

# Aldersgate Advocate

## May & June 2006

Beside the Alabaster Jar



But we have this  
treasure in jars of  
clay to show that  
this all-surpassing  
power is from God  
and not from us.

2 Corinthians 4:7

May, 2006

Dear Friends,

Sometime in January, I started reading the book *The Lobster Coast* by Colin Woodard. Many of you know that my roots are in Maine and one of our members, Bonnie, who also has Maine roots, recommended it. *Lobster Coast* begins with a current day experience of Trap Day on Monhegan Island and quickly moves into the history of the Maine coast.

I found the beginnings humorous as well as thought provoking and recommended to our Book Club. I think that a day is coming when this group will meet to discuss this book, so I have picked it up again to see if I might finish. As I read about over-fishing of Georges Banks, I thought to myself, "Why didn't the fishermen see what they were doing?" Reading about the ebb and flow of the fishing industry, reminded me of how difficult it is to see the current events of our lives as the history writers of the future will view the time.

All of this makes me wonder how the history writers of tomorrow will view the times that we are living through. Will they say that the citizens of the developing countries missed the evidence of global warming in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century and continued to pollute the environment or will they say that evidence of global warming proved to be wrong? How will future historians characterize the war in Iraq, as a brave effort to establish democracy in the Middle East or as a failed and costly policy that future generations still pay for? I wish I knew how these times will be written about by future historians, but then if I knew would it be possible to change the course of events?

Those who have continued to read scripture in our Lenten Study, *Invitation to the New Testament*, have probably read the scripture and session on tradition, "Jesus Calls us to a New Relationship with Tradition." As the Thursday morning group discussed the readings and chapter today, it occurred to me that this question of how future historians will view these years, can also be asked about the faith community. How will future historians view the polarization that divides the Christian Church?

I believe that Jesus does call us to a new relationship with tradition even today. He calls us to look at the roots of tradition to see what lies beneath the ritual and prayers that we offer. When we look at the roots of a tradition or practice and return to those roots, we are often seen as radical. Webster's definition of radical carries with it an understanding of change based in the root of something. Jesus' attention to the roots of Judaism were seen as radical by many of the Pharisees.

Will the Christian Church move out of these years having returned to the radical root of the first and second commandments: loving God and neighbor as self? Will that shift of focus lead us to finding ways to practice hospitality rather than exclusivity? I pray that it will. Jesus appeared to his disciples creating community where none existed. He broke bread with us and others. He ate with sinners and tax collectors. He invited the lost and lonely. He would not send people away hungry. When

we return to these roots, the church will be over-populated by gratitude and blessing. See you in worship.

Pastor Sharon

**Worship News** During the next few weeks of the Easter Season, we will consider together the ways in which we know community by breaking bread together, by loving one another, and by bearing fruit. I hope that you will worship with us as we talk together about our need for community in our very fractured and isolating life styles.

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the lessons include Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, and Luke 24:36b-48. I will be preaching from the verses right before this gospel lesson, Luke 24:13-31, the appearance along the road to Emmaus. I find it particularly important that the risen Christ was recognized by those who were traveling with him in the breaking of the bread. May we also know community in the breaking of the bread.

May we also know community by loving one another. Two lessons for May 7, 2006, Psalm 23 and John 10:11-18, lift for us the familiar image of the good shepherd. Acts 4:5-12 tells the conclusion of the healing of lame man by Peter and John. 1 John 3:16-24 speaks of love in truth and action rather than word and speech. It seems though that authorities figures are threatened when a community is formed through loving one another. Love is the most powerful force on earth.

May 14<sup>th</sup>, Mother's day brings us to lessons that suggest that we know community by bearing fruit. Recently, I heard that all the Coptic Christian churches of Ethiopia today trace their heritage to the one eunuch who was baptized by Philip in Acts 8:26-40. The image of the true vine in John 15:1-8 is also symbolized in the love for one another that is modeled by Jesus in his dying that we might be at one with him. May we know community by bearing fruit, by loving one another, and by breaking bread with all people.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, our Junior Choir and Worship Arts Kids will offer a musical at both services. The 10:45 service will include offerings from each of our Sunday School classes as we shift gears into our summer program and the service will be followed by a potluck barbecue.

