

# The George Whitefield ROCK

George Whitefield  
UMC

Volume 1, Issue 39

August 2001

## FROM THE PASTOR

If you read our church's Sunday worship bulletin, you will see a notation at the top that says: "Ministers: the Church Family." The idea is that the pastor is not the only minister in the church. In fact, it's part of the pastor's job to make sure that everyone else in the church is equipped to be in ministry in the world. Now, some of you probably don't think of yourselves as ministers. You may not have ever thought of yourself as being in ministry in the world. But each Christian is gifted and called to be in ministry. And there's plenty of work for everyone! Some of the "work" that needs doing is in the church itself, whose primary purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. And some of the "work" is in the world beyond the church's walls.

I've been thinking and praying about how best to accomplish the work of ministry in and through our church. When Jesus called his disciples, he taught them and sent them out two by two into the world to undertake his ministry of healing and reconciliation. He didn't organize them into committees. From what I've been hearing in my conversations with some of you, committees have never worked very well in this church. However, a fair amount of ministry seems to get accomplished even without highly functioning committees.

Some committees are mandated by the Book of Discipline, our denomination's guidebook to all phases of church life. The committees we **must** have include: church (administrative) council; committee on pastor-parish relations; board of trustees; finance committee; lay leadership committee. Other committees and task forces may be formed in order to accomplish the mission of the church.

A new committee mandated by the 2000 Book of Discipline is the Committee on Lay Leadership. The purpose of this committee is to identify, develop, deploy, evaluate, and monitor Christian spiritual leadership for the local congregation. We did not nominate members of this committee at our 2000 Charge Conference, but over the next few months I will be gathering a group of people who will make recommendations for this very important committee at our 2001 Charge Conference. It will be a major task of this new committee to discern the best way in which to organize our church for effective nurture, outreach and witness. We may need fewer committees, or more. We definitely need more creative ways to help people identify their gifts, develop their own ministries, and support them as they undertake these ministries.

This is an exciting and challenging time to be "the church." We have an opportunity to find new and creative ways to work together, to "think outside the box" when it comes to organizing our church, and to be a powerful and effective force for transformation in the lives of individuals, families, our local communities, and beyond in the name of Jesus Christ. Please keep me and all members of the George Whitefield UMC in your prayers!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mary Jane

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## The Church and You

### NEW WORSHIP FORMAT

For the summer months, we are trying out a slightly modified worship service with the goal of creating a more praise- and prayer-centered worship atmosphere. Some of the changes you will notice are:

- ????praise music at the beginning of the service;
- ????children's time at the beginning of the service, to give the children more time in Sunday School;
- ????only one scripture lesson;
- ????the addition of a "moment for mission" to expand our awareness of mission opportunities;
- ????elimination of the "Gloria Patri";
- ????expanded time for sharing our prayer concerns.

The Worship Committee is interested in hearing your comments about the revised format. Your comments will help the Worship Committee with planning for worship in the fall. So far, most of the comments have been favorable. Some of you have expressed a desire to restore the Gloria Patri. Some have expressed concern that the new format doesn't allow the children to experience time in the worship service. Please fill out the questionnaire in the Sunday bulletin so that the Worship Committee will have everyone's feedback.

### Coffee Host notice:

To make it easier for our Sunday Coffee Hosts, the nurture committee is making some changes in coffee hour: We will serve crackers and cheese and Munchkins (Donut Holes). The doughnuts will be paid for with money out of the donation dish but the hosts will be responsible for picking them up and supplying the crackers and cheese. Coffee, punch and creamer will be supplied. The children will be seated at their own special table.

Dot Bailey has taken over as chairperson of the Nurture Committee as of June 1st.

### COFFEE HOSTS

August 5 – Dot Bailey  
 August 12 – Jackie Wood and Phyllis Adams  
 August 19 – Estalene Buzzell  
 August 26 – Dell Marona and Melanie Merrill



September 2 – Evelyn and Crystal Armitage  
 September 9 – OPEN HOUSE  
 September 16 – Harvey and Annalee Collins  
 September 23 – Pat Stiles and Heather McCluskey  
 September 30 – Tom and Christy McCann



### OUR SYMPATHY TO.....

- ????the family of Larry Hubbard, who died on June 25<sup>th</sup>
- ????the family of David C. Bates III, who died on July 20<sup>th</sup> (the husband of Elsa [Silvergerg] Bates and son-in-law of Millie and Arvid Silverberg)

# August 2001

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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30						

**August:**

- ? ? ? ? ? Monday July 30 – Friday August 3 – Vacation Bible School at First Congregational Church, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- ? ? ? ? ? Thursday August 2 – Holy Communion at Quaboag on the Common with Pastor O’Connor-Ropp, 10:30 a.m.
- ? ? ? ? ? Monday August 6 – Presentation on Interfaith Hospitality Network at church, 7 p.m.
- ? ? ? ? ? Monday August 13 – Friday August 17 – Arts and Crafts for Kids at church, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon
- ? ? ? ? ? Monday August 13 – Thursday August 16 – Pastor Mary Jane at Spiritual Leaders’ Conference in Indiana
- ? ? ? ? ? Wednesday August 15 – NO PRAYER GROUP
- ? ? ? ? ? Thursday August 16 – NO BIBLE STUDY
- ? ? ? ? ? Saturday August 25 – Art Exhibit and Lunch at church (time TBA)
- ? ? ? ? ? Sunday August 26 – Hymn Sing at 9:15; Baptism of Jared Joseph Arcouette at 9:30 worship service
- ? ? ? ? ? Monday August 27 – Wings & Hands Craft Group at church, 7 p.m.
- ? ? ? ? ? Monday August 27 – Thursday August 30 – Pastor Mary Jane at Pastors’ Assembly at Geneva Point
- ? ? ? ? ? Wednesday August 29 – NO PRAYER GROUP
- ? ? ? ? ? Thursday August 30 – NO BIBLE STUDY

**CALENDAR – REGULARLY SCHEDULED**

- Every week (unless otherwise noted):
- ? Sunday at 9:30 a.m. - Worship with Sunday School
  - ? Wednesday at 10 a.m. – Bible study on Book of Acts at home of Annalee Collins
  - ? Wednesday at 2:15 p.m. – Prayer Group at Parsonage
  - ? Thursday at 3 p.m. – Lectionary Bible Study at Parsonage

## The Church and The Community

### INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK PRESENTATION

On Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at the church, some people who are interested in starting an Interfaith Hospitality Network in this area will offer a presentation on what it is and what is involved in participating. This nationwide program of outreach to homeless individuals and families has been operating successfully in Worcester for several years. Area churches who choose to participate agree to make their building available for one week at a time on a rotating schedule to provide overnight accommodations for homeless people. Volunteers provide meals and supervision for guests during their assigned week. The program works best with a large number of churches participating. Other churches in the area will be invited to this presentation.

If you are interested in learning more, please come on August 6<sup>th</sup>! For more information, see Pastor Mary Jane.

### ARTS AND CRAFTS FOR KIDS

As part of our ongoing goal of becoming a "Church for all God's Children," we will be offering a five-day arts and crafts program for children in the area. On August 13-17 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, children ages 6-12 are invited to come to the church for a creative and fun time. Our "artists in residence," Judy Bartlett and Dell Marona, will work with the children on several interesting projects. Pre-registration is required. Call (508) 867-3667 to register. Invite a friend or neighbor!

### IGNITING MINISTRY CAMPAIGN

The United Methodist Church is undertaking a national media campaign to promote the UMC through cable TV and other media outlets. Several inviting ads have been prepared which will be broadcast around the country and in the local area starting soon. As part of this campaign, September has been designated as "Open House Month." Our church will be participating in this campaign by preparing to receive visitors during the month of September, and particularly on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> which will be a well-publicized Open House event. A team is being assembled to plan for our Igniting Ministry Campaign. If you are interested in being part of the planning team, contact Pastor Mary Jane.

### RECYCLE YOUR CELL PHONE!

New Hope, Inc. and East Brookfield District Court have a campaign to recycle cell phones. Cell phones that are old, discarded or no longer in service will be collected and then reprogrammed to dial 911 and usually one or two non-emergency numbers like the domestic violence hotline. The phones can then be distributed to victims of domestic violence in the area through the existing New Hope, Inc. network.

To be most effective, phones should be donated with the battery and battery charger. Donors to the local program will receive a letter thanking them for their tax-deductible donation if they submit their name and address along with their phone. Any one wishing to donate a phone should contact Jenne McGinnis at 508-885-0908 or drop the equipment off at her office at the East Brookfield District Court weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jenne is the Safeplan Court Advocate. (She is also an active member of the South Athol United Methodist Church)

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

This year's ecumenical VBS will be held from Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> through Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at First Congregational Church on the Common in West Brookfield. The theme is "Polar Expedition: It's Cool to Love Jesus!" Children from pre-school through age 12 are invited. To pre-register, call Terry Hall at (508) 867-4462 or Pastor Mary Jane at (508) 867-3667. You may also register at the church on July 30<sup>th</sup>.








*Goodness is the only investment that never fails.*

—Henry David Thoreau

*We learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself.*

—Lloyd Alexander

# Make a Bug Snack!

- You will need:*
-  celery
  -  peanut butter
  -  raisins
  -  cream cheese
  -  paprika



### How to make it:

- Clean celery.
- Cut into 3" long pieces.
- Fill celery with peanut butter.
- Arrange raisins in a row on the peanut butter.

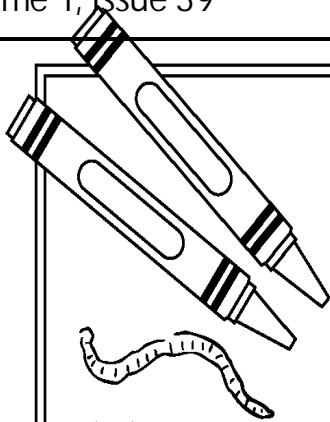
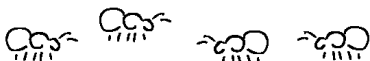
You now have "bugs on a log!"

or



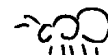
- Fill celery with cream cheese.
- Sprinkle with paprika.

You have "red ants on a log!"



# Just for KIDS

## Bugs in the Bible

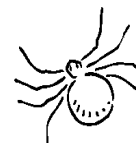


Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs!

Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.

*Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse. Circle them in the puzzle below.*

- Proverbs 6:6 \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 16:20 \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalms 78:45 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Sam. 24:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 23:24 \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 50:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Judges 14:8 \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 59:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 12:23 \_\_\_\_\_ Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_ Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Deuteronomy 7:20 \_\_\_\_\_



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S

## The Church and The Community

### THE CHANGING FACE OF CHRISTIANITY

In 1900, the beginning of what American Protestants christened as “the Christian Century,” 80 percent of Christians were either Europeans or North Americans. Today 60 percent are citizens of the “Two-Thirds World” – Africa, Asia and Latin America. “The center of Christianity has shifted southward,” says Andrew Walls, an expert in the history of Christian missions at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. “The events that are shaping 21<sup>st</sup>-century Christianity are taking place in Africa and Asia.” Europe itself is now a post-Christian society where religion is essentially an identity tag. In Scotland less than 10 percent of Christians regularly go to church, but in the Philippines the figure is nearly 70 percent. In Nigeria alone there are seven times as many Anglicans as there are Episcopalians in the entire United States. The Republic of Korea now has nearly four times as many Presbyterians as America.

In Latin America, the faith that arrived with the conquistadors in the 16<sup>th</sup> century is now expanding in part because the population is exploding. In India, the growth is mainly among the outcasts, who find in Christianity hope and dignity denied them by the rigid caste system. In China, Christianity answers problems of meaning that Marxism fails to address.

As a result, for the first time in its history, Christianity has become a religion mainly of the poor, the marginalized, the powerless and – in parts of Asia and the Middle East – the oppressed. Its face has also changed. “Christianity is no longer a white man’s religion,” says Larry Eskridge of the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals at Wheaton College in Illinois.

What many U.S. Christians fail to realize is that when Asians convert to Christ it requires enormous courage. Converts typically are ostracized by family and neighbors – and often targeted for persecution. Over the last six months, Chinese communists have demolished some 1,500 houses of worship – most of them Christian – whose members refused to accept direction from the state. In officially secular India, scores of Christians have been murdered and their churches trashed since the rise of militant Hindu groups. On Christmas Eve, churches in nine Indonesian cities were bombed, killing at least 18 believers and wounding about 100 more.

(from a cover story in Newsweek, “The Changing Face of the Church,” by Kenneth L. Woodward)

### ST. COUCH POTATO’S PRAYER

Lord, make us instruments of consumption;  
Where there is hatred, let us shake our heads;  
Where there is injury, let us have front-row seats;  
Where there is doubt, let us confirm it;  
Where there is despair, let us go shopping;  
Where there is danger, let us shoot first and ask questions later;  
Where there is sadness, let us market it.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that we may not so much seek to love as to fear;  
To act as to watch guiltily;  
To share as to complain;  
For it is in receiving that we might find it to give,  
It is in convicting others that we are freed,  
And it is in buying that we experience eternal life!?

- by David Wildman, with apologies to St. Francis, in  
New World Outlook November-December 2000

### CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

There will be tryouts for the choir next Thursday. They need all the help they can get.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of all those things not worth keeping around the house. Don’t forget your husbands.

For those of you who have children and don’t know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack’s sermons.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

**CHILDREN ARE WATCHING— This is a “must read”**

A message every adult should read, because children are watching you and doing as you do, not as you say.

“When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn’t looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn’t looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew there is a God I could always talk to and I learned to trust in God.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you give your time and money to help people who had nothing and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don’t.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I felt you kiss me good night and I felt loved and safe.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn’t feel good and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw tears come from your eyes and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it’s all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw that you cared and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I learned most of life’s lessons that I need to know to be a good productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I looked at you and wanted to say, “Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn’t looking.”

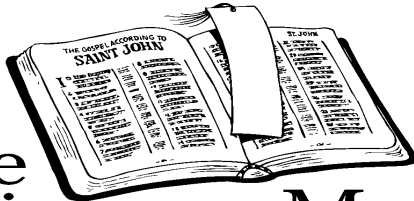
Each of us, parent or friend, influence the life of a child. Today I said a prayer for you. How will you touch the life of someone today? Just by sending this to someone else, you will probably make them at least think about their influence on others.

*This message was provided to the ROCK by Betty Ploof, I know while she didn’t think we were watching she has influenced many of us in the George Whitefield UMC by the many wonderful caring things she does each and everyday!*

*Paul Chicoine—editor*

**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

**May Scripture Readings:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> - **Hosea 11:1-11**  
 Gail **Psalm 107:1-9, 43 (UMH 830)**  
 Sledziewski **Colossians 3:1-11**  
**Luke 12:13-21**
- 12<sup>th</sup> - **Isaiah 1:1, 10-20**  
 Marion **Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 (UMH 783)**  
 Hunt **Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**  
**Luke 12:32-40**
- 19<sup>th</sup> - **Isaiah 5:1-7**  
 John **Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 (UMH 801)**  
 Bartlett **Hebrews 11:29 —12:2**  
**Luke 12:49-56**
- 26<sup>th</sup> - **Jeremiah 1:4-10**  
 Liz **Psalm 71:1-6 (UMH 794)**  
 Sanford **Hebrews 12:18-29**  
**Luke 13:10-17**

**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 August Birthdays**

Crystal Armitage	8/	Irene Clayton	8/
Jean Holihan	8/2	Terri Chagnon	8/7
Gregg Bell	8/8	Pamela Andrews	8/10
James D. Frazier	8/11	Harry Norton	8/12
Hazel Masterman	8/13	Albion Prindle	8/13
Roseanna Ducharme	8/13	Edward Wissell	8/17
George Warriner	8/20	Kathy Chagnon	8/24
David Hazen	8/27	Danielle Bartlett	8/28
Brenda McIntyre	8/29	Rev. Harold Smock	8/30

**Celebrating Anniversaries in August**

Edward F. & Margaret Wissell 8/4  
 Joseph & Barbara Frazier 8/10  
 Jean & Bob Holihan 8/24



Rev. Johnson had second thoughts about his new secretary.

**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.

Have you visited our web site lately?

[www.gbmg-umc.org/whitefield](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/whitefield)