



The Pulpit Rock

The Nahant Village Church, 27 Cliff Street, Nahant, MA 01908

March 2010

March Calendar

- 2nd 9-10 am Bell Choir Practice
- 4th 7 pm Bible Study
- 5th 8 am Breakfast
- 7th 3rd Sunday in Lent
 - 9:00 am Choir Practice
 - 10:30 am Worship & Sunday School
 - 11:30 am Fellowship, Soup Sunday, New Members Meeting
 - 11:45 am Easter Choir Rehearsal
- 3 pm Movie Sunday
- 9th 9-10 am Bell Choir Practice
 - 7 pm Trustees
- 10th 7 pm Diaconate
- 11th 7 pm Bible Study
- 14th 4th Sunday in Lent
 - 9:00 am Choir Practice
 - 10:30 am Worship & Sunday School
 - 11:30 am Fellowship
 - 11:45 am Easter Choir
 - 1:30 pm My Brother's Table
- 16th 9-10 am Bell Choir Practice
- 17th 7 pm Council
- 18th 7 pm Bible Study
- 20th 9 am Flea Market/Bake Sale
- 21st 5th Sunday in Lent
 - 9:00 am Choir Practice
 - 10:30 am Worship & Sunday School
 - 11:30 am Fellowship
 - 11:45 am Easter Choir
- 23rd 9-10 am Bell Choir Practice
- 27th 10 am Clean-up Day
- 28th Palm Sunday
 - 9:00 am Choir Practice
 - 10:30 am Worship & Sunday School
 - 11:30 am Fellowship
 - 11:45 am Easter Choir
- 30th 9-10 am Bell Choir Practice

“Questions of Faith”

My grandchildren are at a stage of their young lives (13-1/2 years old), where they are wondering about God. It is heartening to hear from their mother, who also wondered about God when she was their age, that she is trying to answer their questions to the best of her understanding, and in ways that she hopes will be helpful.

The difficulty, my daughter says, is she still has her own questions and doesn't know how to answer some of the twins' questions.

The truth is, I suspect, that we all have questions about God we aren't able to answer to our satisfaction. We may be like the person in Mark's gospel who said, "I believe, help my unbelief."

Yet, our questions are the basis for our continued growth in faith. One way to say it might be, *we never outgrow our need for God*. We never outgrow our need to discover more of who God is for us and how to respond faithfully to God.

Our faith is grounded on God's love for us and for all creation. Our continued growth in faith involves finding a way to first know and feel God's love for us, and then to find ways to respond to those around us

in love through our thoughts, words, and deeds.

The questions which may be the most difficult to answer may be those which point to the gap between our call to love, and all the hatred and violence we know exists around us. How do we respond to questions about God in the light of such great discrepancies?

Or the questions may be related to why bad things happen to good people. (Rabbi Kushner reminds us to rephrase the question to "When Bad Things Happen to Good People." The "when" is where the strength of God meets overwhelming loss, hurt and need.)

As we seek answers to difficult questions we may be called to examine our own lives in the light of God's healing, hopeful love.

One of the best insights we can have is to realize we may never have all the answers, but through our continual growth in faith and love, we can be a faithful answer for others. Our actions do speak louder than our words, and if they are founded on love and working for the best for all, then we become part of the answer. May our questions lead us to greater faith and faithful actions.

The Rev. Dr. Larry Titus

Worship: Scriptures & Themes for March

Mar. 7: 3rd Sunday In Lent – Isaiah 55:1-9; Ps 63:1-8; 1 Cor 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9 – *Open Invitation*

Mar. 14: 4th Sunday In Lent – Joshua 5:9-12; Ps 32; II Cor 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 – *Embracing Love*

Mar. 21: 5th Sunday in Lent – Isaiah 43:16-21; Ps 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8 – *Something New*

Mar. 28: Palm Sunday – Isaiah 50:4-9a; Ps 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40 – *Into Jerusalem*

Apr. 1: Maundy Thursday – Ex.12:1-4; Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19; I Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35 – *Love One Another*

Apr. 4: Easter Sunday – Isaiah 65:17:17-25; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 – *Easter: The Ongoing Miracle!*



COME SING IN THE EASTER CHOIR!

Ever wanted to sing in a choir? Here's your chance to be involved just for Easter. All levels of experience are welcome – including no experience!

Join the Church Choir for rehearsals on the Sundays of Lent, and sing with us at our 10:30 am Easter Sunday worship service on Sunday, April 4, 2010. The rehearsal schedule is:

In the Chapel:

Sunday, February 28, 11:45 am to 12:30 pm
Sunday, March 7, 11:45 am to 12:30 pm
Sunday, March 14, 11:45 am to 12:30 pm
Sunday, March 21, 11:45 am to 12:30 pm

In the Choir Loft in the Sanctuary:

Sunday, March 28, 11:45 am to 12:30 pm
Sunday, April 4, 9:00 am to 10:00 am

For more information, contact choir director Joe Stoddard at jstoddardjr@hotmail.com (please write NVC in the subject line) or (781) 599-6932. You can also visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nahantchoir.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE – GIVE RATHER THAN GIVE UP

Instead of giving up something during Lent, consider GIVING one food item each day of Lent to benefit a local food pantry. By joining together in this food drive, we can make a difference. The needs are greater than ever. Food items must be non-perishable and not expired. Items can be placed on the specially marked table in the Companionway.

