



Daring to be Different

This Lent our church is conducting a "holy experiment," *holy* because it has to do with worship and *experiment* because it's a time-limited trial of something new, after which we'll try to "measure the results." We are changing up our Sunday morning routine, making it about ½ an hour longer than it is now, but playing with the format. Coffee hour will move to 9:00 am (before worship) as in the summer. Worship will still start at 9:45 (promptly with no spoken announcements; announcements will be posted on an announcement board outside the sanctuary and be in the bulletin as usual). Worship will be for all-ages and will therefore be tweaked to be more "intergenerational," with an emphasis on participation (mostly through more music and less talk). Children and JYG will go to their own groups at 10:15, after which the sermon will take place. At 10:30 sharp, worship will end and adults and youth in worship will transition to small group gatherings, planned as an extension of the worship theme of that day. The adult/youth small groups will last for 45 minutes, will be facilitated by two co-leaders, and won't require any prior preparation or outside reading. Of course, if you don't have children in Sunday School or JYG, you are free to leave after worship, but we hope you'll adopt a "spirit of discovery" and stay for the small groups even if you don't have children in either of those programs.

I am telling you right now some of you will not like this "holy experiment." I am also telling you right now some of you will love it. And most of us will feel a little uncomfortable because it's new, and change (for the better or for the worse) always requires adjustments. Even the best changes and transitions (birth, marriage, graduation, promotion) require practice, patience and persistence to adapt to. But the discomfort of new things is often quickly outweighed by the benefits of new experiences, new insights, new relationships, and new personal growth. We are hoping our "holy experiment" will follow the same pattern.

We're playing with this new format for the six weeks of Lent not just for "change's sake," but to live more deeply into our Vision Statement (on the back cover of this newsletter if you don't have it memorized yet!). We have said we believe God is calling us to be "centered and growing in Jesus Christ." *Growing* means, among other things, deepening our knowledge, practice and reverence of our faith in God

through the gospel of Jesus Christ. *Growing* also means congregational growth. It is a proven fact that churches that are "thriving" in today's contemporary culture are those that accentuate adult small groups and faith growth for all ages. Christianity as "spectator sport" is doomed. Christianity as committed faith and life practice is always going to grow.

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Inside this Issue...

Youth Group "Cookie Walk" (Feb. 5) and other Activities...

Open and Affirming/Reconciling Ministry Event, Sunday, Feb. 12: Guest Preacher, Rev. Jim Todd, Retired UMC pastor and District Supt

Jazz Sunday, Sunday, Feb. 19! Pancake Breakfast!

Ash Wednesday Feb. 22, 7:30 – Taize-style worship to begin Lent

Lenten Small Groups begin Feb. 26: a "holy experiment" with adult faith formation...

LOOKING AHEAD:

Annual Leaders' Retreat, Saturday, March 3, 9-4:00, Edwards House, Framingham

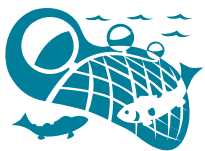
Our Vision Statement also says we are to be “nurtured by meaningful traditions and led by the Spirit in new directions.” This “holy experiment” will definitely be a blend of both meaningful tradition and new direction.

And here is where the word “holy” comes in again. It’s also a “holy” experiment when we are judging not just our personal reactions (“Like it!” or “Don’t like it!”), but also our sense of God’s leading. Please come, participate and listen for God’s voice in your own heart. Listen for God’s voice in the hearts and voices of others. And at the end of our “holy experiment” we will all have a chance to practice one or two other “meaningful traditions” integral to our faith tradition: listening and discernment, with questions like, *Where did we feel renewed, refreshed, invited into new growth? Where did we feel growth, renewal and God’s peace were impeded for us as a church?*

Here’s to daring to try something new, to be different (if only for six weeks) and to conducting a “holy experiment” into living our Vision Statement in a new way.

Blessed Lent!

Rev. Jan Gregory-Charpentier



Going Deeper: a Discipleship Group

Jesus said, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

First Mondays, 7:30 pm, Parlor
Next Meeting Monday, February 6th

New participants always welcome. Info: Rev. Jan at revjangc@yahoo.com or (508) 529-9819

Senior Lunch Bunch

Senior Lunch Bunch will be held in February **on Tuesday, February 14th** (Valentine’s Day!) at noon in the church Vestry. Come by and share coffee and dessert, bring your our lunch, if you like.

Deposits
due on
March 1!

All-Church Retreat

Friday, Oct. 5-Sunday, Oct.
7, 2012

Craigville Retreat Center Cape Cod

Spend time with family and friends experiencing jubilee: rest, renewal, celebration of creation. Walk on the beach. Read in an Adirondack chair overlooking the salt marsh. Play tennis or golf or Frisbee. Two-nights’ accommodation and fresh, healthy meals provided! Reconnect with your spouse, your children, your friends, your God! An affordable get-away together as a family of faith. Housing for singles, couples, and families of all sizes available in separate rooms. **See registration and payment plan info on the insert in this newsletter.** Deposit due March 1st.

Annual Leaders’ Retreat

Annual United Parish Leaders’ Gathering

Saturday, March 3rd

9 am – 4 pm

Edwards House

1 Badger Road, Framingham
(the MACUCC Center)

Save
the
Date

This year’s Leaders’ Gathering will again be a time to reconnect with God, with each other and with the vision and purpose of our church. It will be a chance for each participant to deepen their understanding of who they are as a leader. We will borrow from the best of S.H.A.P.E. materials used last Lent and explore our own unique and authentic leadership styles. We will leave this gathering with a deeper sense of connection to one another, to God and to our own ministries.

The Season of Lent

*Just before Lent... **Jazz Sunday! February 19th**
As has been our annual tradition for the last 10 years or so, we celebrate the Sunday before Lent begins with a jazz worship service, observing the ancient practice of Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, on Transfiguration Sunday. We live it up with swing, gospel and smooth jazz, before settling into the more serious season of Lent. Come, enjoy the music of Kenji Kichuchi and his ensemble, and a pancake breakfast hosted by our Senior Youth Group.*

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. As we begin the journey through Lent, come receive the blessing of remembering that we are both finite and fully loved. This is a moving service, featuring the music of Taize (prayerful song/prayers), the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Small Groups in Lent will be an extension of our Sunday morning worship (see Pastor's article on front page). Worship and small groups will look at the theme "Healing at the Hands of Jesus," and explore how God intends physical, spiritual, emotional, social, relational and theological wholeness for our lives.

Lenten Devotional: This year's Lenten theme "**HEALING**" derives from the Greek word $\sigma \zeta \omega$ (transliterated *sózó*), which, according to Biblos, means "heal, be made whole: From a primary *sos* ("safe"); to save, i.e., deliver or protect (literally or figuratively), heal, preserve, save, do well, be/make whole." Looked at in this more expansive way, it is easy to see how closely it aligns with the Vision Council commitment to **INCLUSITIVITY**. That commitment (and coinage) itself was meant to reflect an understanding that in growing our community we don't choose between growing ourselves and growing outward but that we embrace that **quality of community that rejoices in our spiritual identity and openness to all**. As we move forward this Lent, we invite **EVERYONE** in our faith community to look at ways not only where we may have felt that spirit of inclusivity and wholeness but where, whether through illness or loss, through exclusion or lack of accessibility, we or our loved ones **NEED** that healing wholeness that comes to us in Christ. Your testimonies can be dropped off at the church (attention: Andy Weiner or Sonja Hansard-Weiner) or emailed to Hsonhanwein@verizon.netH. If possible, please respond by February 16 so that we can have the booklets ready by the beginning of Lent.

From the Intern's Desk

I had the opportunity to travel to the Holy Land in the first two weeks of January. The purpose was twofold. First, we were able to see many, many sites mentioned in the Bible, from the Tomb of Abraham and Sarah to the garden at Gethsemene and 1,000 year-old olive trees to a church dating from the time of Constantine where Christ was crucified after having walked through the streets of Jerusalem. Christianity there is steeped in liturgies that, by most accounts, represent the early Roman Christian church of St Augustine, Origen, Eusebius, Justin Martyr and Athanasius. The churches are from the Orthodox tradition, and filled with chanting, mosaics, iconography, accoutrements and scents that are fairly uncommon to my Protestant eyes, ears, and nose--in fact, I met several local persons whose idea of Christianity was Orthodox or Catholic, they had never heard of Protestants, much less the UCC, Quakers, Presbyterians, UUs, or Methodists of our Seminary touring group. For me, it was an experience I shall never forget, walking the streets and hills that Jesus walked, visiting the Dome of the Rock in Old Jerusalem where the Muslim prophet Mohammed ascended to Heaven and talked to God and Moses, and touching the Western Wall that was part of the Temple where Jews worshipped once in Jesus' time and now worship as the hope of the Temple's return today. I would love to tell you more, so ask me when you see me. And next month, I'll tell you about the other part of the trip.

~ Mark

During the Sundays of Lent, February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, we will not be having an announcement time before the start of worship or spoken joys and concerns during the service. Instead, please look for two bulletin boards displayed in the narthex along with slips of paper and pens. Please feel free to post any joys and concerns or announcements on the designated board. Prayer requests can also be forwarded to the Prayer Network (please see more information in this issue of *The Spire*). Notice of upcoming events and announcements can also be included in the "This Week at United Parish" weekly email. Please send information to the church office at unitedparishoffice@yahoo.com or call Sandra at 508-529-3192.

Deacons' Corner

In the Christian tradition, **Lent** is the period of the liturgical year from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer – through prayer, repentance, almsgiving and self-denial – for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the events linked to the Passion of Christ and culminates in Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

According to the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry, where he endured temptation by Satan. Thus, Lent is described as being forty days long to mark the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the desert while Satan attempted to tempt him. In Matthew, after Jesus has fasted for 40 days and forty nights, "he was hungry." Satan appears and says, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." "But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ' Matthew continues, "Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you" and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him" (Matthew 4:3-11).

Compared to descriptions of Satan's temptation of Adam and Eve, this all seems very undramatic. Satan tempts Jesus three times, and three times Jesus defeats Satan by quoting scripture at him. All this may seem very undramatic, but obedience is perhaps very undramatic; the drama lies in disobedience and its consequences. The consequence of Adam

and Eve's disobedience is that Jesus becomes human to redeem man's disobedience by the simple act of being obedient. That is perhaps the crucial action of the drama that begins when Jesus goes into the wilderness to be tested and culminates when Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane says to His Father, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26: 39). Peter, sleeping nearby, would have liked to stay awake but is humanly tired; he would have liked to stand by Jesus after Jesus is arrested, but is humanly afraid and denies Jesus; nonetheless he is forgiven, saved, and is still allowed to be useful. In our weakness and fear, our hope is that we may also be saved not by our own acts, but by Jesus' Good Friday sacrifice upon the cross and his Easter morning Resurrection.

~ Andy Weiner

Worship Assistants Schedule February 2012

February 5 ~

Deacons: **Wayne Phipps**, Katie LeClaire, Mike Lareau,
Scott Campbell

Greeters: Cub Scouts

Reader: Rich Perkins

Coffee Hour Host: Cub Scouts

February 12 ~

Deacons: **Wayne Phipps**, Liz Sylvester, Kelly Leutkemeyer,
Beth LaCross

Greeters: The Leutkemeyer Family

Reader: June Otte

Coffee Hour Host: Leanne Leutkemeyer

February 19 ~ Jazz Sunday

Deacons: **Wayne Phipps**, Ken Gamache, Jay Tower,
Dayle Doherty

Greeters: The Perkins Family

Reader: Heather Walsh

Coffee Hour Host: Senior Youth Group Pancake Breakfast

February 26 ~

Deacons: **Wayne Phipps**, Suze Caron, Sandra Ng,
Trina Triggs

Greeters: The Alibozek Family

Reader: Sandra Alibozek

Coffee Hour Host: Heidi Schultz

March 2012

March 4 ~

Deacons: **Andy Weiner**, Alan Caron, Brandy Capistran,
Sandy Leacu

Greeters: Linda & Rich Gazoorian

Reader: Trina Triggs

Coffee Hour Host: Sonja Hansard Weiner

March 11 ~

Deacons: **Andy Weiner**, Whitney Loeperi, David Loeper,
TBD

Greeters: The Van Norman Family

Reader: Lorrie Loeper

Coffee Hour Host: Member Care Committee

March 18 ~

Deacons: **Andy Weiner**, Linda & Rich Gazoorian,
Steve Rogers

Greeters: The Stoffel Family

Reader: Sonja Hansard Weiner

Coffee Hour Host: Michel Lareau

March 25 ~

Deacons: **Andy Weiner**, Ruth & Ashley Whitmore,
Carl Porter

Greeters: The Campbell Family

Reader: Lisa Henry

Coffee Hour Host: Behrikis Family



United Parish Christian Nursery School News

The Worship Assistants Schedule is a work in progress. If you have signed up to be a worship assistant, please check this schedule and let Alan Caron know if you are unable to assist on the week you are assigned. We will be glad to reschedule you. Alan can be reached at 508-529-6829 or via email at caron20@charter.net. If you would like to assist with worship, please send Alan your contact information and position(s) you are interested in. Thank you!

