

## KEEPING Current

#### With The Union Church in Waban

**MAY 2013** 

#### FROM THE PASTOR

It is going to be like one of those 9/11 conversations. "Where were you when you heard?" "What were you doing?" These questions are signposts of tragedy staked out in the passing of time.

We punctuate our lives by significant events. This is how we mark time and mostly we do so by joyful events. It was in the year xxxx when we rejoiced in that wedding. In the year xxxx that beautiful child was born. Wasn't it xxxx when she graduated from college? It was xxxx when you stepped into retirement; and the year xxxx when you finally took that trip for which you had long longed.

We map out our lives and celebrate the signposts of significant and most often joyful events.

But sometimes our lives are punctuated by events we wish never were. Sometimes the events we wish never were are personal, when only we wince at the loss, when cancer hits, when a job is lost, when a relationship fails.

But sometimes our lives are punctuated by corporate loss, when all of hu-

manity aches at what has been taken; beautiful bodies maimed, lives senselessly taken.

And then as James Carroll in his "Globe" column on Sunday the 21st said, the story of a particular loss and horror becomes personal, no longer their story but our story. It becomes ours when we are told to "shelter in place," when we become a part of what none of us wanted.

I felt it. Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> was the day I was told to "shelter in place." I was told to lock my doors and check my windows and not open the door to anyone who was not in a police or military uniform.

My dear daughter was upstairs and I was determined to keep her there. It was a beautiful day, but I was fearful to be out in it. And so instead, I baked bread. I tended the hearth by kneading loafs to rise. And after beautiful bread was cooling on my counter, I set out to make cookies, dozens of them to share with neighbors and friends. It seemed the only thing to do in the midst of a "lock down;" the only thing to do

when one was to "shelter in place."

And then Friday evening came. A news conference told us that the "shelter in place" command was lifted but that the suspect was not apprehended. "Go ahead and go out but it is not safe out there" was the mixed message. Terror compounded terror in the ambiguity of that admission. And then in a heartbeat it was over. A young man, a boy really, was discovered broken and bleeding in a boat. His picture that had had the caption "At large" now read "Captive." The city sighed with relief. It was over.

What just happened? What have we been through? A dear friend of mine wrote to me in the wake of the week, "How are we now to make sense of the senseless?" But I do not think that is the question we are to ask or the work we are to do, for there is no way to make sense of the senseless.

Instead, in wake of such senselessness, I believe we are to hold fast to what does make sense, what we

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## COMMUNICATING WITH THE UNION CHURCH

Keeping Current is the monthly newsletter covering the activities within and surrounding The Union Church in Waban. Submissions are due on the 20th of each month. The preferred method of submission is via email to the Church Office. All articles should include the author's name and phone number and should be submitted in their entirety.

Items for the church's Sunday Bulletin may also be submitted in the same fashion as *Keeping Current*. The deadline for the weekly bulletin is Wednesday morning at 10 am.

#### CONTACT

#### **INFORMATION**

Office Phone

617-527-6221

HOURS T-F, 8-2

#### Minister's Study

617-965-3893

Stacy's cell 617-759-9016

#### <u>Fax</u>

617-969-8717

#### Office Email

ucw@ucw.org

#### Minister's Email

Stacy@ucw.org

#### **Christian Education Email**

Kathy@ucw.org

#### **Website**

www.ucw.org

#### A Note From Your Moderators

How does one begin to process last month's egregious assault on the City of Boston and surrounding cities and towns? How do we move forward in a way that honors the memory of those who died and lifts up those injured and their extended family? The One Fund and Boston Strong movement is emblematic of the tactile quality of good intentions and deeds that is woven across the fabric of the broader Boston community. This rich well of good faith is deeply embedded in our sense of communal humanity. We knew how to respond not because we were told precisely what to do, but because our innate sense of good flourished in the moment. This good, this steely, moral and humane compass, developed over time by family, faith, and community will be the same tool that allows us to heal. Let us continue to pray for the families impacted by this tragic event and send a resounding message of peace over violence to our broader world.