HELP WITH THE EASTER BREAKFAST

The Breakfast Group would welcome help with the Easter breakfast to be served immediately following the sunrise service at 6:15 a.m. Suggested items include: sweet rolls or coffee breads, muffins, bagels and cream cheese, and fresh fruit. Food items need to be at the church by Saturday, April 3rd. Decorations for the tables in Swansburg Hall also would be appreciated. We typically have ten small arrangements plus flowers for the main table. You can expand the number of small arrangements and place some in the windows of the Companionway or hallway leading to Swansburg Hall. There are plenty of vases at the church. Help also would be appreciated with the cleanup after the breakfast. Please sign up to let us know what you will bring. Many thanks!

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Remembering:

Bob McCoy, at the death of his wife, Gina
Lucy Doane, at Jesmond Nursing Home
Agnes Manson, at Grosvenor Park in Swampscott
Paulette Vartabedian, grieving the death of her mother
Rene Bourgeois, Richard Tidd, friends of the Grays
Marraine Kettell, Schuermie's granddaughter, as she begins as Settled Minister at 1st Congregational, Corning, NY

SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

The Hospitality Group will be showing the movie "Young @ Heart" on Sunday, March 7 at 3 p.m. Prepare to be entertained by the inspiring individuals of Young @ Heart, a New England senior citizen chorus that has delighted audiences worldwide. This is a wonderful, touching and must-see movie, so plan to come. There is no charge, and popcorn and refreshments will be served.

FLEA MARKET/BAKE SALE – MARCH 20

The Spring Flea Market and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, March 20 from 9-2. It is a fun event and an important fundraiser for the church, so plan to get involved. To help:

- Spread the word to friends and family;
 - Donate items to sell: spring/summer clothes, housewares, small furniture items, etc. (No TVs or computer screens, please. Recycle these items at the DPW);
 - Drop off items in Swansburg Hall on Thursday (3/18) from 9-3 & 6-8, and on Friday (3/19) from 9-3. If these hours are not convenient, please contact Marrit (781-581-5691) to arrange for another time.
 - Volunteer to: (1) organize and price items (Friday); and/or (2) sell (Saturday). There are sign-up sheets in the Companionway.
- Direct questions to Maureen Edison or Marrit Hastings. We need everyone's support and help, as we look forward to a very successful flea market!
- Also, please help out with the Bake Sale on that day, March 20th. Talk to Maureen Locke for specifics (781-599-1239).

There is a sign up sheet in the Companionway. Donations of baked goods can be delivered to the church on Friday or Saturday morning.

The Hospitality/Fundraising Group

EASTER WORK PARTY

Join our work party to clean the Sanctuary on Saturday, March 27 from 10 to noon. Bring rags, wood and brass polish, dust cloths, etc. And a small vacuum would be helpful. Also, volunteers are needed to help organize the Music Library. There will be coffee and goodies for the workers. See Lissa (339-440-4067) for more information.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

We'll be welcoming new members into the life of NVC before Easter Sunday. If you're interested in exploring what it means to be a member, please contact Rev. Larry at pastor@nahantvillagechurch.org or by phone, 781-581-1202. There will be a light lunch after worship on March 7th with a chance to talk to other members, and learn more about NVC.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2010 Altar Flower Chart is posted in Swansburg Hall, with openings throughout the year. To reserve a specific date, please complete the nearby order form and return it to the church (or put it in the offering plate) with a check for \$35. We'll let you know if a date has already been reserved – and let us know where you'd like the flowers to go if you can't be in church that day.

MISSION NEWS CHANGING LIVES

We received a heartfelt Thank You from the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC for our generous gifts in 2009 to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" and "Neighbors in Need" campaigns, as well as contributions to "Our Church's Wider Mission." Here are some of the ways our gifts are helping to change lives:

- Relief for the earthquake victims in Haiti today and help for tomorrow
 - Children learning of God's love for them in safe churches
 - An inclusive welcome to those who have felt excluded and rejected from past churches, by UCC congregations that affirm their value as beloved children of God and full members of the community of faith
 - A more just world: advocacy on behalf of the poor; homelessness awareness events in Boston; church bells pealing to warn of global warming; fair trade coffee; & social networking for justice and peace.
- Please support the upcoming "One Great Hour of Sharing" campaign with donations that will be earmarked for Haiti.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Please give generously to support ongoing relief efforts, especially in Haiti. Our offering will be received the last two Sundays of March.

