

STEEPLE TIDINGS

OCTOBER 2010

ISSUE 10-10

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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 faith.



OCTOBER HAPPENINGS at HUMC

All Church Picnic—October 3 (page 8)

New Sermon Series begins October 17

Harvest Fair—October 22—23

Worship at HUMC

Sundays at 10 AM

Join us for Sunday School

Jesus used parables to teach the people; a lot of parables. Why? What was He trying to say by using so many different parables? And what do the parables mean? How can they help us find God, or at least find what God wants of us? Join Rev. Dave beginning October 17, for a four week series that will look at some well-known, and not so well-known parables.

We will look at the parable of:

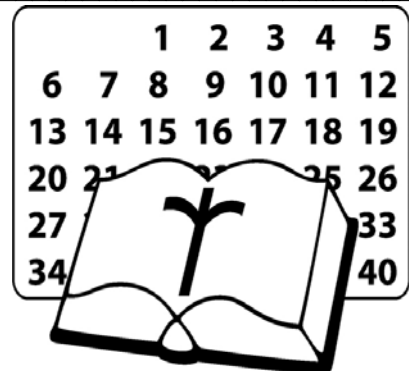
The two sinners (October 17)

The Prodigal Son (October 24)

The mustard seed (October 31) and

The parable of the talents (November 7)

Come and join the journey as we go *Looking for God in the Parables*.



New Sermon Series

Some Thoughts From Me—Rev. Dave



It is time for me to make a confession: I'm a counter. I am one of those geeky types that have to count and analyze everything. I count how many times I have to use the snow blower in the winter. I count how often we exceed a certain temperature (both highs and lows). I count the number of thunderstorms in a summer. And yes, I count how many items the person in front of me

takes through the express line. (If the sign says "12 items or less" don't try to sneak through with 13, because I'll have a hissy fit.) So it did not come as any shock to my wife or children that I have been keeping careful track of how much our garden has produced this summer.

Now, most of you have some idea, even without counting about how well our garden has done this year because you have been taking the cucumbers and tomatoes that we keep bringing in each Sunday. And our neighbors know how well the garden did this year, because every time they make eye contact with us, Colleen and I give them a bag of veggies. But not having had a garden for several years I was amazed at the bounty which God had showered upon us. For the record, that wonderful garden plot that you all provide with our parsonage has produced 202 cucumbers, 211 large tomatoes, 512 cherry tomatoes, a bunch of sugar peas, lettuce, and even 3 peppers (2 green and 1 white). As of this writing, the peppers are just starting to come in, so that count will increase.

As I looked at those numbers I was struck by how much had been produced. God has indeed blessed us. But what really struck me was something that is not included in those numbers. What really struck me was the number of volunteer tomatoes that we have harvested. What is a volunteer tomato? I'm glad you asked, because they are the point of this story.

Back in the spring, Colleen and I decided that we would try and grow tomatoes from seed. We would get them started inside and then transfer them to the garden when the weather got warm enough. Everything was going along splendidly until

we went away on vacation in May. While we were gone something happened to our tomato plants; somehow they got a little moldy. It was very disappointing, as we were looking forward to the tomatoes they would produce. But, we decided that they were beyond hope, and so we had no choice but to throw them out and buy more mature plants. I was ready to take the moldy plants and toss them in the yard trashcan when Colleen came up with a better idea. She decided to take the plants and "tuck" them into our dirt pile out back. She didn't plant them in the conventional sense, but merely tucked each one into a crack in the dirt to see what would happen. We haven't watered them—and you know how hot and dry this summer has been—nor did we weed or otherwise tend them in any way. And one day we were amazed to see tomatoes growing on these plants. To date these plants that we gave up on have produced an additional 42 large tomatoes and 33 cherry tomatoes.

And as I looked at those numbers it struck me—how often do we treat people like those moldy tomato plants? How many times have we given up on someone; assume that they are not going to produce fruit, that they are beyond hope, that they are not worth our time? And how often does God step in and take those discarded lives and create something wonderful and sweet and beautiful. And how often has God done that for us? How often has God rescued us

See Thoughts on Page 3.

