

THE PARISH POST

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Christianity 101: The UCC Statement of Faith

By Dave Buchan, Interim Senior Minister

Ever since Jesus of Nazareth called his first disciples, Christians have sought ways to speak about their faith. They needed to put their faith into words to tell others about what had happened to them and what they believed.

What do we as a church stand for? What do we as individuals believe? This autumn, we'll explore some of the central convictions of the Christian faith in a series of sermons on our UCC Statement of Faith.

A number of Protestant churches in North America – the Presbyterians, United Church of Canada, ourselves, and others – have attempted to express the historic Christian faith in modern language.

These statements were not an attempt to replace the traditional creeds of the church (such as the Apostles' or Nicene creeds). They were an effort to express the historic faith in the language of a new generation.

The UCC Statement of Faith is a testimony, not a test. It says what our

church stands for, but in our tradition it is not a test of membership. Members are encouraged to search out their own understanding of the faith within a Christian context.

Nothing could be more important than knowing God in our lives. I remember visiting Pinehurst, N. C., often called the golf capital of the world. In many of its stores there were plaques reading, "Golf is not a matter of life and death. It's much more important than that."

So it is with our faith. Believing in God is extremely important because it's the only way life makes sense. "Christianity 101" will give us the chance to think seriously about what we do believe.

This fall is a time to explore our Christian understanding of God. Join us in worship at 9:00 or 11:00 Sunday mornings.

The sermon series on the Statement of Faith begins September 21.

In Christ,
Dave Buchan, Interim Senior Minister

Can You Help?

As you think of the ways in which you provide your time, talent and treasure to support God's work at our church, please think about ways in which you would like to use your time to serve as a church officer, or a member of a church board or committee.

Officers and members of boards in our church must be members of the church and at least 18 years old, except for youth members.

The Nominating Committee will be providing information about the openings, and welcomes your interest in learning more about the positions or volunteering to serve in an area of interest to you.

There are more than 160 positions for adults and youth on all of the boards, committees and offices.

At least 70 of these must be filled this year. Terms begin after the annual meeting at the end of January.

If you would like more information, please sign the interest sheet at the welcome table or speak with a member of the committee: Pam Cappiello, Joy Deegan, Anne Giddings, Dennis Lape, Ann Madden, Mark Sullivan, and Carol Warner.

If you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee this fall, we would welcome a few more volunteers.

Please speak to any committee member, or sign the interest sheet.

Worship Schedule For September

Please note: In September, we return to our regular schedule of Sunday services at 9 and 11 o'clock.

Sunday, September 7: Homecoming Sunday; Dave Buchan preaching. Communion. Food offerings will be received; the food of the month is spaghetti sauce.

Sunday, September 14: Alison McCaffrey preaching.

Sunday, September 21: Dave Buchan preaching; series on the Statement of Faith begins.

Sunday, September 28: Dave Buchan preaching; series continues.

Help Keep Us Safe

The Safe Church Committee invites all members and friends to forward suggestions, questions or concerns about the safety of our programs for children, youth, or adults to any member of the Committee (Alex Demac, Bill Eagleson, Jill Gibbs, Anne Giddings, Lynn Ryan), a minister, or the president of the church, Bob Mead.

We are here to promote the safety of our church, its members and our guests.

If you see anything that may be a potential safety issue, please let us know.

Notes from the Executive Board

The Executive Board met July 2 and August 5. On July 14, the Rev. Alison McCaffrey returned from her sabbatical, and heartfelt thanks go out to the Rev. Peggy Allen for her time as Interim.

Congregational Meetings:

September 21 was set for the preliminary budget meeting. This meeting will include a vote on the proposed by-laws revisions. Additional items are under consideration and the call will be finalized at the September Executive Board meeting.

In December, a meeting to approve the 2009 budget will be held. In recent years, this meeting has been held on a Sunday, after worship. A suggestion was made hold the meeting on a week night, and possibly to include a potluck supper.

