

NEWSLETTER
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN SANDWICH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 44 Number 4

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**Holy Week
 Schedule
 of Services**



- April 17: Palm Sunday
 9:00 and 11:00
 Intergenerational
- April 21: Maundy Thursday
 6:30 pm
 A Service of Tenebrae, to be held in the Vestry. Includes communion and an Agape meal. Please sign up in the lobby.
- April 22: Good Friday
 6:30 pm,
 Dramatic presentation ,
 "Voices from Around the Cross," with music
- Sunrise Easter Service: 6:00
 At the Hemisphere beach at Town Neck ; participants are welcome to quietly gather at 5:45 to observe the sunrise prior to the service.
- Easter Service 9:00
 Easter Service 11:00

Lenten Bible Study Continues

Rev. Baldwin's Book study, *Saving Jesus from the Church* will hold its last sessions on **April 4th** and **April 11th** at 7:00. Chapter 8 through the epilogue will be discussed.

**Celebration For
 Pastor Dan Spacek on April 10th
 One Service Only, 9:30**

Please join us for a celebration of service in honor of Dan on **April 10th**. It will be a lay-led service involving a sermon, music from the Choir, Spirit Singers, Rejoice Ringers, Praise Band, and the Junior Choir.

There will be only one worship service at 9:30, followed by a celebration in the Gates Room.



Reverend Dan assured our congregation that he will miss us, but that we will be okay.

Thanks to Ed Borecki for these photos from Dan's last sermon; pages 1,2 & 5

Greeters Needed

The Deacons would like to update their Greeters list. Please call or e-mail Pam Ritch if you would like to update information (new telephone number or e-mail address), add your name to the list or specify a particular service, date or time when you would like to greet our church family. For your convenience, a sign-up sheet will also be posted outside the church office.

Pam Ritch

E-mail: PamelaRitch@aol.com



Reverend Dan and Shelley Abreu
sing with the Praise Band

Church Circle Distributes Easter Baskets to Shut-ins

The Church Circle is once again filling Easter baskets for our shut-ins. Any donations of candy would be appreciated. Please leave your contribution in the box provided on the shelf over the coat rack by **April 15**. Any questions please contact Hetty Hayes. Thank you for caring.

Yard Sale Needs Books and CD's

We are collecting books, CDs and DVDs, videos, and books on tape and CD for the church yard sale. They can be left in the book box at the entrance to the Gates Room. Thanks!

Singers Welcome to Troubadours

In order to avoid a conflict with the Lenten book study group, the Troubadours cancelled its outing for the month of March. However, the group is looking forward to visiting friends and members of First Church in April (which we hope will also bring better weather!) and the date will be announced in the church bulletin.

It is so gratifying to sing favorite and familiar hymns and songs of praise for out shut-in audiences. Some of them enjoy singing along, while others just sit and listen with wonderful, big smiles on their faces.

Their gratitude for our visit which brings a Spirit-driven fellowship to them, either in their homes or other facilities, is more than adequate "payment" for our efforts.

Such gratitude was recently expressed in a note from one of our parishioners following a Troubadours home visit, and we would like to share these words with everyone at First Church:

"Dear Troubadours, Thank you so much for the lovely visit and singing! We really enjoyed the company and the music. What a wonderful thing it is for you to take time to travel to homes and bring those beautiful songs into our living room.

It was the highlight of the week and we so appreciated your time and voices!"

Troubadours welcome new members who love to sing and enjoy meeting special people to bring them the gift of music. We not only visit in private homes, but also in nursing and assisted-living facilities. Generally, our visits occur once a month, and there are no rehearsals; we also have our own music folders that facilitate our singing. We meet in the church parking lot and carpool to our destination. The satisfaction we receive from this mission is immeasurable. Consider joining us as your schedule allows; we do not take attendance! We are just as anxious to share the rewards of this ministry with other volunteers as we are to share our talents with our recipients.

Please email Carolyn Meigs-Turkstra with any questions, at matriarcht@hotmail.com.



Senior Pastor Search Committee Goes Hi-Tech

Profiles from Senior Pastor candidates have arrived from every state in New England— not unexpected. In addition, we’ve heard from candidates in the Midwest, the far west, and even from the international community. Obviously, in-person interviews aren’t practical in all cases. Committees previously relied on huddling around a telephone in hopes of being heard in a phone interview. *Enter Skype!* After a successful practice session, we’ve utilized this method as a means of meeting candidates “face to face”. Thanks to Art Lusty for setting us up, and to Kim and the boys for being our practice “Skypees.”

Are we making progress? Yes. Are we there yet? No. We are aware that to some the question is “*What’s taking so long?*” This is a delib-

erative process involving busy people - both candidates and your Search Committee members. Meeting weekly, reading and processing an average of five profiles a week, preparing for interviews, checking references – it takes time. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Remember that if you’d like to read our church profile, contact Mary Alice (csmabs@comcast.net) or any member of the committee. There are also printed copies in the church office.

As always, we hope you will speak with any one of us with your questions or concerns.

*Libby Fox, Judy Froman, Bill Hanson,
Lisa Hassler, Clint Jones, Walley King,
Art Lusty, Diane Ranney, Janis Wheeler,
John Williams, and Mary Alice Stahleker,
Chair*

Welcoming Statement Approved

First Church has proudly become an Open and Affirming congregation, as of March 6th. The following is our new welcome statement, which will appear in our public literature:

“We are a warm and welcoming faith community open to all who wish to join with us in our faith journey. In the spirit of Christian love we affirm the dignity and worth of every person.

We offer each individual the opportunity to participate in every aspect of our church life and to share together the costs and joys of Christian fellowship regardless of their social or economic condition, race, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, age, gender, marital status or family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, theological or political ideology.

As a Christian congregation we affirm that all people are created equal before God, that each individual is a child of God, and that we love one another as Christ has loved us.”

Thank God for His love of all creation.

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Matthew 28: 5-10

Christian Education News

Summer Camp @ Horton Center

Ed & Stephanie Nadolny will be leading a group participating in the Mid-High Week #2; July 24 - July 30.

Steve Ross will be leading a group participating in the High School Week #2; July 31 – August 6

Lois Fluegel Cosgrove & her daughter **Angelina** will be attending Mid-High Wet & Wild; July 3 - 9

Please speak to Steve Ross, the Nadolny's, Lois Cosgrove or Nancy Lawrence if your student is interested in attending a Horton camp this summer.

Link for other dates / information
<http://www.hortoncenter.org/summer-camp.php?ID=10>

VBS

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 8 – 12. Our theme:

Journey to India



Church School Schedule:

- April 10: **No Church School**, Dan's Celebratory Service
- April 17 Palm Sunday Intergenerational Service (There will be Godly Play)
- April 24 Easter Sunday
- May 1st Regular Church School resumes – our last rotation is *Joseph in Egypt*

Earl Marryat and Reverend Dan provide music for the nursing home service.



Photos above and left from the March 17th service at Cape Heritage Nursing Home.

Thanks to Heidi Hardaker for these photos.

Church Circle Seeks New Ideas

The Church Circle of First Church of Christ in Sandwich began in the 1940's with a group of ladies committed to the promotion of fellowship and individual growth, to work for the spiritual and material welfare of First Church and to encourage Christian service in the community and the world.

To that end the Circle has invited all ladies of the church to be participants; and has had a long history of supporting charities both within our church and the greater community.

The future of the Circle is now at risk as it is unable to undertake some of the major fund raising it has sponsored in the past. Many hands make light work, but those hands are disappearing!

In the future the Circle may be unable to undertake these responsibilities. We need to look toward change as our members age. All ladies of the church interested in the future of this organization are invited to attend a working meeting on **Tuesday, April 12** at 10:00 a.m. in the Gates Room. We are looking for your constructive input and ideas as to the continuation, restructuring or repurposing of the Church Circle.

We hope to see you there!

Your Circle Board



★ Small Group Ministries ★

Jubilee meets April 5th

Jubilee will meet on Tuesday, **April 5th**, 7:00 pm to discuss *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake. On May 3rd we will discuss *Left Neglected* by Lisa Genova. We meet in the Godly Play Room @ 7:00 pm - all women are invited. If interested & desire more information contact: Nancy Lawrence nancjl@comcast.net

Church Circle Meets April 28th

Please note the correct date for our April Circle meeting at Greenbriar Nature Center. It is **April 28** at noon. You can bring your sandwich and drink to eat at Greenbriar. Our own **Gene Schott** will be our guide and speaker. This should be a fun and interesting time. Cross your fingers for good weather.

Ladies Evening Group Meets April 28th

The ladies' Evening Circle will hold a "mock baby shower" to benefit *A Baby Center*, at 7:00 on **April 28th**. There will be games, fellowship and refreshments and participants should bring a donation for *A Baby Center*. It will be held at Betsy Pottey's house. For more details please email Betsy at bpottey@msn.com.

Two First Church Members to Run in the Boston Marathon

Best wishes to Mary Farnham and Andrea Spacek in the Boston marathon on April 18th.

If you would like to support them, their charity websites are below:

Mary: www.DreamDayonCapeCod.org, or you may contact Mary at mothership4u@yahoo.com.

Andrea:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/drespacek/boston-marathon-2011>



Your Outreach Corner

Guatemala Mission Presented

A mission presentation was held March 20th, presented by Jackie Durette and the Outreach committee. She gave an informative talk, discussion and picture presentation about her past Glens Falls Medical Mission to Guatemala. Food was served by the middle school youth and prepared by the committee. There is still time to donate to the upcoming trip in April.

See their website for more information
<http://www.gfmmf.org/>

Donations are tax-deductible.

DONATIONS NEEDED : Toothbrushes, toothpaste, children's chewable vitamins (no gummy ones), and of course, money! There is a red container on the outreach table for donations.

The committee hopes to have other mission programs in the future, including one on the recent trip by members to New Orleans.



Jackie Rollock Durette presents her experiences with the Medical Mission to Guatemala.

Thanks to Cheryl Hempen for photos, page 6 and 7.

On going needs:

- **April 3rd** is the deadline for the bags of supplies for each child to be turned in. First Church is sponsoring 30 Children. Thank you to **Lois Fluegel** for planning the *Face of A Child* Project.
- Donations for the Japan relief fund: Checks may be made to First Church with " UCC Japan Relief fund" in the memo slot
- Volunteer to assist two church members who work with the Covenant to Care Program. This is a program where we help local foster families who may need the support of a listening ear, help with shopping, clothing for the children etc. There will be a short training session the end of April. More information will be coming. If you are interested, contact Cheryl Hempen or Courtney Craig. This program was adopted by the congregation a few years ago and is sponsored by the Cape Cod Council of Churches. **Shirley Lamson** and **Virginia Lewis** have been involved with this program and will be continuing.

Coming up:

- One Great Hour of Sharing offering on **April 3rd**—offerings accepted anytime. Please mark your checks with the memo of :OGHS offering. Envelopes are being mailed to you and are available in the pews. This offering helps in the USA and else where in times of natural disaster.
- Church World Service Blanket Sunday in May



Your Outreach Corner

Thank you to:

- All who participated in this project
- **Jackie Durette** for presenting her Guatemalan Mission Project through pictures and discussion
- Youth servers of refreshments at the Guatemalan presentation: **Hannah Durette, Hannah Wright, Katelyn Dyer, Bryce Canning**
- **Nancy Lawrence** for her assistance
- Ladies who helped the committee with the OGHs mailing: **Hetty Hayes, Helene DeReuter, and Dottie Kreisinger**- very speedy crew!
- For all who have contributed to the Japan Mission Fund post earthquake and Tsunami

Thank you's received from:

- Independence House for the contribution of hand knit baby clothes
- Massachusetts Conference for all of the donations from First church in 2010:
 - OGHs- \$2079.00
 - Haiti Relief fund: \$100.00
 - OCWM- \$20,000.00
 - Neighbors in Need Offering- \$1838.00
 - Chilean Pentecostal Church Fund(to build the shelters)- \$3890.45
 - Pakistan Flood Relief- \$175.00
 - Strengthen The Church offering- \$649.86
 - Christmas Fund offering- \$3125.00

***** For a total of : \$31,857.731 !!
Way to go, First Church!**

Newly Posted on Bulletin board:

211 Brochures, a program of Barnstable County Human services. This is a free, confidential, 24/7 call center and on line information and referral database for access to health and human services. This number will also be an official site to give out information during an emergency or crisis.



Outreach members with Jackie.
Thanks for the delicious food!

Lenten Concert

A Lenten Concert with *Gloria Dei* Cantores at the Church of the Transfiguration, in Orleans, MA on Saturday, April 9th at 7:30PM, and Sunday, April 10th at 3:00PM. Informative lecture one hour prior to concert. Works include Lizst, Bach and Poulenc.

Notes from Friends

I would like to thank all the members of First Church for their kind thoughts and prayers during a very sad time for me and my family in England. I know that the Lord listened and helped all of us get through a difficult period. It was good to know that everyone also looked after Marge while I was away. Even though I was 3,000 miles away I felt very close to you and really appreciated all that everyone did. **THANK YOU!**

Norman Hollis

Administrative Professionals Day

April 27



Baptism

February 27, 2011

Casey Gerard O'Connor

son of Rachel and Edward

Please Keep These Friends in Your Prayers

Perley Gates, Chuck Scribner, Rob Wheeler

Also: Brandon Ellison and Jeremy Flynn
serving our country abroad.

Please call the church office to add people
to the prayer list.

Pastoral Care

*If you or your family member are
going to be hospitalized or are facing
other crises, please call Winston that
he may offer pastoral care.*

Our Mission Statement

We live our mission as a welcoming community, celebrating God's love in the Good News of Jesus Christ. We serve the individual, the church, and our world through creative worship, spiritual growth, and nurturing fellowship.

Our Vision Statement

where we endeavor to be in five years

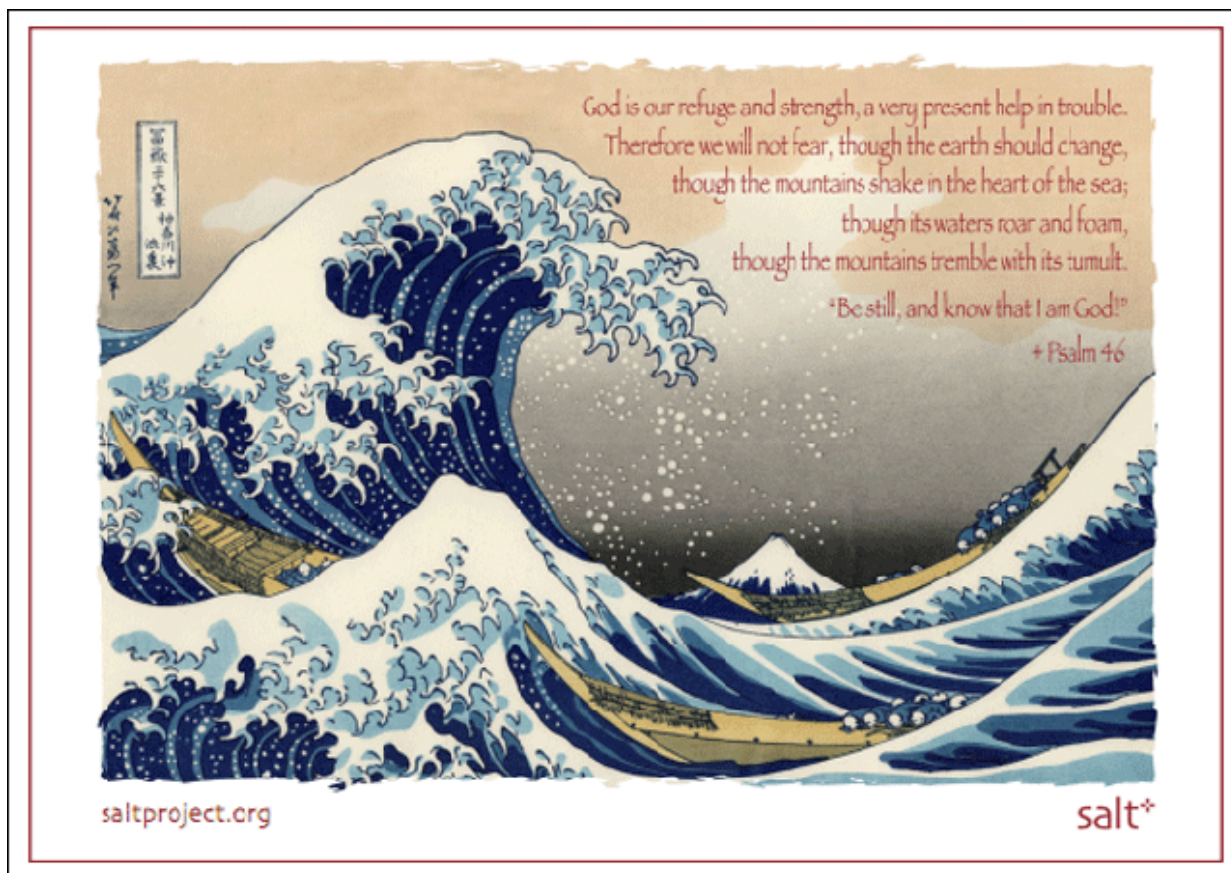
Building on a heritage that embraces social action, we are known as a community church where all are welcome. By the generous gifts of our growing membership our church is a catalyst for spiritual development through a variety of innovative worship and educational experiences.

Recognizing our diversity, we nurture and care for each other. Our children grow into life-long Christians through programs that develop a living relationship with Jesus Christ. Our spiritual presence mirrors our physical presence in our town and the wider community. No matter where we are on life's journey, we are united by the common goal of moving closer to our God.



A Prayer Card for Japan

From Saltproject.org



Click here to donate through the UCC. <http://www.ucc.org/disaster/japan-earthquake-2011/>

See the letter from one of our missionaries in Japan, next page

Jeffrey Mensendiek serves the Council on Cooperative Mission where he is assigned to the Emmaus Center in Sendai, Japan, as director of youth activities. The Emmaus Center website is:

<http://ameblo.jp/jishin-support-uccj-en/page-1.html#main>



Wednesday, March 30, 2011

We are beginning to welcome groups from Tokyo and other places. Today we were able to send a total of twenty five young people to the coast to help with dirt removal. We have prepared shovels, gloves, rubber gloves, a wheel barrow, bags for the dirt and mud, boots and brooms. The church in Taiwan sent us twenty electric powered bicycles. The picture shows the young people about to take off for the coast.

At four pm each day we have a "volunteer meeting." The young people report about their day, and share information about how we can improve our efforts at relief work. The reality of the tsunami destruction seems to have moved them deeply. One young woman was in tears as she shared with us her thoughts. *There is so much to do, and so few hands.* Our young people were helping one household. But next door there were elderly people removing heavy furniture. "If only we had more help." they said.

We are beginning to access the universities in Sendai. Each university has been severely hit by the earthquake. Some campuses like Tohoku Gakuin and Miyagi Gakuin have sus-

tained great damage to their buildings. There is question whether the campuses will be able to resume their classes from May. The leadership at the universities are overwhelmed by their own problems. Today I was on the phone with each campus, offering them information about our Center. We have at least four locations between Ishinomaki and Sendai where we need help. We have connections with the people. All we need is to access the young people in this city who are looking for ways to help.

Each night at seven, we have a staff meeting at which we discuss the issues before us. The five areas that we discuss are Public Relations, Volunteers, Goods and Supplies, Information, and Daily Life. Each day we make important decisions which help us to go forward. *This relief work is going to be for the long term.* We need to be sustainable in our efforts. This room is full of young people earnestly searching for ways in which they can use their talents and skills. This catastrophe has brought us together in a common spirit. There are no strangers in the efforts to relieve the suffering of the victims. I feel God is moving through us. Prayer is an integral part of our day. Silence is just as important as action. It helps us to focus and continue on.



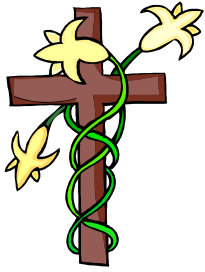
An Evening With Greg Mortenson

Author of *Three Cups of Tea* and *Stones into Schools*

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 ~ 6:30 pm ~ Mechanics Hall, Worcester

Greg Mortenson is the co-founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit Central Asia Institute and founder of Pennies for Peace. Central Asia Institute's mission is to promote and support community-based education, especially for girls, in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. During his talk on May 3, Mr. Mortenson will share insights into his life as well as anecdotes about building schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. [Click here for a flyer.](#)

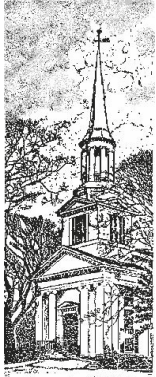
Ticket cost is \$51.50. Purchase tickets through the Mechanic Hall Box Office at 508-752-0888 or online at www.mechanicshall.org



April 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00 Exercise	2
3 9:00 Worship/ CS/CC 10 Social Hour Inquirers 11 Worship 12 Social Hour Inquirers 1:30 Gardeners 6 Confirmation	4 9:30 Exercise Prayer Shawl 7 Book Study 7:30 AA	5 5 R. Ringers 6 Drama 7 Search 7 Jubilee 7:30 AA	6 9:30 Exercise 11 Prayer Grp 12 Bible Study 4:30 Jr Choir 5 Praise Band 5:30 S. Singers 7 IG Bells	7 6 Cub Scouts 6 FC Bells 6:30 Yoga 7 FC Choir	8 9:00 Exercise 6 Confirmation Class to Street Reach, Hyan- nis	9
10 9:30 Worship/ CS/CC 10:30 Social Hour	11 9:30 Exercise 12 Mens Lunch 7 Book Study 7:30 CCChorale 7:30 AA	12 10 Circle Special Mtg. 5 R. Ringers 6 Drama 7:00 Trustees 7 Search 7:30 AA	13 9:30 Exercise 11 Prayer Grp 12 Bible Study 4:30 Jr Choir 5 Praise Band 5:30 S. Singers 7 IG Bells 7 Outreach, CE Finance	14 6 Cub Scouts 6 FC Bells 6:30 Yoga 7 FC Choir	15 9:00 Exercise	16
17 <u>Palm Sunday</u> <u>Intergenera-</u> <u>tional</u> 9:00 Worship Godly Play/CC 10 Social Hour 11 Worship 12 Social Hour	18 <u>SCHOOL >></u> 9:30 Exercise Prayer Shawl 7:30 CCChorale 7:30 AA	19 <u>VACATION >></u> 7 Search 7:30 AA	20 <u>WEEK >>>></u> 9:30 Exercise 11 Prayer Grp 12 Bible Study 5 Praise Band 5:30 S. Singers 7 IG Bells	21 <u>Maundy Thur</u> 6:30 Worship	22 <u>Good Friday</u> 9:00 Exercise 6:30 Worship	23
24 <u>Easter</u> 6:00 Sunrise Service 9 Worship 11 Worship	25 9:30 Exercise 7:30 CCChorale 7:30 AA	26 5 R. Ringers 6 Drama 7 Search 7:30 AA	27 9:30 Exercise 11 Prayer Grp 12 Bible Study 4:30 Jr Choir 5 Praise Band 5:30 S. Singers 7 IG Bells 7 Deacons	28 8 Habitat Breakfast 12 Circle to Green Briar 6 Cub Scouts 6 FC Bells 6:30 Yoga 7 FC Choir	29 9:00 Exercise 5 Wedding Rehearsal	30 4:30 Scribner/Hall Wedding



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Laurie Ray Editor

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Easter Flowers

Easter is more than the rebirth of the world from winter, but a symbol of the rebirth we all may experience. It is a time of miracles and mysteries...an anticipation of all that can be...new life and new beginnings. Members of the Flower Committee invite you to help us transform the Worship space by donating spring flowers. We will be taking donations after each service on **April 3rd, 10th and 17th**. If you wish, you may complete the form below and mail your order to the church. Please make your check payable to: First Church of Christ, Attn. Flowers (in memo)



The deadline for ordering plants is **Sunday, April 17, 2011.**

Lily \$10.00 _____ Spring Bulb \$8.00 _____

In memory of _____

OR celebration of _____

Name of donor _____

_____ Deliver to shut-in

_____ I will take my plant (after 11:00 am Easter Service)

MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

First Church of Christ, Attn. Flower Committee, PO Box 810, Sandwich, MA 02563