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 4th, 8:00am at the Willowbrook Restaurant in Mendon. All men of the United Parish interested in a time of conversation, friendship and spiritual support are heartily invited to join.

Please give Jeff Curl a heads up if you are planning to attend so he can arrange for seating. Jeff can be reached at 508-529-4922 or via email at jeffcurl@yahoo.com.



Request from staff: Please limit your trips through the classrooms during school hours. We have had a couple parents express concerns over the number of church members going through the classroom while the children are there and/or leaving the classroom door open. Please conduct your church business after 3:00pm on MWF and after 12:00 noon on T/TH whenever possible.

Also, if Sandra Ng is not in her office, please check in with Sandy Leacu in the nursery school office if you are in the building for any reason. I need to know who is in the building at all times. This is part of our Safe Church/Safe School policy. Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.

February News: Registration for Fall 2012 classes is ongoing. Openings are available in all classes. New this fall, we will be offering a four day program for children 4-5 years old. This new option is in addition to our regular two and three day programs. For more information, please contact me at 508-529-6382 or via email at leacu@yahoo.com.

Parents of Children with Challenges

The February meeting of the Parents of Children with Challenges small group will be scheduled soon. Look for updates in the "This Week at United Parish" email and in the Sunday announcements. Facilitated and presented by Debra Pedersen, M.Ed., Special Education Consultant and Advocate, this small group is being offered to the United Parish community to support and educate parents of students with educational, social and emotional needs and/or difficulties. For more information please call Debbie at 508-529-4777 or email debrapedersenedu@gmail.com.

The theme for the month of February is "All you need is Love". We will be celebrating Valentine's Day, learning to care for each other and for our pets. We will begin teaching the children their addresses and phone numbers and talk about their neighborhoods. The teachers will begin assessing the children's skills for their spring progress reports.



We'd like to wish Nancy Brill much success as she starts a new chapter in her life. She has

decided to end her time teaching at our school after 24 years to be with her grandchildren and family. We wish her all the best!

Fondly,
Sandy Leacu, Director

Christian Education

The future of...

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

A very important planning meeting for all parents and their youth entering JYG (grades 6-8 as of September 2012).

Wednesday, March 7th, 7-8pm
in the
Youth Room of Memorial Hall

How do you and your youth envision Junior Youth Group 2012-2013?

Please RSVP to heatherchurch@charter.net whether you and your youth plan on attending this very important meeting. Thank you all!

The future of JYG is in your hands.

Junior Youth Group

It was a light January in JYG as we welcomed in the new year and prepared for Lenten activities and reflection. On the weekend that observed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we had a meaningful conversation about the importance but sometimes difficulty of living a loving, non-violent life, even when others are mean to us. MLK Jr. used Christ and Ghandi as examples for his non-violent protest movement. We all took turns reading parts of his "I have a dream" speech and scripture about the Good Samaritan.

Our schedule for February:

Sunday, February 5th: Regular meeting
9:45 Youth Room

Sunday, February 12th: Regular meeting
9:45 Youth Room

Sunday, February 19th: Intergenerational Sunday
JYG to participate in worship-no JYG meeting

Sunday, February 26th: Lenten Program Begins
JYG in worship at 9:45; meets in
Youth Room from 10:45-11:45

Senior Youth Group

SYG Fundraisers

The season of SYG Fundraisers has begun and as always, food is central. We hope that you will arrive to these events hungry and depart satisfied. We would like to thank the congregation in advance for being so supportive of our efforts. Without you, our cookies would go stale and our pancakes would flop! All monies raised will support our mission trip to Philadelphia this July, where we will work in homeless shelters, soup kitchens, thrift shops and child care centers!

The Cookie Walk: Sunday February 5th immediately following service. You'll need lots of goodies and munchies for that Super Bowl party! SYG has the solution for YOU!!! Cookies are available in small (\$5.00) and large (\$10.00) containers.

After church, come on down to coffee hour and purchase those delicious cookies that are donated by our SYG families....and YOU! We can't do it without you! SYG members will be baking about 5 dozen cookies per family! But that STILL won't be enough! We need the congregation to pull out those old favorite recipes and share them with the rest of us!

Please drop off your cookies on your way up to church on Sunday, February 5th.

The Annual Pancake Breakfast: Sunday February 19th immediately following service.

What would Jazz Sunday be like without the annual pancake breakfast? During the service, you'll be teased with the aromas of hot pancakes and sausages as they permeate the church. We'll greet you with fruit juice, coffee and tea and have a scrumptious breakfast ready to serve. Full breakfast is \$5.00 per person.

Senior Youth Group calendar for February

Sunday, February 5th: 9:30 am Cookie Walk
February 10th-February 12th: Winter Retreat to
Cody Outdoor Center on Lake Osspiee in
Freedom, NH

Sunday, February 19th: 9:00 am
Pancake Breakfast

Scrapbooking Night Out

February 3, 2012

5:00pm – 11:00pm

United Parish Church Vestry

- *Enjoy time and SPACE to scrapbook!
- *Share ideas with other scrapbookers!
- *Get those photos out of the shoebox and into books!
- *Tell the stories... then share the memories!



For more information contact Lorrie Loeper at 508-529-4489 or lorrieloeper@yahoo.com

Amy Hill to run Boston Marathon with Tedy's Team

On April 16, 2012, I will be running the Boston Marathon as a member of Tedy's Team, which is a group of runners raising money for the American Stroke Association. Led by our team captain, Tedy Bruschi, our goal is to raise awareness about the warning signs of stroke and to raise money to help fight the number one cause of disability, and number three cause of death in the United States.

We will be having a drawing which has 3 great grand prizes; 2 sets of tickets to see the Red Sox at Fenway Park, and 2 tickets to see Kenny Chesney & Tim McGraw at Gillette Stadium. Other prizes include restaurant gift cards, massage vouchers, gift baskets, Tedy's team merchandise, autographed memorabilia, and much more. Tickets are \$2 for 1 or \$5 for 3. The drawing will be held March 10th, 2012.

Please see me at church if you are interested in purchasing tickets and supporting the American Stroke Association.

Thank You,
Amy Hill

Open and Affirming/Reconciling Ministries Update

It's About Love

Twenty-five people gathered in the Youth Room Sunday evening January 22 to view the film "For the Bible Tells Me So." While the film vividly reminds us of the ways the Bible has been and is still used by some Christian ministers and churches to foment hatred and psychological, if not physical, abuse against gays and lesbians, its primary focus is to show how five Christian families learned to live their faith and to love and honor their gay and lesbian children. And while the film provides valuable insight and context for understanding those passages in the Bible that are used to justify condemnation of homosexuality much as the Bible was used to justify slavery in the nineteenth century, its primary Biblical message is a reminder that we are called to love. In the words of Bishop Tutu of South Africa, who appears in the film, understanding God's message makes it inconceivable that God would look at any one of us and say "*I'm going to punish you because you are black, you should have been white. I will punish you because you are a woman, you should have been a man. I punish you because you are homosexual, you ought to have been heterosexual.*" I can't, I can't for the life of me believe that that is how God sees things."

As children of God, we are called by God to be who we are and to accept and affirm others as we ask God to accept and affirm us. This is the heart of the Open and Affirming/Reconciling Ministries network — that churches who adopt an ONA/RM statement commit themselves to act publically as a counterbalancing force to those who disparage, diminish, and cause damage to the body of Christ ("Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of my brethren, you have done it unto me" — Matthew 25. 40).

The ONA/RM task force at United Parish of Upton is committed to continuing the dialogue begun after the film Sunday evening. We encourage everyone in the parish to join us at our next event Sunday, February 12, when the Rev. Jim Todd will speak to us about the

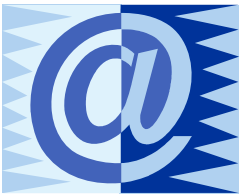
Reconciling Church movement in the Methodist tradition and will join us for dialogue and talk back after the worship service.

Come. Listen. Learn. Discuss. Discern.

United Parish Website

If you haven't done so lately, be sure to view the United Parish of Upton website (www.unitedparishupton.org). Additions and updates are ongoing. On the "Getting Involved" page, the new Google calendar is available.

