

The

Chimes

Newsletter of

The Congregational Church of Hollis (UCC)
3 Monument Square Hollis, NH 03049

March 2012

Volume L, No. 3



The
Congregational
Church of Hollis
(UCC)

Pastor

Rev. Larry W. Smith

Pastor@HollisChurch.org

Christian Education Director

Amy Zapp

AmyCE@HollisChurch.org

Christian Education Assistant

Michelle Gehan

MichelleCE@HollisChurch.org

Church Administrator

Eileen Widner

ChurchOffice@HollisChurch.org

Music Staff

Organist

Edward Scibilia

Senior Choir Director

M. Sylvia Eggleston

Handbell Choir Director

Janet Sterritt

Contact us:

Office: 603-465-7797

603-465-7099

Visit our website at:

www.HollisChurch.org

The Chimes is published monthly September to May. One edition is published for the summer months. All submissions for the newsletter are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication.



The season of Lent,

traditionally for Christians a more somber, introspective and penitent time (40 days, excluding Sundays), began back on Ash Wednesday (February 22) and concludes when the bright dawn of Easter morning dispels the darkness of night, and our fears and misgivings give way to a resurrected hope. It is a time, in the words of the hymn, to “ponder anew what the Almighty can do” – a time to appreciate the full significance of what happened for us on Easter morning. Lent would have us examine our faith and its implications for our lives.

There are many creeds, confessions and statements of faith that help us to focus on certain basic truths that, as Christians, we can affirm. One that I have come to appreciate is the confession of faith written by the famed Russian novelist, Leo Tolstoy, and printed below. I hope you will benefit from it as I have. Please excuse the non-inclusive language. It was not a conscious issue in the day of Tolstoy.

A Confession of Faith

I believe in God, who is for me spirit, love, the principle of all things. I believe that God is in me, as I am in Him. I believe that the true welfare of man consists in fulfilling the will of God. I believe that from the fulfillment of the will of God there can follow nothing but that which is good for me and all men. I believe that the will of God is that every man should love his fellow men; and should act toward others as he desires that they would act toward him. I believe that the reason of life is for each of us simply to grow in love. I believe that this growth in love will contribute more than any other force to establish the kingdom of God on earth.

God’s peace be with you!

Larry W. Smith



(more from Rev. Smith on p. 6)

From the Christian Education Office

Confirmation News

The Confirmation Class will meet twice for Wednesday class sessions in March, on **March 7 and March 28**. **Please note** that the class time on March 7 will be shortened by 15 minutes. The class on the 7th will meet from 5:00-6:00.

We shall also meet at the Brookdale Packing Plant after the 10:30 church service on **Sunday, March 25**, at 11:45, to pack the Easter food boxes. Please note that this is a change from the original plan to pack the boxes on April 1.

Fill the Backpack

~ Children Reaching Out to Children

Each year our 5th grade class selects and organizes a Lenten service project to encourage all of us to live in God's ways. This year our fifth graders have chosen to reach out to children displaced from their homes by danger and poverty. Their wish is to help immigrant and refugee children start their new lives knowing the love of God and community.

During the month of March you will be hearing from our fifth grade about ways you can support their very important mission to help those who cannot help themselves...immigrant and refugee children. Their theme *Fill The Backpack* is intended to replace those items which had to be left behind by filling backpacks with things that elementary school aged kids would enjoy. For example **they will collect backpacks; school supplies such as pencils, notebooks and crayons; new clothes for ages 6 to 12; books in Spanish if possible; and small toys, stuffed animals and games**. The filled backpacks will be delivered to immigrant and refugee children to welcome them to their new homes.



Our Church School Poetry

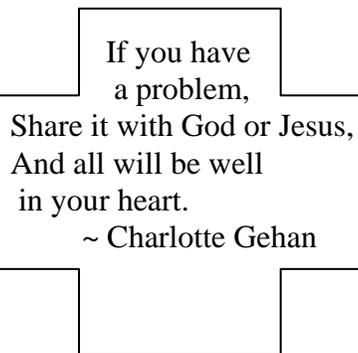
Many of our Sunday school classes have been busy expressing their faith through poetry this past month. Our 4th graders spent one Sunday looking at Mark 1:21-28, and talking about the authority and power of Jesus' ministry. In response to their discussion, the children created some beautiful poetry reflecting their thoughts.

