

STEEPLE TIDINGS

DECEMBER 2010

ISSUE 12-10

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from Rev. Dave
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Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus Christ, our mission is to make Christian

Disciples:

by using our spiritual gifts; by practicing the means of grace; and by living our



DECEMBER

at

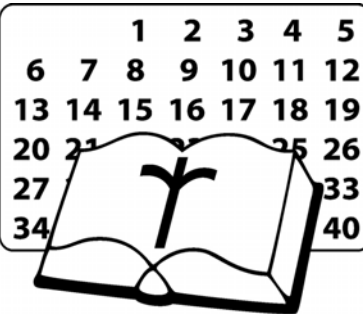
HUMC

- December 1** Advent Bible Study begins *(Page 3)*
- December 3** Advent Services with **UMCE** *(Page 4)*
- December 11** Cookie Walk/Christmas Tea *(Page 4)*
- December 14** Charge Conference *(Page 9)*
- December 24** Christmas Eve
7 PM Family Worship
11 PM Holy Communion
- December 26** Special Time with the Kids *(Page 7)*

Worship at HUMC

Sundays at 10 AM

Join us for Sunday School



New Sermon Series

Sermon Series

The Revelation to John is perhaps the most misunderstood, most mysterious, and most feared book in the Bible. Just what is it trying to say to us with its strange images of good and evil? Does it have any relevance in our lives today? And if so, just what are we expected to do about it? Beginning December 26, you are invited to join Rev. Dave as we embark on a five-week sermon series that goes Looking For God in the End Times. Our journey will include

Take Me To Your Leader (December 26)

And Now a Word From Our Sponsor (January 2 and 9)

Let All Creation Sing (January 16)

We Win! (January 23)

Some Thoughts From Me—Rev. Dave



When we get to this time of year I can't help but think about some of the traditions Colleen and I enjoyed with our children as they grew up. I especially think about Christmas Eve, and how that one day seemed to anchor my whole year.

It started early in the morning when Colleen would post a jobs list for each of us. Some of the jobs were serious;

“clean your room” for the girls, “haul up the tree decorations” for me, “vacuum and dust” for Colleen. Some of the jobs were fun, such as “cut down the tree and haul it in” (we put up our tree on Christmas Eve back then). And some of the jobs were just funny, like “play with your sister” or “hug your wife.” The jobs took the better part of the day, but they served a very real purpose; they kept us busy, which is especially important for young children.

Then came supper; usually something quick, requiring very little in terms of preparation and clean-up. Then it was off to church. The church our children grew up in only had a single, seven o'clock service on Christmas Eve. But, oh, what a service it was. There were the traditional Christmas carols, the Christmas story, usually some unexpected treat, and the candles. For me, it just isn't Christmas without lighting the candles while we sing “Silent Night.” Each Christmas Eve that one, single moment in the church service propels me back to my own childhood and the look on every face in the church as the room was filled with that incredible glow.

After church it was time to head home; that's when things really picked up. The tree would get decorated (once the kids were too old for Santa to do it after they were in bed), stockings would get hung, presents would be brought out and placed under the tree (where mom would organize them before morning), fudge would get made, we'd gather around the piano and sing carols, and of course, I'd read the story from the Gospel of Luke. What a night it was. No wonder it provided the anchor for my year.

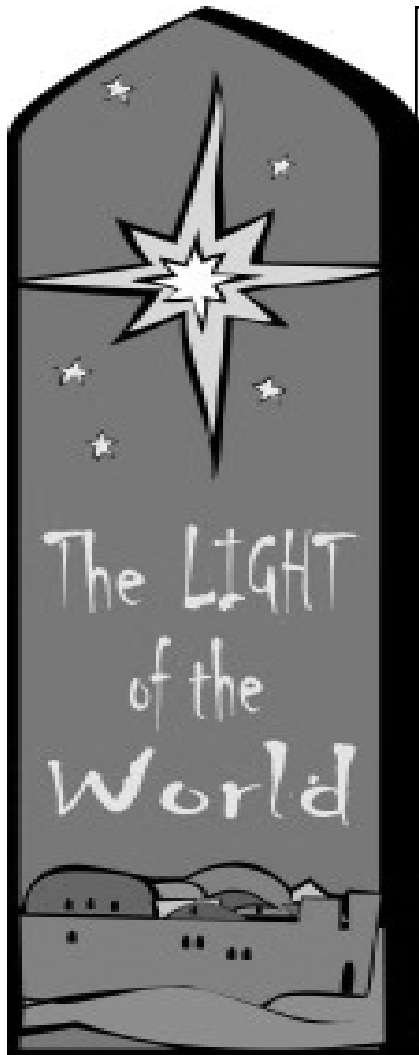
The really nice thing about traditions is that they never remain static. It's just Colleen and me now—the kids are grown and making their own traditions and memories—and some of our traditions have changed. We have an artificial tree now, so we no longer cut down our tree on that day, and since being a pastor means I'm pretty busy on Christmas Eve we decorate our tree a little earlier in the week. Of course, there are two services now, which I dearly enjoy. There is something profoundly powerful to me about a Christmas Eve service in which we share the sacrament of Holy Communion. Colleen and I don't get home till well past midnight, so our time of gathering around the piano is not quite the same, since it is just the two of us and our sopranos are no longer home. I'm also trying not to eat so much fudge, so we often remove that part of our ritual from the evening. Still it is Christmas Eve, and the traditions that echo in my memory seem to blend with our new traditions and somehow everything comes out just fine.

Whatever your traditions—be they old and familiar or new and evolving-- wherever this Christmas Eve may find you, I pray that God richly blesses you and yours.

Merry Christmas~

Dave





~Christmas Eve~

Once again there will be two opportunities for you to worship and celebrate on Christmas Eve.

At **7 PM** we will gather for a service of Lessons and Carol with the choir singing and the lighting of candles, and perhaps a surprise or two.

At **11 PM** we will gather for a more sedate, but no less joyful service which includes the celebration of Holy Communion as well as the lighting of candles.

In a world that is so busy, and a season that pulls our attention in so many directions, it is important to remember the *“reason for the season.”*

*Join us Christmas Eve as
we gather to celebrate
the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem.*

Advent Bible Study

From the beginning of its practice, the purpose of Advent has been to prepare for God's coming in human form in the baby Jesus and for the establishment of God's kingdom with the second coming of Christ. Hope is the focus of Advent worship, study, and prayer. In this season of Advent, we will discover the blessings that began in the manger and that continue as we look forward with hope to Christ's return.

Our Advent Bible Study, *Blessings of the Manger*, is a five week journey beginning December 1, at 7 PM, or December 2, at 2 PM, which will help you understand, appreciate and participate in meaningful and joyous celebrations of Advent and Christmas and inspire you to live each day with God's blessing of hope through Jesus Christ.



Advent Bible Study



Advent Services with UMCE

Hazardville United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church of Enfield are joining together for a very special Advent Worship Series. Each Friday during Advent, we will have the opportunity to gather at noon for a short service of prayer, reflection, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. The service will be held at UMCE on December 3, and at HUMC on December 10 and 17. Our theme will be *“Returning to the Manger.”* Both Rev. Williams and Rev. Morgans will lead us in our time of worship. All are invited, and we hope you will plan to attend services at both churches.

CHRISTMAS TEA and COOKIE WALK

December 11, 201 11 AM—1 PM, Fellowship Hall

THE TEA....Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to join us at the Christmas Tea. The elegant Tea Luncheon is an opportunity to relax and enjoy delicious finger sandwiches and sweets in community with friends. It’s a busy time of year, so come and enjoy, and I promise you’ll make it part of your Christmas season tradition. **Tickets are \$10.**



THE COOKIE WALK...

Last year we offered 82 varieties of cookies. Can we match that this year?? You can purchase a clear 2 pound clamshell container for **\$12.**

*Join us for our 8th Annual Christmas Tea and Cookie Walk!!
You won't be sorry!!*

THE HUMC CHRISTMAS SHOPPE GRAND OPENING

In conjunction with the Cookie Walk and Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 11, there will be an opportunity for you to do your Christmas shopping at the church. We are opening our first ever **“Christmas Shoppe”** in the Yates Room on that date



and will be selling hand-crafter items and Christmas crafts and decorations. Please bring your list and check it twice. We have just what you are looking for in the way of teacher, neighbor and exchange gifts, as well as that special something for that special someone.

The **Here Wee Grow!** Preschool Fundraiser at Barnes and Noble is almost here! Please come on Friday, December 3, from 6-8 PM and enjoy watching our children as they sing some of their favorite holiday and school songs. Dress your own little ones in their favorite pajamas and have them join in some crafts and listen to holiday stories presented by our amazing teachers. And meet the Grinch himself! This is a fun event and where you can also shop for gifts that are sure to delight everyone on your list. A portion of the day's proceeds will go directly to our wonderful preschool. Please pick up your voucher at church or at Barnes and Noble during the event. Tell your friends. This event will surely put you into the spirit of Christmas! Cut out the coupon and present it to Barnes & Noble on December 3.

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

supporting

Here Wee Grow! Preschool

Friday, December 3rd, 6-8 pm

Barnes & Noble

25 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT

Bookfair ID #: 10350031

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.*

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbook magazine subscriptions, video games, purchases made at Cafés owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion are not eligible for bookfair sales. Institutional discounts may not be applied. See BN.COM/bookfairs for more details and to shop online.



If you get a chance, stop by the Yates room and look at the beautiful Array of Ten Commandment, Moses and Sermon on the Mount plates. These plates were given to Rev. Bing Scherer of the Hazardville United Methodist Church in 1994 by John and Betty Mientus. They were in boxes in the closet in Yates for a long time, and no one was able to see and appreciate the remarkable detail and the beauty of these plates. Tony Clarke graciously volunteered to build two display cabinets that were given to the church by Tony and Esta . . . one houses the Ten Commandments and another one finds the Moses and Sermon on the Mount plates. These beautiful plates and magnificent display cabinets are now up on the wall in the Yates room for all to see and enjoy!

United Methodist Women — Linda Borio



**United Methodist Women
will not meet in
December or January.
See you in February 2011.**

Here Wee Grow!— Phyllis Phelan



Time flies when you're having fun, so the saying goes. And, it is so true. This month we have talked about Space..the planets, missions to Mars and to the Moon, what we'll wear and who will go with us. We tasted some 'astronaut' food and to our amazement, it wasn't bad!

Toward the end of the month we enjoyed a visit from Mr. Robert Tholen, who is an engineer in the Space and Sea Department at Hamilton Sunstrand. Mr. Tholen has had two grandchildren at HWG and a third, Elijah, is with us now. We appreciate the time Mr. Tholen has given us and it was so neat actually seeing the space suit! WOW!

Children have written stories and two of them are included here. Kids have a great imagination, don't they!

My Space Story

By Tyler Bergman (Age 4)

"Once upon a time there was an alien. The alien lived on a space ship. The alien went to Mars in the space shuttle. He met another space alien and the space alien hopped into his ship. They stayed in space for a very long time until he got sad and missed his mama, his daddy and his sister.

"He found some marbles in space on his way back and he went home and showed his mama, daddy, and sister. The alien decided to go back to outer space and also decided not to stay for a long time. He didn't know how to steer the ship so he went back to earth....he wanted to go to Pluto. The End."