Your comments are welcome. Please speak with Bob Mead or any member of the Executive Board: Christine Albrecht, Susan Bishop, the Rev. Dave Buchan, Lisa Canas, Ford Cole, Anthony DePaolo, Kathy Duffendack, Mark Hall, David Hostage, Rich Kruczek, Addie Marx, the Rev. Alison McCaffrey, Bob Porter, Lynn Ryan or Walt Ryan.

Church Drive: Visible progress continues on Church Drive. A plaque will be installed in the brick walkway.

A dedication ceremony will be held at Homecoming, with words of thanks to Ladies Aid and the Town of Cheshire.

Homecoming: The September 7 Homecoming schedule and events were presented to Executive Board. A churchwide picture and participation in a video clip to be aired on TV are planned.

Volunteers are still needed; there are signups in the Parlor or you may speak with any member of Deacons.

Vision for the Future: An approach was discussed as to how to continue the good work done last year on planning for our church's future. Because this is a significant undertaking that requires care, patience and specialized skills, it was decided to appoint a small group to initiate the process.

An added benefit will be realized if we can provide this work to our new Senior Minister.

Budget Process: The Budget Committee provided a proposed 2009 budget.

While the budget may need to be changed or adjusted based on the results of pledging for 2009, Executive Board endorsed and agreed with the concepts and numbers in the proposal.

Other Items: Church worship attendance remains steady and attendance at church school is good. The Personnel Committee plans to review the Church Personnel Manual and bring recommendations to the Executive Board.



Welcome Home!

Sunday, September 7, is Homecoming Sunday at First Congregational Church. Worship will be at 9 and 11. Casual dress is encouraged! Music will be provided by our very own Praise Band. A Vespers service will follow the picnic.

The 11 o'clock service will be followed by an all-church picnic at noon. Back by popular demand is the Galvanized Jazz Band, who will play from noon until 3.

We will have hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream. Those with last names beginning with A to M are asked to bring salads or chips, while those N to Z please bring dessert or beverages.

Those wishing to help with the Homecoming may call Diane Visconti (272-7719). She will direct your efforts to the appropriate people. Areas of need are: setting up and cleaning tents, tables, chairs; supervising games; cooking and serving food; publicity; and writing thank-you notes, to mention only a few areas.

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

A Mission Trip for Adults

Have you been wishing for a chance for adults at First Congregational Church to go on a mission trip? The Board of Outreach has been working with Spring Glen United Church of Christ in Hamden to offer a joint mission trip to the Gulf Coast in March. Spring Glen has been going to the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina, and often take their neighbor UCC churches with them. They tell us that the small towns along the coast are still devastated and that the help of churches in rebuilding is still desperately needed.

Two information sessions are planned, one Sunday, September 21, at 10:15 in the chapel and the other on Thursday evening, September 25, at the all-church supper.

People who should attend these sessions are: Those who want to go on the trip; those with carpentry and other building skills, and those who have never held a paint brush but are willing to learn; those who cannot go on the trip, but are interested in helping to organize the trip and support those who are going; and those who are interested in learning more about the situation along the Gulf Coast.

This is also an opportunity for our college-age members who loved their youth group missions, since we are hoping to go during a time that many colleges have a March break.

Watch the Outreach bulletin board for more information, or ask Robin Selatti, Chris Fitzmaurice, Alison McCaffrey or Peggy Allen.

Know, Love, and Serve

I first want to thank you, dear congregation, for the sabbatical time you have provided me. The first eight weeks of my sabbatical became a time to rest and recharge and have allowed me to return with energy and a renewed passion for our shared ministry. (I also returned with a stack of pictures of our first grandson.) My sabbatical candle was lit on Sundays, as was yours, in prayer for each other. My deep thanks to Peggy Allen for sharing the gift of her ministry and allowing me to truly let go.

As we look ahead to the fall and the coming year, I am excited to share a theme that has emerged from conversations among our staff. To “Know, Love, and Serve” God and one another is what our life together is formed around as the gathered body of Christ. Our worship, church school, small groups, as well as our boards and committees carry out these foci, which are the Christian pattern and practice since the earliest days of church: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). And in this way, they, the church, grew in Spirit and numbers.

What is new about this ancient purpose of the church is the awareness that Christians are formed in the faith through the practices of the Christian life: knowing, loving, and serving God. In a contemporary work, “Choosing the Kingdom,” John D. Witvliet writes: “Congregations are the cradle of the

Christian faith, the communities in which children of all ages are supported, encouraged, and formed for lives of service.” Christianity is learned in community; it is “caught, not taught” as the expression goes.

Throughout the coming year, you will hear about many opportunities offered to help us all deepen our faith together through these three areas of learning, worship, and service. Our Parish Life Expo will have information on mission and service opportunities for individuals and families to take part in, thanks to our Board of Outreach. The Board of Christian Education and Debbie Gravell have lots of ideas for building faith at home. Bible Studies and other small groups will be offered, as well as other worship and contemplative opportunities.

Our goal is that each member and friend would commit to one new practice this year. And we want to know how it goes for you as we share this journey together.

Faithfully,

Alison McCaffrey



Caring Crafts

The first meeting for the coming year will be on September 29 at 7 p.m. at Donna Mead's home, 15 Conifer Drive, Hamden. Please call her if you need directions (248-9576). All are more than welcome to come. If you don't know how to do a craft, we will teach you. If you have one, bring it along.

Christian Education in September

Training for volunteers: Bible Journeys leaders and shepherds, and Junior High teachers will meet Wednesday, September 3, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall with Debbie Gravell. We will review all the Safe and Nurturing policies and procedures to keep children and youth safe. We will have an overview of the workshop rotation lessons for the year as well as how the whole system works for Bible Journeys. Junior High teachers will have a chance to look at the new curriculum and talk together about how the lessons will work with the groups.

All nursery caregivers, including substitutes, will meet Thursday, September 4, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall with Debbie Gravell and Lisa Skelly. This is an important meeting for all who will be caregivers in the nursery this year including substitutes! We will review the new Safe and Nurturing policies and procedures, ask each caregiver to review the volunteer form, and orient everyone to the nursery and its procedures.

Confirmation mentors will meet Sunday, September 28, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Whiting House; lunch will be served. We will review the new Safe and Nurturing policies and procedures, and will watch the new DVD of the curriculum introduction and go through various ideas for working with the youth.

Confirmation: An informational meeting was held June 23 for families interested in participating in this year's confirmation process. If you were unable

to attend that meeting and you and your child are considering being a part of this year's confirmation process, please contact Debbie Gravell at 272-5323, ext. 16, as soon as possible to make an appointment to hear about the program and the commitment involved. We will begin this year in October; anyone not signed up in advance will need to wait until next year.

3rd Grade Communion Potluck: Students in grade three and their families will be invited to attend a potluck supper on September 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Parish Hall to equip families to share communion together on World Wide Communion Sunday as well as the first Sundays of every month. Children will begin receiving communion with their families on Sunday, October 5. A letter will be sent to each Third Grader. If you don't receive your letter, please call the church office.

Regular Church School begins on Sunday, September 7, with services at 9 and 11. Church School brochures with enrollment forms in the centerfold were mailed in August to all families. Please be sure that you have enrolled your children for church school this year. We work with foods and need to know about food allergies as well as any special needs of your child. Please try to mail or bring the form to the church office before September 7. If you bring it on September 7, please give it to the church school

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9:00

Date	Thou Art	Red Sea Prod.	Desert Tales	Gospel Games
Sept. 7	Grades 2	Grade 3&4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Sept. 14	Grade 6	Grades 2	Grade 3&4	Grade 5
Sept. 21	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grades 2	Grade 3&4
Sept. 28	Grade 3&4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 2

11:00

Date	Thou Art	Red Sea Prod.	Desert Tales	Gospel Games
Sept. 7	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship
Sept. 14	Week Off	Week Off	Grades 2-4	Grades 5/6
Sept. 21	Grades 5/6	Week Off	Week Off	Grades 2-4
Sept. 28	Week Off	Grades 2-4	Grade 5/6	Week Off

NOTE: The grade combinations have changed for this year. We have combined smaller classes so that there are more exciting classes at this level with more students.

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teacher or helper who will place it in the attendance folder to be picked up by the office.

Bible Journeys for Grades 2-6: This workshop rotation Church School program is for those entering grades 2-6 this fall. Children will know what workshop they will go to by the schedule above, the Sunday Bulletin, or the Bible Journeys Board in the hallway across from Room 8. Grades 3-6 will go to class when dismissed. Grade 2, at the 9:00 service only, will leave for Chapel in the early part of the service. After

Chapel they will go with their Shepherd to their Bible Journeys workshop. Parents may find their children in the classroom listed in the bulletin at the end of Church School.

In September, Bible Journeys will explore Creation. Our study will include a look at how God created everything, not because he was lonely, but for God's own good pleasure. We will do some creating ourselves and will consider what it means to be created in God's image. We will consider Creation "not as a story of a process, but a story of who God is: God is powerful, mighty, creative and good" (to quote Florida pastor Garnett Slatton).

A Parent's Role

No one has more potential to influence a child's relationship with God than a parent! What do you do during the 10,020 minutes each week that you are not in church and your children are not in church school or worship?

The home is the primary place where faith is nurtured. Our church this year wants to enhance the partnership we have with families and come alongside parents offering resources to further equip you to nurture faith in your homes.

Many parents have said how excited they are to have the prayer pots at home we made in summer church school. They were decorated by the children, and in them are simple prayers for children and families to pray at any time during the week. We have programs for families scheduled on our calendar.

This year we will program with new eyes opened to equipping parents in their vital role as faith nurturer of their children. The church will enhance its programs by providing training for families in how to practice faith at home.

We will do this through our traditional 3rd Grade Communion program, Advent Workshop, 4th Grade Bible Program, Youth Program, and church school. Parents will be invited into the classrooms to learn how to further nurture their children's faith at home.

We are partners in this faith walk. Please plan to join in as the opportunities arise.



Youth Group News

Our mission trip to Wilmington, Del., was a tremendous experience for the 22 youth and adults who attended. Along with hundreds of others from around the country, we helped bring the love and message of Jesus Christ to a struggling community.

At the same time, we grew in our own faith by learning to Love Out Loud in our daily lives. Thanks to our entire church family for their prayers and support. A special thanks goes to the adult volunteers. Their guidance was crucial in making the trip the success that it was.

Now it's time for The Youth Group to begin a new year of friends, fun and faith. Once again, the Brunettis have generously opened their home to us for the annual kickoff picnic. It will be held on Sunday, September 14 from 3:30 to 7:30, and directions are available on our website: www.yutes.org.

All junior high and senior high (7 -12

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grade) youth of the church are encouraged to attend. Whether you are a long time Yute or have never been to Youth Group in the past, this is a great opportunity to rekindle friendships or make some new ones and see what Youth Group is all about.

The hot dogs, hamburgers and refreshments are free - so are the pool and the Ultimate Frisbee game. Save this date and plan to stop by. Please bring an item to share if you can.

Regular meetings are held Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall, with dinner provided, and will start the following week on September 21. New youth are especially welcome. All you need is \$3 to cover the cost of dinner and an open heart. Bring a friend if you want. We hope to see you there!



Food and Toys

During Homecoming Sunday September 7, your Outreach Board will have a table available to collect food for the needy.

We are also collecting items for our troops overseas. American service men and women have asked us to send small toys and items that they would be able to give to the local children. They have found it is a wonderful way to connect with the local families.

The children – who have so very little – enjoy not only the little gifts but the positive attention from our soldiers.

Rummage Sale 2008

The fall 2008 rummage sale will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 1 to 6 p.m. and on Friday & Saturday, Oct. 24 & 25 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Helping hands are needed Tuesday through Saturday (October 21 through 25) for table setup, intake, sorting, some sticker pricing and point of sales, packing leftover items and clean up. Please sign up for the time and date you can help us, including any past experienced volunteers.

We're also looking for donations of clean clothing, shoes, boots, coats, gloves, hats and baby things, good condition CD's, videos, old records, household items, toys, books, pictures, frames, sewing and knitting, jewelry, small light furniture, working electronic items, seasonal holiday and sports equipment. Items may be placed on the stage starting on the evening of Monday, Oct 20 after the Confirmation dinner, until Wednesday until noon.

Anyone needing help with their donations may call Sherry at 271-9860. Please do not bring items in earlier, as groups use the Parish Hall. Grocery bags are also needed.

Our rummage sale not only motivates us to clean closets, cabinets, attics and cellars; it benefits others in need. It provides needed clothing and household items for women's shelters, and more. Please call 271-9860 with questions.



Senior Minister Search Update

Greetings from your Senior Minister Search Team! We continue to meet weekly and are moving well through the search process. Here are some highlights:

We have reviewed 48 candidates (as of mid-August) who have submitted their profiles for consideration, and more continue to arrive. From those who have sparked our interest, we have requested, received and promptly reviewed candidates'

sermons (some in audiovisual format, others in audio only). We are visiting churches to hear ministers "live."

As we are interviewing prospective candidates, it is important for both our church and the candidates that we operate discreetly.

Our team will continue to seek, and remain in a 'quiet' phase, until we find the one God has called to us.

Once we have a candidate to recommend, several things will happen:

- One member of the search team will meet with the church Treasurer, Senior Deacon and Trustee chair to determine the salary and benefit package and other contract terms;



- We will extend an invitation to the candidate to begin negotiating the terms of the call. There may be some negotiation.

- Once the candidate accepts the invitation and terms are finalized, we will notify staff, Deacons and the Executive Board. The Executive Board will call a congregational meeting, and schedule "Candidate Sunday."

- We will work with the staff, Deacons, and Executive Board to set up a "Candidate Weekend" that will provide people an opportunity to meet the candidate. We will communicate with the congregation through mailings and announcements.

- On Candidate Sunday, the candidate will preach at both services. A church meeting will follow the last service immediately with discussion about the candidate and terms of call.

- The congregation votes on a motion to call.

Your input to date has been vital to our process of discernment. Our team takes the trust you have placed in us seriously, and is well equipped and informed for discernment. Our team must prayerfully reach consensus on the candidate we invite. Following UCC protocol, the congregation will not have an opportunity to "interview" the candidate, nor to hear more than one candidate preach.

We appreciate your continued prayers of support and encouragement.

Ask, Thank, Tell: This Year's Theme

You may have heard the theme of this year's pledge drive: Ask, Thank, Tell. That's actually the title of a book, several copies of which have been around the church all year. These verbs describe the stewardship function: We on the Board of Stewardship just need to Ask you to pledge faithfully, then Thank you for your generosity, and finally Tell you about how God's purposes have been forwarded by these means.

What those three verbs don't tell you, though, is what your role is as a faithful Christian who does not happen to be on the Board of Stewardship. There's nothing about Convince. There's nothing about Motivate, nothing about Psyche Up, nothing about Make a Case For. We all know that the church will die if its members do not step forward with adequate funding.

It's assumed that there is a certain level of maturity and responsibility involved in church membership. It's assumed that you're a stakeholder. There is no bill from the church that comes in the mail and says you must pay this amount in order to continue. That's the difference between a First Congregational Country Club and a First Congregational Church.

There is an internal compunction felt by churchgoers: that still small voice. They know that without the church, Jesus has no standing in the world, so they are literally sponsoring him. There are lots of scriptures to reinforce this.

People in our church understand their role. Retired folks on fixed incomes often eagerly send in their pledges prior to Pledge Sunday. People with kids in college still increase their pledges from year to year. In fact, the majority of people in this church have increased their pledges every year, faithfully, regardless of the Stewardship message.

Does the church have special needs from time to time? Yes, and they get lots of publicity. We've already seen generous donors step forward to cover our share of the cost of repaving Church Drive and rebuilding the sidewalks around the Green. And you will soon be hearing about the chance we have to put maintenance of our historic church building on a more solid footing.

As mature, committed Christians we are aware of the kinds of needs that the church has, which can only be satisfied by our combined giving. Why we pledge has more to do with our faithfulness and our commitment over the long haul than with any one year's stewardship message or special need.

So when Pledge Sunday rolls around on October 26, please pledge generously to enable our church to continue its mission in this community. Thank you, in advance and on behalf of the One whose way you are following. And just wait till you hear what wonderful things you will have enabled the church to do in the coming year!

Music in September

September is a busy month for our music program as the Youth, Senior, and Bell Choirs start up. Wednesday nights are music nights at First Church. If you've thought about joining one of our choirs, or at least have considered stopping in to see what they're all about, please attend a rehearsal this month. All are welcome to join us. To have your questions answered ahead of time, please contact Joe D'Eugenio, Music Director, at 272-5323, ext.18.

Handbell Choir Director Marianne Beckman will continue to offer handbell choir for students in grades 4 and up this season. Adults interested in forming a handbell choir should speak with Marianne about a time to meet.

Here are the details: Wednesday, September 3, Senior Choir rehearsals begin in the Choir Room. They last from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., and adults and high school students are encouraged to join. Sunday, September 7 is Homecoming Sunday; the Senior Choir will begin its season by singing at the 9:00 and 11:00 services.

Wednesday, September 10, Youth Choir rehearsals begin in the Choir Room. The Primary choir (grades K-3) is from 6 to 6:30 p.m. and the Junior choir (grade 4 through high school) from 6:30 to 7:15.

Wednesday, September 10, Bell Choir rehearsals begin in the Parish Hall. Students from grade 4 through high school with practice from 5:30 to 6:30; if

there is interest in forming an adult bell choir, a time will be decided on.

Sunday, September 14: Small Group Expo. Come find out more about all choirs at the Small Groups Expo between services.

Thank you to everyone who provided music at worship during the summer. Because of your talents and willingness to share them with our congregation, our summer worship services were greatly enriched.

Looking ahead: This year, the annual Candlelight Lessons and Carols service, led by the Senior Choir, will be on Sunday, December 21, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Memorial Music Sunday will be March 29, 2009, at 10 a.m.



Parish Life Expo

Join us in the Parish Hall on Sunday, September 14 after both worship services for the Parish Life Expo.

This is an opportunity to learn about our new small groups, mission work, ministries, dinners, and special events for all ages for the coming year.

All of our offerings are designed around the theme of "Know, Love, and Serve," as a way to encourage the deepening of our faith and our connections to one another through our knowing, loving and serving God.

Look for the detailed Parish Life Opportunities booklet in early September.



Calling All Photographers!

The second annual All-Church Photography Show will take place Saturday evening, November 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. The theme this year is: "And God Saw That it Was Good." The beauty and diversity of God's creation calls to our attention and gives us pleasure each day.

You are invited to take a photograph(s) of something in God's creation that especially speaks to your heart. Or you may choose to submit a photo previously taken. Develop your photo(s), color or black and white, any size between 4 x 6 to 11 x 14, including a one-sentence description and submit them by Sunday, October 19. Photos will be mounted, arranged and displayed.

Join us for the showing and reception on November 1 in the Parish Hall. All ages and skill levels are invited to participate – amateurs to professionals. Friends, families, and neighbors may participate; all are welcome! This is not a contest, but an all-church event that celebrates the beauty and goodness of God's creation.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study begins Wednesday, September 17, at 10 a.m. in the parlor. The facilitator is Debbie Gravell. All women of the church are invited to join us as they are able. We will be using the Life Guide Bible Study Series. The cost of the Bible Study Guide is \$5. Please call Debbie in advance if you need child care, and she will try to arrange it.



All-Church Suppers Return

Our Thursday Night Once a Month All Church Suppers will begin anew on Thursday, September 25 in the Parish Hall for an informational evening on Adult Mission work in the Gulf Coast.

Dinner is at 6:15 p.m., and the program begins at 7. Joining us will be members of the Spring Glen United Church of Christ in Hamden, with whom our Board of Outreach is working to offer a joint mission trip to the Gulf Coast in March 2009.

Everyone is welcome to hear of their work, and anyone who is interested in the coming trip is especially encouraged to come. More details about this trip are found in this edition of the Parish Post. Come and share fellowship with our brothers and sisters just down the road, and celebrate their ongoing ministry.