Our 6th grade class created a Seven Line Poem entitled "God's Healing Love", following a morning of discussion about love and compassion.

And our 7th graders wrote some beautiful "I AM" poems to bring into focus the nature and pain of homelessness. The 7th grade continues to find new ways to help our younger church school children see how their offering money will be helping the families at the Anne Marie House.

I hope you will enjoy reading our Sunday school children's thoughtful and insightful poetry.

Amy



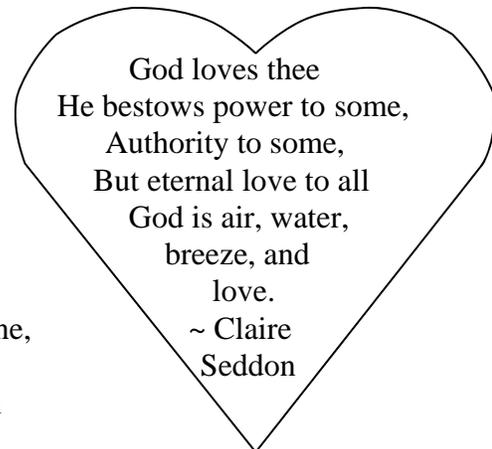
Weary not of God,
But of life's heavy burden.
Love eternally.
~ Nicholas Bird

King of our own kings,
We love our Saviour,
Helper of mankind.
~ Charlotte Gehan

Jesus' Power
His power shines right on me.
Oh Jesus' light.
~ Chase Adams

Waiting for children,
Always there for you and I,
My brother Jesus.
~ Charlotte Gehan

My Father's own son,
There for rich, poor, everyone,
On our own doorstep.
~ Charlotte Gehan



God's Healing Love

Compassion
Tender, Warm
Helping, Supporting, Caring
Love, Family, Hope, Jesus
Embrace, Listening, Pray
Gently, Lovingly
Whole

"I AM"

I am cold and sad.

I pretend to be in bed.
I feel cold hard roads.
I see people happy all the time.
I worry that I won't get a home.
I cry about not having a home.
I am cold and sad.

I understand I'm dirty and gross.
I say I will find a home one day.
I dream about having a home.
I try to get money.
I hope to be normal one day.
I am cold and sad.

by Aaron Etchells

"I AM"

I am cold and lonely.

I pretend that I am warm and
have a home.
I feel like no one likes me.
I see happy people not willing
to help.
I worry that it will stay this way.
I cry about having no home.
I am cold and lonely.

I understand that I have no mon-
ey.
I say that I am strong.
I dream about having a home.
I try to get a job.
I hope someday I will have a
home.

I am cold and lonely.

by Nathan Etchells



"I AM"

I am hungry and depressed.
I pretend to be happy.
I feel depressed.
I see people passing by paying no attention.
I worry about the lack of food I have.
I cry about the home I will never have.

I am hungry and depressed.
I understand I will remain depressed.
I say the things I need, but no one pays attention.
I dream to be happy.
I try to be happy.
I hope to be happy.

I am hungry and depressed.

by Curtis Newton

The Horton Center Labyrinth is coming again to Hollis!

This year as part of our communion unit, our fourth grade class will experience the practice of meditation and prayer by walking a labyrinth during class time. Labyrinths have been around for over 4000 years and are found in many major religious traditions all over the world. A labyrinth has a single, non-branching path to the center and back out again. When you walk a labyrinth, you follow the single path back and forth to the center. At the center you may stay a bit to reflect, meditate and pray. Each person's walk is an individual experience. Some choose to walk to empty their minds while others to focus on a personal concern. The walk can be a deepening of awareness or simply an enjoyable walk. Walking a labyrinth is a special opportunity for meditation, prayer, and a chance to journey to your center.

"Your life is a sacred journey. And it is about change, growth, discovery, movement, transformation; continuously expanding your vision of what is possible, stretching your soul, learning to see clearly and deeply, listening to your intuition, taking courageous challenges at every step along the way. You are on the path... exactly where you are meant to be right now... And from here, you can only go forward, shaping your life story into a magnificent tale of triumph, of healing of courage, of beauty, of wisdom, of power, of dignity, and of love."

Caroline Adams

Our Christian Ed Board would like to extend an invitation to the entire church community to come experience the labyrinth. We will open the church, **Saturday, March 24th, from 10:00 until 4:00** for anyone interested in walking the labyrinth. Hardy Hall will be transformed into a space for meditation and sacred journey. Won't you come walk the walk during this Season of Lent? You need only come with an open heart and mind. Guidelines for the walk will be available at the entrance to the labyrinth.



March 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Mission Items of the Month: Powdered Laundry Detergent for the Corpus Christi Food Pantry</p>						
				10 am - Knitting Group 7 pm - Choir		
				1	2	3
9:00 am - Communion Worship 10:30 am - Communion Worship No Sunday School 11:45 am - Rainbow Ringers	7:15 am - Men's Breakfast at Denny's 7:00 pm - CE Board meeting	11:30 am - Ladies Society meets at Jan LeMay's home 7pm - Stewardship Board meeting	10 am - Adult Study class #9 of 11 5 pm - Facilities Committee meeting 5 - 6:00 pm - Confirmation Class 6:15 pm - Lenten Soup and Study Program	7 pm - Choir 8:15 pm - Music Board meeting	Our church volunteers provide dinner at Ash St. Shelter	Blood DRIVE 10 am - 3 pm Hardy Hall
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Daylight Savings Time began at 2am - Turn your clocks forward!</i> Girl Scout Sunday 9:00 am - Worship 10:30 am - Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am - Rainbow Ringers	7:15 am - Men's Breakfast at Denny's 7:15 pm - Deacons meeting	7 pm - Mission & Action Board meeting	10 am - Adult Study class #10/11	April Chimes deadline 10 am - Knitting Group 7 pm - Choir		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</i> 9:00 am - Worship 10:30 am - Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am - Rainbow Ringers 2:00 pm - Naomi Circle meeting Eat at Shorty's Mission Trip Fundraiser	7:15 am - Men's Breakfast at Denny's 7 pm - Trustees meeting	9 am - Staff meeting 7 pm - Council meeting	10 am - Final Adult Study class- #11/11 6:15 pm - Lenten Soup and Study Program	7 pm - Choir		<i>Walk~Meditate~Pray</i>  Visit the Labyrinth 10am - 4pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 am - Worship 10:30 am - Worship and Sunday School 11:45 am - Confirmands pack food baskets at Brookdale	Easter flower orders due 7:15 am - Men's Breakfast at Denny's 6:15 pm - Lenten Soup and Study Program		5 - 6:15 pm - Confirmation Class	7 pm - Choir		
25	26	4 27	28	29	30	31



New Bibles

Each year our third graders receive their very own Bible from the Congregational Church of Hollis. Next year's class will be receiving a new edition, chosen

by the Christian Education Board and generously co-sponsored by Therry Neilson Steinhardt. The new **Spark Bible** (NRSV) is age appropriate for our third grades, but will continue to grow with them through their school years. The Spark Bible features stickers that introduce fun ways to help connect kids with the Bible. It also includes kid-friendly introductions to the books of the Bible, along with definitions, facts, trivia, and questions to help kids engage their faith. We are very excited about this Bible and so thankful to Therry for jumping in and making it all possible. If anyone with older grade school children is interested in purchasing this Bible for their child, please contact Amy Zapp for more information amyce@hollischurch.org. Again, thank you, Therry. We are so blessed to have you in our church family!!!

2012 Buffalo, NY Mission Trip

The workcampers of the upcoming Mission Trip to Buffalo, NY would like to thank the congregation for your continued support of our yearly trip to help those in need. We enjoyed serving you at the Spaghetti Supper and hope that you had a nice evening with us. We are so blessed to have the support and encouragement from our church family to continue this program each year. Your ticket purchases and placemat donations helped us raise approximately \$1833.00.