Thoughts — *continued from page 2.*

from the trashcan of life after others have given up on us because we didn't fit their idea of what was useful?

In the United Methodist Hymnal there is a beautiful song called "Something Beautiful," and part of it says, "all I had to offer him was brokenness and strife, but he made something beautiful of my life." It occurs to me that I am no different than those volunteer tomatoes. Not many people expected much of me, but God watered and nurtured and tended me, and made something beautiful of my life. That is what those volunteer tomatoes teach me, or perhaps simply remind me that I can't afford to give up on anyone, because I am living proof that God gives up on no one—how about you?

Dave

**OCTOBER 3, 11 AM
WORSHIP WITH US
AT THE
ALL CHURCH PICNIC
Knights of Columbus
Somerville, CT**



Youth Group Calendar



Check out the neat stuff that our Youth Group will be doing in the months ahead.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| October 3 | Movie Night. Popcorn provided. |
| November 7 | Corn Maze |
| December 5 | Christmas Party |
| January | We will put on a Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser sometime in the month. No meeting on the 2nd. |
| February | Souper Bowl of Caring |
| March | Saint Patrick's Day dinner in the middle of the month. No meeting on the 6th |
| April | Bowling (with pizza, of course) |

The Youth Group is open to all kids in Junior and Senior High school. Bring a friend and have a ball!!

Questions? Contact Becky Michaud or Rev. Dave.

Resource Center—Colleen Williams, Becky Michaud

We have started to receive items for our newly initiated Resource Center. We are still in need of empty shoeboxes and other small boxes for storage and display of our items. Our goal is to help people see that they can make a positive impact on God's creation through the thoughtful use of our world's resources. The Resource Center Stewards (Colleen Williams and Becky Michaud) would like to help you see the possibilities for re-use of items such as old tennis balls, keys and greeting cards that you might normally throw away. These and other items are being collected, sorted and made available for re-use. If you have items to donate, please drop them off in the box marked *Resource Center* located in the church library.



Harvest Fair October 22 and 23

Friday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

The Wednesday Crafters are putting the finishing touches on their projects, and we urge you to do the same with any projects you have been working on at home. We will begin setting up for the Fair on **October 18** and will be working in Fellowship Hall each day that week. Please bring your completed craft items and your gently used items for *Grandma's Attic* to the church by Monday, October 18; baked goods and candies can be brought on the 21st.

**Remind your friends, neighbors
and coworkers to come to our Fair.
We have something for everyone.**



United Methodist Women — Linda Borio



Note: This meeting is the third Tuesday of this month only.

**United Methodist Women
October 19, 7:30 PM
Fellowship Hall
HUMC**

PROGRAM: "Adoption"

Our speakers this evening will be Jill Osborn and Karen Bologna. Both have adopted girls from a foreign country. Jill's daughter came from China and is 5 years old. Karen's daughter, Kia, is from Korea, is now 24 and in the US military. It will be interesting to hear the experiences both families had during the adoption procedure with a span of 20 years.

This is also the evening when we choose to fill out our pledge cards for next year.

Chair: Linda Borio

Hostesses: Doris Mack and Dot Prest

Harvest Fair Prayers

As the date for the Harvest Fair draws near, we continue to ask for your prayers that it may draw us closer together as a community in Christ and that we may benefit spiritually and monetarily from our labors.



SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED TO OUR LIBRARY

Looking for a good book? I have received a thumbs-up for the Karen Kingsbury collection on our fiction shelves. Why not give this contemporary Christian writer's books a try. You might just find a new favorite author.

Your Librarian

Colleen Williams

Here Wee Grow!— Phyllis Phelan



The school year has begun and **Here Wee Grow!** is happy to announce we have 89 children and a staff of nine. Our classes are going well and most children have done well adjusting to the school setting. We still have a few that are struggling being away from mom, but there is progress in this, and I'm sure within the next couple of weeks, we'll all be happy to be at school!

The month of October brings us to our theme of "Harvest and Nutritious Eating." We have such an array of fruits and vegetables that are harvested this time of the year. These foods are good for us and help to keep us healthy. We'll talk about these foods, the need to exercise and be out in the sunshine and the fresh air, the importance of caring for our teeth and preventing illness by our trips to the doctor. We will also do a bit of 'cooking' and enhancing our math and science skills while in the kitchen.

October also brings our Parent Open Houses. Four-year-old parents will be invited to join us for an informational meeting about the school, our phonics program, and what we will be doing these next few months. There will be time for parents to

ask questions as well.

Our Three-year-old parents and children will be invited to school also. This way children and parents can tour the classroom; parents can see their artwork, ask questions of their child's teacher and such.

Also this month, the Hazardville Fire Department will join us to talk about fire safety. Miss Denise will be here to take our class and individual photos and we'll have a party at the end of the month with members of our Parent Group helping out.

It's hard to believe that Here Wee Grow! is marking its sixteenth year. When our accreditation letter was placed in the Time Capsule on September 19 after the church service, I couldn't help wonder how will education be in the year 2126! Will children still be in classes as they are today? Will we have computers or will some other technology have taken over? Will children know respect and kindness to others? The list could go on and on but hopefully HWG has made its mark on this community, and we will continue to provide a positive, learning environment for "our" children and their families today and in the years to come!

As always, we ask for the congregation's continued support and your prayers. You are welcome to come and visit us any time. We can always use an extra pair of hands!

Until next time . . .



District Prayer List

Please pray for the clergy and laity listed below for the Holy Spirit to guide, direct and bless each congregation during October:

- Hampden, MA**
- Baltic/Norwich (Lee Memorial), CT**
- West Springfield (First/Mittineague), MA**
- Old Mystic, CT**
- E. Longmeadow, MA**



Thanks to all the members of the Anniversary Committee and to all the volunteers who helped to make our September 19 service and luncheon a success . . . those who set up the tables on Friday morning, those who came on Saturday morning to help set the tables and arrange the flowers (compliments of Lety Sim), and all those who helped in other ways. And thanks to Walter Skukowski who supervised the digging of the time capsule hole and who filled it in after the capsule was placed. The capsule was provided by Elm-Cap Industries and Leete Stevens Funeral Home, and on Sunday morning, Jerry was there to set it up for us and to seal and place it, also. Thanks to Rita for taking care of tickets and reservations. Thanks also to Pastor Dave who dug out some very old and important ledgers and pictures for the display tables and for all he does behind the scenes. Many hands make light work. Thank you all.

Alice Allen.

TIME CAPSULE BURIED AT HAZARDVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~SEPTEMBER 19, 2010~

The following items were put into the Anniversary Time Capsule:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Church Calendar 9/19/2010 | Lamb Beanie Baby |
| Wooden Church Plaque | Snowman Beanie Baby |
| 2010 Cookbook | Postage Stamps |
| Methodist Hymnal | Standard Revised Edition Bible |
| 2006 Church Directory | 1933 Methodist Hymnal (Words, no music) |
| 1978 Church Directory | CD of Christmas Music |
| Hand Puppet | UMW Program 2010 |
| Copy of Steeple Tidings | Vacation Bible School Picture, circa 1950's |
| Committee on Lay Leadership Booklet | Boy Scout Newspaper Clipping |
| Here Wee Grow Accreditation Certificate | Response Magazine |
| Church Brochure | Organ Estimates/Descriptions, 1994 purchase |

The Cookbooks have arrived!!

**Our new 175th Anniversary Edition
of HUMC's cookbook
is on sale for \$10.**

**Find recipes for . . .Appetizers, Soups and Salads,
Main Dishes, Breads and Rolls, and Desserts,
as well as a few recipes from 1906.**

**Cookbooks are available from Gerry Berozsky,
Janet Wyatt, Noma Caldwell or the church office.**

Pick up your copy today!!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH PICNIC
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, SOMERSVILLE, CT



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2010
11 AM—5 PM. . . Rain or Shine

Begin the day in Worship
with Rev. Dave
followed by
Great Food,
Great Friends
Great Games for adults and children

SUNDAY MORNING CHALLENGE

God has blessed our efforts with our **Kids-4-Mission** with the wide disparity of ages of the children who participate in this program. In order to provide these children with age appropriate themes, on September 12, Jackie Michaud started a **Youth-4-Mission** program. This program is geared to children of confirmation age and older and meets once a month at 9 AM in the Gilbert Pierce Room. The **Kids-4-Mission** program (for younger children) will continue during worship service as usual.

Any youth interested in becoming a Junior Assistant is asked to see Jackie.

KIDS-4-MISSION REMINDER

October 3 is the day we have scheduled for our Sunday Kids-4-Mission program. However, as our Annual Picnic will be held on that day, we will **NOT** meet on that day.

We will, however, meet Thursday evenings, October 14 and October 28 in the Gilbert Pierce Room from 6-7 PM.

See you there!!

KIDS-4-MISSION COLLECTIONS

ALUMINUM CAN TABS.

We will continue to collect aluminum can tabs for Shriners Hospital. Thank you for your support over the summer. Our first jar is almost full. Praise God. This is an ongoing collection, so please continue to bring in those tabs.

HATTIE B. COOPER COMMUNITY

CENTER. We have set up a new collection jar for your change to benefit the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center in Boston. It was started 84 years ago by a couple of Methodist women whose vision was to create a safe place for neighborhood children to play, learn and socialize. They provide educational services to underserved children and their families and is accredited by NAEYC. They also have a forget-me-not club for senior citizens, a preschool, and an after school program. Due to their financial crisis, they have established *Imagine 94 (a dream)* and are asking congregations for a donation of \$94. Please donate your change to our jar so we can fulfill their *dream*.



CHILDREN of ALL AGES ARE WELCOME to JOIN US FOR A

HALLOWEEN PARTY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2010

START WITH

- ☺ **POTLUCK LUNCHEON AFTER WORSHIP**
- ☺ **JOIN US FOR CRAFTS IN THE GILBERT PIERCE ROOM**
- ☺ **GAMES IN PLAYLAND**
- ☺ **TREAT STREET**

BRING YOUR COSTUME TO CHURCH. . . CHANGE AFTER WORSHIP



Heritage Notes—A Page from our History — Alice Allen

LETTERS OF GREETING from FORMER PASTORS and FRIENDS

(On the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Hazardville Methodist Episcopal Church)

(continued from last month)

Norwich, Conn. - Dec. 19, 1935

Dear Bro. Monson,

There is a familiar saying that the first 100 years is the hardest. If this is true, the worst is over. So far as I can judge, the past three years have been the hardest, but through them all the fine people of Hazardville have been loyal and true to the best interests of the church and the Kingdom. Generous in support financially of the whole Christian enterprise. The History of the past one hundred years is filled with the names of noble men and women who labored and gave to make this one of the outstanding churches in the Conference. Today their sons and daughters with others of another generation are following in their footsteps.

May the new year upon which you are entering be blessed with Divine guidance and crowned with Spiritual victories, and in the spirit of the Fathers may Hazardville church continue to be as a city set on a hill and a light to guide men in the way of eternal truth.

Sincerely, G. G. Scrivener

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Providence District
NEW ENGLAND SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
Methodist Episcopal Church
WILLIAM HARVEY BATH
District Superintendent

January 2, 1936

My dear Bro. Monson:

I regret more than I can say my failure to write the note you wished for last Sunday. The fact is your letter came when there was critical illness in our household. For a week we did not know but any hour the end might come for Mrs. Bath's mother. She died December 27 and was buried in Middletown, Conn., December 30. Ever so many things had to be neglected.

You are a privileged man to be pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Hazardville. I hope you include in your daily prayers an expression of gratitude for the honor of ministering to those good people. In the six years that I was visiting your church, I found a loyalty and fidelity that makes for joy in a superintendent's heart. Some manifestations of that devotion, which cannot be detailed here, I never will forget. I trust that from the anniversary came only new courage and strength for the furtherance of the work of the church in these difficult days.

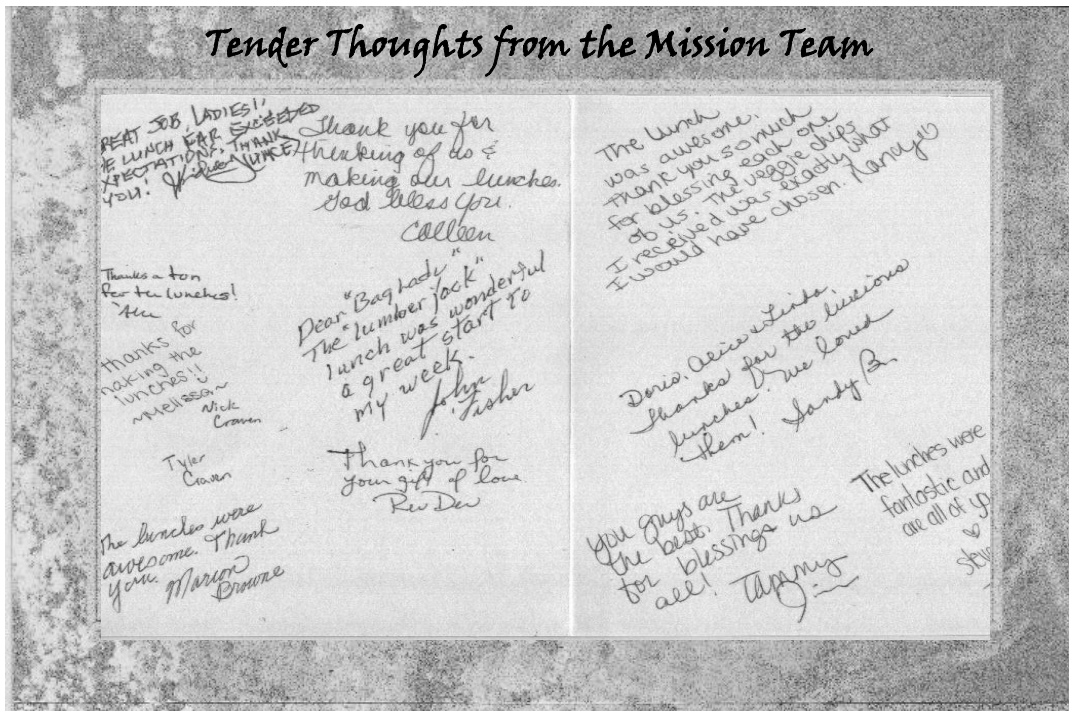
With every good wish for the work of the church, and for you personally, I am

Cordially yours,
(Signed) W. H. Bath



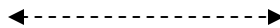
To be continued next month - Submitted by Alice Godard Allen/Church Historian

On the Personal Side



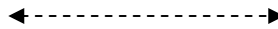
The family of Doris Munsell wish to extend our most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our Church family for your outpouring of love, your cards, the visitations, the meals and the words of encouragement that is helping us through the shock of Doris leaving us and going home to God where there is no pain, only family, friends and God's love. Peace and Love

Bill, Pat and Bill, Jr.



To My Church Family . . . Thank you so very much for the lovely cards, phone calls and prayers I received during my treatments, surgery and recovery. I cherish your friendship and truly appreciate your kindness. Thank you.

Nancy Johnson

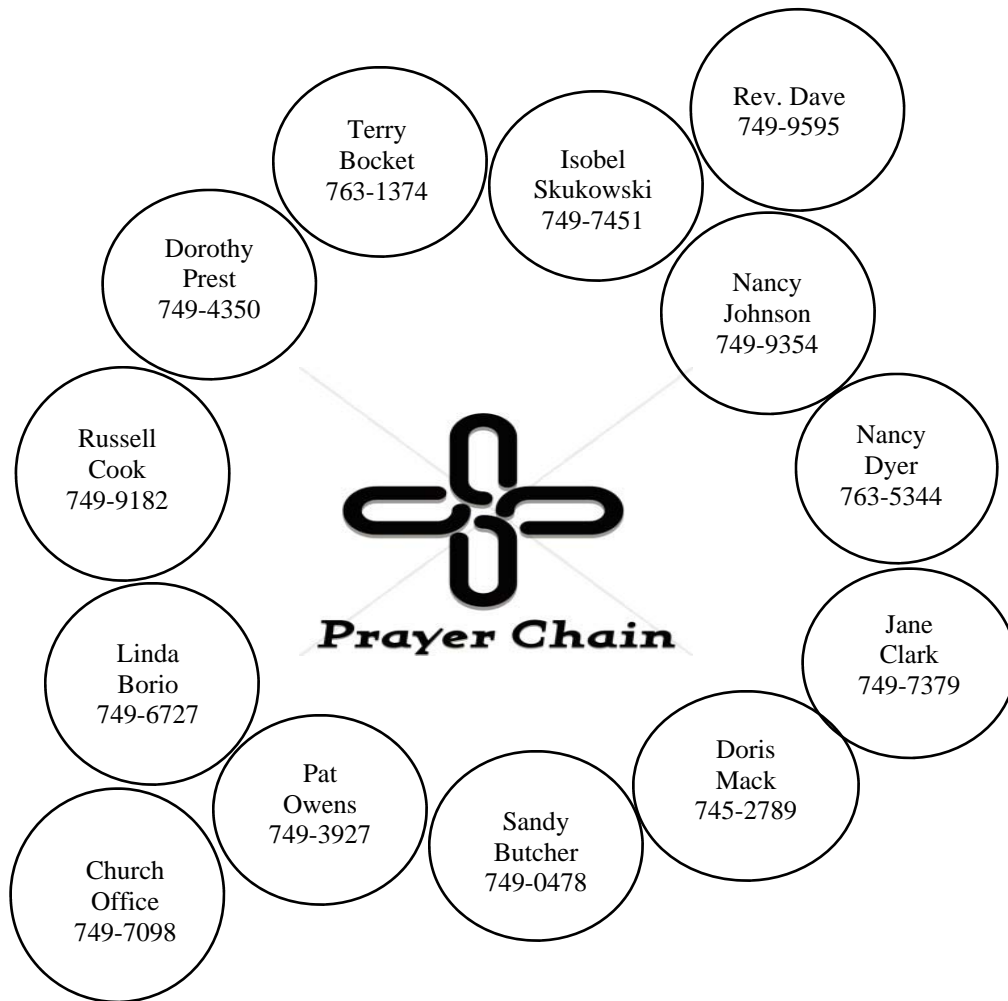


To All my Friends at HUMC . . . I wish to thank each and everyone for all their prayers. With the power of prayers I'm doing nicely. Thank you, friends. Sincerely,

Gloria F. Wages



To that wonderful volunteer production staff... Heartfelt thanks to the gracious, considerate production staff whose nimble fingers made short work of our September 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.*

Louise Barnes, Hallie Cavaleri, Berta Clawson,
Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Leroy Miller,
Bill Munsell, Mary Nickerson, Jim Russell,
Peg Smith, Ron Uricchio, Gloria Wages

Pray also for these Members:

Beryl Comparetto at Parkway, 1157 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT
Babs Baker, Redstone Rehab Facility, 135 Benton Dr, E.Longmeadow, MA
Mildred Doreski at Blair Manor, 612 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT
Bill Munsell, Suffield House, 1 Canal Road, Suffield, CT.
Asa and Hildegard Waller, Suffield House, 1 Canal Road, Suffield, CT



October



Birthdays

- 4 *Rev. Dave*
- 8 *Nancy Johnson*
- 9 *Pamela Phelan*
- 14 *Norm Carlson*
- 18 *Lee Bozeman*
- 19 *John Fisher*
Isobel Skukowski
Colleen Williams
- 24 *Bobbi Bragan*
- 25 *Polly Brown*
- 26 *Deborah Cook*
- 29 *Dick Borio*
- 31 *Joan Hammond*

Call the church
office at
860-749-7098 to
have your name
included in our
monthly
birthday rolls!!



Oriental Dinner

Prepared by Don & Lety Sim

Menu

Lo Mein Soup
Boneless Spareribs
Egg Rolls
Rice, Salad
Beverages, Dessert

Saturday, November 13, 2010
Continuous Serving 5—7 PM

**A NIGHT
OF
~GREAT FOOD~
~ENTERTAINMENT~**

COST
\$9.50/ADULTS
\$5/ CHILDREN UNDER 12

**Join us at the
Hazardville United Methodist Church
330 Hazard Avenue
Enfield, CT**

**FOR TICKETS
CALL 860-749-7098**

