

*North Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Woodbury, Connecticut*



October 2013 Newsletter



With a Blessing

by Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bardot

In the book for beginning piano students that Jan uses at the Renaissance Center, there is a song titled *If I Had a Million Dollars*. Jan always asks her six and seven-year-olds what they would do if they had a million dollars. Most head right for toys and electronics and some would buy a fancy new car for the family.

But one little boy many years ago sat thoughtfully for a moment and then told Jan that his family really had everything they needed so he would give the money to poor people. Doesn't that speak volumes, not only about seven-year-old Jake but about his parents as well.

It's really fun to imagine all that we could do with a million dollars. It's too bad we don't have a million dollars and can't do all these wonderful things.

No, we don't have all that money and we can't do all those things. But we each do have some money and we each can do some things.

This is the time of year when we traditionally consider our pledges and our financial commitment to our church. Don't we wish we each had a million dollars. Isn't it fun to dream about what we would do?

Let's not let our lack of a million dollars keep us from dreaming. Let's look at what we DO have and be thankful. And with thanksgiving let's make our pledge to the church and dream about all that we can do together. Our pledge will speak volumes about who we are.

With a blessing,
Bonnie





The Diaconate

by Judi Lewis

How great it was to see the sanctuary filled on Rally Sunday. And the parlor! Wow, what a transformation!! We all owe a big congratulations and thank-you to the Women's Fellowship for their design expertise and their fundraising efforts. It was their vision over three years ago, and they are making it happen! (It is still a work in progress.) We now have our refreshments and fellowship on Sunday mornings in style! But... we're still lacking volunteers to sign up to host our coffee hour. Why not give Holly Gransky a call (203-263-4032) and let her know what Sunday you would like to host, or simply sign the hosting book on the table.

Deacons Gordon Eckman and David Monckton are living proof that prayers work! Both are recovering splendidly, Gordon at home and Dave at Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford. You may call the church office for their address if you wish to send get well greetings.

It is such a pleasure to have such gifted lay readers volunteer to join Pastor Bonnie each and every Sunday. Each one is unique unto themselves, no two are alike. You see, these lay readers just have to be themselves. Won't you give it a try? Call Charles Bartlett (203-263-0430) to sign up.

Blessings to all!



Property Update

By George Kleros

Our historic church requires outside attention. These projects involve cleanup and repair of the church exterior. Some painting, wood replacement, and removal of bushes are needed to correct and protect the church from further damage. These projects require only a few hours early on a Saturday morning and we are finished before Noon. All skill levels are welcome and all are encouraged to participate; volunteers can contact George Kleros at 203-247-5534. Dates and projects will be announced in the Sunday bulletins.

North Church

- 10/6** **Communion Sunday**
Time for Special Prayer
2 Timothy 1:1-14
"Who Do You Trust?"
- 10/13** **Celebration of Worship**
Luke 17:11-19
"And as they went..."
- 10/20** **Celebration of Worship**
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15
"It Can't Work if It's Too Easy"
- 10/27** **Celebration of Worship**
Congregation Budget Meeting
Romans 5:1-11
"By Faith Alone"

Committee Meetings

Diaconate Meeting	10/1 & 30	7:00 pm.
Women's Fellowship	10/3	10:00 a.m.

Music Rehearsals

Chancel Choir, Sun.	10/6, 13, 20 & 27	8:30 a.m.
Bell Choir, Wed.	10/2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	6:30 p.m.

October Calendar

Other Meetings

Monday 10/7, 14, 21 & 28	
Dr. Westerberg	12:00 p.m.
Wdbry/Bthlm Parents Connection	7:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday 10/1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:	
NA	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday 10/8 & 10/22:	
Women's Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Kathrine Rutledge's Home	
41 Owl Ridge, Woodbury	
Tuesday 10/22:	
Woodbury Hill Condo	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 10/9 & 23:	
Knitting	10:00 a.m.
Thursday 10/17:	
Women's Fellowship Luncheon	12:00 p.m.
Friday 10/4, 11, 18 & 25:	
AA	8:00 p.m.
Saturday 10/5, 12, 19 & 26:	
Young Peoples AA	7:30 p.m.





Parsonage Project

By Pete D'Amato

We are making steady progress in the final stages of the Parsonage Project. All of the interior walls have been primed and are ready for final painting, and the design team will be meeting to select the final colors. On Saturday, 9/21, we finished priming the half-mile of trim (over 2500 linear feet!) and got the finish coat of paint on the ceilings. Over the course of the next 4-6 weeks, we will install the interior doors, trim, kitchen and bath cabinets, lighting and flooring. If all goes according to plan, we hope to be done before the holidays!

If you would like to join the work team, have any questions, or would like to take a tour of the parsonage to see our progress to date, please contact me at pet-ed25@earthlink.net.



Board of Trustees

by Wayne Anderson

August is traditionally a slow month in church finances and this year was no different. North Church needs about \$2,800 each week to operate on a balanced budget. Actual offerings received for the entire month of August totaled only \$2,300! That's why snapshots of financial reports are not the most accurate measure of the financial health of our church. The September offerings returned to normal levels with the start of the new church year. However, many members still have to "catch up" and become current with their pledges. This will ease the cash flow problems for our treasurer as she tries to keep North Church's good credit with our vendors. Every category for expenses so far this year is under budget. Again, this is the result of excellent work by the staff in being good stewards of our gifts. Just as a reminder of what is coming near the end of this year: it is obvious to your Board of Trustees that the 13th Month appeal will be necessary even with these cost savings, as it was approved as part of the total budget back in February.

On the Parsonage Project finances, pledges continue to come in, thank you. An unexpected cost item for plywood sub-flooring will add about \$700 to the total cost. The flooring contractor recommends this be done to ensure proper installation of the hardwood floors. The installation of the plywood will be done by the Saturday Morning Work Crew of North Church. So, we still need about \$6,000 in pledges to complete the project. The Search Committee has given tours to several candidates interviewed for the minister's position and all have been favorably impressed with what has been accomplished so far. It has created a healthy, active, and committed impression of our church family. Thanks to you all, again.

All-Church Holiday Festival



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, November 23, 2013

WE NEED DONATIONS for this year's All-Church event! Please take this opportunity to clean out your closets or attic and drop donations in the church office (please no heavy equipment, large furniture, or clothing). If you need help getting items to the church, please call Nancy to arrange pick-up.

The Bakery will need your contributions—start now and freeze, or plan to bake the week before. And your plant donations will be much appreciated for the Garden room.



Sign-up sheets will be available in the hall early in October so please plan to come and pitch in!

- **Event Co-Chairmen:** Bob & Nancy Grasing (203-263-5953)
- Silent Auction: Nancy Grasing
- Treasure Chest: Sharon Sherman, Kathleen Reilly
- Bookroom: Bette Geraci (203-263-3321)
- Bakery & Crafts: Bev Carlone (203-263-0728), Cathy McMullin and Cindi Hughes
- The Garden & Sports: Help needed here!!



Sunday School

by Lorna Eckman

***"Your Life Is Your Message to The World.
Make Sure It's Inspiring."***

Fall is here with the changing of the leaves and time. It is a beautiful time, when the summer is wrapped up as if it were a package to be put away for awhile to let the winter come in with its own beauty. It also brings the children back to our church with the beautiful sound of their laughter. This month the workshop rotation will learn about the animals in the Bible. Adam had the honor of naming all of these creatures. Do you agree with him or do you have your own idea of what they should be called? Come to class and share your thoughts with us. We will be making animal cookies in the kitchen rotation and you will also get the chance to create your own animal in the craft room. Do you think you can do a better job then God did? Is there an animal that He forgot?

Our Pre-K class will read the story "Look What God Made" and they will make a sunshine catcher to hang in their windows. They will also read "What is Faith?" and decorate a cross of their own.

In K-2 classes, Jericho's walls will come tumbling down when we make our kazoos and read the story about Joshua. Then we will learn about Deborah and how she was a leader of God's people. We will be making Royal Scepters. Come and join the fun. God Bless!

Please note that there will be no Sunday School on October 13th as it is Columbus Day weekend. Our All Saints Halloween Party will be on the 27th, so be sure and wear your costumes and join the fun.

To Our Family at North Church,

Thank you all so much for all your prayers and good wishes and for all the cards you have sent our way. It is so nice to know that we have so many people to pray for us during this time. Gordon is doing well and has been given permission to drive and to work part-time. He is well on his way to a full recovery and will be back at church soon. Again, thanks for all the well wishes.

Love,
Lorna & Gordon



Women's Fellowship

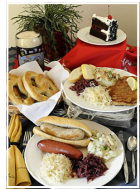
OCTOBER LUNCHEON

The **Womens' Fellowship October Luncheon** is scheduled at Noon, Thursday, October 17. Pastor Bonnie will present a program titled, "Wisdom of the Ages."

Please bring a sandwich. Coffee and dessert will be offered for a \$1.00 donation. Since seating is limited, **reservations are necessary.** Please call Marge Hubbard at 203-263-5920.

OCTOBER EVENING GROUP

The **Women's Fellowship Evening Group** will host an "*Alpine Harvest Dinner*" on Tuesday, October 15, 6:00 p.m. at the home of Linda Leidel, 45 Terrell Road (off Tuttle Road), Woodbury. *All ladies of the church are welcome to relax, enjoy and share the fellowship of your Christian sisters!*



Please call Linda at 203-405-1220 and say that you will come. (Rides will be provided if needed.)



Music Notes

By John Wick

*My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth's lamentation
I hear the sweet though far off hymn
That hails a new creation:
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul—
How can I keep from singing?*

This mid-19th Century hymn has had something of a resurgence in our time. Perhaps we will sing it in church. I love that it suggests that the "sweet though far off hymn" cuts through the tumult and strife of the world and the hearer cannot keep from singing. I feel that way myself often.

The Chancel Choir has been back only one Sunday as of this writing, and looking forward to more singers returning. It feels good pulling our voices together again after a summer's break. The Music Committee meets soon to plan the year's music. Please give us any ideas or feedback on the music program, what you would like to see or hear in worship or possibly other times of the week. We are considering returning to a concert series in mid-winter or hosting some other performances at the church here and there.



Search Committee

By Charles Bartlett

The Search Committee has been busy these past few weeks. An interview with a prospective candidate was held in early September. The interview was well received by both the committee and the candidate; however, both parties ultimately agreed that there just wasn't a good fit for either North Church or the candidate so this individual is no longer a consideration.

A luncheon was held the week of September 8th with another potential candidate. Two of the committee members went earlier and observed this individual at the present location, which is in Connecticut. All who either met with the candidate or went and saw the candidate "in action" were in agreement to bring the candidate back for a formal interview, which was scheduled for later in September. Also on the positive side, a group from the committee went and saw another potential candidate also located in Connecticut, and the consensus of the committee is to ask this individual to an informal luncheon as soon as a mutual date can be arranged. Additionally, another member of the committee will be meeting with a possible candidate who resides in Vermont.

Profiles continue to be received and the count is now up to 83. Again, a couple of the individuals eventually withdrew their names after reading our Church Profile stating that he/she felt that they would not be a good match or that they were looking for something different. The committee is encouraged over the prospects of these new opportunities.



Outreach Committee

THIS IS OUR PLEA...

How rewarding would it be for you to help prepare and serve a simple hot meal to someone who is desperately trying to get by. There are many reasons why people are hungry and deserve the dignity of one hot square meal a day.

You are invited and encouraged by the Outreach Committee of North Church to come and experience a gratifying and fulfilling afternoon with us on Tuesday, October 29, from 3 – 6 p.m., at the **LOAVES AND FISHES SOUP KITCHEN and PANTRY (Richmond Center) on the green in New Milford.** *Don't be shy – we need you – they need you!*

Please contact Cathy McMullin, the church office, or any Outreach member to say, "YES, you'd love to help!"

P.S. We are committed to serve on the "5th Tuesdays," so that translates to about 5 times per year. If October doesn't work for you, the next date will be December 31, New Year's Eve, and there will be no holding us back then! Remember, the times are 3 – 6 p.m., leaving plenty of time for evening

Parish Administrator: Kathie Logan

Office Hours: Mon./Tues. 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Thurs./Fri. 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Phone: (203) 263-2410 Fax: (203) 263-2488

Email: nchurchct@snet.net

Website: www.northchurchwoodbury.org

Newsletter submissions can be put in the Parish Administrator slot or emailed to the Church Office

by the 15th of each month.

North Congregational Church
P.O. Box 473
Woodbury, CT 06798
Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WATERTOWN, CT
PERMIT NO. 3303