We were also thrilled to once again this year have the added excitement of the Mission Trip quilt raffle. We so appreciate Gail Harrison's continued commitment to supporting the Mission Trip with her endless enthusiasm and energy organizing fundraisers. The supper and quilt together, raised enough money to cover the rental cost of at least one of our extended passenger vans. Special thanks to Gail and to all who supported these two very important fundraisers!

...AND FROM GAIL:

Gail would like to thank everyone who participated in the Mission Trip Quilt raffle including those who purchased tickets, made cash donations, donated fabric and especially Janice Boutotte who sewed the quilt together.

Our Church Records

Baptisms

January 29, 2012

Ryan Alexander Phillip, son of Justin and Jillian Phillip

Jack Anderson Kearns, son of Edward and Beth Kearns

Sarah Peiser Cramton, daughter of Stephen and Karen Cramton

Deaths

February 7, 2012

Alexa Jane Feuerstein

Memorial Gifts

In loving memory of Vaughan Pitman by:

Bob and Sibyl Cushman

In loving memory of Dot Warren by:

Inez and Larry Morrison

Dot Pitman

Don and Ginny Brooks

Claire Boucher

In loving memory of Elvira Lorentzen by:

Virginia Sipe

Lydia Schellenberg

Thelma Pollard

Bud and Phyllis King

Marian Warren

Janet Anderson

Claire Boucher

Addie and Roger Saunders

Ladies Society

The Ladies Society will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at the home of Jan LeMay.

Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle will meet Sunday, March 18, at 2:00 p.m. in Emerson Chapel. Our special guest speaker will be Kathy Olmsted of the New England UCC Women. She will tell us about the New England Women's Celebration event which reaches out to women in the pews to involve them in learning and sharing their faith beyond the local church and Conference setting. All women are invited to join us.

From the Pastor – continued from p. 1

Soup / Video / Discussion

programs are scheduled to be held on the following three evenings in Lent: **Wednesday, March 7 ...**

Wednesday, March 21 ... and Monday, March 26.

A simple Lenten fellowship meal will be served at **6:15**, which will feature a

choice of 2 homemade soups prepared by members of our church family as well as bread and dessert. The video presentation will begin not earlier than but as close to **7:00** as possible. If you cannot join us for the meal, please feel free to arrive at 7:00 for the video presentation followed by discussion. **Only those who intend to be present for the meal are asked to make a reservation** no later than the Sunday before each of the three programs by signing the sheet that will be posted on the bulletin board across from Rev. Smith's office or by calling the church office. There will be no charge for the meal, but a basket will be set out to receive any free-will offerings to help cover the cost of the meal. The following short (25 minutes each) video presentations are scheduled:

Wednesday, March 7 – *Faces on Faith: Frederick Buechner* *Faces on Faith* is a DVD program that features interviews with some of the twentieth (and into the 21st) century's giants of faith, discussing their hopes and beliefs in a relaxed, informal setting. Topics include belief in God, the meaning of prayer, the problem of evil, and the role of faith in daily living. This evening's program will be the interview that was held with Frederick Buechner, who is the author of more than thirty works of fiction and nonfiction, and an ordained Presbyterian minister. He has been a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, and was honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Wednesday, March 21 – *What Good Is Prayer?* This presentation comes from the *Questions of Faith* DVD series in which a number of Protestant, Jewish, and Roman Catholic participants respond to various questions of faith. The responders range from priests to psychotherapists, Old Testament scholars to evangelists, and preachers to sociologists and provide a wealth of insights.

Monday, March 26 – *Faces on Faith: Marcus Borg* Please see the March 7 program for a description on the *Faces on Faith* programs. Marcus Borg retired recently from his position as Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University. He is author of the bestselling *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, *The Heart of Christianity* and others. He was an active member of the Jesus Seminar when it focused on the historical Jesus and he has been chair of the Historical Jesus section of the Society of Biblical Literature.