HYGIENE KITS FOR HAITI

Instructions from the CWS web site:

In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

Each Hygiene Kit needs: a hand towel approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels) washcloth, wide-tooth comb, nail clipper, bar of soap (bath size in wrapper), toothbrush (in original packaging) & six standard size Band-Aids®.

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. *(Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste will be added to Hygiene Kits by Church World Service.)*

Please bring your items by Palm Sunday, March 28. Cash donations are welcome as we need to send \$2 per kit for processing and mailing.

See the UCC web site ~ www.ucc.org ~ for current information on relief efforts. And also see the Church World Service web site ~ www.churchworldservice.org.

OTHER MISSION NEWS

Soup Sunday on March 7. Please consider making your favorite soup and sharing it with us. Sign up in the Companionway, or see Nancy Cantelmo for more information.

My Brother's Table: Sign up sheets for volunteers at My Brothers Table are in the Companionway. NVC serves again on March 14. This as a great opportunity to share our time and gifts with those in need.

BETSY EGGERT TAKEN "IN CARE"

Betsy Eggert, a member of the Deacons, has requested to be taken "In Care" of NVC as she continues her studies at Andover Newton Theological School. Betsy attends classes part time as she works full-time as a lawyer. The Deacons enthusiastically agreed to take her "In Care," and will serve as her "In Care" committee, supporting her as she meets various requirements and challenges on her journey toward ordination. Betsy feels her call is to ordained ministry as a Hospice chaplain.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST. NEEDED

Rev. Larry and the Trustees are searching for an Administrative Assistant. This is a part time, daytime, onsite position for 10-14 hours per week to help with general secretarial tasks (filing, copying, answering phone calls, etc.), gathering articles for the Pulpit Rock, with copying, uploading to the website, and mail distribution. Knowledge of computer word processing, graphics, and email programs required. See Rev. Larry for more information.

CENSUS TAKERS NEEDED IN NAHANT

Residents of Nahant are given first preference for Temporary, part-time work from April until completion of project (\$19.75/hour plus mileage allowance and 4 days paid training). Take the Census Test at the Nahant Village Church on Tuesday, March 2nd at 10:30 am, or on Monday, March 8th at 6 pm. Please call the Census Recruiting Jobs Line at 1-978-993-4720 to reserve your exam time. A practice test is available in the Companionway or on-line at www.2010census.gov.

**THE BREAKFAST GROUP, FRIDAY,
March 5th**

“All About Bagpipes”

This month’s presentation is by Nahanter Chris Whitlock who will share a history and demonstration of bagpipes. Our free breakfast is served at 8 am, followed by his presentation at 8:30. Please come and bring friends for a hearty breakfast, wonderful camaraderie, and an interesting presentation.

Also mark your calendar for the *April 9th* breakfast with Outgoing Police Chief Waters and Incoming Chief Dwyer. This is an opportunity for us to say thanks to Chief Waters for his many years of service and to welcome Chief Dwyer.



NEED HELP?

The Missions Committee has funds available from our Communion Offering for those in need of help, for example, with heating bills. Please speak with Rev. Titus or Nancy Cantelmo if we may be of assistance.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday: March 28 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. We will wave our Palms as the children process and we sing a favorite Palm Sunday hymn. The choir will add their voices in a special anthem.

Maundy Thursday, April 1: At 6:00 pm we will gather in Swansburg Hall for a potluck which will feature food with a Mediterranean theme, foods that Jesus and his disciples may have had. At 7:30 pm there will be a Maundy Thursday worship with Communion and a Tenebrae Service.

Easter Sunday, April 4: Easter Sunrise Service at 6:15 am overlooking Castle Rock (across from 405 Nahant Road) followed by Easter Breakfast at 6:45 in Swansburg Hall. Easter Worship is at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary, with the theme of *Resurrection: The Ongoing Miracle..*

From the Altar Committee:

Once again the altar and sanctuary will be decorated with lilies for Easter. The cost per lily is \$10.00, and the deadline for our Committee to order them is **March 21st**. If you’d like to have one or more lilies, please write a check for them payable to the church, and complete the form to include with the check. The check and form can be placed in the offering plate Sunday mornings, or sent by mail to:

Nahant Village Church, PO Box 77, Nahant, MA 01908
Lilies, Attn Treasurer Marrit Hastings

Extra copies of this form will be in the Narthex at church, and the form will also be on our web site at www.nahantvillagechurch.org. After the Easter Service, lilies may be taken home, and any that remain will be taken to those who are ill or homebound, or be given to someone you may wish to designate, or left in the sanctuary for Sunday services. If you’ll be out-of-town on Easter and would like us to hold the lilies until you return, please let us know! Thank you for helping us make the sanctuary beautiful for Easter Sunday. *The Altar Committee*



I/we wish to purchase _____ lily (s) for Easter (April 4th):

Given by: _____

In Memory (or In Celebration) of:

Special instructions: