

The George Whitefield ROCK

George Whitefield
UMC

Volume 1, Issue 35
April 2001

FROM THE PASTOR

Here's one of my favorite Easter stories:

Little Philip, born with Down's syndrome, attended a third-grade Sunday School class with several eight-year-old boys and girls. Typical of that age, the children did not readily accept Philip with his differences. But because of a creative teacher, they began to care about Philip and accept him as part of the group, though not fully.

The Sunday after Easter the teacher brought L'eggs pantyhose containers, the kind that look like large eggs. Each receiving one, the children were told to go outside on that lovely spring day, find some symbol for new life, and put it in the egglike container. Back in the classroom, they would share their new-life symbols, opening the containers one by one in surprise fashion.

After running about the church property in wild confusion, the students returned to the classroom and placed the containers on the table. Surrounded by the children, the teacher began to open them one by one. After each one, whether a flower, butterfly, or leaf, the class would ooh and aah. Then one was opened, revealing nothing inside. The children exclaimed "That's stupid! That's not fair! Somebody didn't do their assignment."

Philip spoke up, "That's mine." "Philip, you don't ever do things right!" one student retorted. "There's nothing there!" "I did so do it," Philip insisted. "I did do it. It's empty. The tomb was empty!" Silence followed. From then on Philip became a full member of the class. He died not long afterward from an infection most normal children would have shrugged off. At the funeral this class of eight-year-olds marched up to the altar not with flowers, but with their Sunday School teacher, each to lay on it an empty pantyhose egg.

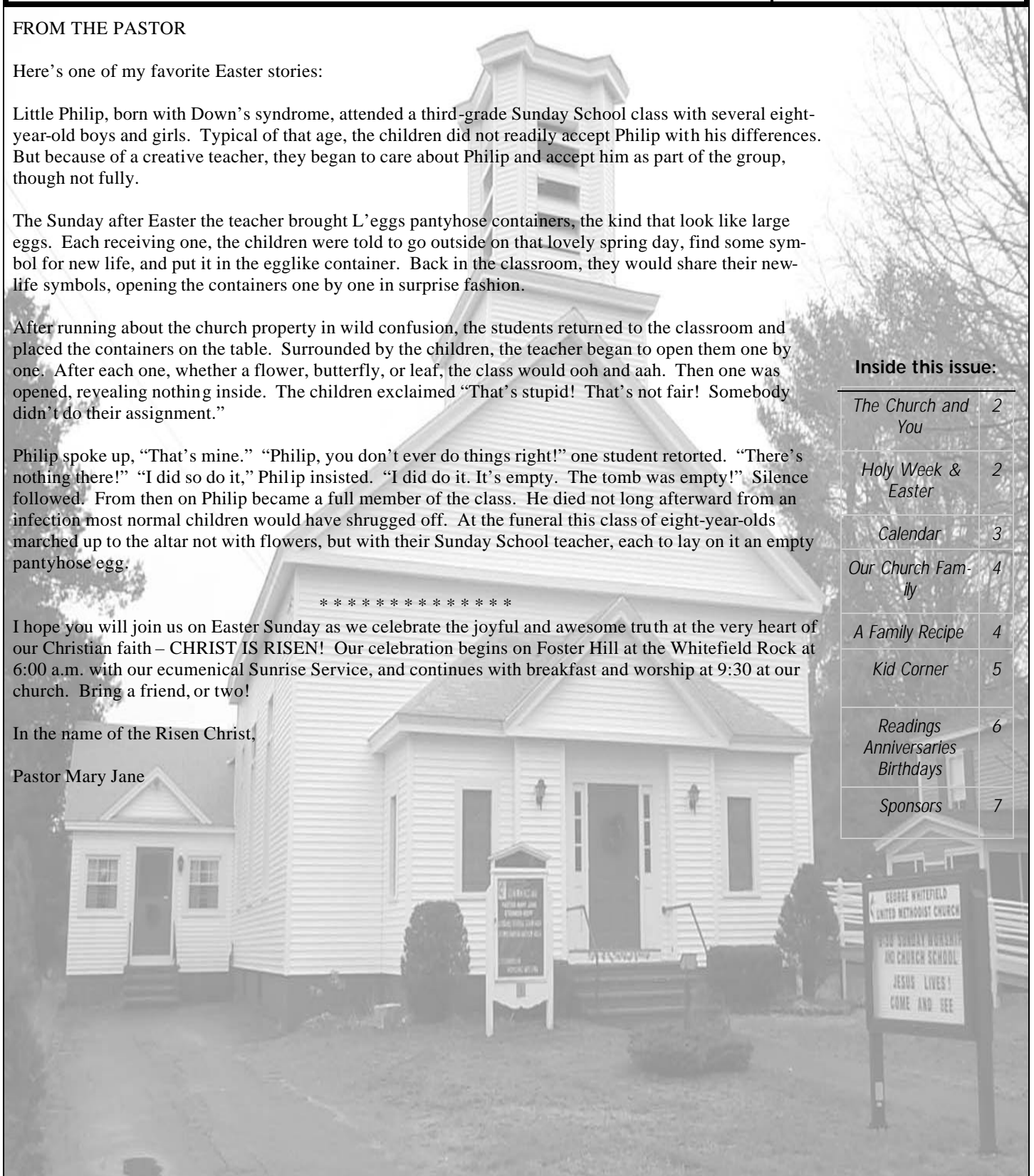
I hope you will join us on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the joyful and awesome truth at the very heart of our Christian faith – CHRIST IS RISEN! Our celebration begins on Foster Hill at the Whitefield Rock at 6:00 a.m. with our ecumenical Sunrise Service, and continues with breakfast and worship at 9:30 at our church. Bring a friend, or two!