Adult Study Class

Adult Crossings Study Class continues to meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. The final class will be March 21. The class sessions remaining are:

9. The Cross
10. Resurrection Life
11. Run the Race

Bell Choir



Ring into Spring

Rainbow Ringers

(elementary and middle school)

Practice: March 4, 11, & 18

11:45 to 12:30 Parkhurst Room

Play: March 25

Teen Ring (or young at heart)

Practice: April 1, 15, 22 - 11:45 to 12:30 Parkhurst Room

Play: April 29

Youth Chimes (preschool to 3rd grade and helpers are welcome)

Practice: April 29, May 6

Play: May 13

From the Church Office

A BIG Thank You goes to Marsha Joyce, Thelma Pollard, Doris Rafferty, Lydia Schellenberg, Debbe Shipman, and Joyce Toli for collating, sorting, and labeling the February *Chimes*.

Lenten Giving Program

By now many of you may have noticed that we have a tree “growing” inside our church! And despite the fact that the calendar says March, it is blooming with leaves that have come from members throughout our church family. Hopefully each of you received the mailing with your bright green leaf and a letter describing our Lenten Giving Program. If you haven’t or if your dog ate your leaf, we have plenty of extras available at Sunday service!



This year we are asking each member - young and old and everyone in between - to prayerfully contemplate making a sacrifice during the Lenten Season to honor our Lord Jesus Christ who sacrificed His life for us.

While the monetary amounts offered through these sacrifices will vary depending on each individual’s circumstance, it is equally important to remember to slow down, contemplate our many blessings and taking the time to “give back” during this Holy season. The funds collected during the **Lenten Giving Campaign** will be used to help the church fulfill its mission both to our own church family and to the greater community at large.

In a recent sermon to our children, Reverend Smith explained why being a “spectator” is okay for major events such as the Super Bowl, but isn’t such a good way to approach life. The **Lenten Giving Program** is one simple way for everyone to move from spectator to participant. As Reverend Smith noted, we already have the best quarterback in Jesus, so it is time for everyone to join in the action and get their leaf up on the tree!

Thank you for your support.

The Stewardship Committee

Mission and Action News

One Great Hour of Sharing - March 18th

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries.

When you make a gift to OGHS, you are actively participating in tending to God's flock throughout the world. Your gift brings shelter, food, water and medical supplies to disaster survivors. You help refugees find safe shelter and begin to build new lives. You aid impoverished communities in securing dependable sources of food and clean water. And you help provide medical care and education

One Great Hour
of Sharing



that strengthen bodies and minds and create brighter futures. The need is great; OGHS responds to disasters on average every 2.5 days, while it changes lives 365 days a year. “Sharing Brings Joy” - please consider participating in One Great Hour of Sharing by donating in the special offering on March 18, 2011. Additional information can be found at www.onegreathourofsharing.org.

March Item of the Month: Powdered Laundry Detergent *for Corpus Christi Food Pantry*

Not only does the Corpus Christi Food Pantry serve the community with assorted food items – they also provide toiletries and other essential personal care products to families and individuals in need.



This month, please help them with your donation of **powdered laundry detergent** of any size container or box. After we deliver our donation, the staff will “divide up” the detergent to ensure that all may benefit from a few cups (and clean loads of laundry!) at a time. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support!

Mission and Action Board – Always in Action!

The Mission and Action Committee is mindful of the fact that our church is faced with many financial priorities for 2012. In keeping with the spirit of “action” that is so much a part of our charter, here are just a few highlights of the past year’s impact that we’ve had on organizations and individuals in our community:

- **Ash Street Shelter:** Each month – purchasing, preparing, and delivering a complete dinner to help feed local area residents.
- **Outreach to school nurses:** Donating financial support in the form of gift cards to needy families in all four local Hollis schools for several families in need.
- **Item of the Month:** Working together with local support groups to provide goods or gently used items “at the moment of need” for children, the elderly, families, and so many others. Our monthly donations help meet the needs of those who seek food, a warm coat on a cold day, or a backpack of new school supplies that will help set up a young student for success.

