

# Spirit & Sparks

JUNE 2011



The Congregational Church of Weston, UCC, 130 Newton Street, Weston, MA 02493  
www.congwestonucc.net 781-899-5417 781-647-1165-fax

## REFLECTION ON LEAVING FROM THE INTERN PASTOR & TEACHER

Since this is my second and last piece for Spirit & Sparks, and since June is my last month with you all as Intern Pastor and Teacher, I thought it would be appropriate to reflect a little bit on the theme of *leaving*.

In the Scriptures, *leaving* appears over and over again as a necessary part of God's plans for people. Sometimes the leaving is joyful, like when God leads the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt. Sometimes it's bitter, like when Adam and Eve leave the Garden of Eden, or when the Israelites are exiled from their homeland into Babylon. And sometimes it's bittersweet, like when Abraham has to leave his homeland, or when Elisha says goodbye to his family and goes off to become a prophet.

In the New Testament, Jesus and his followers have to *leave* the lives they knew, in order to follow their higher calling. Simon, Andrew, James, and John all leave their homes and livelihoods to become Jesus' disciples. Jesus himself leaves Nazareth in order to spread the Good News throughout the land. Paul leaves his life as a Pharisee to become a Christian apostle. In the New Testament, the willingness to leave behind everything familiar and comfortable in order to pursue God's calling is often cited as a mark of true discipleship:

*Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age ... and in the age to come eternal life. (Mark 10: 29-30)*

The Bible—perhaps more than any other holy book—recognizes how vital and important *leaving*, moving, transitioning, is to human life and faith. Of course, leaving can be bad as well (like the prodigal son leaving his family to pursue a dissolute life), but for those who love God and seek to follow God's purposes, leaving one place for another is sometimes a necessary part of the journey.

That's a consolation to me, whenever I have to leave a place and people that I know and love and move on to who-knows-what. Transitions, leaving, can be sad—graduations, marriages, relocations, a passing away—but they should also be exciting. As long as we love God and cleave to God for guidance, no leaving—no transition—needs to be a cause for lamentation. Because God “works all things for the good of those of who love him” (Rom 8:28); and God “is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us” (Eph 3:20). So there is never any cause for bitter lamentation in times of leaving, but rather for faith, hope, and a readiness to move forward.

Faithfully yours,

William Cordts  
Intern Pastor and Teacher

## WORSHIP THEMES FOR JUNE 2011

### June 5 - Communion Sunday

Bill Cordts preaching his farewell sermon!

### June 12 - Pentecost Sunday and Children's Day

Our Faith Discovery children will lead us in a special worship celebration in which they will share what they learned about the Holy Spirit during their three-week workshop rotation in March. A special collection will be taken to support **Education Fights Aids**, and our **All-Church Pentecost Picnic** will follow.

### June 19 - Father's Day

At our last 10:30 service of the program year, Rev. Mayher's sermon "Where Do We Want to Go?" will be based on "The Great Commission" in Matthew 28: 16-20, amplified by Paul's words of final greetings and benediction in II Corinthians 13: 11-13.

## SUMMER UNION SERVICES BEGIN SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2011

The First Parish Church, located on Boston Post Road near the Town Green, will host 10 AM Summer Union Services June 26 through July 31. Services then switch to the Congregational Church beginning Sunday, August 7 with the final Summer Union Service on September 4. Regular worship services resume on September 11 at the usual time of 10:30am.

Look for the listing of preachers and themes in the July/August summer edition of "*Spirit and Sparklers.*"  
**All Summer Union Services begin at 10:00 AM regardless of location.**

## HELP US BEAT THE FINANCIAL HEAT



While many of us are away on summer vacations, and/or take a hiatus from church year commitments (and even attendance) the work of the church goes on, and we continue to incur expenses for salaries, maintenance, and other operating costs. Because pledge receipts typically slow down during the summer months, meeting these financial obligations can put pressure on our cash balances and force us to temporarily tap our bank line of credit. In order to

help us avoid unnecessary interest charges, please consider making a payment toward your annual pledge during the next several weeks.

Thanks and have a wonderful summer!