Peace,

Kent Wittler

As many of you are aware, parking during peak drop off and pick up times for the Riverside Children's Center (RCC) can be challenging. We ask that you please not park in any of the church lots during the following time frames on weekdays: 8:00-8:30 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m. During these times we would appreciate folks parking on the street. Thanks so much for your cooperation in this matter, while we continue to work with RCC to resolve their parking issues.

Molly and Kent

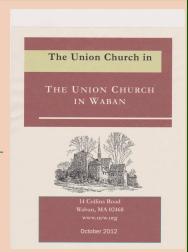
Co-Moderators

#### **Church Directory**

Was your photo part of our **photo directory** last fall? If not, here's your chance!

We will be updating the directory at the end of the summer, so start to think about gathering your pictures. The more photos we have, the better the directory will be!

Send to Luisa at the office (ucw@ucw.org).



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#### From the Pastor (continued from page 1)

know to be true and to let that truth draw us into meaning and purpose.

So what do we know to be true? That we are not to be a fear-driven but instead a love-led people. We are not to let horror shatter the ties that bind, but instead we are to hold on even more firmly and to fortify even more tenaciously our connections one to another, not relinquishing our grip in terror's concussive wake. We are to trust that in the compounding of even the smallest kindnesses, the most senseless horror will recede in the overwhelming surge of love that will not die.

So let us love more expansively than ever. Let love be our testimony. Let us hold tenaciously to our connections one to another. Let us live big and small kindnesses and let horror recede in the overwhelming surge of love.

May peace be - Stacy

#### Mark your calendars:

**Clean Up Day** is May 4th at the Union Church.

Please join us to work inside or outside together to beautify our building and grounds!

Arrive anytime after 8:00 a.m. and stay for an hour, or as long as you can.

LOTS TO DO for everyone of all ages.

#### All-Comers Dinner

#### Come join us at the All-Comers party on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>!

You may be thinking, "What a ridiculous name for a party! I wonder why they call it All-Comers." Well, we used to call it "New-Comers," and people wondered how new they had to be in order to attend. It was very confusing. But just like our church, this party is inclusive. Bring your kids, bring your spouse, bring yourself even if you haven't been to church in years. We'd love to see you. Here are the details:

Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-8:30ish, at Alicia Collins and Tony Abbiati's house, 128 Avalon Road in Waban. Please rsvp to Alicia at <u>aliciamaureencollins@gmail.com</u> or 617.965.1696, and let her know what you would like to contribute to the feast.

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#### **Christian Education and Formation for Adults**

#### "Conversations Along the Way"

Grab your coffee and curiosity and continue the conversation that was begun over two thousand years ago on that road to Emmaus (Luke 21:13). We will join those two disciples in frank and honest conversation as we engage our questions, our doubts and skepticism about what exactly this Christian faith is all about. We will talk candidly about how and if the ancient story of Scripture has relevance for our living today and how we are to understand what it means to "love kindness, do justice and walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8) in this time and place. The agenda for this time is not to try to get each other to believe in a certain way or to try to rid us of our questions. Quite the opposite is true! The agenda for this time, which is consistent with the spirit of the Union Church community, is to simply welcome all, wherever we may be on our spiritual journeys, and to engage our questions honestly and openly, without judgment and with love.

We meet once a month on Wednesday mornings, and this month we will meet on May 1st at 9:00 a.m. at the Waban Starbucks.



#### **Book Group**

The next meeting of the Book Group will be on Tuesday evening, May 28th at 7:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for the title of our next book.

#### **Living Waters Prayer Group**

Living Waters Prayer Group meets each Wednesday morning in the side chapel from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. You are invited to gather with others in the chapel off the sanctuary for a time of silent contemplation, meditation on scripture, and prayer. Steeping ourselves in the peace and presence of God in the quiet of prayer makes a qualitative difference in how we experience what the week brings. Again, if you are interested in this time of prayer, but mornings just are not convenient for your schedule, please see Stacy about exploring a weekday evening offering. Stacy@ucw.org. We will not be meeting on May 29th.