Jim has agreed to lead our service on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> as we re-covenant with our sister church at Sierra Maestra in Managua, Nicaragua. Pastor Sharon and her husband Richard will be in Nicaragua visiting at Sierra Maestra. This is Memorial Day Weekend and we move to one worship service at 9:30 a.m.

June 4<sup>th</sup> is Confirmation Sunday, always a high point in our life as a church family. This is also the day of Pentecost when we celebrate the birthday of the church. We continue with one service at 9:30 until the Sunday after Labor Day Weekend. Please plan to wear red to this Pentecost Service symbolizing the flames of the Holy Spirit that dwells in our hearts.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> we welcome our high school seniors, greeting them and sending them off to their futures with our love and blessing. A brunch will follow the service. In addition to the traditional reading from Acts, the gospel lesson is the story of Nicodemus from John where Jesus says that to be born of God's kingdom, one must be born of water and Spirit.

**Scripture Readings - May and June**



**May 7**

Psalm 23  
 Acts 4:5-12  
 1 John 3:16-24  
 John 10:11-18

**May 14**

Psalm 22:25-31  
 Acts 8:26-40  
 1 John 4:7-21  
 John 15:1-8

**May 21**

Psalm 98  
 Acts 10:44-48  
 1 John 5:1-6  
 John 15:9-17

**May 28**

Psalm 1  
 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
 1 John 5:9-13  
 John 17:6-19

**June 4**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
 Acts 2:1-21  
 Romans 8:22-27  
 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**June 11**

Psalm 29  
 Isaiah 6:1-8  
 Romans 8: 12-17  
 John 3:1-17

**June 18**

Psalm 20 or Psalm 72  
 1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13  
 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13), 14-17  
 Mark 4:26-34

**June 25**

Psalm 9:9-20  
 1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49  
 2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
 Mark 4:35-41

## Aldersgate is a family of faith ...

### Our Congratulations

*Sherri and Ed* welcomed Alex Robert on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Alex weighed 7 lb., 11½ oz. at birth. Alex joins mom and dad, Sherri and Ed, his big brother, Jack, and his big sister, Lindsey.

*Jo-Ann* welcomes Chloe Mae, born on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Chloe is Jo-Ann's new granddaughter.

*We wish you all God's blessing as you celebrate these special times in your lives!*

## Called out by Jesus Christ to serve our congregation, community ...



**"Thank you, thank you** to all my family at Aldersgate, Your prayers, cards and well wishes have been overwhelming and so very much appreciated by Ellie and I. My treatments are going along well and my strength is returning, so I will look forward to seeing you all in church very soon.

Again, thank you. I feel your warmth and embrace through your prayers and thoughts...an emotion of love that is beyond words!" Blessings to you all!

Jack

**Thank you** to Victor, Dan and Jane, Bob, Holly, Dawn and Jillian, Jim and his team, for their work in making the front yard and planters look special. Thanks to Cub Scout Pack 81 for helping to clear the outside chapel for the Easter Sunrise Service. Thank you to our Youth and our Director of Christian Education, Cheryl, and her team for the wonderful breakfast on Easter morning. Thank you to the Chancel Choir, the Shepherd Bells, our Director of Music, Carol; our organist, Jane, for the beautiful Easter music. Thank you to Becky, our Director of Children's Music, for the youth choirs (bell and voice). Thank you to Janice McCabe for her ability to make our altar look breathtaking and

for her "Taking the Message into the World" in our bulletins during this season of Lent and Easter. Thank you to Debbie for our Prayer Vigil and for her time and preparation for our Lenten "Open the Door" Prayer Journal. Thank you to our Pastor, Sharon Jones, for bringing us the long-awaited message of the hope and promise of Easter! The talent and the dedication is amazing and appreciated!

### **Our Church Wide Lenten Experience**

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." – Matthew 7:7-8*

During the season of Lent, we had many different kinds of doors opening. I hope we will continue to leave these doors open and have new doors open to new possibilities in how the Word of God can change the world! I have been reflecting this past week on how some of us may have been touched by God's presence in our life by the various opportunities we may have participated in. Please review the following and think about how this Lenten Experience may have touched you and what doors may have opened.

- Each of the small groups studying the book, "Invitation to the New Testament", had doors open to understanding the Word of God better and how it relates to their life today. We also understood how important it is to be a community of faith.
- The participants in the 40 day prayer vigil opened the door to the concerns of our families, neighbors, our community, our nation, and our world. This prayer group will continue to keep the door open to the power of prayer as we continue our journey to Pentecost.
- Each Sunday our "open the door moments" helped us see how important it is to know one another's faith stories and how we live our faith each day. We need to remember to keep sharing these stories as we grow in our faith.
- We experienced how powerful music can be as we listened to our CD of inspirational music. You can hear, see and feel God in music if you open yourself to the power of His presence!

Let us each continue to keep our doors open to the Spirit of the Lord and see how it molds us into the special child of God that He has created us to be!

*Cheryl*

### **Aldersgate's Prayer Ministry**

As a community of faith, Aldersgate believes strongly in the power of prayer. There are many opportunities for you to participate in a group prayer ministry such as the Prayer Gathering on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 here at Aldersgate or at home. Our Early Bird Bible Study on Tuesday mornings provide us with the opportunity for prayer and study of God's word.

Please continue to pray for Jack and Nancy. *If you have a prayer request, please notify Debbie. She will alert AUMC's faithful prayer partners! We continue to hold all the people you have requested in prayer in the Sunday morning bulletin. It is helpful if you keep Pastor Sharon or the Church Office aware of any additions, changes, and celebrations of recovery or news you wish to share.*



If you enjoy knitting or would like to learn, you are invited to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry. This group of people of all ages (including several children) meets on Thursday evening from 7 – 8:30 p.m. in the Concord Room. Please join us whenever you would like to knit, sing, and pray!

**Life Saver Ministries** will host a Mary Kay Party with 80% of the proceeds going

to **MY FATHER'S HOUSE**. May 7<sup>th</sup> anytime from 1:30 – 5 p.m., 83 Middlesex Street, N. Chelmsford. (978) 251-8191.

## and the world through loving, witnessing...

**Our Stamp Ministry** Thank you for the stamps you continue to bring to the Church to help support the Stamp Ministry. The income from their sale goes to support the preparation, publishing and distribution of a new Spanish-language curriculum for Sunday Schools in Latin America. More than 50 lesson series has been published and is being used in churches of 40 different American countries.

We are told that in 2005 a total of \$27,000 was stamps - \$1,500 more than in 2004. Keep the Lombard is in charge of this ministry. The stamp box is on the table in the hallway by the Concord Room. Please be sure to leave at least an inch around the stamp as you cut it from the envelope. Thank you for your continued interest in this important project.



realized from the sale of the used stamps coming in – Charlotte

Room. Please be sure to leave at least an inch around the stamp as you cut it from the envelope.

Thank you for your continued interest in this important project.

### News from Outreach Ministry

Maureen's Easter Basket program brightened Easter morning for 29 children this year. In addition to the baskets 10 stuffed bunnies were given to the children.

On Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> the Outreach Ministry served a meatloaf dinner to 60 guests of the St. Paul's Feeding Ministry at Elliot Church in Lowell. Toiletry items were also given out thanks to Brian Wetherell, who asked his friends at his 9<sup>th</sup> birthday party to bring toiletry items to be donated to the St. Paul's Feeding Ministry in lieu of gifts for himself. Everyone who received the toiletries appreciated Brian's thoughtfulness.

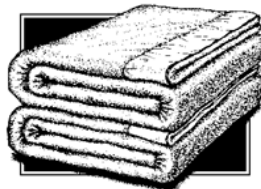
Cherly Brackbill is once again organizing the **Habitat for Humanity Board Sale**. We are thankful to your generous response to this program in the past. **You can purchase boards on Sunday, May 7 in the Fellowship Hall.**

The Nicaragua Celebration will take place in May, which will provide us an update on our ministry activities in Nicaragua.

Pat & Joe

### Blankets for Mother's

Through Church World raising drive for blankets in need across the world or city of New Orleans was



in ruins; displacing tens of thousands of people. Church World Service as well as UMCOR responded with over 48,000 blankets. We can continue to help by giving \$5 to purchase a blanket in honor or in memory of our moms and dads. We will have envelopes available beginning on Mother's Day, May 14<sup>th</sup> for this worthwhile cause.

### and Father's Day

Service, Aldersgate will participate in a fund- (cost \$5 each) to help offer comfort to someone here at home. Following Hurricane Katrina, the crippled and large sections of the Gulf Coast left

**Shoes for Orphan Souls** We are collecting new shoes and boots for orphan children through the program "Shoes for Orphan Souls." You may donate a pair of new shoes, boots, new socks or shoelaces, or you can donate money toward the cost of shipping these donations. There is a collection box just outside the Concord Room for you to place your donations. Our thanks to the Leary family for bringing this worthwhile cause to our attention. We are also collecting shoes for

Nicaragua and there is a carton just outside the Concord Room clearly marked for your contribution. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Nicaragua Material Aid**

Each year at Annual Conference in the first full week of June, the Nicaragua Planning Committee (NPC)



collects material aid for Nicaragua. Aldersgate has provided terrific support for our sister church during this time. In addition to our local church support, Richard and Sharon Jones, Jim, and Bob are members of the Conference Committee.

Here is an abbreviated list of possible items that will be gratefully accepted for our sister church:

- School supplies of all kinds such as pencils, crayons, chalk, spiral bound notebooks, rulers, and any other school supplies you may find at special sale prices. We will have a box at church during the summer for these items.
- Sewing machine materials; such as fabric, buttons, zippers, needles and thread.
- Over-the counter medications and vitamins, tooth paste and tooth brushes. These items can be put in with the school supplies box.

For other items such as clothing, please contact Bob. Thank you in advance for your support of people who are in extreme need in the basics of life. May God bless your generosity as you contribute to this outreach project.

Bob

**Annual Conference Dates, June 8, 9, and 10**  
**Aldersgate's Lay Delegate to Conference**  
**is Walt.**



### **Seeds and Harvest** Charles

It's Spring! It's that time of year when gardeners and farmers think of planting seeds to reap harvests of flowers or fruit and vegetables. What a wonder? From a small seed comes an abundance of flowers, or corn, or tomatoes, or cucumbers. From the seed comes the harvest.

What seeds are you planting or allowing to be planted in your life? Are you sowing seeds of joy, peace, love, kindness, mercy, and compassion? The seeds we plant determine the

harvest we receive.

During the month of May, Early Bird Bible Study will explore the theme: **Seed and Harvest**. Weekly topics will include exploration of them in relation to *temptation, time, tithe* and more.

Perhaps the words of Carol regarding the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Methuen Chorus are appropriate to this theme. When asked about the chorus' success, she commented to the Eagle Tribune, "You're reaping the success of the seeds you plant."

Arise a little earlier on Tuesday mornings, grab that first cup of tea or coffee and join the Early Bird Bible Study in the study of God's Word. There is a place for you.

### **Our Prayer Journey**     *Debbie*

Every morning on the way to work I drive through a rickety covered bridge. This is, without a doubt, one of the highlights of my commute. Aside from bringing back memories of Lancaster County and all of its covered bridges, it is one of the only spots in the Pepperell-Dunstable area where the radio station comes in clearly. For an all-too-brief period, there is absolutely no static, no crossover stations, only the pure, dulcet tones of the host.

I made this pleasing observation shortly after I began working in New Hampshire, not too long before our Lenten journey began. And as I made my way over those back roads on cold, snowy mornings, it began to dawn on me that that wooden covering on the old bridge functioned much like prayer was beginning to do in my life – it cut out the extraneous noise that kept important words from coming in loud and clear. In this case, prayer filtered out world and mind-clutter, and amplified that inaudible voice of God.

Twenty-one people committed to prayer one hour each week for all seven weeks of Lent. We prayed for each other, for all of our Aldersgate family (and I do mean all of them – even those we haven't seen in years!), for our families, neighbors, our community, our nation, and our world.

It was energizing AND comforting to know that during one 24-hour period each week, someone from Aldersgate was always praying. Not wanting to break the habit, some of us have agreed to continue right on through Pentecost. Who knows? We may keep going after that, until 7pm Tuesday until 7 pm Wednesday is always filled with prayer!

I'm learning to pray by praying more, and in the process, I am coming to know more of God in my life. And I have heard similar stories from others who prayed through Lent.

### **Will you come along on the journey?**

**If someone asked you, "What, exactly, is prayer?," could you answer?  
Do you feel like you should pray, but just don't know where to start?  
Think there's some formula you're missing? Some "special" words?**

**Join us at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in May for  
PRAYER 101**

If you fall in love with prayer, writes Mike McIntosh, you will fall in love with God. What an opportunity! What a privilege! It is marvelous in its simplicity, yet so profound, that a lifetime cannot exhaust its depths. The Scriptures are full of prayers (more than 650, not including the Psalms), and God's answers to the heart-cries of His people.

For four weeks we will explore this precious privilege of communication with a God who hears, who cares, and who is more than able to act. Some of the questions we will discuss are:

*What is prayer?*

*Does the Bible teach a right way to pray?*

*How do I learn to talk to God?*

*Does God always answer prayer?*



## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

### LENTEN MISSION PROJECTS

Thank you to everyone that donated medical supplies that Sue and her daughter, Katie took to a medical center in Ghana. There will be an article about her experience in the next Advocate. Thank you for all the new and slightly used shoes that we have been collecting for Shoes for Orphan Souls and our sisters and brothers in Nicaragua. We take many things for granted that others do not have. These shoes will make a big difference to the orphans in Russia and the children, youth and adults in Nicaragua.

### CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY and the Last Day of Church School – May 21st

On Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, all of the children and youth will lead us in worship during the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. The worship arts children and junior choir will present the musical, "Fish Tales" for the message that day during both worship services. This musical explains how we all are called to be fishers of men. The children and youth will sit with their classes during the worship service. We hope all the children and youth will be able to participate on this Sunday, and that we will all support these very important members of our church family!

### POTLUCK LUNCHEON

MAY 21<sup>ST</sup> AT NOON



BRING YOUR FAVORITE SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE

*\*During the summer months, we will offer a special class for 3 year olds – 4<sup>th</sup> grade that will meet in the Fellowship Hall after the theme conversation. We will listen to a special story, and do a craft related to the message of the book. If you are interested in helping, please see Cheryl.\**

### SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Time is running out to sign up for a camp this summer. Please look for the camp brochures downstairs in the hall. There are scholarships available to all children and youth who attend a camp program, thanks to our Doris M Camp Scholarship Fund. Please see Cheryl for any questions.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

HOLY LAND ADVENTURE: BETHLEHEM VILLAGE

August 7 – 11, 2006                      9 – 12 noon each day

*Christmas Will Never Be the Same Again!*

This year we're transforming our church into a little – and crowded – Bethlehem Village. Each day you can become part of history as you see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in Bible times! You can explore authentic marketplace shops, visit the Census Taker, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as you discover more about life when Jesus was born. These experiences will make God's Word come alive with more meaning for all who participate. Please refer to the enclosed registration form and ways that you can volunteer. The deadline to register a child is Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. There is scholarship money available for all families if needed. Please see Cheryl for any questions. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the Library. All are welcome to join us and there will be a delicious breakfast for all to enjoy!

### WORSHIP ARTS Tuesdays: 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Children, ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us on Tuesdays. All children are welcome to participate; you do not have to be a member of the church. We are working on our musical during the month of May. Our final gathering will be on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, when we will celebrate everything we have done this year!

**JUNIOR CHOIR** \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesdays: 5:50 – 6:30 p.m.

All youth in grades 4 – 8 are welcome to join us in this new and exciting choir! We will be working very hard on our musical, "Fish Tales", that we will present on May 21<sup>st</sup> during each of the worship services.

**JUNIOR BELL CHOIR** \_\_\_\_\_ Thursdays, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. This choir is open to children and adults who would like to learn to play the bells. You do not need to know how to read music. If you have any questions, please see Becky Adams.



**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Our last Confirmation class will be on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Please continue to keep the youth and their mentors in your prayers as we come closer to Confirmation Sunday. The youth will be confirmed on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> during the 9:30 a.m. service. There will be a brunch for all as we celebrate these new members of our church family!

Youth

*Gabriel, Joshua, Niles, Rebecca, Christopher, Matthew, and Alex.*

Mentors

*Walt, Jill, Beverly, Ben, Curt, Peter and Debbie.*



*Thank you Teachers*



*We are so blessed to have such loving and dedicated teachers and helpers. Please take time to thank the following:*

*Children's Education Ministries Team:*

*Jill, Dawn, Christine, Debbie, Carol and Luann*

*Teachers:*

*Preschool Teachers: Nancy, Cate and Susan*

*Kindergarten Teachers: Terri and Annette*

*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teachers: Dottie and Wendy*

*3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers: Holly and Reggie*

*5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers: Debbie, Christine and Sue*

*Youth Class: Peter, David and David*

*Music: Melinda*

*Thank you to all the volunteers who subbed when a teacher was out!*

**JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

All young youth in grades 4 – 5 are welcome to join us. Friends are always welcome! Our next meeting will be on **Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Please watch for the postcard that will explain what we will be doing on this

day. Beginning in June, we will be including all new 6<sup>th</sup> graders into this group. The Junior Youth Fellowship will be for all 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Maria Karafelis, David Driscoll and I are also planning on taking this group camping one weekend during the summer. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Cheryl, Maria, or David. Thanks!

## SENIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

All youth in grades 6 – 12 are welcome to join us at any time; you do not have to be a member of the SENIOR youth group. Beginning in June, this group will include all 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. There is no special sign-up sheet; you just come when you can. We ALWAYS welcome friends, or anyone else that happens to be with you. You are an important part of this group!

### Calendar for Senior Youth Fellowship

Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – The youth council will meet at noon, please bring \$3.00 for pizza.

Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. – What do you really know about sex, drinking, drugs, and being a Christian? This will be a safe and honest time to learn and talk about these hot topics. We will also have a guest speaker.

Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – Barbecue & Square Dance 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. – All youth are invited to help with setting up and cooking from 3 – 6 p.m. We will also need help cleaning up after the square dance.



BARBECUE AND SQUARE DANCE FOR ALL

JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 6-9 P.M.

Come join us at the Aldersgate's Ranch as we enjoy a delicious barbecue and kick off our shoes for a hoe down of music, dancing and fun!

... AND TEACHING GOD'S WORD.

## ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND SMALL GROUPS



### Early Bird Class

Tuesdays: 6 – 6:50 a.m. Concord Room – Last day of meeting will be June 13<sup>th</sup>

Leader: Charles

During the month of May, Early Bird Study will explore the theme: Seed and Harvest. Weekly topics will include exploration of them in relation to temptation, time, tithe and more. Arise a little earlier on Tuesday mornings, grab that first cup of tea or coffee and join the Early Bird Bible Study in the study of God's Word. There is a place for you.

### Thursday Morning

Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. Concord Room – Last day of class will be May 25<sup>th</sup>

Leader:

Pastor Sharon

This class is a low key community study that acts as much as a support group as it does a Bible study. We will continue using "Invitation to the New Testament".

### Prayer Gathering

Tuesdays: 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Concord Room

Leaders: Debbie, Carol

Join us for a time of prayer and quiet time. If you have a particular prayer request, please contact the Church Office, Carol Prasad, or Debbie Botham. "The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us."

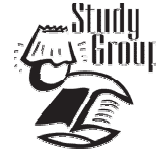
### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thursdays: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Concord Room

Leader: Cheryl

If you like to knit, or would like to learn how to knit, please join us on Thursday evening in the Concord Room to knit Prayer Shawls. If you have someone in mind who would love a Prayer Shawl as a reminder of God's love that surrounds and gives comfort, please let us know.

## SHORT TERM STUDY GROUPS



### **Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World**

Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Leaders: Pat, Kelly, Ginny

Library

May 7, 21, June 4

Beginning on May 7 AUMC Women's Ministry will be holding a three week class that will be "An invitation for every woman who feels she isn't godly enough...isn't loving enough...isn't doing enough". They will explore such topics as: What Does God Desire, Spiritual Snickers Bars, Fruit Happens, Hula Hoops and Holiness and Trusting in God's Character. This class will be very casual and enjoyable. You may purchase the book, "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" at Morning Star Christian Bookstore in Nashua, NH. The cost is \$13.99 for the book and there is scholarship money available if needed. If you have any questions, please see Ginny.

### **Prayer 101**

Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Leaders: Debbie and Charles

Concord Room

May 7, 14, 21, 28

For four weeks this class will explore prayer which is a precious way of communicating with a God who hears, who cares, and who is more than able to act. Some of the questions we will discuss are: *What is prayer? Does the Bible teach a right way to pray? How do I learn to talk to God? Does God always answer prayer?* If you have any questions, please see Debbie Botham.

*During the months of July and August, we will offer a class on Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. service, please watch for the topics of this class in the bulletin and in the June Advocate. We will also have a Wednesday night Fellowship night which will consist of a potluck dinner, adult small group class, and an activity for families.*