

THE PARISH POST

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT
www.cheshirecongregational.org

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No. 9

Opportunity

By Dave Buchan, Interim Senior Minister

In the days before modern harbors, a ship had to wait for the flood tide before it could make it to port. The term for this situation in Latin was *ob portus*, that is, waiting for the moment when the ship could ride the turn of the tide to harbor.

The captain and crew were ready and waiting for that one moment, for they knew that if they missed it, they would have to wait for another tide to come in.

The English word “opportunity” is derived from this original meaning.

Shakespeare used this in one of his most famous passages:

There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to
fortune...

On such a full sea are we now afloat;
And we must take the current when it
serves,

Or lose our ventures.

It's high tide at First Congregational Church. The current is running strong. There's a tremendous spirit and excitement in our fellowship.

The call of a new Senior Minister is anticipated. Our Christian Education, youth and music programs are vital and energetic. Real growth in the faith is taking place.

Our church is strong, and that strength enables us to reach out to others beyond our doors. There is physical and spiritual need in our world.

People are searching for values and for a meaningful faith for their lives.

We have a wonderful opportunity to minister in Christ's name in our day. But to do so, we need your prayers and financial help.

To share the gospel in word and deed effectively in our time, we need increased giving on everyone's part.

Won't you help us transform lives?

Give generously, give with outstretched hands to our pledge drive for 2009. The opportunity is now!

In Christ,
Dave Buchan, Interim Senior Minister

Food Drive Results

The counts are in! Thank you to a very generous congregation. We received 47 boxes of cereal, and Outreach will match them, to bring a total of 100 boxes to FISH in East Haven. We collected 352 food items on Communion Sunday to provide to the Greater Waterbury Food Bank (GWIM).

With all the toys brought in or purchased at the Homecoming Picnic, we now have 351 toys (many in multiple item packages) to provide to the children of Iraq and Afghanistan by our troops. The children are the true victims of war and it is good to know our congregation is providing some joy in their lives.

We have donated in the congregation's name from the Outreach budget allocations of \$500 per month for September, October, November, and December to the Connecticut Food Bank and Connecticut Fuel Bank.

Since May, we have deposited \$88.10 to the Malawi funds from our bottle returns. Thank you to everyone who turns in bottle return vouchers for this cause.

Watch for more Outreach opportunities; Mission Day, Malawi Concert, Mission to the Gulf Coast, Thanksgiving Meals, Toys for Children at Christmas! Continue the cereal and food when you can.

We are all God's Disciples doing His good works here on Earth.

The Board of Outreach

Worship Schedule For October

Sunday, October 5: Peggy Allen preaching. Communion. Food offerings will be received; the food of the month is canned or bottled fruit.

Sunday, October 12: Dave Buchan preaching.

Sunday, October 19: Alison McCaffrey preaching.

Sunday, October 26: Dave Buchan preaching.

Neighbors in Need

On October 5, the Neighbors in Need offering will be received. This is a ministry of the United Church of Christ focusing on the mainland United States and Puerto Rico.

One-third of the money collected supports American Indians. The rest of the collection supports justice and advocacy programs nationwide, such as children's health care, ending the war in Iraq, changing the names and logos of sports teams with Native American themes, and changing the No Child Left Behind Act.

**Have you remembered
First Congregational Church
in your estate planning?**

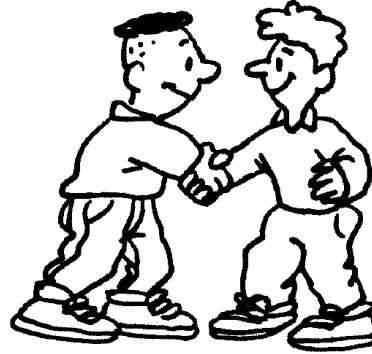
Our Mission Work at the Children's Home

The Children's Home in Cromwell has benefited from the mission work of our church. This past spring we held a Spa Night that was a huge success. Many girls participated, receiving haircuts, manicures with paraffin wax and makeup donated by Mary Kay (Betsy Adams). The Bingo Night was filled with a lot of laughs and prizes.

In addition, the Mazzaferro family hosted two days at their lake house for a day of relaxing fun, learning to fish, boating skills, jet skiing, tubing, and kayaking. The children who came were extremely eager, but fearful of the unknown and the possibility of failure. Slowly but surely they were willing to go outside their comfort zones to trust others. They learned so much and gained so much confidence. The five boys caught more than 40 fish right off the 'magic dock' and learned to gut and cook them.

The "Learning Greenhouse" has become a special place at the Children's Home. It has now been totally renovated, and the cooling tarp that our church purchased for them is working flawlessly. A small goldfish pond complete with a waterfall has been included in the greenhouse and serves as a place for meditation, education and a component to the successful eco-system.

There are so many skills that they have improved: reading, following directions, attention span, willingness to learn, the ability to care for something of



importance, behavior and working skills individually and cooperatively, and so on. As you thin out your perennial gardens this fall, we will gladly accept any seeds or root cuttings for the greenhouse (call 272-2349 to arrange pickup).

We would like to thank those who have participated to date: Betsy Adams, Susan Bishop, Kris Bokon, Carol Kovaly, Lisa Canas, Tracy Bloschichak, Holly Groom, Adeline Arumainayagam, Jan Garthwait, Jessica Koch, Ed Albrecht, and Jan and Bill Moore, Lisa Bishop, Madelyn Diker, Towers Farms, Cheshire Nursery, Tom and Cindy Mazzaferro; if I have omitted anyone please accept my apologies.

For those who have volunteered for other venues previously, we will be in contact with you shortly. If others are interested in making a difference in a child's life, volunteering for the Greenhouse project or call Cindy Mazzaferro at 272-2349 or email at TC091281@aol.com.

Phone Volunteers Needed

Would you like to be part of First Congregational Church's Telephone Ministry to our older members? Twelve volunteers – 12 months in the year. You would be given one month each year to make eight to 20 telephone calls to wish our older members a happy birthday or happy anniversary.

You are not asking for anything, just bringing them greetings from our church family, and they are pleased to be remembered. You will offer them the services available through Parish Care: rides and small chores, and listen to see whether they express any other needs or concerns, which you will report back to Martha Lape, our telephone ministry coordinator. If you would like to help or have questions, please call Martha at 272-9327 or email her at mlape@aol.com.



Fall Clean-up Day

Come join our church family to help clean up our church grounds.

All groups and all ages are invited to participate. Bring your rakes, blowers, tarps and other tools for the removal of leaves.

Here are the details:

When: Saturday, November 22, from 9 a.m. to noon. The rain (or snow!) date is the following Saturday, November 29.

Please join in!

Literacy Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury will provide an orientation for those interested in learning more about volunteering in the adult literacy program. The group will meet Monday, October 20, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the church library.

Thank You, George

The Trustees hope you all have had a chance to check out the new carpeting in the sanctuary, the vestibule, and the balcony stairs. It looks great!

We should be thankful to George Thorpe for his generosity many years ago. He gave us a substantial amount of money in his will with the stipulation that the interest only be used for work to be done in the sanctuary. In 2005 we were able to repaint the sanctuary and vestibule with accumulated interest and now in 2008 we were able to replace the 40-year-old carpeting in the same area.

What a wonderful gift he gave us!

Christmas Ornaments

We are offering the 2007 pewter ornament of First Congregational Church at a discounted price of \$7.00 each. They may be purchased at the church office, at church on Sundays in November and early December, or by calling Martha Lape at 272-9327 or emailing her at mlape@aol.com.

Notes from the Executive Board

The focus at the Executive Board September 2 meeting was on upcoming events, including congregational meetings and stewardship.

Congregational Meetings:

September: With the required informational meetings held regarding revisions to the church by-laws, a vote to accept the changes will be taken at a congregational meeting September 21. Additionally, the Proposed 2009 Budget will be presented then.

November: Trustees will make an informational presentation to the congregation on Sunday, November 2, when they are sponsoring coffee hour.

This presentation will include information on church infrastructure and an update on plans for the Columbarium.

December: It was agreed that the meeting to approve the proposed 2009 budget will be held on Sunday, December 7, after the 11:00 service.

Stewardship: The Board of Stewardship provided the Executive Board with information regarding its activities and plans.

Ideas and concepts from the book "Ask, Thank, Tell" are key components to stewardship. Several copies of the book are circulating through the congregation. Those who have already read the book are asked to leave it in the church library so that it can be shared with others.

Other Items:

The work on Church Drive continues: removal of old curbs and installation of new sidewalks; completion of the walkway and plaque on the green; and paving of the back driveway. Still to be done are re-grading and raising the elevation of Church Drive, paving, and installation of new curbing.

The Districting Project is moving forward, with a pilot planned to begin October 1. One of the 12 districts has been selected and leaders will be assigned to begin this program, which is all about connections and helping the church's membership better care for each other.

Vision for the Future: Research materials have been gathered from various sources. A key concept to making this work is building a sense of community.

Trustees' Presentation

The Trustees are currently preparing information concerning the church infrastructure that they will present to the congregation on November 2 at 10 a.m. The information will address current ongoing projects, such as Church Drive, as well as potential future projects. As a second topic for discussion we hope to present information concerning the columbarium (a structure with recesses in the walls to receive the ashes of the dead).

Christian Education in October

World Wide Communion Sunday is October 5; Third Graders will receive communion with their families on this day at both services. They have attended a workshop with the Rev. Dave Buchan and Debbie Gravelle about communion to prepare them for this special moment.

Meet Your Mentor Night is Monday, October 20, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Confirmands, families and mentors will gather on this evening to meet each other. Confirmands and mentors will engage in getting-to-know-you-activities. The evening ends with a short meeting and commissioning of the mentors.

Bible Journeys for Grades 2-6: This workshop rotation Church School program is for children and youth in grades 2-6 this fall. Children will know what workshop they will go to by the schedule below, the bulletin or the Bible Journeys Board in the hallway across from Room 8. This month, classes will study the story of Zacchaeus.

Thou Art in Room 8: After reading the story of Zacchaeus, the art lesson emphasizes that Jesus knows us by name as he knew Zacchaeus by name. Students will create a 'name critter' using their name. They will uniquely decorate their name critter.

Red Sea Productions in Room 9: This puppetry workshop will have the teacher inviting a surprise guest to be Zacchaeus and talk about himself. Then the children

will have an opportunity to do a puppet script and act out the story.

Desert Tales in Room 10: This storytelling workshop will use the video Treasure in Heaven about when Jesus meets Zacchaeus. The leader will need to preview the video to know when to stop it for questions.

Gospel Games in Room 11: This is a cooking and games workshop. The Bible story will be read. You will use cookies they decorate to illustrate the point that we have to be open for God's love to stick in us. Each child will get two cookies. Then everyone will play a game of concentration with review questions from the story.

Connections from week to week: At the end of the rotation, the students will be able to identify Luke as one of the four Gospels; be able to locate and read the text; know that Jesus came to save the lost; begin to understand that Jesus loves us no matter what mistakes we have made; and begin to understand that our love for Jesus causes us to make changes in our lives.

UNICEF: Trick or treat for UNICEF has been a tradition of American children for more than 50 years. The funds collected help UNICEF provide clean water and sanitation, healthcare, nutrition, education and emergency relief to the world's most vulnerable children

Our church has had a tradition of mission partnership with UNICEF at

Continued on the next page

9:00

Date	Thou Art	Red Sea Prod.	Desert Tales	Gospel Games
Oct. 5	Grades 3&4	Grade 5	Grade 2	Grade 6
Oct. 12	Grade 6	Grades 3&4	Grade 5	Grade 2
Oct. 19	Grade 2	Grade 6	Grades 3&4	Grade 5
Oct. 26	Grade 4	Grade 2	Grades 5/6	Grade 3

11:00

Date	Thou Art	Red Sea Prod.	Desert Tales	Gospel Games
Oct. 5	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship
Oct. 12	Grades 2-4	Grades 5/6	Week Off	Week Off
Oct. 19	Week Off	Week Off	Grades 2 - 4	Grades 5/6
Oct. 26	Grades 5/6	Grades 2-4	Week Off	Week Off

Continued from the previous page

Halloween. Please decide as a family if you want to participate in this mission opportunity. Please return money to the church school class or Christian Ed. office by the first week of November.

It is most helpful if you count the money together as a family and then write a check (made out to the 1st Congregational Church with a memo UNICEF) or send it in bills rather than return the box of change. This expedites the counting for our financial people who count the money. Children will receive their boxes on Sunday, October 26. If you will be away that Sunday, please see Debbie Gravelle the Sunday before for a box.

Church School Snack and Juice: Three-year olds through 1st graders are served snacks and juice on Sunday mornings. We have found that asking parents to contribute once a year helps us keep within our budget.

We welcome all contributions and offer a schedule as a suggested way to remember. Please read labels carefully as snacks should have no nuts, peanut butter or peanut oil. Some suggestions of cookies which have no nuts are nut free varieties of Chips Ahoy, Oreos, Teddy Grahams, Vanilla Wafers, and Lorna Doone. For October, families with last names beginning C or D are asked to contribute; for November, families with last names E to G.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God's love. This program provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on mission project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus Christ.

Since 1993, this project has shared the Good News of God's love with hurting children through the simplest of gifts, shoeboxes filled with school supplies, toys, and personal items. These boxes help introduce children to Jesus. Local believers follow up with evangelistic programs.

Again this year, our Caring Crafts Group has made small teddy bears to go in each of our boxes. Please leave room in your box for a bear. Remember to either buy a plastic clear shoe box or wrap a regular cardboard shoe box separate from the lid and put an elastic around it. This way we can put the bears into the boxes.

Families will receive a brochure about this exciting project through the church school soon. Shoeboxes are due back on Sunday, November 16. We are seeking families who could deliver the boxes to Gateway Bible Church in Oakville (Watertown) that afternoon. This is a wonderful way to allow your family to do a hands-on project of mission and see what other families and churches are doing as well. Please contact Debbie Gravell at 272-5323, ext.16, if you can bring the boxes to Oakville.



Free Pancake Breakfast

There may be no free lunch, but God's grace is free, and so is this: a free pancake breakfast on Sunday, October 26, after the 9 o'clock and 11 o'clock services in the Parish Hall. It's a congregation-wide thank you from your Board of Stewardship.

Photo Directory Coming

The Membership Committee is planning to publish a new directory during the next church year (after the new senior minister has been called). Recently the committee, working with Betsy Adams, identified a vendor to produce the directory and is considering having photographs taken next May and June. All church members will be notified well in advance of the actual dates.

In addition to pages for individual photos of members, the directory will have space for photos taken at church functions. The committee asks that anyone having photos taken at events, or other general church photos, bring copies to the church office or send electronic copies via e-mail to churchdirectory@live.com.

Our Invisible Escalators

Our old church building may not have an escalator, but people are still rising to higher levels all the time. There are invisible escalators here, three main ones, called Time, Talents, and Treasure. They happen to be what stewardship is all about. With the first two, if you watch closely, you can actually see certain people rising up, like magic.

The third one is even more invisible, so it's virtually impossible to see God at work moving people forward on this one. You'll have to take our word for it that it is happening. Judging by the onslaught of pledge cards that come flooding in during the month prior to Pledge Sunday (October 26 this year), it actually feels from a Stewardship perspective as if people are eager to pledge of their treasure to their God. It's almost Thanksgiving, after all!

What's disturbing is that there are lots of people who don't get on this escalator – at all! People who come to church all the time. People whose kids attend Sunday School regularly, or have even gone all the way through confirmation. People who seem to have the means, judging by appearances. What is going on here?

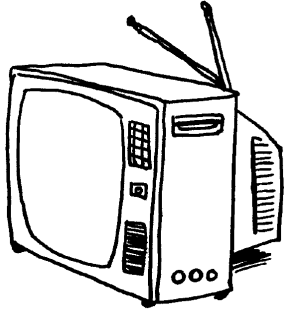
To see the answer to this question, please recognize that nobody gets on this escalator at the top. It's too steep. The only way you get up there is by being moved up. You move up gradually at church, starting humbly near the bottom,

and whether you know it or not, you're constantly in dialogue with God about what you're doing.

When you see a kid turn out right, you think, "The church played a part in this result – and I'm glad I'm part of it." When you see a life turned around – and there are so many ways that a life can be turned around – you may start to think differently about a prayer pager, a particular sermon, a mission trip, or those Al-Anon meetings that take place here every week.

You can even look into your own life and see things that maybe shouldn't have been, even couldn't have been, unless something else outside your control was at work. And you think, God understands where all is a mystery to me – let me do what I understand, and support God according to the means that I have.

Lots of people who are ready to step onto an escalator in this church, but as yet haven't. The front door is wide open and people come through it all the time to find a big landing at the bottom of these escalators. Sometimes the encouraging word is not spoken that they need to hear. Sometimes the insight doesn't occur that the church is all about these escalators, all about people growing in faith, getting on one of them and moving up gradually. But God moves us in mysterious ways, for we are growing in self-awareness as well as faith.



Worship Services on TV

There will be a schedule change for the worship service airing on Cox cable beginning October 1. It will now be shown on Thursdays at 7 p.m. on Channel 15 (the old time was Mondays at 4 p.m.).

Adult Mission Trip

Plans are moving along for our first adult mission trip, planned for early spring 2009. If you want to know more about this trip, either because you would like to participate or because you want to help with the planning and preparation, please talk with Alison McCaffrey, Chris Fitzmaurice, Robin Sellati or Peggy Allen.



Caring Crafts

The Caring Crafts Ministry will meet on Monday, October 27, at 7 p.m. at Donna Mead's home, 15 Conifer Drive, Hamden.

Extra Herbs?

If your herbs have not been hit by frost yet, please consider cutting and drying them to be sold at the Christmas Fair. They can be packaged in small plastic bags or small clean jars. Please label with the contents. If you have questions, please call Martha Lape at 272-9327 or email her at mlape@aol.com.



Thanks

Our whole family wants to thank First Congregational Church for your prayers, cards and notes. It was so wonderful to hear from you after all these years. Your cards and notes have brought comfort to us at this heartbreaking time. We as a family have many happy memories of Cheshire. Our children grew up on Church Drive. Cheshire will always have a special place in our hearts.

God Bless you all.

The Lincoln Family

Thank you for the spectacular prayer shawl with its special trim and wonderful colors. It is so distinctive! And I feel so surrounded by prayers and by God's loving embrace. It's a wonderful experience of our unity in Christ. I will be using your prayer shawl, especially in the cold days ahead, and will remember you each time.

*Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree
Conference Minister*

Fall Recitals at First Congregational

Sheri Hammerstrom and Judy Woo will be in recital on Sunday, October 5 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary, performing Brahms, Berg, Broadway, and more.

Sheri Hammerstrom is a familiar presence in our church as soprano soloist for Memorial Music Sunday and other special services. She lives in New York City, where she teaches at Brooklyn-Queens Conservatory and Concordia College Conservatory and performs whenever she can. She has a B.M. from the University of Texas at Arlington with a concentration in vocal performance and a master's degree from Mannes College at the New School of Music.

Judy Woo, a native of Vancouver, B.C., Canada, teaches at Concordia College Conservatory and maintains a private studio. She received her degrees from the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto), University of Victoria, Victoria Conservatory of Music and Manhattan School of Music. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the City University of New York's Graduate Center.

Coming in November: Ray Calderon and Joseph D'Eugenio will present Sacred Music for the Tenor Voice on Sunday, November 9 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Ray Calderon has been hailed by the Taconic Press as, "an exceptional voice...leaving audiences cheering..." Ray is also a familiar presence as a soloist at

First Congregational Church. His travels have led him to make appearances nationally and internationally with Connecticut Opera, Berkshire Opera, Jacksonville Lyric Opera, Opera Ischia (Italy), Bardavon Opera, Bronx Opera, American Opera Preview, Connecticut Concert Opera, Greater New Britain Opera, Amato Opera, Light Opera Company of Salisbury, and the Belleayre Music Festival.

At each event, a free-will offering will be collected to support our church's music program.