Paul Reeder  
Finance Chair

## HELP SECURE A VITAL FUTURE FOR CCW THROUGH PLANNED GIVING: ONE STORY

In 2002, a speaker from the Mass Conference came to inform us about the various options available for planned giving in our church. I found it very informative, but beyond that I realized that there were many members of CCW, some deceased and some not yet so, who had generously made gifts to CCW in one form or another. It also made me realize that because of their kindness, I was already benefitting in so many ways from their acts of faith. Therefore, I was moved to make a gift in order to secure a vital future at CCW for others to enjoy. There are several ways to make a gift, and the simplest is to make a bequest in one's will. However, I chose to engage in a United Church of Christ deferred gift annuity.

At the time I was sixty, planning to retire in my late sixties. I was interested in the concept of an annuity where I would give an amount to the UCC in return for a stream of annual income for the balance of my life. Therefore, I made a gift of funds to be managed by the United Church of Christ, and I was informed

of the annual amount that I would receive at my chosen age of seventy. At that time, it seemed a long way off, but I am now in retirement and will begin receiving annual income starting in January of 2012. At my death, the Congregational Church of Weston will receive the remaining principal, plus earnings, as the named remainder beneficiary.

It makes me very happy to know that in some small way I will give opportunities to future members of CCW, as those who have gone before me have enhanced my life and involvement at CCW.

I encourage all of you to think about ways you may wish to make planned gifts to our very special church, so that we can maintain a vital future for those who follow us.

Thank you,

Sukie Dickie

## B&G SPRING CLEAN-UP THANK YOU!

by Geoff Smith, Buildings & Grounds Chair

Thank you all for helping with the spring clean-up on May 1st. The mulch is spread, the gardens are weeded, trees and bushes are trimmed and the windows are sparkling. As always your spirited energy shows in our beautiful church!

Please don't forget to sign-up for a week of watering this summer. Sign up at church or contact the church office (skuhrccw@comcast.net). The plants will welcome your visits. Those who have signed up will receive an email reminder the week prior to your turn with watering instructions. Check the schedule below to see when you can help.

Have a wonderful summer!

### 2011 Summer Watering Schedule:

Week to Water at CCW	Name
June 26 – July 2	
July 3-9	
July 10-16	
July 17-23	
July 24 – 30	
July 31 - August 6	
August 7-13	
August 14-20	
August 21-27	
August 28- September 3	

## OUTREACH

I am happy to report that our Easter Offering to REACH this year totals \$3075, another most generous donation from our congregation. Outreach thanks everyone for their ongoing commitment to an organization that does so much to help those in need. Thank you.

More thank you's to pass along: to Joe for doing the last minute shopping for our Bristol Lodge servers, to Cathy and Ann for serving on Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, and for all who helped at our first

cook fest back in March so Cathy and Ann had food to serve.

Thank you to William Cordts, Intern Pastor & Teacher, for joining our committee this year and facilitating Outreach Sunday. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Rebekah Lord Gardiner

## EFA COMING TO CCW ON JUNE 5 !



On Sunday, June 5, Rebecca Schendel, will be in church to bring us news and updates on the work of Education Fights AIDS (EFA) International in Cameroon and Rwanda.

For our third major collection this year, the Outreach Committee has chosen to support Education Fights AIDS (EFA) International. EFA is a small non-governmental organization which grew out of the work of Peace Corps volunteers in northern Cameroon and has now spread to Rwanda. EFA has been recognized as an effective and low-cost organization to the extent that its work in Cameroon has been selected as a permanent site for Peace Corps volunteers.

In Cameroon, EFA is developing 'associations', the purpose of which is to gather together young people who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. The organization, through its two local workers, helps the associations to identify leaders, provides leadership training, links associations together for mutual exchange of ideas, teaches them about the AIDS virus, and helps them to develop income-generating activities so that they can be self-sufficient. With the support provided by CCW, EFA has established a

new group in the village of Kousseri on the border with Chad.

In Rwanda, EFA is providing support to the orphans' Child Support Center in Kigali. This is a center where they go after school – a place where they can gather with others who face the same challenges and get information and support. CCW is sending financial support for their education program, which includes after-school help with homework, English instruction and school fees.

We hope that you will feel inspired by the work of this young organization, which touches so many young people's lives in such a positive way for so little money and we invite you to stay engaged in following the development of our association in Cameroon and the Center in Rwanda.

Jessica Schendel  
for the Outreach Committee

**WATCH THE MAIL FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SPECIAL  
PENTECOST COLLECTION FOR EFA  
ON JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>**

# Faith Discovery for Children



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY JUST AROUND THE CORNER: JUNE 12!

By the time you read this, we'll be hard at work preparing for Children's Sunday: making T-shirts and wind catchers, learning a song, creating the feeling of that very strange Pentecost/Feast of Weeks/Shavuot so long ago. All of this to share with the congregation what we experienced during our **Pentecost: The Church is Born** workshop rotation. This is a Sunday not to miss!!

And here's how we're getting there:

Sunday, June 5:      9:45 song practice in the library  
                                 10:30 straight to class for practice  
                                 11:30 savory snack in the sanctuary  
                                 12-1 run-through in the sanctuary

Saturday, June 11: 9:15-10:15 run-through in the sanctuary

This rehearsal will be cancelled IF we have good attendance leading up to the 12<sup>th</sup>.

June 12: Arrival TBD. If we haven't practiced the day before, the arrival time will be 9:15 AM.

And don't forget the **All-Church Picnic right after worship**. It's always so much fun!! Look for more information elsewhere in this edition of

Spirit and Sparks. Why not bring a friend so he or she can see how much fun we have?

**June 19 is our last Sunday together in Faith Discovery**. It's a One Room Sunday and we'll explore with games and activities the Holy Spirit and Us. As we go our separate ways into the summer, how nice to remember that God's promises are kept, and the Holy Spirit is within us to guide us. Forever.

## JUNE LIGHTBEARERS

June 5 - Helen Townsend  
June 12 - Trisha Mitchell  
June 19 - Luke Mitchell

## STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH FOR CHILDREN - JUNE

- Bring in an offering to help protect the oceans and the animals that live there. Grab an offering envelope from the basket on the Faith Discovery table.
- Help make something for the Pastoral Freezer.
- Help your parents give water to the church plants during the summer .

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS FOR JUNE...

**Middle High Youth Group** - stay tuned for an email from Kristen Reeder!

**Senior High Youth Group** - stay tuned for an email from Jean Valle!

**Confirmation Class of 2012** - will meet on June 5 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm at the home of Katie Bull, 15 Metacomet Way, Sudbury. Confirmands are asked to read Chapters 4 and 5 before our session together exploring "Faith and Doubt."

### Q: Are you traveling near or far this summer?

## FAITH COMMUNITY NEWS

### Birthdays

June 4 Michael Higgins  
 June 5 William Franks  
 June 6 Carolyn Paquin  
 June 7 Molly Nye



June 12 Craig Tanny  
 June 23 Ann Jacoby  
 June 30 Jeff Heuer  
 June 30 Nicki Jimenez

## JUNE REMINDERS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Flowers*</u>	<u>Ushers#</u>	<u>Fellowship Hour#</u>	<u>Light Bearer</u>
6/5	Braun			Helen Townsend
6/12 Children's Sunday		Bull	All-Church Picnic	Trisha Mitchell
6/19 Fathers' Day		Paquin	Hospitality Committee	Luke Mitchell

\* Altar Flower arrangements cost \$52 when the church office orders through Leiby's or you may provide your own.

# Instructions for Ushering or hosting Fellowship Hour are in the Events Binder.

(P) Perennial Donor

## SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to the many who have hosted us on Sunday mornings! **We have one opening this month - June 5.** Please consider hosting, as this is one of the ways we minister to one another and others.

Here at CCW, there is no such thing as a "typical" coffee hour, so please, make it your own. Everything from beverage service to elegant receptions greet us at

worship's end and each time we feel welcomed. Look for the new "How To" sheet in the front of the binder on the hallway information station.

Sign up in the binder or contact Susan Kuhr ([skuhrccw@comcast.net](mailto:skuhrccw@comcast.net), or 781-899-5417.) in the church office. Want to reserve a date for September through December? Sign-up or call Susan soon!

## WELCOME ABOARD TO OUR FOUR NEW MEMEBERS!

On May 22, Fred and Liz Cabot, Sharon Kuhn, and Katharina Wilkins officially joined our congregation. We welcome them warmly and share here just a little bit about them:

**Fred and Liz Cabot** have been attending CCW for some time, and have actively involved themselves in ushering, fellowship hour, workday and outreach projects. After a career of teaching English and American literature in college, Fred now introduces all kinds of literature to appreciative Lasell Village residents. At home, you can see him nurturing trees, flowers and vegetables (and cutting grass), and keeping a serious “eye on the sky” to anticipate coming storms and beneficent interludes. He also supports various music groups, and enjoys cross-country skiing, biking, and taking long walks through Weston’s conservation lands.

Liz has been teaching adult English Language Learners (ESL) for many years, and trains volunteer tutors at the Weston Library and elsewhere (after having been a college English teacher). She too loves outdoor exercise: swimming, biking, and downhill skiing, especially in the West. And attentions paid to and time spent with their two daughters and six grandchildren not far away keep her and Fred actively engaged with family celebrations.

**Sharon Kuhn** has been part of our church family for several years as the teacher of our First Steppers. She is a champion level ballroom dance competitor working toward a national title. To support herself as she strives to reach this goal, she works as a math/science, English tutor, violin/viola instructor, ballroom dance instructor, choreographer and performer. She much enjoys teaching and sharing her love of learning, music, and dance with her students.

**Katharina Wilkins** is a busy wife and mother of three little girls (Eleanor, Nadia, & Julie), and an engineer. She holds a PhD in chemical engineering from MIT, and currently works part-time in the biomedical field. She came to CCW for our Christmas Eve Moravian Love Feast and stuck around because she liked the welcoming feel of the community she encountered. Her passions and hobbies are chicken keeping, reading, gardening, learning about the environment and how to be a good steward, and trying to teach others. She loves the great outdoors, camping, hiking, skiing, mountain biking.

Please welcome them warmly, for each is a wonderful addition.

**A:** Whether you are spending a day in Boston or sailing across the Big Pond, please mail a post card to CCW, 130 Newton Street, 02493. A collage of summer travels will welcome us home in September!

## A REQUEST FROM SAM MARTINBOROUGH

A friend of mine is looking for a new rental. Below is typical of what he would place in the ads.

*“Quiet, professional male in early 30’s.*

*Seeking either a stand-alone cottage or an apartment in a rural setting in the vicinity of Lincoln, Weston, or Lexington.*

*Preferably on a property with a fair amount of land or close to conservation area.”*

Please contact me (exordiumma@aol.com) if you can help or have a lead. Namaste!

## JUNE 2011

<b>Wed Jun 1</b>	8am – 12pm 4pm – 8pm	<b>Spiritual Direction</b> <b>Violin Lessons</b>
<b>Thu Jun 2</b>	4pm – 7:30pm	<b>WWS Learning Center</b>
<b>Sat Jun 4</b>	9am – 6pm 11am – 6pm 12:30pm – 4pm 4pm – 6pm	<b>Violin Lessons</b> <b>Organ Practice</b> - Sanctuary <b>Outreach Cook Fest</b> <b>Piano Recital</b> - Mozart Academy of Music
<b>Sun Jun 5</b>	9:45am – 10:30am 10:30am – 11:30am 12pm – 1pm 4pm – 5pm 5pm – 6pm	<b>CE song practice</b> - Library <b>Worship</b> <b>CE practice in Sanctuary</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> – at Katie Bull's <b>Spirit of Life Catholic Service</b>
<b>Mon Jun 6</b>	2:30pm – 4:30pm	<b>WWS Learning Center</b>
<b>Tue Jun 7</b>	6:30pm – 7:30pm 7pm – 8pm	<b>Violin Lessons</b> <b>Council's Stewards</b>
<b>Wed Jun 8</b>	4pm – 8pm	<b>Violin Lessons</b>
<b>Thu Jun 9</b>	4pm – 7:30pm 7:30pm – 9:30pm	<b>WWS Learning Center</b> <b>WWIAG Annual Potluck</b>
<b>Sat Jun 11</b>	9am – 6pm 11am – 6pm 4pm – 7pm	<b>Violin Lessons</b> <b>Organ Practice</b> - Sanctuary <b>Violin Recital</b>
<b>Sun Jun 12</b>	10:30am – 11:30am 11:30am 5pm – 6pm	<b>EFA Collection</b> <b>Pentecost &amp; Children's Sunday</b> <b>All-Church Pentecost Picnic</b> <b>Spirit of Life Catholic Service</b>
<b>Mon Jun 13</b>	2:30pm – 4:30pm	<b>WWS Learning Center</b>