In the name of the Risen Christ,

Pastor Mary Jane

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The Church and You

CHILDREN'S CHOIR TO SING ON APRIL "FIFTH SUNDAY"

In keeping with our tradition of having the children play a major role in worship on the fifth Sunday in months with five Sundays, the Sunday School children will lead worship on Sunday, April 29. A newly-forming Children's Choir under the direction of Melanie Merrill will sing that day. A guest preacher (to be announced) will bring the message while Pastor O'Connor-Ropp preaches at Christ UMC in Northampton as part of their Consecration Sunday celebration. The Rev. Peter Hey of that church preached here in November for our Consecration Sunday

HUMOR SUNDAY

In the Greek Orthodox tradition, the day after Easter was devoted to telling jokes. They felt they were imitating the cosmic joke that God pulled on Satan in the Resurrection. Satan thought he had won, and was smug in his victory, smiling to himself, having the last word. At least so he thought. Then God raised Jesus from the dead, and life and salvation became the last words.

In a similar vein, some churches have devoted the Sunday after Easter to humor and joke-telling. Our church will try this on for size this year. Join us for an informal worship service with humor as the main theme – remembering that we do this in celebration of the resurrection!

A MIRACLE AT THE ORGAN CONSOLE

A few of you who lingered long enough after church on March 18th had the great joy of hearing Walter Hazen playing the Hook organ once again. Walter was the church organist for many years, and until last summer played the organ on occasion for his own enjoyment. Last June Walter and his wife Evelyn were almost killed in a terrible car accident, and spent months in intensive care and then in rehabilitation. Both have undergone a miraculous recovery, have returned to church, and now Walter has returned to the organ console to give witness to God's healing power. There wasn't a dry eye in the sanctuary as we listened to Walter playing hymns from memory. Thanks be to God!

WANTED: Summer Rental or House Swap

Robert and Heide Bents, who live near Frankfurt, Germany, are looking for a house to rent in the Worcester area for three months, beginning around June 15-22. They will consider a **HOUSE SWAP** during this time. They live in a little village called Sembach, right outside Sembach Air Force Base. Ramstein AFB is 15 miles away and the biggest town in the area is Kaiserslautern, population around 100,000. From Sembach you can make day trips to Frankfurt, Heidelberg, the Rhein River, Luxemburg, Belgium, and the Black Forest. It's a 6-7 hour drive to Switzerland, Austria, Paris, Amsterdam, and Southern Germany.

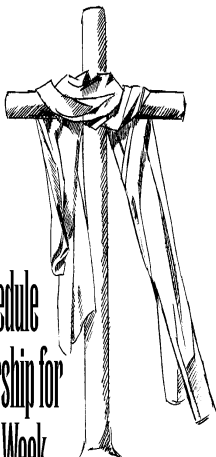
The Bents' have a daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter who live in Paxton. Bob Bents worshiped last summer at the George Whitefield UMC in West Brookfield.

If you are interested in a swap or offering a summer rental, contact Rev. Mary Jane O'Connor-Ropp at (508) 867-3667 or e-mail to mareropp@aol.com.

AND SPEAKING OF ORGAN MUSIC.....

Diane Bish, "First Lady of the Organ," will perform on Sunday, April 8, at 4:00 p.m. at Tremont Temple Baptist Church, 88 Tremont Street in Boston. Admission is free. Hear this internationally acclaimed artist performing in this historic church on the exciting Allen Renaissance R-480S organ. For directions, call g.paul music at (508) 885-9370 or check their website at www.gpaulmusic.com.

Holy Week & Easter



Schedule
of Worship for
Holy Week

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday –

Sunday, April 8,
9:30 a.m. Procession with palms led by children.



Maundy Thursday –
Thursday, April 12,
7:00 p.m. – Holy Communion and Tenebrae



Good Friday –

Friday, April 13 Ecumeni-

cal Service at Brookfield Congregational Church, 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.
Meditations on the Cross at George Whitefield UMC, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday –
Great Vigil of Easter at All Saints Episcopal Church in Worcester (time to be announced – accompany Pastor to this richly symbolic worship



service)

Easter Sunday –

Sunday, April 15
Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Whitefield Rock on Foster Hill, 6:00 a.m. – Pastor O'Connor-Ropp preaching
Easter Breakfast at George Whitefield UMC, 6:45 a.m.
Festival Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.



April 2001

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2001						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

CALENDAR – REGULARLY SCHEDULED

Tuesday at 7 pm – Companions in Christ (at parsonage)
 Wednesday at 9 am – Companions in Christ (at church)
 Wednesday at 2:15 pm – Prayer Group (at parsonage)
 Wednesday at 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal (at church)
 Thursday at 3 pm – Lectionary Bible Study (at parsonage)
 Friday – Pastor’s day off

Last Sunday of the month – Hymn Sing at 9:15
 First Sunday of the month – Holy Communion

Last Monday of the month – Wings and Hands Craft Group at 7 pm (at church)
 First Thursday of the month – Holy Communion at Quaboag Nursing Home with Pastor O’Connor-Ropp, 10:30 am

OTHER APRIL EVENTS (not elsewhere described)

- ? Tuesday, April 17, 1:30 p.m. at church – Martha Circle of the UMW
- ? Tuesday, April 17, 6:00 p.m. – Women’s Progressive Dinner – beginning at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church for appetizers, First Congregational Church for main course, George Whitefield UMC for dessert
- ? Saturday, April 21, 6:00 p.m. at church – Pot Roast Supper
- ? Saturday, April 28, 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Leominster UMC – Central Massachusetts United Methodist Women Spring District Meeting

Special dates

- ? Daylight Saving Time begins, April 1, 2001
- ? Passion/Palm Sunday, April 8, 2001
- ? Maundy Thursday, April 12, 2001
- ? Good Friday, April 13, 2001
- ? Easter Sunday, April 15, 2001
- ? Secretaries Day, April 25, 2001

COFFEE HOSTS

Apr 1st - Phyllis Warriner & Annalee Collins
 8th - Phyllis Adams & Jackie Wood
 15th - Easter Sunday - no coffee hour
 22nd - Gloria & Allan Reid
 29th - Claire Wirf & Crystal Armitage

Our Church Family

SOME THANK YOU'S

Thank you to the anonymous donor who gave \$500 to be used to meet needs in the community and area. By vote of the Church Council, \$250 was given to the Worcester County Food Bank, and \$250 to the Free Evening Medical Program at Epworth UMC in Worcester to pay for prescriptions for those who can't afford them.

Thank you to Ken Cloutier and his crew from Ken's company, Overhead Doors, who donated their labor to install the new folding wall in our Sunday School space. Thanks also to

Stewart King for building the framework for the wall, and to for moving the radiator and light fixture to enable installation of the wall.

Thank you to the mysterious presence responsible for placing handmade bookmarks in the pew Bibles. Could it be the Sunday School children?

Thank you to Alan Varnum who has faithfully plowed out the church driveway after each of our snowstorms... and to Al Theberge and his "elves" (who help out when Al is away) for keeping our sidewalks and handicapped ramp clear of snow.

STEWART KING AT CARNEGIE HALL

Our Choir Director, Stewart King, and the choir from Westfield with which he sings, performed in Carnegie Hall in New York City on the weekend of March 24-25. Carnegie Hall is perhaps the most famous concert hall in the world, and we are delighted that Stewart had an opportunity to raise his beautiful tenor voice in that hallowed space. Congratulations, Stewart!

A Family Recipe

RESURRECTION COOKIES

Making these cookies together as a family is a great way to experience the Easter message! Read the whole recipe before beginning... try to do together the Saturday night before Easter Sunday.

Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

Ingredients:	You need:
1 cup whole pecans	Mixing bows
3 egg whites	Wooden spoon
1 cup sugar	Bible
1 tsp. Vinegar	Zipper baggie
1 pinch of salt	Waxed paper
	Cookie sheet
	Tape

Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. **Read John 19: 1-2.**

Let child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, he was given vinegar to drink. **Read John 19: 28-30.**

Add egg whites to the vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. **Read John 10: 10-11.**

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. **Read Luke 23: 27.**

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. **Read Psalm 34: 8 and John 3: 16.**

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 11-15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. **Read Isaiah 1: 18 and John 3: 1-3.**

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by tsp. onto waxed paper-covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. **Read Matthew 27: 65-66.**

Put cookie sheet in the oven. Close the door and turn the oven off. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus tomb was sealed. **Read Matthew 27: 65-66.**

Go to bed!

Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. **Read John 16: 20 and 22.**

On Resurrection Morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Resurrection Day, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. **Read Matthew 28: 1-9.**

HE HAS RISEN! HALLELUJAH!

Paint Some Stones!

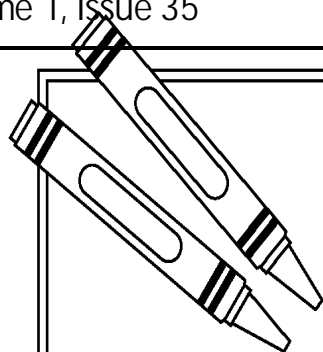
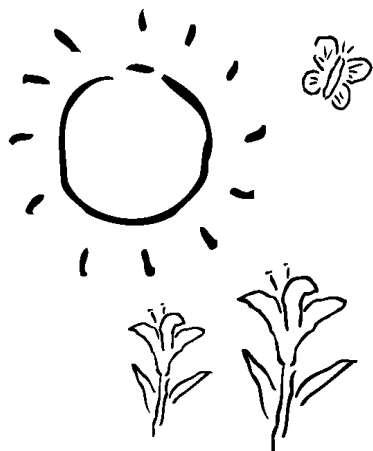


- ✿ Gather some smooth gray stones.
- ✿ Use tempera paints to paint Easter symbols on the stones.
- ✿ Some Easter symbols are:

cross
lily
butterfly
sun



- ✿ After the paint is dry, brush on clear varnish.
- ✿ Let dry overnight.
- ✿ Use large stones for paper weights. Small stones can be carried in your pocket as a "Resurrection Reminder!"

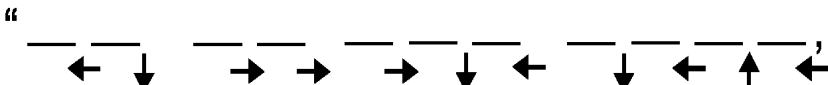
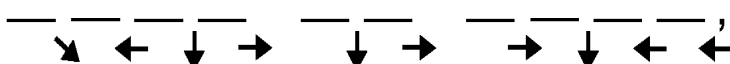
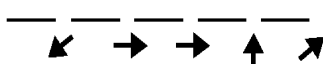
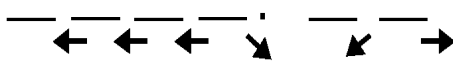
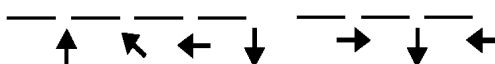
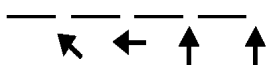
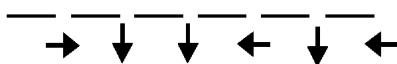
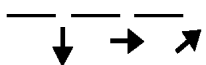
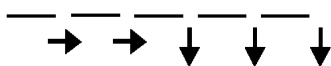


Just for KIDS

"... and on the third day"

Jesus died upon a cross and was buried in a tomb. When the women went there with burial spices on the third day, what did they find?

Follow the arrows.
Fill in the blanks.



Begin →

T	H	E	A						
B	S	T	O						
M	O	C	N						
T	H	R	E						
R	O	O	D	E	F	W	P	R	O
E	A	F	S	G	Y	A	S	H	L
N	A	L	I	A	A	W		E	L
N	G	E	D	T	J	B	A	D	C
			F	O	T	H			
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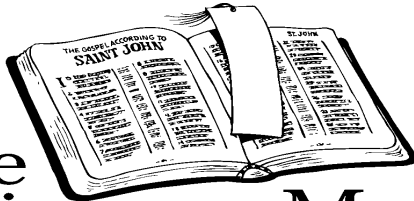
→ End

Luke 24:6

Answer:
The stone was rolled away from the door. An angel said to them, "He is not here, he has risen"

Scripture Readings: Notice

Each month I will publish the readers for each weeks scripture lessons. It is requested that you read from the Lectern Bible. If you can not be in church on the week that you are scheduled to read, please arrange for someone else to read in your place or contact Paul Chicoine or Rev. Mary Jane. Pastor Mary Jane is willing to give tips/lessons to anyone desiring them. Also if you are interesting in being included in the readers list please notify Paul Chicoine at 436-7744.



Bible Readings for the Month

April Scripture Readings:

- 1st - **Isaiah 43:16-21**
 Paul **Psalm 126 (UMH 847)**
 Chicoine **Philippians 3:4b-14**
John 12:1-8
- 8th - **Isaiah 50:4-9a**
 Charlie **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)**
 Reim **Philippians 2:5-11**
Liturgy of the Palms (Luke 19)
- 15th - **Acts 10:34-43**
 Melanie **Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839)**
 Merrill **1 Corinthians 15:19-26**
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
- 22nd - **Acts 5:27-32**
 Liz **Psalm 150 (UMH 862)**
 Sanford **Revelation 1:4-8**
John 20:19-31
- 29th - **Joshua 5:9-12**
 Children **Psalm 32 (UMH 766)**
 (5th Sunday) **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Need a ride to Church???

If anyone in the local area needs a ride to church on Sundays or to any church function or meeting, please call Judith Bartlett at 867-3002 or the church office at 867-3667 for help in making arrangements.

Also, if you are willing to give anyone a ride, please have your name put on the driver's list in the church office.

THANKS !!!

**Happy April Birthdays**

Barbara Frazier	4/4	Corinne Beichner	4/5
Heather Andrews	4/7	Gloria St. Laurent	4/8
Albert Theberge	4/8	William Dolan	4/11
Phyllis Warriner	4/13	Eleanor Towne	4/15
Ila Miller	4/16	Charles Reim	4/17
Kenneth Frazier	4/19	Annalee Collins	4/20
Alice Wirf	4/23	Brian Lariviere	4/25
Mel Williamson	4/25	John Bartlett	4/26
John Marona III	4/29	Norman Adams	4/30

Celebrating Anniversaries in April

???????

Do you have an Anniversary you would like to share?

**The Grief and Loss Support Group**

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE IN YOUR BE-REAVEMENT"

The last Wednesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. Sponsored by the **WEST BROOKFIELD COUNCIL on AGING** at the Senior Center, 27 Front St. Everyone is welcome. For more information call Frank Halloran 867-2497.

AN OPEN INVITATION

The George Whitefield Rock welcomes any and all submissions. We reserve the right to edit or reject any material. This is your newsletter, please feel free to make any suggestions to the pastor or the editors. Also if you would like to share your loved ones birthdays and anniversaries please send them for submission to the editor.

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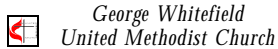
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See us on the Internet
<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/whitefield/>

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