#### From the Lunch Bunch

May's meeting of Lunch Bunch will be on Tuesday, May 14th at noon. Please consider joining us for Lunch Bunch. Each month we catch up on the happenings in our lives, and then discuss a topic of interest. If you need a ride, please give Stacy a call at 617-965-3893.



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#### **Christian Education and Formation for Adults (continued)**

#### The Waban Health Nursing and Rehabilitation Center: Taking Worship Beyond Our Sanctuary's Walls

One Thursday morning per month at 10:30 a.m., Stacy is joined by others in the church to lead a monthly Protestant worship service for our neighbors, the residents of the Waban Health, the nursing and rehabilitation center located in Waban Square just behind the Waban Market. Waban Health provides short-term rehabilitation, long-term dementia, and respite care, to 90 residents. Hearing God's word and sharing communion with people who we may not have any other opportunity to know is tremendously enriching. If you are interested in sharing in this ministry, please let Stacy know by either emailing her at Stacy@ucw.org or by calling at 617-965-3893. This month's visit will be on May 9th.

#### **Java Gents**

Java Gents is an informal monthly breakfast hour for the men of the UCW congregation. It provides friendly fellowship and mutual support to the men. Java Gents meet the third Friday of each month in the church reception room at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast is provided. Jay O'Beirne usually hosts the lively discussion of timely topics, and personal goings on among the men. This month's meeting will be on May 17th.

#### The Meditation Group will be meeting again in May.

Join Kathryn Henderson for meditation workshops on Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. on May 4 and May 18.

#### Wellspring Women's Group

Wednesday, May 15th 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Women's Wellspring meets throughout the year, usually on the second or third Wednesday of the month. Mark your calendars for this month's meeting on May 15th at 6:30 p.m. when you are invited out of the demands of your days and into a place of peace. You are invited to set down that which burdens you and pick up laughter, love and learning. You are invited to fill places of hunger with good food and fellowship. Women of the church, you are invited.

Come every month or come when you can. It will be good to be together!

#### **Bible Study**

Bible Study continues this month with the study of the Gospel of Matthew. We meet on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. in Stacy's office.

Bible Study is a great way to not only help us grow in our own understanding of who God is for each of us personally, but it also enlivens our experience of worship and helps us to be more curious and engaged in our faith throughout the week.

Please join us; the study is open to everyone. Biblical literacy or previous study is not needed. Come when you can; there is no commitment to attend every Sunday.

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### Learn more about the life of the Union Church and find out what our hardworking committees do behind the scenes.

We will be hosting committee fairs during reception on May  $5^{th}$  on the stage. Check out what each committee does, and see if there might be a place for you.

As we plan for our life together next year, please take a moment to ask yourself...

"How are my interests and passions intersecting with the life of the church?"

"Where in our life together may I be feeling a call to engage more deeply?"

"How will engaging more deeply help me (and my family) to grow as person(s) of faith?"

Yes, there is work to be done in order to maintain, nourish and grow the vitality of our church. But the starting place of all we will do together is opportunity, not obligation. If the purpose of our life together is to grow in love of God and of neighbor so that we may more fully know the peace of God and be instruments of God's peace in the world, then our church life really is about an invitation to step into the wide range of opportunities (listed below) to help us grow in love and be more fully instruments of God's peace. If you do not see in the opportunities below how this could be made real for you and/or if you have other ideas, please let Stacy know (Pastor, stacy@ucw.org). You very well may be about to open a new opportunity for us all!

Please check the ministry opportunities below that especially interest you and /or about which, you would like more information. Please put this in the offering plate; give it to Moderators Molly Owen-Kiritsy and/or Kent Wittler or Pastor Stacy Swain (<a href="mailtostacy">stacy@ucw.org</a>) or leave it in the mailbox on the door to the church office.

Email or phone:				
Opportunities with education and spiritual formation  Teach or assist in Sunday School Assist with a Youth Group Meeting Participate in Bible Study Participate (or perhaps lead) Meditation Group Participate in Prayer Group Help plan an All Church Retreat Help plan (or perhaps lead) a Topical Retreat Participate in (or perhaps lead) Book Group Participate in Spiritual Autobiography class Help plan (or lead) an adult education discussion/lecture series Write a piece for the Advent and/or Lenten devotional booklet Attend and or participate in our Church Summer Camp in June Help with fellowship opportunities for our youth Participate in Lunch Bunch or attend/lead an outing for our elders Participate in or lead Well Spring or Java Gents (monthly				

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Worship Opportunities	Committee Profiles:
<ul> <li>Help lead and participate in monthly worship at Waban Health Center</li> <li>Worship together with the ministry to un-housed persons at Common Cathedral on Boston Common.</li> </ul>	<b>Christian Education:</b> Develops and nurtures children's and youths' education and programming with the Director of Youth and Children's ministries.
<ul> <li>Help lead worship (preach, children's time, offer prayers)</li> <li>Read Scripture</li> <li>Sing in the choir</li> <li>Help plan special worship services</li> </ul>	<b>Deacons:</b> Support the spiritual work of the church; assist the Pastor; prepare the sanctuary for all services including communion and special services; and are aware of and lead member outreach including all issues of Care and Concern;
Service and Fellowship Opportunities	Human Pasaurass. Support issues relating to staff
<ul> <li>Help with our community Thanksgiving Dinner</li> <li>Host a small group dinner or an All Comers church wide gathering in your home</li> <li>Coordinate our Christmas mitten tree</li> <li>Help with our pumpkin sale</li> <li>Help with our greens/Christmas tree sale</li> </ul>	Human Resources: Support issues relating to staff.  Internet Communications: Assesses, refines and manages the church web site in order to attract new members to the congregation. Helps create useful online services for our community such as a member directory and recorded sermons.
<ul> <li>Go apple picking for the Newton food pantry</li> <li>Help with the Church Picnic</li> <li>Participate in our Anciano's spring event</li> <li>Participate in and/or help with Game Nights</li> <li>Provide reception one (or more) Sunday(s)</li> <li>Spend time with residents of Waban Health on a Sunday afternoon playing games or engaged in conversation</li> <li>Other:</li> <li>Opportunities to care for our building and grounds</li> <li>"Adopt" a part of the church and tend to it regularly</li> <li>Help mow the lawn in the summer</li> <li>Help weed the gardens</li> </ul>	Mission / Outreach: Responsible for the promotion of a general interest in the mission and benevolence programs of the church. Seek out ways in which our Christian faith and Biblical heritage apply to concerns of our society locally, nationally, and intergenerationally, and develops programs for education, discussion and action for church participation.
	<b>Music:</b> Works with the Music Director to develop and nurture the music program of the church.
	<b>NICA Task Force:</b> Shares in the experience of our past trips as well as nurtures our on-going relationship and mission work in Nicaragua.
Participate in seasonal clean up days Other?  Community Outreach and Communication Opportuni-	<b>Pastoral Relations Committee:</b> Enhances the effectiveness of the church's mission through the fostering of a healthy relationship between the Pastor and the congregation.
<ul> <li><u>ties</u></li> <li>Help proof read content for published and online communication.</li> <li>Be our in house reporter and write regularly for print</li> </ul>	<b>Prudential Committee:</b> Helps preserve and protect our beautiful sanctuary, buildings, and grounds; prioritizes repairs; promotes "green" conservation decisions; and determines priorities for our outside areas.
media (TAB, Globe) as well as online sites (website, Facebook etc.)  Participate in Newton Congregations (city wide, interfaith, organizing effort through houses of worship)  Serve as a delegate for UCC Ecclesiastical Councils	<b>Stewardship:</b> Manages and invests the funds of the church; leads the solicitation of funds for the support of the church; and with the Treasurer prepares budget for submission to the annual meeting of the church.
Other Opportunities/Inspirations	Strategic Planning: In conjunction with the Minister, Church Council, and staff, helps with annual and long-term goal setting and program planning. Sets strategic directions; oversees marketing, promotions, communications and mem- bership development; addresses organizational improvements and the ongoing interests of a welcoming church community.
	<b>Teaching Parish</b> : Meets monthly with student intern to support and enhance his/her ministerial learning.

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#### Christian Education News for Children and Youth

by Kathy Malone

One Room Church School	May 5	Communion Sunday
Classes	May 12	The Ascension of Jesus
Classes	May 19	Pentecost
One Room Church School	May 26	TBD
One Room Church School	June 2	Prepare for Children's Sunday
Children's Sunday	June 9	A worship service led by the Sunday School
One Room Church School	June 16	Last day of Sunday School for the year.

#### Fall Retreat for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and Up!

September 7 - 8, 2013

Saturday morning through Sunday afternoon

#### Global Gateway program at Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA

"Global Gateway creates an existence in which nothing — shelter, food, water, or cooking fuel— can be taken for granted. Participants prepare a meal with limited resources, and sleep in representative housing such as a Tibetan yurt made from yak hair. By living the lessons of poverty first-hand, participants come to understand the complications surrounding hunger and poverty and see their connection in creating change that brings possibility and hope to millions around the world."

I know that this is planning far in advance, but we need to ensure enough folks can go to reserve our space now.

Friends are welcome. Cost is \$50 plus a transportation fee TBD.

If you think your child is interested and available, please let Kathy know.

Feel free to forward this information to friends. Thanks!

#### Appreciation for our Sunday School Teachers

Thanks to everyone who helped out with Sunday School in April: Cindy Spertner, Dan Drummond, KatherynDeRogatis, Soo Laski, Nancy Zollers, Jaap van Reijendam, Lara Gund, Grant Gund.



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#### Christian Education News for Children and Youth (continued)

#### **Recent Scenes from Sunday School**



Easter Egg Hunt









Theo, Luke and Masie with verse 5, "You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; you welcome me as an honored guest."



Isabel, Elisabeth and Callie with verses 1 -2, "The Lord is my shepherd..."



Quin and Mario with "I know that your goodness and love will be with me all the days of my life."

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# SING, SERVE AND SOAR! A 2 1/2 DAY SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS IN GRADES K-12 (AND ADULTS TOO) AT THE UNION CHURCH IN WABAN

Only a few spaces remain in our special summer camp. If you are interested, please let Kathy know. Come for part or all of the camp.

This year's summer camp is in 3 parts. Campers may sign up for any combination of parts.

#### SING!

WEDNESDAY EVENING JUNE 26, 7:00 P.M.

End the school year and kick off the summer with Vespers around the fire pit. We'll sing songs accompanied by guitar and roast s'mores to celebrate.

#### **SERVE!**

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, ALL DAY FIELD TRIP TO OVERLOOK FARM, RUTLAND, MA. 9:00A.M. – 5:30P.M.

We'll explore this education center for Heifer International, have a picnic and then be part of a program called 'Heifer Discovery.' The program takes place in the farm's global village. It will be experiential, interactive and fun, and will focus on sustainable solutions to global hunger and poverty.





FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 9AM – 12:30PM. CRADLES TO CRAYONS WORK DAY.

We'll meet at church at 9:00 a.m., then head over to C2C in Brighton to volunteer from 10:00 – noon. We'll eat pizza there when we're done volunteering.

#### SOAR!

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1:30-2:30PM. SKYZONE HYDE PARK.

We'll jump for an hour then return to UCW in time for ice cream treats before parent pick up between 3:00 and 4:00 pm.