Fall Rummage Sale

The fall rummage sale will be Thursday, October 23, from 3 to 6 p.m.; Friday, October 24, from noon to 3 p.m.; and Saturday, October 25, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Helping hands are needed starting Tuesday, October 21, right through Saturday.

There's a form in the church for signup. Please indicate the time and date you can help, and call Sherry Kovalesky at 271-9860 with questions.

Clean and working donations may be dropped off from noon to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21 and from 7 a.m. until noon on Wednesday. Grocery bags may be placed on the Parish Hall stage.

Please don't bring anything in earlier, as groups will be using the Parish Hall.

Anyone needing help with donations may call Sherry until Saturday, October 18.

Happening in Parish Life This Season

Here are some upcoming Parish Life events:

All Church Dinner: Thursday, October 16. Dinner at 6:15 p.m., program at 7. Join us for dinner and a time of conversation with Tim Rose, Cheshire native and now a Global Ministries missionary, who is back home in Cheshire between missions and excited to share his experiences with us. Tim grew up in Chapel Hill, N.C., and after graduating from Miami University of Ohio, began an internship with the UCC as a Global Missions Intern based in Geneva, Switzerland. As a full-time missionary, Tim has worked in the Middle East with the World Student Christian Federation for three years and then to France, with the French Reformed Church, for six years.

Photography Show: Saturday, Nov. 1, 6 to 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Our second annual Photography Show features photos based on the theme “And God Saw That it Was Good.” All ages and skill levels are invited to submit photographs taken to express the theme. Photos may be in color or black and white, and of any size from 4x6 to 11x14. Please include your name and a brief description. By Sunday, October 19, you may drop them into the specially marked box in the lobby. Then join us on Saturday evening, Nov. 1 for the gala opening and reception.

Advent: It’s not too soon to think about Advent. Consider taking part in one of these opportunities:

The Advent Daily Scripture and Meditation Booklet Project: We are creating a booklet of Advent scriptures, meditations and prayers written by our congregation for each day of these four weeks of preparation and watchful waiting for God. Sign up and information details are located on the lobby table. All submissions are due Oct. 26; the booklet will be available congregation-wide for the First Sunday in Advent, November 30.

Candlelight Lessons & Carols Readers’ Group: Have you attended our annual Candlelight Lessons and Carols service in the past? Have you been moved by the music and readings of the sacred scriptures telling the story of Christ's birth?

This year's service will tell this familiar story again, but through scripture and the poetic commentary of poet John Afman. The readings will intertwine to provide a fresh and more profound telling of the Christmas story. The readings also will be paired with hymns and anthems, sung by our Senior Choir and congregation, to express and inspire a deeper appreciation of Christ being born into our lives.

This small group, led by John Afman, Joseph D'Eugenio, and Alison McCaffrey, is forming as both a study group of the readings and as an opportunity to participate as a reader during the service.

Please be in touch with Alison about joining this group.

New in the Church Library

Here are some recent additions to the church library. Our thanks to John Afman for “thinning out” his library, and to any others who donated some of these books.

Arp, Dan & Claudia – “60 One Minute Family Builders: Creative Ideas for Family Fun”

Bentley, James – “Martin Niemoller”

Brown, Dee – “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee”

“An Indian History of the American West”

Brutten, Milton ,PhD, et al. – “Something’s Wrong with My Child”

Campolo, Tony – “Following Jesus Without Embarrassing God”

Chopra, Deepak – “The Seven Spiritual Laws for Parents: Guiding Your Children to Success & Fulfillment”

Coleman, William L. – “It’s Been A Good Year: The Anniversary Book”

Cruse, Sharon Wegscheider – “Another Chance: Hope & Health for the Alcoholic Family”

Faith: Basics of Christianity in Plain Language”

DeMoss, Jr., Robert G. – “Sex & the Single Person”

Ellul, Jacques – “Anarchy & Christianity”

Holmes, Marjorie – “I’ve Got to Talk to Somebody, God”



Horne, Chevis F. – “Preaching the Great Themes of the Bible “

Kern, Mary Margaret – “Be a Better Parent”

Kraybill, Donald B. – “The Puzzles of Amish Life”

Lawhead, Alice Shaikou – “Doing the Right Thing?”