My Space Story

By Frankie Troiano (Age 4)

"Once upon a time there was an alien who lived at home. He liked popcorn. He gets a box fan, plugs it in and turns it on. It gives cool air.

"He gets in his space ship. He goes into outer space. Then he gets in a rocket and he lands on a planet. The End."

December brought our attention to holiday happenings, giving to others (Our Cupcake Challenge with the church to benefit the Enfield Food Shelf is still going on) and sharing what our families enjoy at the holidays.

Our three- and four-year old classes will present a program for family and friends. We do enjoy getting together with families. We also made cookies to share with them. We are becoming quite the bakery chefs!

In other news. . .

I am on a Early Care and Education sub-committee with KITE (Key Initiatives to Early Education). There is also a sub-committee for health and for families. Along with other members of the community (Board of Education members, physicians, social service representatives, and members of the Enfield Library, to name a few) we are working on goals for all children of Enfield. We have identified the result of what it is that we want to see for each sub-committee. For education we want to see all Enfield children enter school ready to learn and succeed both in school and in life.

It has been a thought-provoking time. We have written down what is NOT working; what IS working. A third category has also been added, "What are we going to do differently and is that enough?"

All children need the benefit of a good, high quality education. **Here Wee Grow!** has worked hard and long with NAEYC to insure that our program and staff are top-notch. We will continue to strive for high quality. Along the way there will be changes. All good things need improvement or 'tweaking' in order for it to fit and work more appropriately. Feedback from our families will help us as well in this process, which is on-going. We ask for your prayers and your support as we find our way in an effort to work with members of this community in fulfilling our commitment to children and their families.

Until next time . . .

Outreach



December's Communion Offering will go towards the *New England Missions Fund* portion of our Mission Shares. New England Missions Fund supports the ministries of people in local congregations and related ministries all over New England. Some of these ministries include supporting new churches and church expansion throughout the New England Conference; supporting the ministries of our covenants with the Nicaragua Planning Committee and West Angola Planning Committee; providing grants to local churches, clusters, districts for new and ongoing ministries, and the local church resource library; and supporting our Conference's camping, retreat, and youth ministries

A Very Special Kids' Time— Rev. Dave

Hey kids! How would you like everyone to know what a special Christmas you had? Well, here's your chance.

On **Sunday, December 26**, bring your favorite gift you received this Christmas to church with you. You'll have a chance to show it and tell about it during the Kids' time with Rev. Dave. We'll have a lot of fun, and you'll have a chance to share your excitement.

**One catch, though—
it can't be breathing!!**



Looking for a unique Christmas gift for that someone special?

Why not purchase a copy of our 175th Anniversary Edition of HUMC's cookbook for \$10. Inside you will find recipes for appetizers, soups and salads, main dishes, breads and rolls and desserts. There are even a few recipes from 1906.

Contact Gerry Berozsky, Janet Wyatt, Noma Caldwell or the church office for a copy.

Please note the following:

*On Page 43, Pineapple Angel Food Cake: Mix pineapple AND juice.
On Page 47, Stained Glass Window Cookies: Miniature COLORED marshmallows.*

Heritage Notes—A Page from our History — Alice Allen

Some of the following was taken from a history of the Methodist Church in Hazardville, Connecticut, written on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the ‘new’ building in 1972 and whose author is unknown. Other observations were written by the church historian.

Thus far we have read about the rise of Methodism in Hazardville, Connecticut, from the earliest settlers to the year 1935. The new brick structure was built in 1872 and continues as the Methodist’s house of worship for this community to the present day (2010).

We read in the history (written in 1972), that the year 1909 saw the installation of electric lights in the sanctuary. This system replaced the gasoline lights which had replaced the original kerosene lamps.

The next change in the building came in 1923 when an addition was built on the rear or south wall of the church providing space for a Ladies’ Parlor, classrooms, a kitchen and a heating plant. During the next year Mrs. George Gordon donated an Estey pipe organ, and Mrs. David Gordon donated the beautiful pictorial stained glass windows. The church was rededicated by Bishop Hughes of the New England Area, and the dedicatory prayer was by the Reverend Thomas Tyrie, a former pastor who had spent ten years in Hazardville.