Visit our web site often!
www.cheshirecongregational.org

Summertime Parish Care

Here is what the Parish Care Committee and its volunteers did during the summer:

Baptism/Birth – 8 Baptisms took place and 2 baby blankets were delivered.

Meals – 39 meals were prepared for 5 families. We need more cooks to make a meal. You will not be called for more than one meal every month or two. We also need more frozen meals for our freezer ministry. If interested, please call the Parish Care Office. (Call the main Church office at 272-5223 and ask for Parish Care)

Cards – 8 cards were sent in July.

Stephen Ministry – 40.5 hours were spent with care receivers by 10 ministers during July.

Caring Christians – Six Caring Christians are visiting with six members. We need more Caring Christians to visit our members on a regular basis. If you are interested in being one, please call.

Prayer Pagers – Four of the six pagers are being used. One pager needed to be replaced.

Chores – We are still looking for a few people to do a little painting. If you are willing to do a chore for someone now and then, please call.

Bereavement – Two people are being visited and five have joined the monthly bereavement meetings. If interested in attending the meetings, please call.

The Parish Care Coordinator spent a total of 102 hours in June and July.



Outreach at Work

On July 30, our congregation once again prepared, delivered, and served dinner to more than 85 clients at Columbus House, the homeless shelter in New Haven. Thanks to Chris and Ed Albrecht, Pam and Ken Euerle, Jan and Emily Cowles, and Jo Sgorbati, everything went well.

This outreach project started eight years ago, and has grown into something that involves so many from our congregation. It wouldn't work without each of you being so generous and willing to help each time and we are truly grateful for that and for all of God's blessings.

Our cooks this time were: Karen Gravino, Emma Norback, Patti Dickinson, Nancy Brunetti, Diane Visconti, Donna Mead, Becky Cavazuti, Lisa Canas, Marianne Eagleson, Shirley Albanese, Martha Lape, Sally Ziegler, Nora Adams, Jan Cowles, Suzanne Lawson, the Albrechts, Beth Ross, Pam Euerle, Carol Tucker, Emilee Ziolkowski, Gillian Reinhard, Beth Eichelman, Christine Pittsley, and Chad, Stacey and Meena Groshart.

Our next meal will be in October.

Jan and Joe Garthwait

All Saints Fund Thanks

I would like to thank the church family and the Board of Deacons very much for your contributions to the All Saints Memorial Fund, which allowed me and three other college-bound students to receive a generous break in college expenses.

This church family has supported me through the years, and has made such an impact in my life. I will never forget what this church has taught me, and the relationships I have made through my many years as a member. I have felt so accepted by everyone, and I can say that it's one of the places where I felt completely accepted without judgment.

Teaching church school, being a member of the Youth Group, going on mission trips – all of these experiences have taught me and have formed me into who I now am. To the Deacons, thank you for taking the time to read my essay, and thank you for selecting me as one of the students to receive this scholarship. This church family is amazing.

Thank you all for your love, acceptance, contributions, and support.

Emily Cowles



Thanks

A whole week of birthday celebration topped off with a pleasurable visit from Jane Montgomery bearing flowers from our church. How great it was!

Emma Norback

Milestones

In the Life of our Church Family

Baptisms

Anthony William Watrous, son of Brian & Stacey Sprague Watrous, grandson of the Revs. Alison and Matthew McCaffrey, on July 20.

Eric Roberto Scoffone, son of Paul and Amy Benitez Scoffone, on July 20.

Jack Nicholas Zauner, son of Nicholas and Erica Delvaille Zauner, on July 20.

Ryan Anthony Zauner, son of Nicholas and Erica Delvaille Zauner, on July 20.

Deaths

Peter Spirito, husband of Fran Spirito, on June 27.

Beverly Euerle, wife of David Euerle, on July 20.

The Rev. Ed Lincoln, former minister at First Congregational Church, on July 20.

Barbara Hunter Webb, sister of Amy Webb, August 18.



Thanks

Thank you so much for the exceptional bouquet on my birthday. It is beautiful, and also so nice to be remembered. My church means so much to me, and has for over 50 years.

Dot Hazard