Lewis, DH & Palmer, Gordon A. – “What Every Christian Should Know”

Lucado, Max – “A Gentle Thunder: Hearing God Through the Storm”

Lucado, Max – “Just Like Us: Learning to Have a Heart Like His”

Lucado, Max – “When God Whispers Your Name”

Mains, Karen Burton – “The Key to a Loving Heart”

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New in the Library

Continued from the previous page

Marty, Martin E. – “Politics, Religion and the Common Good”

McDowell, Josh – “Building Your Self Image”

More new library books will be listed in the next issue of the Parish Post.



Youth Group News

The YUTES are back in full swing with regular meetings held most Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. with dinner. All youth of the church from 7th grade through high school are invited to attend as often as they wish.

Our first event will be a lock-in at the church for both groups on Friday, October 3, starting at 7:30; it will end Saturday at 9 a.m. (There will be no meeting the next day, October 5.)

There will be another lock-in on the night of November 21-22.

A Parent Pot Luck information session will be held at our regular meeting October 19. At least one parent of anyone who expects to participate in YUTES this year is expected to attend.

We plan to visit a local corn maze on October 26th.

As always, please check our web site, www.yutes.org, for last minute and specific information.

‘Mark Immersion’ Day

Can you read a whole book of the Bible in one day? Yes, you can! At an event this fall, “Mark Immersion Day,” together we will read and study the Gospel according to Mark as we enter the Advent season.

This all-day event will happen Saturday, December 13. It will be led by Peggy Allen. Enrollment is limited to ten.

What is Mark's 'hidden message' and why is it hidden? What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? What did it mean for Jesus to be the Christ, the Messiah? We'll talk about these and many more questions focused on by this text.

Oberammergau 2010

The Passion play at Oberammergau is performed once every 10 years. Plans are being formed now for an 11-day tour in late June 2010 to Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Germany for the 2010 performance of the Passion Play. In the year 1634 the villagers of Oberammergau made a promise to God in the face of the bubonic plague: If God spared them they would perform a passion play every 10 years. There were no more deaths.

The play is now performed in years ending with a zero, and involves over 2,000 actors, singers, instrumentalists and technicians, all from the village. If you want to go, please let Sue Chatfield or Alison McCaffrey know of your interest as soon as possible.

Parish Care in August

Here is what the Parish Care Committee and its volunteers did in August:

Meals – 10 meals for three families. The freezer is full now. More cooks and meal deliverers are needed. If you don't or can't cook, you have the opportunity to deliver a meal that is already made.

Cards – 11 cards were sent. More card writers are needed.

Stephen Ministry – Eight Stephen Ministers are with care receivers. They provided a total of 13.75 hours of care during 19 visits.

Caring Christians – Five trained Caring Christians are visiting nine members. More Caring Christians are needed to visit people in our congregation.

Prayer Pagers – Five people had them during August.

Chores – A painting job still needs to be done.

Bereavement – The Bereavement Support Group is still meeting the last Thursday of each month in Room 11 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Caring Crafts – Four prayer shawls were delivered.

Telephone – Volunteers are needed for this ministry.

Please call the church (272-5323, ext. 14) if you are interested in helping with any of the above ministries. The Parish Care Coordinator spent 34 hours performing her duties.

Lectionary for October

Sunday, October 5: Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Isaiah 5: 1-7; Psalm 80: 7-15; Philippians 3: 4-14; Matthew 21: 33-46.

Sunday, October 12: Exodus 32: 1-14; Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23; Isaiah 25: 1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14.

Sunday, October 19: Exodus 33: 12-23; Psalm 99; Isaiah 45: 1-7; Psalm 96: 1-13; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10; Matthew 22: 15-22.

Sunday, October 26: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12; Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17; Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 22: 34-46.

Milestones

In the Life of our Church Family

Births

Brooklyn Mae Desjardin was born on September 4; she is the daughter of Tony and Erin Desjardin, granddaughter of Revs. Alison and Matthew McCaffrey.

Deaths

Arline Heupel died on September 2. She is the mother of Leslie Sinclair and Valerie Stanton.

Lisa Verdolini, friend of many in the church, died on September 6.