During the Pastorate of the Reverend Homer Ginns the basement room known as the Gilbert Pierce Room was excavated. Gilbert was the first WWII casualty of the parish. He was killed in Belgium in December 1944 at the age of nineteen. (Note: He is buried in the Hazardville Cemetery on Elm Street).

Herewith is an account of the excavation that took place, written by William Munsell who helped with the actual work of that project.

Proceeding with the history as written in 1972 – The year 1957 saw two innovations. In February the first number of our church paper, “Steeple Tidings” was published, and in March Mrs. Scoville Wightman (Betty) opened her kindergarten in the vestry. Since then two other kindergartens have at times also rented space from the church.

Our latest addition, the Education Building, was erected in 1961. Preliminary to this, a house on Elm Street was bought for use as a parsonage and the existing parsonage just west of the church was torn down making space for the new wing. This addition contained 12 classrooms, church office, Pastor’s study, kitchen facilities and an auditorium. This not only provided the church with the means to expand Sunday School work and to take care of social needs, but also gave the church an opportunity to serve the community. Many diverse groups have used the hall, including the Enfield Choral Society, Scout Groups, Weight Watchers, and others. In 1967 the Education Department of the Town of Enfield rented five rooms from September to January for regular public school sessions. At present the Enfield Day Care Center, opened in 1970, uses the facilities five days a week.

To be continued next month

Submitted by *Alice Godard Allen*, Church Historian



ATTENTION!! WEDNESDAY MORNING CRAFTERS

The Craft Group will meet at 9 AM on December 1 and December 8 to complete a Christmas project. Please bring a glue gun if you have one.



CHARGE
CONFERENCE

This year, our annual Church Conference will be held on Tuesday, December 14, at 7 PM. Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Heidi Chamberland, will preside. This is an important meeting in the life of our church as we will approve Lay Speakers, set the pastor's compensation package and decide on our church leadership for the coming year. We will also look back at what has happened in the preceding year and look forward to what is yet to come. All members of the church are encouraged to attend. Heidi will meet with members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee at 6 PM.

TAPES FOR SHUT-INS

Did you know that we tape each service? We do. That means if you or a loved one can't make it to church on a given Sunday, you can borrow a cassette tape of the service to enjoy at your leisure. Simply see Rev. Dave, and he will be happy to get you the tape. Take your time. Listen to it as many times as you like, and simply return it when you are finished.



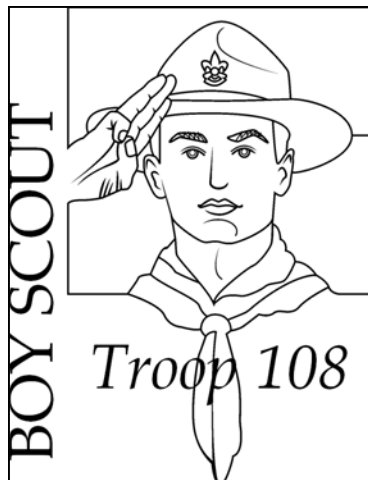
**The Enfield Community Chorus
Will present
two performances
of the 34th Annual Christmas Concert
at the
Hazardville United Methodist Church,
Saturday, December 4, 7 PM
Sunday, December 5, 4 PM`**

Rev. Dave Williams and Colleen will be the narrators for this event. Join Ginny Davis, Director, Jonathan O'Brien, and Juliane LaRocca as we begin the Advent season listening to lovely secular Christmas carols.

No reservations or admission fee,
but a free-will offering will be accepted.

Join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall after the concert.