This year, we are looking forward to the many ways that we will continue our outreach to the local community and beyond. We welcome your thoughts and input! Please feel free to contact Beth Kearns (kearns1@charter.net) or any member of the Mission and Action Board to share your ideas and your time. Thank you!

Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, March 10th
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
in Hardy Hall

Did you know that every 2 seconds someone in America needs blood? That means over 38,000 blood donations are needed every day. Your blood donation can help to save 3 lives! Please give! You must be at least 110 pounds and 17 years of age to donate blood. A Blood Donor Card or a valid picture ID is required.

**Can You
Spare
A Drop?**



Daylight Savings Time begins
at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 11.
Remember to turn your clocks forward
on Saturday night!



May we pray for you?

The prophet Isaiah wrote, “...for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

The Prayer Chain’s members are committed to praying for others’ needs. No request is too big or too small and all requests are held in strictest confidence. Please contact Rev. Larry Smith at 465-7797 or Lydia Schellenberg at 465-2495.



Girl Scouts Reaches Century Mark

In 1912, Georgia resident Juliette Gordon Low phoned a distant cousin and said, “I’ve got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we’re going to start it tonight!”

Today the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) continues to empower girls through community service, camping experiences and the teaching of other practical skills. The organization, which has nurtured more than 50 million participants, strives to build “girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.”

Sunday, March 11, is Girl Scout Sunday. Come celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouting!



Easter Flowers

You may place flowers in the church on Easter Sunday in memory or in honor of loved ones. Fill out the form below to place your order. Call Wendy Longland at 465-3466 with any questions.

I would like to order _____ **tulips** and/or _____ **lilies** (please indicate quantity & flower choice) to be placed in church on Easter Sunday.

_____ Total cash/check enclosed at **\$7.50 per plant**. Checks should be made payable to: **The Congregational Church of Hollis** with *Easter flowers* on the memo line.

This plant is given _____ **in loving memory** OR _____ **in honor of**:
(PLEASE PRINT NAMES AS THEY SHOULD BE LISTED)

Your Name: _____
(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD APPEAR)

Telephone: _____

_____ I wish my plant **TO BE DELIVERED** to friends or members of our church family in hospitals or nursing homes.

_____ **I WILL PICK UP** my plant(s) *after the last service* on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012.

Please return form to: The Congregational Church of Hollis
 3 Monument Square
 Hollis, NH 03049

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING:
Monday, March 26, 2012

Several people requested the recipe for the cookies Ginny Brooks provided for one of the February coffee hours. Ginny very kindly shares her recipe below...

Forgotten Cookies

Grandma Peterham
Ginny Brooks

Preheat oven 350 degrees

- 2 egg whites
- 3/4 cup Sugar
- 1/2 tsp Pure Vanilla
- 1 cup Ghirardelli dark chocolate chips

1. Beat egg whites until peaks form. Slowly add sugar while beating.
2. Beat until very stiff adding vanilla.
3. Fold in chocolate chips.
4. Drop by teaspoon full on a parchment paper lined cookie sheet.
5. **Turn Oven OFF** as you slide the cookies in the oven. Leave for at least four hours or overnight!



**You may use butterscotch chips instead of chocolate. You may also use nuts if you prefer.

Mother said they were called Forgotten Cookies because they were made at the end with the egg whites that were left over when everything else was made for the Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner, and you did not want to waste them by throwing them away. :-)

Mark this date on your calendar! Enjoy a meal out with family and friends and help raise money for this summer's Mission Trip.

Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse

at the Nashua Mall (Route 3, exit 6)

Sunday, March 18, 2012

ALL DAY! Lunch, Dinner, or Take-Out!

Ask your server for a copy of your detailed receipt. **Drop your itemized receipt (*not your charge card receipt!*) in the basket at the host stand, and we receive 15% of the total food sales!**



(Itemized receipts *must* be placed in the basket to be counted toward our Fair Share total)

The Congregational Church of Hollis
(United Church of Christ)
3 Monument Square
Hollis NH 03049

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1
Hollis, NH 03049

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