*Continued*

## JUNE 2011 (cont'd)

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<b>Tue Jun 14</b>	1pm – 4pm	<b>Spiritual Direction</b>
	6:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>Violin Lessons</b>
<b>Wed Jun 15</b>	8am – 12pm	<b>Spiritual Direction</b>
	4pm – 8pm	<b>Violin Lessons</b>
	7:30pm – 8:30pm	<b>Council Planning Night</b>
<b>Thu Jun 16</b>	4pm – 7:30pm	<b>WWS Learning Center</b>
<b>Fri Jun 17</b>	6pm – 9pm	<b>Violin Student Recital</b>
<b>Sun Jun 19</b>	10:30am – 11:30am	<b>Fathers' Day Worship</b>
	5pm – 6pm	<b>Spirit of Life Catholic Service</b>
<b>Mon Jun 20</b>	8am – 12pm	<b>Deadline for <i>Spirit &amp; Sparklers</i> Articles</b>
	2:30pm – 4:30pm	<b>WWS Learning Center</b>
<b>Tue Jun 21</b>	1pm – 4pm	<b>Spiritual Direction</b>
	6:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>Violin Lesson</b>
<b>Wed Jun 22</b>	8am – 12pm	<b>Spiritual Direction</b>
	4pm – 8pm	<b>Violin Lessons</b>
<b>Thu Jun 23</b>	4pm – 7:30pm	<b>WWS Learning Center</b>
<b>Sun Jun 26</b>	10am – 11am	<b>Summer Union Service – First Parish Church</b>
<b>Mon Jun 27</b>	2:30pm – 4:30pm	<b>WWS Learning Center</b>
<b>Tue Jun 28</b>	6:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>Private Violin Lessons</b>
<b>Wed Jun 29</b>	4pm – 8pm	<b>Violin Lessons</b>
<b>Thu Jun 30</b>	4pm – 7:30pm	<b>WWS Learning Center</b>

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## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – Cooper’s Kiss



Our Pastor and Teacher, Joe Mayher, receives a pre-emptive blessing from Cooper, the Reeder’s pooch, at the Blessing of the Animals on May 14. This canny canine obviously knew Romans 16: 16- “Greet each other with a holy kiss...”

## Weston-Wayland Interfaith Action Group

<http://www.wwiag.org>

### ANNUAL MEETING AND POT LUCK SUPPER

*Our esteemed speakers are:*

**Bharat Dave'**

**Dr. Bijoy Misra**

### **“Hinduism”**

Hinduism, generally regarded as the world's oldest organized religion, is currently ranked as the third largest religion after Christianity and Islam. Built on tolerance ... cosmic order, Hinduism's notable features are freedom of belief and personal choices.

**Bharat Dave'** is a resident of Wayland, MA and a practicing Hindu. Bharat had been a Trustee on the Board of Trustees of New England Hindu Temple, Ashland, MA. Trained as a material scientist Bharat worked in the industry for forty plus years in various technical and administrative positions.

**Dr. Bijoy Misra** Associate, in The Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies at Harvard University and hosts the monthly India lectures at the University. He represents the Indian American community in interfaith events and was instrumental in reinvigorating the India Association of Greater Boston. A physicist by training, Dr. Misra has held teaching positions at Harvard and MIT.

**On: Thursday June 9, 2011**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**At: The Congregational Church of Weston, UCC**

**Potluck: Bring your favorite specialty for 10!**

**According to the first letter of your last name:**

Courtesy Request: in respect of Jewish and Muslim practice, please avoid dishes with chicken, meat or shellfish

**A through K** Main Dish (casserole, vegetarian pasta, fish egg, or other)

**L through P** Dessert

**Q through Z** Salad or Vegetable

**RSVP by June 1st:** Tahera Razvi [syed\\_razvi@comcast.net](mailto:syed_razvi@comcast.net) 781-235-6427 or

Laura Friedman [lhfriedman@hotmail.com](mailto:lhfriedman@hotmail.com) 781-237-2315