

**First Congregational Church
of Braintree**

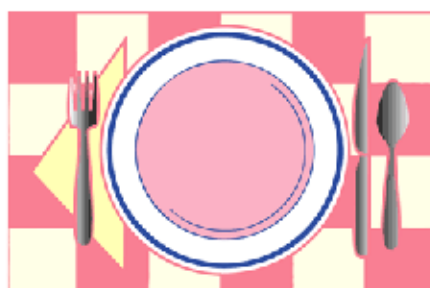
"Not just good works, but God works!"

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BRUNCH

Mission's Ministry
Waffle Brunch

Sunday, April 11, 2010

11:00 a.m. (following morning worship)

Menu includes:

Homemade waffles
*real maple syrup, sausages,
coffee cake, juice, and coffee*

Suggested donation of \$5.00 for adults,
\$3.00 for children under 12

All proceeds to benefit the many mission
ministries supported by First Church.



First Congregational
Church
12 Elm Street
Braintree, MA
02184
781-843-3616

Richard E. Hotchkin
Pastor and Teacher

Dr. Paul Kaatrud
Director of Music

Carole Morse
Administrative
Assistant

Worship Service and
Church School
Sunday Morning
9:30 a.m.

Office hours:
Monday—Friday
9:00 am—2:00 pm

Email:
firstchurchbraintree
@beld.net

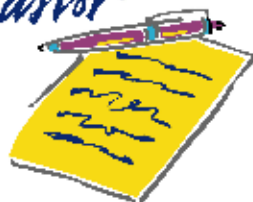


The Giving Factory

“Cradles to Crayons” Focus of March Sodalitas Meeting

Everyone is invited to hear a special speaker at the March Sodalitas meeting on Tuesday, March 23. Mr. Josh Nespoli, Community Outreach Manager for “Cradles to Crayons,” will be speaking about the special work of this wonderful organization. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.; the program at 8:00 p.m. A time of fellowship and refreshments follows the program. To learn more about Cradles to Crayons, see page 3.

From the Pastor



Much as we human beings would like to deny it, there is in most of us a little rogue who just loves to hear that someone has gone wrong. Pushing someone far down on the other end of the teeter-totter has the effect of elevating us on our end. Tidbits of scandal have a better chance in the chain of gossip than some noble deed.

The Bible speaks of us as fallen creatures, and theologians talk about original sin. There is in each of us a perverse twist that makes us use people instead of helping them; that makes us feel sorry for ourselves instead of for others; that makes us envy, instead of enjoy, another's good fortune; that makes us enlarge on someone's faults instead of excusing them.

Occasionally someone asks the question, “Why does the newspaper print bad news instead of good news?” Could it be that it is the bad news that we want, and that sells papers? If the columns of the press were filled with stories of the integrity of politicians, the social consciousness of industrialists, the commitment of churches, the valiant efforts of voluntary organizations to rehabilitate people, would we be in a hurry to get the first edition?

The truth is that there does seem to be a perverse twist in human nature. We do want the spectacular instead of the commonplace; we do find the good blander than the bad; we do chatter about people's faults more than about their virtues.

There is within us, however, a counterforce, the **gospel**, which turns us around to weep with those who have fallen into evil ways and to rejoice with those whose lives reflect the honorable and noble. Let's try to see one another as Jesus sees us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dick

Correction to the January 31, 2010 Minutes

I regret the omission of the following statement which should have been included in the Annual Meeting Minutes: "Nancy Mills suggested that to raise income for our church that we rent out the upper parking lot for flea markets on Saturdays. It is on the main road through Braintree and not used much by the church."

*Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Durham, Church Clerk*

Opportunities for Ministry

From time to time we will feature some special information about one or two of First Church's special ministries to keep you up to date, and perhaps inspire you to get involved! This month we're featuring Cradles to Crayons since the Community Outreach Manager, Mr. Josh Nespoli will be speaking at the March Sodalitas meeting.



Founded in 2002, Cradles to Crayons (C2C) is an innovative Quincy-based nonprofit organization that equips homeless and in-need children with the

basic essentials they need to feel safe, warm, ready to learn, and valued. While meeting the immediate needs of low-income children, C2C also sets a foundation for lasting change by providing meaningful, tangible volunteer opportunities to thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations each year.

How does it work? We partner with social-service organizations in the Boston area to connect communities that have surplus resources—new or gently used items in good condition—with communities that desperately need access to those resources. The essentials we collect and distribute include clothing, shoes, school supplies, and much more. When you donate to Cradles to Crayons, you can be absolutely sure that your donation will go to a deserving local child, for whom the donation was specifically requested.

According to Horizons for Homeless Children, there are more than 100,000 Massachusetts children under 18 who experience poverty.

And on any given night, over 1,200 families will be staying in publicly funded family shelters in Massachusetts.

But statistics don't get to the heart of what we do. We help

kids in need: kids who don't have shoes that fit, or a coat warm enough to fend off winter winds, or a backpack to take their books to and from school. When young kids don't get access to these basics, they have a hard time learning. They have a hard time feeling loved, protected, and valued.

Our work relies on adults and kids, coming together in their neighborhoods and in our warehouse - the Giving Factory. There are many ways that you can help Cradles to Crayons as a volunteer.

For example, you can volunteer your time, donate goods, or donate funds.

Most Needed Items

- Kids' winter clothing (especially pants, sizes infant to 18/20)
- Kids' winter coats
- Kids' winter boots, shoes, and sneakers
- Pack 'n Plays
- Car seats
- Lightweight strollers
- Baby and toddler bedding
- New socks and underwear
- New pajamas
- Baby board books

To hear more about this great organization, and how you can help, come to the Sodalitas meeting on March 23.

(Above information reprinted from Cradles to Crayons website.)

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:45pm Boy Scouts, LPH 7:00pm Bells, Sanc. 7:00pm OE Anon, FH	2 7:00pm Diaconate, Lib.	3 6:30pm Men's Club dinner, LPH 6:30pm Pot luck supper & service, Union Cong. 7:00pm OE Anon, Lib. 7:30pm Men's Club	4 6:00pm WW, FH 7:30pm Choir, MR	5 9:15am Ladies Bowling, Olindy's 6:30pm OE Anon., Lib	6 9:00am CJM Church, Chp.
7 8:30pm Choir, MR 9:30am Worship/Nursery 10:45am All church meeting, FH 3:30pm Cub Scouts, LPH	8 6:45pm Boy Scouts, LPH 7:00pm Bells, Sanc. 7:00pm OE Anon, FH	9 7:30pm Trustees, Lib.	10 6:30pm Pot luck supper & service, South Cong. 7:00pm OE Anon, Lib. 7:00pm Girl Scout Leaders, FH	11 6:00pm WW, FH 7:30pm Choir, MR	12 9:15am Ladies Bowling, Olindy's 6:30pm OE Anon., Lib. 7:00pm Band Night, UPH	13 9:00am CJM Church, Chp.
14 8:30am Choir, MR 9:30am Worship/Nursery 10:45am All Church Discussion Meeting, FH 6:00pm Youth Fellowship, LPH (Food collection for Braintree)	15 6:45pm Boy Scouts, LPH 7:00pm Bells, Sanc. 7:00pm OE Anon, FH	16	17 6:30pm Pot luck supper & service, FIRST CHURCH 7:00pm OE Anon., Lib. 7:15pm Troop Comm., LPH	18 6:00pm WW, FH 7:30pm Choir, MR	19 9:15am Ladies Bowling, Olindy's 4:00pm Girl Scouts, LPH 6:30pm OE Anon., Lib	20 9:00am CJM Church, Chp. 9:00am Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby, LPH
21 8:30pm Choir, MR 9:30am Worship/Nursery 3:30pm Cub Scouts, LPH 6:00pm Youth Fellowship	22 6:45pm Boy Scouts, LPH 7:00pm Bells, Sanc. 7:00pm OE Anon, FH	23 7:30pm Sodalitas, LPH, FH	24 Cook for Fr. Bills 6:30pm Pot luck supper & service, Union Cong. 7:00pm OE Anon., Lib.	25 6:00pm WW, FH 7:30pm Choir, MR	26 4:00pm Girl Scouts, LPH 6:30pm OE Anon., Lib.	27 9:00am CJM Church, Chp.
28 8:30pm Choir, MR 9:30am Worship/Nursery 6:00pm Youth Fellowship (Food collection for ISS)	29 6:45pm Boy Scouts, LPH 7:00pm Bells, Sanc. 7:00pm OE Anon, FH	30	31 7:00pm OE Anon., Lib.			



The Flower Ministry invites church members to donate lilies for display on Easter Sunday, April 4. These flowers serve three purposes: to ornament our sanctuary on this special occasion, to memorialize or honor special people, and to remember our VIP's and nursing home residents as gifts.

In order to plan these decorations, all orders must be in and paid for by Sunday, March 28, and may be made through the church office by dropping off or mailing the form below. Each plant will cost \$12 ~ all checks should be made payable to **First Congregational Church**. It is suggested that donors who intend to use their plants for personal use, or as a gift to a person of their choosing, please pick up and deliver their plants after the Easter Worship Service.



Price \$12 each

In Memory of: _____ OR

In Honor of:

Given by:

Gift to Church _____ Personal Use _____ Amount Paid _____

You'll find that in this church we cherish God's Word as a "lamp to our feet and a light to our path" (Psalm 119:105). We hope that God will move you to share your "Faith's Journey" further by worshipping with us on Sunday mornings.

We're on the web!
www.firstchurchbraintree.org

Our Vision for 2010 and Beyond

First Congregational Church offers a welcoming, friendly, and joyful home to believers in Jesus Christ, and to all men, women, and children who are true seekers of the hope, peace, forgiveness, and spiritual guidance that only He can offer. We encourage a deepening of Christian belief through greater understanding of scripture, and by way of forward-looking approaches to worship. We also endeavor to be active in the life of our community through loving Christian outreach, and by providing a safe venue for a wide range of worthwhile organizations and groups.

First Congregational Church of Braintree
12 Elm Street
Braintree, MA 02184

DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED