2005 was an unprecedented year for disasters worldwide. Via special offerings, our congregation responded generously to the Tsunami, the Niger famine, the Sudan genocide, the U.S. hurricanes, and the earthquake in Pakistan with almost $5800! This was an outstanding demonstration of caring for those in need as commanded by Jesus. We also donated hundreds of Health Kits to Church World Service, food to the Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center, basic household items to a family displaced by Katrina, and Christmas gifts to residents of Re-Vision House in Dorchester and Meadows House in Ashland. We bought fair trade gifts and coffee, sponsored a concert by the MACUCC youth choir before they traveled to Chile, and transported Flo Ward from the Wrentham Developmental Center to church once a month. We agreed, along with other Franklin churches, to support the new Furniture Recovery Program, run by the Franklin Police Department who will match donated furniture with families who need it. In the spring at a special meeting, the church voted to be a co-sponsor of the Eaton Place Project, an affordable housing development for seniors in Franklin. Thanks to the congregational vote of support, the Missions Committee will commit $2000 in 2006 toward the $6-10,000 total that will be needed if the program is accepted. Whether or not Eaton Place goes forward, the vote by the church was an important act of putting feet on faith. Although pledged mission giving was somewhat flat in 2005, we still have much to celebrate in the area of “time and talent” mission giving.

Because the committee feels we can learn and do more about need, it is sponsoring a Mission Weekend on April 29 and 30, 2006, “Who is My Neighbor?” Thanks to Dadgie Scott for her leadership of this dedicated and hardworking planning group which hopes to open eyes and hearts to existing need and what can be done to alleviate it, as we act on our faith.

What a wonderful committee this has been to work with this year, and I see great things in the months to come. (We hope more of you will become involved in Mission opportunities that arise.) Thanks to Brian, our secretary, for coordinating the sale of Fair Trade coffee; to Deb for over-seeing the Grow Clinic collections and the Tree of Giving; to Dottie for coordinating Flo’s travels and the Greater Gift Fair; to Brenda for being our representative to the Furniture Recovery Program; to Dadgie for her never-ending inspiration, caring and leadership; to Sarah for her wealth of ideas and compassion; and to John for keeping the finances straight. Because
Nancy, Brian, and Dadgie will be leaving the committee, the 2006 group will be _ new and _ seasoned veterans! I wish you all lots of energy, support, inspiration, and a passion for missions that will run rampant throughout the congregation.

Nancy Ross, chair
Brenda Joy
Dottie Goddard
Brian Pickhover
Dadgie Scott
Deb Stiffler
John Wallace