Check it out for a glimpse of monthly events and happenings at the church. Rev. Jan's sermons are also available on the website. At the bottom of the home page look for the tab labeled sermons. Click on the tab and you will see a list



of sermons by date. Whether you missed worship one Sunday or want to revisit a particular message, be sure to check out the listing. Have

feedback or comments about the website? Contact Ken Gamache at kgamache46@gmail.com.

Food Pantry Requests

The Food Pantry is currently in need of a few volunteers to staff the pantry on Tuesday mornings from 9:15-11:15. Volunteers open the pantry, assist clients and restock the pantry shelves. If you are interested in sharing your time by volunteering at the food pantry, please contact Amy Griswold at 508-529-6339 or email grizzlies@verizon.net.

During the month of February the Food Pantry is hoping to restock its supplies of breakfast items: cereal, granola bars, oatmeal, pancake mix and syrup. Donations can be dropped off in the bins in the vestibule outside the pastor's office on Sunday mornings or during church office hours (Tuesday-Friday 9am to 2pm). Your continued support is most appreciated.



Upton Telephone Directory 2012

The United Parish of Upton's biggest fundraiser is about to get underway. The 17th edition of the Upton Telephone Directory will be published in 2012 and lots of help is needed to make this project a continued success. Whether you can stuff an envelope, make a phone call or sell an ad – we need your help for this 6 month project. More information about specific jobs will be coming soon. If you would like to help out in any way, please contact Dave Loeper at 508-529-4489 or Marilyn Holman at 508-529-6218.

Prayer Network Invitation

The United Parish email prayer network is made up of more than 75 people who are committed to praying whenever they receive a prayer request by email.

Praying for one another allows us to support and encourage each other in a powerful and meaningful way. It strengthens and extends the bond we feel when we pray together during worship on Sunday. It brings us closer to God and closer to each other.

If you have access to email we welcome you to join us in prayer. Janet Keeler is our dedicated Prayer Network coordinator, so simply send your email address to her at hoha@charter.net and ask to be added to the list.

To request a prayer, you may email or call Janet (508-529-6526 or Rev. Jan. (508-529-9818, revjangc@yahoo.com).

February 22nd





Scrip Program Reminder

February is a great month for using Scrip cards.

- ☉ Super Bowl Sunday is February 5th! Order cards for your local grocery store to buy those Super Bowl snacks.
- ☉ Valentine's Day is February 14th! Use cards to buy candy and valentines for the kids to pass out at school, or to plan a romantic evening with that special someone.
- ☉ Have a home redecorating project to do? Cards are available for Home Depot, Lowe's, ACE Hardware.
- ☉ Planning a get away to somewhere warm? GL Scrip and Marriott are offering a bonus rebate on cards ordered now.

Every Scrip card purchased earns a rebate for the church. So please consider planning ahead and ordering cards for all your purchases. Cards can be ordered on Sunday mornings with one of the Scrip representatives or through the church office. Call 508-529-3192 or email unitedparishoffice@yahoo.com) by Tuesday morning and we will have your cards by week end. For a complete listing of Scrip cards, visit www.glscrip.com or pick up a listing at the church.



There is a growing collection of dishes, coffee mugs, water bottles and Tupperware containers in the church kitchen. If you are missing and may have left one of these items behind, please check the box on the kitchen counter beside the refrigerator and reclaim your item. Thank you!



The Spire is Going Green

To continue with our efforts to be a "green" church, *The Spire* will be published electronically beginning with the March issue. Check it out on the church website by clicking on the "Spire" tab in the bottom left hand corner of the home page. Hard copies of each issue will also be available at the church and can be picked up from the table outside of the pastor's office or in the narthex. If you would like to continue to receive a copy in the mail, please let Sandra know by:

- Calling the church office at 508-529-3192
- Emailing the church office at unitedparishoffice@yahoo.com
- Filling out the form below and sending it to P.O. Box 382, Upton, MA 01568

To stay informed about events at the church, consider signing up for the weekly email message, "This Week at United Parish". This is a once a week email that details events at the church during the current week and notices of upcoming programs. If you would like to be added to the email list, please send your email address to the church office.

Yes, I would like to continue to receive my copy of *The Spire* in the mail. My mailing address is:

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