Troop 108 — *Bill Munsell*



Scouting to the Future. In today's world of fast-moving technology and the eager to learn, Scouts get a good basic experience in some of the up-to-date Merit Badges. Some of the badges are required for Eagle Rank, wilderness survival, geology and oceanography, to name a few. Just think, some day, one or more of our scouts could be in the Government Ranger Service or at Woods Hole in Cape Cod making history. Robert Biggins, an early Eagle Scout was a pilot on Air Force One for several years; another Eagle, Jeffrey Tyler, is a retired Navy Commander; and there are many more from our Troop who have enjoyed the adventures of scouting.

The October campout at Mount Mondnock in Jeffrey New Hampshire is always a challenge this time of the year and the scouts

encountered plenty of snow and blustering winds to entertain the 24 scouts and 7 leaders who ventured the three miles of trail to over a 3000 foot altitude. Some areas of the trail are very steep hiking especially and more difficult with the snow. The hikers were ready for a warm meal following the six hour round trip hike. The meal was prepared by Rich Tangway and Rick Gorman. Completion of the hike helped some scouts complete the requirements for the camping merit badge.

Some interesting facts from summer camp. . . Merit Badges are very important for advancement and this year Troop 108 scouts earned 119 merit badges. When the breakdown came in 108 had exceeded 10% for the whole reservation of some 1000 scouts. WOW!!! Way to go.

We all know when we are away from home it's wonderful to receive news from family and friends, and so the camp Post Office was rushed with 140 packages, and 101 letters and cards were delivered to Troop 108. I am told one scout had 27 communications---now there is a happy scout. Can you imagine mint candies on the leaders' pillows at bedtime. How lucky and excited the scouts are of the Troop programs, and the attendance is high. The new leadership is very upbeat and excited by the reaction of the scouts to their responsibility and interest in participation.

The leaders stepping up to new positions need more adults to help. Chairman Scott Vjus needs help on the Board of Reviews. (We will train; it's not an every Wednesday job, but a real need exists.) Please consider volunteering with Troop 108; they take any age. . . young or old, male or female. Call Chris Sackett if you might like to know more.

We wish "***A Blessed and Healthy Holiday***" to all members of the church as Troop 108 appreciates and honors your sponsorship .

A Merry Christmas to all!

"Peace and Love"

Bill



“THE THREE MINUTE TURKEY”:

As the leaves begin to turn colors and fall down, the majority of adults in this Enfield area are beginning to think about preparations for the upcoming holidays – shopping that needs to be done and plans that need to be made for holiday celebrations. Our calendars fill up quickly and we find ourselves with too much to do and too little time. Often, as we rush by, we see reminders to be thankful for what we have and to think of those less fortunate. Maybe your local church or child’s school is having a food drive to assist those in need; but, unfortunately, you could not get over there on that date. You would like to help because you know that one of those in need may be your friend, your neighbor or your co-worker.

It seems it is always a matter of time -- getting it on your calendar, writing it on your to do list and having the time to actually do it – similar to that recipe you always want to try. It sounds great; but you don’t have an hour to spare for preparation. Would you try it if it only took you three minutes, though?

Then you’ll need to try the recipe for “The Three Minute Turkey.” It is quick, easy and secure and requires just three minutes of your day. You may not even need to move from your chair. Today, with those three minutes (and a little bit of cash), you can help the Enfield Food Shelf give a turkey to a local family for their holidays.

“THE THREE MINUTE TURKEY”:

Ingredients needed:

- 1 Computer
- 1 Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard, Amex or Discover)
- 1 Generous Spirit

Recipe:

- Click. . .Enfield Food Shelf Link below
 - Click. . .Volunteer/Donate at top of the page
 - Click. . .Under Help Enfield Food Shelf by Sending Your Donation, click “Donate” button
 - Enter. . .Donation amount and click “Update Total”
 - Fill In. . .Your name, address and credit card information
 - Press. . .Review donation and continue” to complete your donation!!
- Simmer in the warmth of the holidays knowing that your generosity has given another family a turkey and you have helped someone to have happy holiday.*

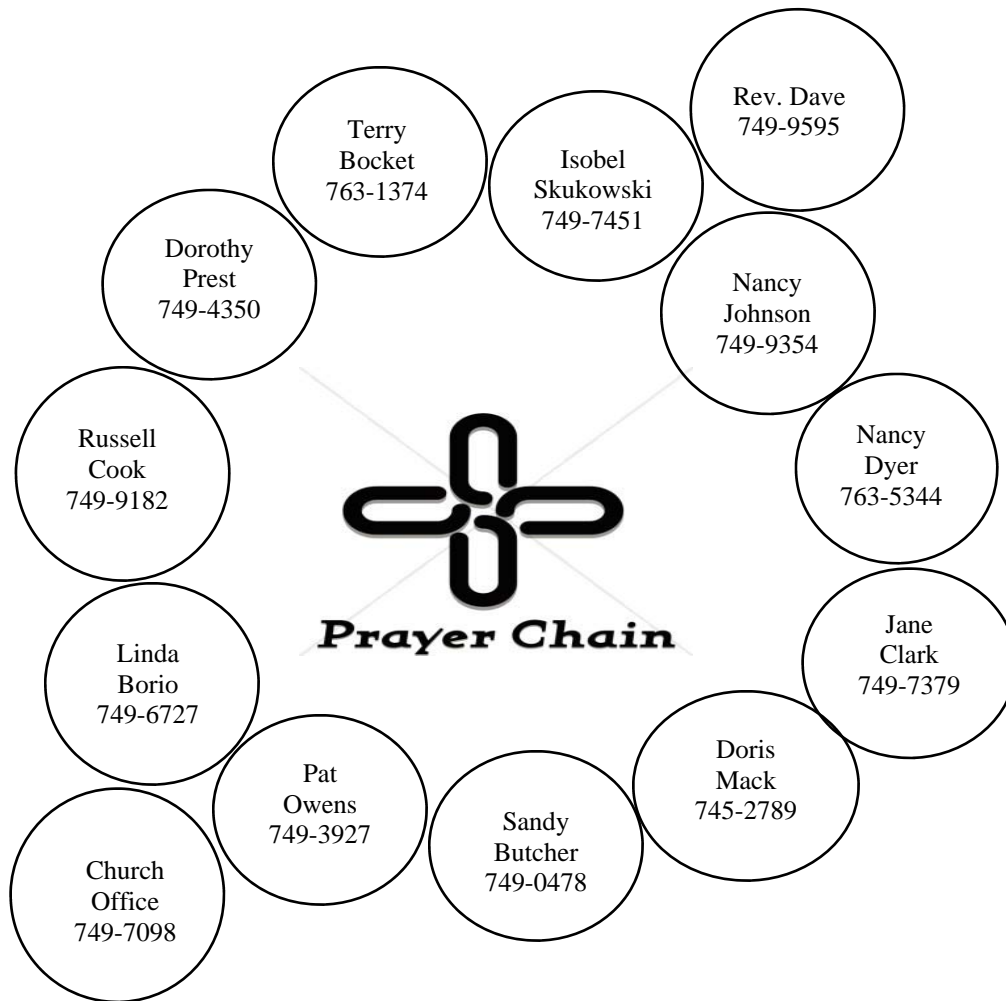
Enjoyed this recipe? Feel free to share this recipe with other who might be interested by taking another minute to forward it. Keep this recipe on hand by bookmarking the Enfield Food Shelf site and use anytime during the year. Thank you for helping The Enfield Food Shelf collect more than 600 turkeys to help those 5% of Enfield families who are in need of assistance. Each 10 – 12 pound turkey these families will receive will cost approximately \$15; however, any amount you are able to give will help to Enfield Food Shelf reach this year’s goal. Many thanks and a happy and healthy holiday season to all from the Enfield Food Shelf!



To all our friends at HUMC: How comforting to know that our friends at HUMC were thinking of me when I was hospitalized recently. In spite of all the testing that took place, nothing significant was found, and I was soon back in circulation. I thank everyone for their concern, visits, calls, cards and, especially, prayers. Thanks also for the lovely Prayer Shawl that was presented to me. Bless you all,
Betty Steele



To that wonderful volunteer production staff...Heartfelt thanks to the gracious, considerate production staff whose nimble fingers made short work of our November issue of Steeple Tidings . . . **Pat Owens, Nancy Dyer** . . .
 with special thanks to Don Niemann for all his support and help.



Please keep the following in your prayers:

*If you have a name to add or notice a name that is missing,
please contact Isobel Skukowski or the church office.*

John and Marilyn Allen, Albert Burkhardt,
Berta Clawson, Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Leroy Miller,
Doris Murray, Mary Nickerson, Peg Smith,
Florence Stimpson, Ron Uricchio, Gloria Wages

Pray also for these Members:

Babs Baker, Redstone Rehab Facility, 135 Benton Dr, E.Longmeadow, MA
Mildred Doreski at Blair Manor, 612 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT
Asa and Hildegard Waller, Suffield House, 1 Canal Road, Suffield, CT

In Christian Sympathy

The family of Hallie Cavaleri on her recent death.



NATIVITY SCENE POTS

Celebrate the joy of Christmas — and remember Jesus' birth — by making this craft to decorate your home or to give as a gift.

What you need:

- 3 terra cotta pots (any size)
- Acrylic paints (including one for skin color)
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue (or a glue gun, with an adult to help)
- Brown yarn
- Material swatches
- Straw-colored raffia

What you do:

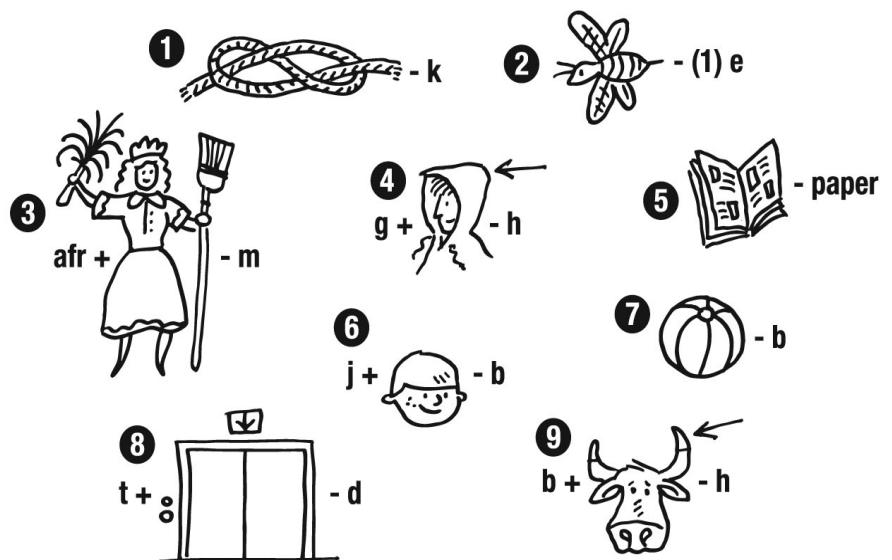
1. Decide which pot will be Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Turn each pot upside-down and paint a face on each one.
2. Decorate the pots by painting hair and clothes or by using yarn and material as hair and head coverings.
3. For baby Jesus, glue raffia along the bottom to look like straw in a manger.



The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



"Do _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3. I bring you _____ 4

_____ 5 of great _____ 6 that will be for _____ 7 the people.

Today in the _____ 8 of David a Savior has been _____ 9

to you; **he is Christ the Lord.**" Luke 2:10-11, NIV

all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV