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May & June 2010 North Star  
A publication of North Congregational Church, UCC

413-549-0500 Church Office

Web Address: [www.north-church.org](http://www.north-church.org)

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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North Congregational Church  
North Congregational Church, UCC  
PO Box 9613  
North Amherst, MA 01059-9613

***Time Sensitive Material  
Please Open Immediately!***

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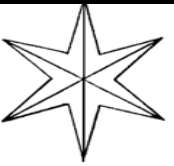
## North Star

North Church – UCC News

May & June 2010

Unconditionally Welcoming, Decidedly Christian

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### In My Thoughts...

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“Going viral.” For those of you still unplugged from the digital age, this is a term used to describe the way in which information is transmitted out over online sites and social media networks. Rather than being sent through more conventional forms of media such as network TV broadcasts or newspapers or newsletters, this form of communication allows information to spread rapidly – that is, “virus-like” – out to all those who are linked by whatever form of digital or electronic media and servers they use: a computer, a Blackberry, their cell phone with Twitter or Facebook or YouTube - you name it!

We are on the eve of the church’s experience of “going viral” in the ancient world, the Christian celebration called Pentecost. And though it’s often thought of as the “birthday of the church,” Pentecost is actually the climax of the Easter season: it’s the chance to celebrate the fullness of God’s promises made real in and through Jesus. It encompasses the whole story of Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection; his ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit with the sharing of God’s gifts from powerfully building up the church and its ministries. What a super occasion to strike up the band and throw a party! What a super challenge to us, to be open to the new possibilities for transformation that are under consideration as we move toward the summer.

Let me make the suggestion that we go “viral” in our efforts to reach out to people and include them in this glorious celebration, planned for May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Share the news on Facebook or YouTube or email; think of all those connections you have and get creative! Come wearing red and/or the colors of fire, such as oranges, purple, blue, yellow and the like. And while you’re at it, check out some of the other opportunities for service and learning in our midst: The **Good Eats** cooking classes are starting up again on May 25<sup>th</sup>, and NCC is looking for helpers in the kitchen and childcare. Outdoor and indoor fix-up projects are underway, and your participation would be a real boost. The Book Group is getting started with reading *Einstein’s God* by Krista Tippet and there’s lots of

*(continued on the next page...)*

interesting stuff about the conversation between religion and science to consider. Our Relay for Life team “North Church Prayer Walkers” is planning to join the Look Park walk again this year. Happy Spring! Happy being the church together!

Peace to all,

**Pastor Nada**

FYI

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- May 9** 7p, The Pioneer Valley Capella’s “The Evening Primrose: Four Centuries of Choral Music” at Wesley United Methodist Church in Hadley. Contributions welcome. All are invited.
- May 10** 7pm, Executive Council Meeting
- May 12** 7pm, Bible Study at Patti & Jenna’s home in Easthampton
- May 20** Healing Group Meeting
- May 22** 7:30p, The New England Ringers present “Decade,” a concert celebrating 10 years of music-making in handbell ringing, at Wesley United Methodist in Hadley. Tickets: \$12/adult, \$10/seniors, children (under 12) free. Workshops will be offered prior to the concert. Contact Cathy Bennett ([cab55@earthlink.net](mailto:cab55@earthlink.net)) for more information.
- May 25** Good Eats Cooking Class begins (also meets 6/8, 6/22, 7/6, and 7/20)
- June 4** Spring Supper at South Cong. Church, \$12/adult, \$6/child (under 12), seatings at 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00, early RSVP encouraged (day) 253-2977 / (night) 253-7204
- June 18-19** 3pm - 3pm. Relay for Life walk at Look Park, in support of the American Cancer Society. North Church will walk to raise funds and awareness as well as to represent North Church. Check with Bill Wiley for more information.
- June 19** Mass Conference of UCC - Annual Conference meetings in Worcester, MA

## Relay for Life

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Once again, the North Church Prayer Walkers (NCPW) will be participating in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event at Look Park in Florence on June 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

The Relay for Life is a 24-hour event that involves walking around a track to help raise funds and awareness in the battle to defeat cancer. It’s also a way to show support for those who are dealing with a cancer, their families, care givers, and those involved in cancer research.



This year the NCPW will be handing out our ever popular “lap beads” as well as custom made “I’m walking for...” Relay buttons. Ginger will once again be providing a basket, donated in North Church’s name, filled with “Ginger’s Creations” for the Relay Raffle table. All proceeds and donations will go directly to the Relay.

If you would like to join up to walk in the Relay, and/or support the NCPW with a donation, please get in touch with Ginger at (413) 658-5654 or Bill at (413)549-2860. Whether or not you are able to participate, please say a prayer for the cause. Thanks!

## Spiritual Care and Nurture

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Please keep all of the following friends of North Church in your thoughts and prayers:

For those with health concerns:

Norm Clarke, Julia Evans, Bruce Fowler, Amy Johnson, Barb Jones, Mark Kipperman, Dave Maslanka, Tom & Becky Passa, Pauline Richmond, Jeanette Serwa, Sarah Serwa, Scott Serwa, Lester Sottile, Geoffery Vyce.

For life changes & challenges:

Margaret Bates, Eric Brown, Diane Carraci, Nazita Gamini, Dottie Giard & family, Marky & family, Neal & Samme, Malissa & Alison, Kathy Parent & family, Carrie Pinheiro, Maria Yorgakopoulou, the Perry family as they grieve.

Remember... every prayer does make a difference!

*Please notify Bill, Ginger, or Pastor Nada of any updates or changes to this list. Thanks!*

## *Good Eats at North Church - This community effort needs your help!*

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*Good Eats*, a partnership with our neighbors at the Amherst Survival Center, is planning to host a series of community cooking classes every two weeks, on Tuesday evenings (5/25 through 7/20), from 6 to 8pm in our kitchen. Community cooking partners, volunteers from NCC and ASC and guest chefs will help us learn to cook nutritious, yummy, thrifty meals together. Our goal is to develop community as we share in “community cooking” that helps teach life skills and open the church doors wider.

### ***Please consider volunteering for any of the following roles:***

Guest Chef: If you’re interested in helping a group of community cooks to prepare and enjoy a new recipe, we’d love to invite you to be a “guest chef.” Ingredients provided per your instruction; volunteer assistants will help guide the gathering with you.

Kitchen Captain: 2-3 volunteers who assist the chef at cooking stations, and who assist with set-up and clean-up. Begin the evening at 5:30p if possible.

Child Care: We will offer free child care in our nursery/Bates room space during each class, and are looking for 1-2 persons for each session; stipend available.

Speak with Pastor Nada, Barbara Jenkins or Patience Bousel to join in!

## *10<sup>th</sup> Annual “Arlo Guthrie’s Historic Garbage Trail” Walk for the Care & Cure of Huntington’s Disease - Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 10:00am*

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Participants will register at the Guthrie Center (as early as 8:30am), and get a ride in a VW Microbus to Theresa’s Stockbridge Café (formerly Alice’s Restaurant) to get breakfast and begin the walk. The walk spans a total of 6.3 miles, with stops at the Stockbridge Police Station, the old dump site, SoCo Creamery ice cream, volunteer hippies, AmeriGas, and the Guthrie Center, with refreshments (sandwiches & drinks) and music by Xavier, Abe Guthrie, Tim Sears, Randy Cormier, & Tan Techert.

Sponsor our own Angie Sottile & Jeff Boudreau by e-mailing [jeffboudreau@wcuw.org](mailto:jeffboudreau@wcuw.org).

For more information, or to register for the walk, visit <http://hdwalk.webs.com>.

## Boy Scout Troop 504

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North Church’s sponsored Boy Scout Troop is featured in May 7<sup>th</sup>’s Daily Hampshire Gazette in “Gifts that help children get fathers back”. The article focuses on the efforts of Eagle Scouts Gregory and Cameron Mathieu, and describes Troop 504 as “one of the oldest troops in the country, chartered only seven years after Scouting was established in America in 1910.



*When inmates at the Hampshire Jail and House of Correction sat on the floor with their children in early March and bonded over the building of wooden structures, a Boy Scout from Hadley stood in the corner and took careful mental note. This week, he returned to the jail with a van-load of treasure.*

*Cameron Mathieu, 17, of Hadley, and of Troop 504 in North Amherst, plays an important role in the Connecting with Your Child program the jail implemented to good positive relationships between fathers and children during visits - bonds that, hopefully, stay intact after the inmate's release.*



*To fulfill requirements for Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest rank, Mathieu chose as his community service project the planning, organizing and outfitting of individual supply packs to be used by children and their incarcerated dads.*

*"Cam's project is unique," said 504's Scoutmaster, Lyle Denit. "He's serving a community we haven't really dealt with before. But Cam is interested in the law and social work and we like to see a candidate take on a service project that means something to him."*

*Starting with 50 clear, jail-approved backpacks, and taking requests from some of the kids he met that night, Mathieu's mission was to fill them to the gills.*

Read the whole Daily Hampshire Gazette article online at <http://www.gazettenet.com>.

## Birthdays in May and June

May	June
13 <sup>th</sup> – Margaret Bates	6 <sup>th</sup> – Ginger Fowler
14 <sup>th</sup> – Nada Sellers	10 <sup>th</sup> – Malissa Vyce
17 <sup>th</sup> – Rebecca Jagla	22 <sup>nd</sup> – Bill Wiley
26 <sup>th</sup> – Rae Westcott	22 <sup>nd</sup> – Meredith Simpson

We would like to have the birthdays of everyone at North Church, so if you have not already done so, please reply to [nccadmin@crocker.com](mailto:nccadmin@crocker.com) with yours. Thanks!

## Gibbles and Bits

### *Favorite Songs of Bible Characters*

Noah: "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"

Adam: "Strangers in Paradise"

Lazarus: "The Second Time Around"

Job: "I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues"

Moses: "The Wanderer"

Samson: "Hair!"

Daniel: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"

Joshua: "Good Vibrations"

Elijah: "Up, Up and Away"

Methuselah: "Staying Alive"

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for our July-August newsletter will be June 20th. Please send all Newsletter submissions

to me at [nccadmin@crocker.com](mailto:nccadmin@crocker.com). I am more than happy to receive anyone's entries any time before the deadline. Let me know that the email is specifically for the Newsletter by putting 'Newsletter' somewhere in the subject line. Thank you! Lee Steventon

This newsletter is produced by NCC with special help from Barbara Jenkins, Bill Wiley and Nada Sellers; layout and final copy by Lee Steventon. Your submissions are welcome, subject to review and possible editing. Questions? Please contact us at [nccadmin@crocker.com](mailto:nccadmin@crocker.com).

June 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 Memorial Day (Observed)	1	2	3	4 Chicken Salad Dinner at South Church \$12 A / \$6 C	5
6 Ginger's birthday	7	8	9	10 Malissa's birthday	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Relay for Life at Look Park	19 Relay for Life at Look Park MACUCC Annual Meeting DCU Worcester
20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 Meredith Simpson's & Bill W.'s birthdays	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3