
Pray without ceasing.

Annie Dillard

*(Continued on page 5)*

*Worship with a Twist*

Worship leaders Dudley Rose, Corey O'Brien and Bryce Sady have been considering the merits of an additional, different kind of service, to be held in the evening, not necessarily on Sunday, and the council has given its go-ahead for a couple events. The service is designed to be a bit less formal than Sunday morning worship and will feature guest musicians; it should attract newcomers as well as be a great occasion for inviting our friends and neighbors. *Worship with a Twist*, as organized by John K Read, Music Director of the Congregational Church of Mansfield, offers spirituality, novelty and its own publicity plan for a very low cost. Stay tuned!



# Upcoming Events

April 10

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**April**

## 1 Thursday

Maundy Thursday  
Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00

## 2 Friday

Good Friday  
Good Friday Stations of the Cross Through the City, begins 12:00 Noon Central Square  
Good Friday Service, 6:30 pm

## 3 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

## 4 Sunday

Easter  
Sunrise Service, 7:30 am  
9:30 Choir Rehearsal  
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose  
Carvelli Coffee Group

## 7 Wednesday

10:00 AM Knitwits (Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

## 10 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

## 11 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal  
Sandwiches for Outdoor Church  
11:00 Worship - Laity Sunday  
Beyerman/Bodwell/McKeown Coffee Group  
12:40 Tough Questions

## 14 Wednesday

10:00 AM Knitwits (Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

## 15 Thursday

7:00 PM Trustees  
7:30 PM Executive Council

## 17 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making  
*Pizza and Movie Night. Pizza at 6:00; Movie at 6:30*

## 18 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal  
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose  
Ramsay/Parsons/Weinstein/Kelley Coffee Group

## 19 Monday

Newsletter Deadline

## 21 Wednesday

10:00 AM Knitwits (Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

May 10

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30	31					

June 10

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July 10

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August 10

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September 10

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**April**

## 24 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

## 25 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal  
Diaconate 9:30  
11:00 Worship - Ms Beach-Ferrara  
*Creativity Sunday*  
Addison Coffee Group  
12:40 Tough Questions

## 28 Wednesday

10:00 AM Knitwits (Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

**May**

## 1 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

## 2 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal  
11:00 Worship - Rev. O'Brien  
Carvelli Coffee Group

## 5 Wednesday

10:00 AM Knitwits (Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)  
Cinco de Mayo

## 8 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

## 9 Sunday

Mother's Day  
9:00 Women's Communion  
9:30 Choir Rehearsal  
9:45 Breakfast for the Women  
Sandwiches for Outdoor Church  
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose  
Beyerman/Bodwell/McKeown Coffee Group

## 12 Wednesday

10:00 AM Knitwits (Knit and Crochet for the Homeless)

## 15 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making  
Armed Forces Day  
*Pizza and Movie Night. Pizza at 6:00; Movie at 6:30*

## 16 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal  
Annual Meeting, 10:00  
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose  
Ramsay/Parsons/Weinstein/Kelley Coffee Group  
Pot-luck

## 17 Monday

Newsletter Deadline

October 10

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November 10

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December 10

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January 11

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February 11

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March 11

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30	31					

## *Trustees and Council Meeting ~ March 25*

*Minutes condensed for interest and space considerations*

Attending: Bill Dunphy, Rebecca Ramsay, Dudley Rose, Bob Seiler, Vinny and Nancy Vellucci

1. Rental Agreement: Bob distributed the current Rental Policy (amended October 15, 2009). There are two rental inquiries pending.
2. CDs for insurance: Dudley brought two CDs with photos he took of the church, as requested by Vinny. This was recommended by the insurance company. Vinny and Bob now each have one of the CDs.
3. Dishwasher: Bill Dunphy reported on the options for selling the dishwasher (Please see the minutes in the February newsletter)... If it were auctioned, the company would come in and remove the dishwasher. The church would receive a percentage of the high bid. Bill felt witnessing of the auction process would be needed. The second option is making a direct sale to Ed Smith of A-1 Equipment Company. Bill will be meeting him at the church next week.
4. Projector Lens: The vendor provided an extra lens for the upstairs projector that is not being used.. Dudley will see what it can fetch on E-Bay.

### Vinny's report on recent building issues



- a. Sparrows over front steps: In an effort to keep sparrow litter off the front steps, Vinny has put up mesh barriers overhead, but the sparrows continue to find ways to remain in that area. He will call the Massachusetts Audubon Society to see what they recommend.
- b. Downstairs ceiling lights needed paint: Vinny painted light fixture hangers and the ends of the lighting units.
- c. Bathroom Repair: He filled in a wall crack in one of the bathrooms.
- d. Post wind and rain storm maintenance: Following the recent strong winds and rain, Vinny checked with Penny to see if she needed help with any tasks on the church property. He chopped up some of the larger downed branches. To save \$5,000, we are no longer contracting out landscaping services. The back of church floodlight needed repositioning. Vinny checked the pump to make sure it was functioning properly.
- e. American Alarm: The part that had been ordered was not needed, because the company determined the source of the problem was in the wiring. There will be no charge.

Vinny commented that these sorts of tasks help to keep the church in about the same condition it was in following the renovation.

5. Food Pantry: Bill and Sandy Dunphy will be delivering the food pantry donations to Shilo Baptist Church. They are currently too busy to receive what is in the bin inside the front door, so we will have to wait until after Easter to transport those items.
6. Worship with a Twist: Dudley and Bryce discussed this proposal, described in the previous newsletter. Bryce thinks it sounds promising. We would like to give it a trial run of two sessions this spring. The expenditure will be \$300 maximum to cover the cost, but could be less than this depending on attendance. We concurred with Nancy's feeling that it should be self-sustaining.
7. Music: Vinny wondered if it might be a good idea to look into the use of mics for the choir, saying the sound sometimes doesn't make it past the front of the church. Rebecca or Bob will discuss this with Bryce.

*continued from page 3*

8. Clarendon Hill: As described in the previous newsletter, this Presbyterian church is looking into merger options. They have invited us to attend a pot-luck, Sunday, March 28. Two local volunteers who have been supporting a school project in Haiti will be speaking about that work and the effects of the earthquake on it.

9. Dudley on the radio: WAMU from Washington, DC broadcast a program on Ministry & Technology with Dudley as one of the guest speakers. You can listen to the broadcast by going to the church website and selecting "Minister's Blog" from the menu. On that next page, you can select "Listen" in the top right-hand corner.

10. Mother's Day Breakfast: Bob may be away, but Bill Dunphy has agreed to help organize this event.

11. Budget: Instead of trying to second guess program needs based on last year's figures, Bob will be asking for estimates directly from Corey (CE), Vinny (Trustees), and Bryce (Music). He will come up with an estimate for Office expenses. He noted that at the macro level for the current year, we are in good shape; support from the endowment can be at the same level as last year (and still meet our guidelines).

## *Laity Sunday ~ April 11*

A charming and often moving and usually thought-provoking tradition in our congregation is Laity Sunday, when the ordained clergy get to sit in the pews and worship is led by some of us, the laity (from the Greek, *the people*). This is your chance to get involved, experience worship from the chancel, read scripture, lead the Lord's Prayer, write a pastoral prayer. Speak with Corey or email her or the office if you would like to take part.



## *Movie & Pizza Night ~ April 24*

Forget LOL (laughing out loud), you'll be gaffawing at *Secondhand Lions*, a PG movie starring Robert Duvall and Michael Caine (with American accent) as the eccentric great-uncles and Haley Joel Osment as the timid teen forced to spend a summer with them in rural Texas.

## *Good Friday Service Added*

Since the merger in 2006, NPU has explored several ways of observing Good Friday. Evenings work best for many, so this year we will gather at 6:30pm for a meditative worship. This means the focus will not be on the Passion, but on Jesus in the tomb, that is, Jesus gone. The half-hour service promises to be a beautiful and sobering way to mark this holy day.



## *Krista Tippett at Harvard*

The host of public radio's Speaking of Faith will lead a conversation on April 24 about the progressive church and the directions it is taking. Rev. Dudley Rose will be part of the panel.

For information, <http://www.hds.harvard.edu/oms/findingourwayconference/index.html>. Tickets are limited; speak with Dudley if you are interested in this conference.

(Continued from page 1)

Last night, as I was sleeping,  
I dreamt-marvelous error!-  
That a spring was breaking out in my heart.  
I said: Along which secret aqueduct,  
Oh water, are you coming to me,  
water of a new life  
that I have never drunk?

Last night, as I was sleeping,  
I dreamt-marvelous error!-  
That I had a beehive here inside my heart.  
And the golden bees  
were making white combs  
and sweet honey  
from my old failures.



Last night, as I was sleeping,  
I dreamt-marvelous error!-  
That a fiery sun was giving  
light inside my heart.  
It was fiery because I felt  
warmth as from a hearth  
and sun because it gave light  
and brought tears to my eyes.

Last night, as I slept,  
I dreamt-marvelous error!-  
That it was God I had here inside my heart.

Antonio Machado

The little cares that fretted me.  
I lost them yesterday  
Among the fields above the sea.  
Among the winds at play;  
Among the lowing of the herds,  
The rustling of the trees,  
among the singing of the birds,  
The humming of the bees.

The foolish fears of what may happen,  
I cast them all away  
Among the clover-scented grass,  
Among the new-mown hay;  
Among the husking of the corn  
Where drowsy poppies nod,  
Where ill thoughts die and good are born,



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Among the husking of the corn  
Where drowsy poppies nod,  
Where ill thoughts die and good are born,  
Out in the fields with God.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

### *The Rock Cries Out to Us Today*

A Rock, A River, A Tree  
Hosts to species long since departed,  
Mark the mastodon.  
The dinosaur, who left dry tokens  
Of their sojourn here  
On our planet floor,  
Any broad alarm of their of their hastening doom  
Is lost in the gloom of dust and ages. But today, the  
Rock cries out to us, clearly, forcefully,  
Come, you may stand upon my  
Back and face your distant destiny,  
But seek no haven in my shadow.  
I will give you no hiding place down here.  
You, created only a little lower than  
The angels, have crouched too long in  
The bruising darkness,  
Have lain too long  
Face down in ignorance.  
Your mouths spelling words  
Armed for slaughter.  
The rock cries out today, you may stand on me,  
But do not hide your face.  
Across the wall of the world,  
A river sings a beautiful song,



Come rest here by my side.  
 Each of you a bordered country,  
 Delicate and strangely made proud,  
 Yet thrusting perpetually under siege.  
 Your armed struggles for profit  
 Have left collars of waste upon  
 My shore, currents of debris upon my breast.  
 Yet, today I call you to my riverside,  
 If you will study war no more.  
 Come, clad in peace and I will sing the songs  
 The Creator gave to me when I  
 And the tree and stone were one.  
 Before cynicism was a bloody sear across your brow  
 And when you yet knew you still knew nothing.  
 The river sings and sings on.  
 There is a true yearning to respond to  
 The singing river and the wise rock.  
 So say the Asian, the Hispanic, the Jew,  
 The African and Native American, the Sioux,  
 The Catholic, the Muslim, the French, the Greek,  
 The Irish, the Rabbi, the Priest, the Sheikh,  
 The Gay, the Straight, the Preacher,  
 The privileged, the homeless, the teacher.  
 They hear. They all hear  
 The speaking of the tree.  
 Today, the first and last of every tree  
 Speaks to humankind. Come to me, here be-  
 side the river.  
 Plant yourself beside me, here beside the river.  
 Each of you, descendant of some passed on Traveller, has  
 been paid for.  
 You, who gave me my first name,  
 You Pawnee, Apache and Seneca,  
 You Cherokee Nation, who rested with me,  
 Then forced on bloody feet,  
 Left me to the employment of other seekers--  
 Desperate for gain, starving for gold.  
 You, the Turk, the Swede, the German, the Scot...  
 You the Ashanti, the Yoruba, the Kru,  
 Bought, sold, stolen, arriving on a nightmare  
 Praying for a dream.  
 Here, root yourselves beside me.  
 I am the tree planted by the river,  
 Which will not be moved.  
 I, the rock, I the river, I the tree



I am yours--your passages have been paid.  
 Lift up your faces, you have a piercing need  
 For this bright morning dawning for you.  
 History, despite its wrenching pain,  
 Cannot be unlived, and if faced with courage,  
 Need not be lived again.  
 Lift up your eyes upon  
 The day breaking for you.  
 Give birth again  
 To the dream.  
 Women, children, men,  
 Take it into the palms of your hands.  
 Mold it into the shape of your most  
 Private need. Sculpt it into  
 The image of your most public self.  
 Lift up your hearts.  
 Each new hour holds new chances  
 For new beginnings.  
 Do not be wedded forever  
 To fear, yoked eternally  
 To brutishness.  
 The horizon leans forward,  
 Offering you space to place new steps of change.  
 Here, on the pulse of this fine day  
 You may have the courage  
 To look up and out upon me,  
 The rock, the river, the tree, your country.  
 No less to Midas than the mendicant.  
 No less to you now than the mastodon then.  
 Here on the pulse of this new day  
 You may have  
 the grace to look up and out  
 And into your sister's eyes,  
 Into your brother's face, your country  
 And say simply  
 Very simply  
 With hope  
 Good morning.



Maya Angelou

May these poems enliven our hopes and call all of  
 us to actions that preserve and protect this sacred  
 earth.  
 Blessings,  
 Corey

## Joys & Concerns

### Herbert Webber ~ 1920-2010

Long-time member Herbert Webber died March 23. He had Alzheimer's disease and was unable to attend church since the merger, but at his funeral his son David spoke so lovingly that people who never met Herb felt as though they had known, respected and enjoyed him. He was an inveterate "fixer," self-taught in many skills like carpentry and plumbing, who built the beloved summer house in New Hampshire many years ago, and more recently built an entire two-story back porch in his basement over the winter. (A neighbor attests it just appeared out of the blue one day.) Herbert will be much missed by Florence, his wife of 64 years, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and his sister, but for daughter Deb and her children Kim Bears and Jen McGinley the loss will be especially keenly felt, as they have shared a house and their lives with Herb and Florence for several decades.



#### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/5-Ben Lavallee

4/15-Tracy Harmon

4/24-Jerry Rockwood

Is your birthday here? If not, please contact the office.

#### *In our prayers...*

Neldy MacKinnon and her family; Neldy's grandmother died March 20th. The Webber/Bears families, who lost Herbert March 23. Several members who are helping aging parents make lifestyle-changing decisions.

#### *Counting our blessings...*

Jackie Holmes's hockey team won the state championship this season. Jackie scored the goal which tied the game and sent it into overtime! Bob Lord's son is at home, recovering from a snow-board accident under the watchful eyes of his parents.

Creativity Sunday struck a chord—and some heartstrings—with its March theme, *Children*, expressed in charming photo, heart-warming anecdote, amusing poem, and a moving multimedia story about a small boy, born at too early and burdened with development problems, now an exuberant kid doing some pretty normal things. Thank you all.

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*April 2010*

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

MAUNDY THURSDAY

SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND TENEBRAE, 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY

MEDITATIVE WORSHIP, 6:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNRISE SERVICE AND LIGHT BREAKFAST, 7:30AM

TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION OF RESURRECTION, 11:00AM