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#### Open Gym Fundraiser! Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 p.m. 1 HF Brown Way, Natick, MA 01760 (former Gold's Gym building)



Hey Parents, We know you all multi-task, so how about this? Your kids have a blast while you get a break and at the same time help our friends in Zambia! Energy Fitness and Gymnastics in Natick (<a href="http://www.energyfitnessgym.com/">http://www.energyfitnessgym.com/</a>) is graciously opening their beautiful new gym to us free of charge to help us raise money for *Communities Without Borders*, our partners who organize the program in M'tendere. You can drop your kids off and go grab a quick bite to eat or you could work out on their cardio equipment. (Children under five must be accompanied by an adult.) The gym can accommodate up to 100 kids, so encourage your children to invite their friends. \$10 per child, with a maximum of \$25 per family. Please rsvp to Alicia Collins at <a href="mailto:aliciamaureencollins@gmail.com">aliciamaureencollins@gmail.com</a>.

#### **Russell School Local Initiative News**

You may have noticed the TEAM RUSSELL bulletin board in the side chapel. Please check it out, join us, or simply ask us about our connections there — and what we hope to do.

Our partnership with the Russell School in Dorchester continued on April 4th at Literacy Night.

Sixteen (!) of us traveled to the school to participate with families and teachers in a night of reading, wondering, and eating together. We were 172 in all.

After learning together in the classrooms, side by side with teachers and families, each child received two books to take home with a folder of terrific ideas for reading as a family.



Stay tuned. Team Russell has only just begun.

In this season of recruiting for church committee work please feel free to talk to any of us listed below about the ongoing Russell Local Initiative; funded by the Capital Campaign. We would love to see how you might be called to this work.

Liz Caronna, Tony DaDalt, Katheryn DeRogatis, Brita Gill-Austern, Wanda Getchell, Sue Hadley, Kevin Johnson, Frank Laski, Judy MacDonald, Rob Purser, Mark Smith, Stacy Swain, Jaap van Reijendam, Tom Vawter, Kent Wittler, and Nancy Zollers

## MAY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 a.m. Prayer Group 9:00 a.m. Conversations Along the Way (Waban Starbucks) 6:30 p.m. Council mtg	2	All-Comers dinner at Abbiati/Collins home 6:30 p.m.	Clean up day 8:00 a.m. to noon
<b>5</b> 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. worship, com- munion and Sunday School	6	7 6:00 p.m. Deacons' mtg.	8 7:30 a.m. Prayer Group	9 10:30 a.m. Wa- ban Health 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	10	Council Retreat 8:30 to noon
12 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. worship and Sun- day School	13	14 12 noon Lunch Bunch 7:00 p.m. Mission mtg.	7:30 a.m. Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Well- spring	16 6:30 p.m. Teaching Parish Committee	17 7:00 a.m. Java Gents Friday Fun Night 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	18
19 8:00 a.m. Bible Study Care and Creation Sunday 10:00 a.m. worship and Sunday School	20	21 7:00 p.m. Pastoral Relations Committee mtg.	7:30 a.m. Prayer Group	7:30 Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. worship and Sun- day School	27	28 7:30 p.m. Book Group	29	30	31	

## JUNE 2013

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:00 a.m. Bible Study Zambia commissioning 10:00 a.m. worship, communion and Sunday School Annual Meeting	3	4 6:00 p.m. Deacons' mtg.	<b>5</b> 7:30 a.m. Prayer Group 9:00 a.m. Conversations Along the Way (Waban Starbucks)	6	7	8
9 8:00 a.m. Bible Study Children's Sunday 10:00 a.m. worship and Sunday School Last service of church year Church picnic	10	11 7:00 p.m. Mission mtg	7:30 a.m. Prayer Group	13 10:30 a.m. Wa- ban Health	14	15
16	17	18 12 noon Lunch Bunch	19 6:30 Wellspring	20	21 7:00 a.m. Java Gents	22
23	24	25	26 VBS	27 VBS	28 VBS	29
30						

# Clean up day May 4th 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Please help!