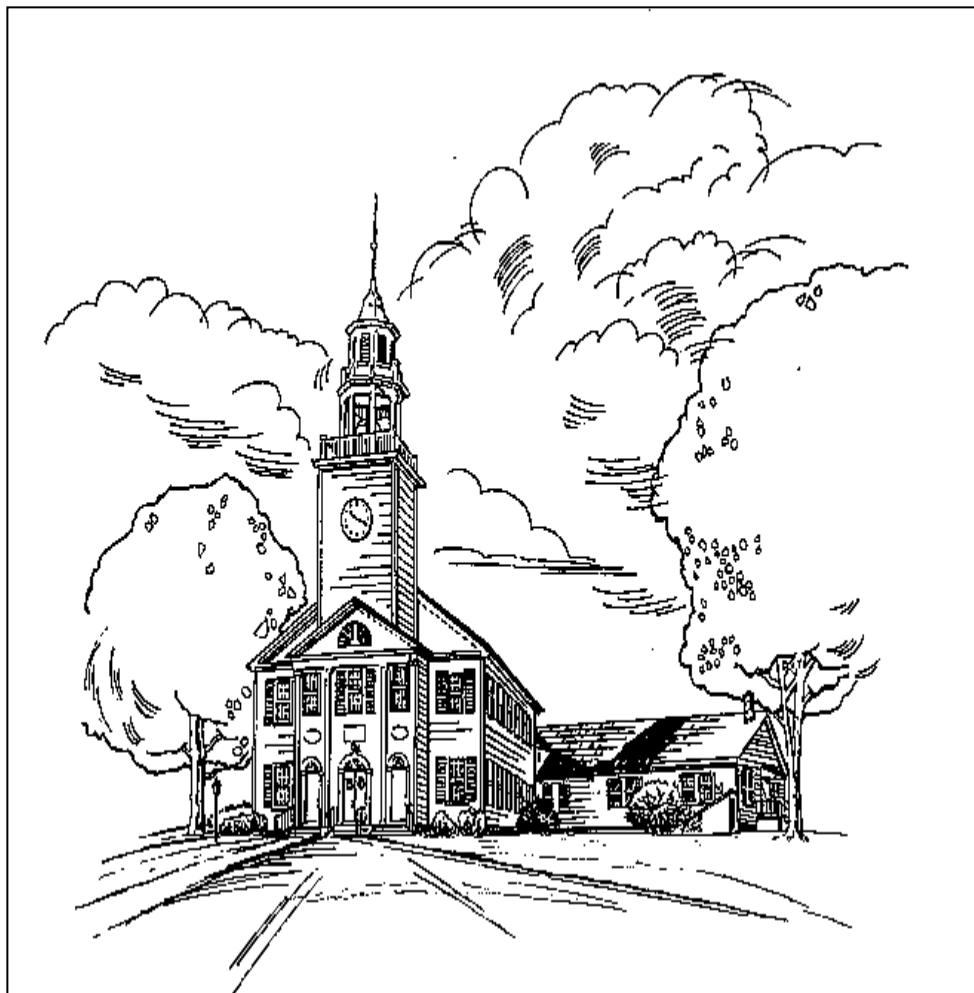


*North Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Woodbury, Connecticut*



March 2014 Newsletter



With a Blessing

by Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bardot

With the calling of your new pastor, you are beginning an exciting time in the life of North Church. Rev. Sandy will be in the pulpit for the first time on Palm Sunday, and Easter will truly be a celebration of new life.

The leadership of the church has worked out the details for transition and have determined that my last day as your interim minister will be March 2. I want to be sure that you understand that clergy ethics require that after that day I no longer serve as your pastor.

Our time together began with a joyful "hello" reception in October 2012. Although I don't know all the details, I know that the Women's Fellowship and the Deacons are planning a "good-bye" reception for March 2. I trust this will be a chance for us to celebrate the time we have spent in ministry together.

The title of my first sermon at North Church was, "I Don't Know Who You Are, But I Know That I Love You." Thank you for letting me get to know you during your interim time. It turns out, I was right!

With a Blessing,

Bonnie





The Diaconate

by Judy Lewis

Just want to remind you that March 2 will be Pastor Bonnie's last day in the pulpit. Let's fill the pews with love and appreciation for all she has done for North Church. A special reception will be held in her honor in the parlor, directly after the service. You won't want to miss all that is being planned. Hope to see you there!

As was mentioned in last month's Diaconate Report, during this transition period life goes on at North Church. If you have any concerns that need to be addressed you may discretely call Kathie in the office, Sue Wood at 203-263-5325, Pat Gage at 203-263-3896, or me at 203-263-4230. (I will be away most of March.)

We need you to continue to volunteer to host our fellowship hour after church. Thank you to all who have done so recently. Remember, goodies do not have to be homemade. Dottie's Diner has baked for me on several occasions! Flowers for the sanctuary do not have to be expensive arrangements. A bouquet from the market can be put in a vase and look just as elegant! You may call Sue Wood if you have any questions about altar flowers.

May this month bring us sunshine and a glimpse of green grass and flowers! Blessings to all!





Property Update

By George Kleros

This month we plan to modify the men's and ladies' rest rooms. This will include modernized stalls and installing new toilets that are handicap friendly. These projects require a couple of full days over two week-ends. Basic plumbing and mechanical skills are needed and all are encouraged to participate. Volunteers can contact George Kleros at 203-247-5534, or email at c.g.kleros@sbcglobal.net

INDOOR FLEA MARKET

The Women's Fellowship Annual Indoor Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Do a favor for your closets, drawers, and attic.....donate for this worthy cause, one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. Items can be placed in the church office or in the hall outside the office.



Outside vendors can reserve a space for \$35 if they bring their own table. Tables 8 ft. in length can be rented for \$6. Double spaces are \$60 with their own tables, or \$72, renting 2 tables.

For details, please call Marge Hubbard at 203-263-5920.

LaBonne's
MARKETS

SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS!

Just a reminder to please save your La Bonne's receipts, as we receive 1/2 of 1% of all the subtotals on these receipts. We can receive as much as the receipts total-and last year we made about \$300.

There is a basket on the table above the Food Bank donations at the Washington Rd. entrance to the church. Please leave your receipts there at any time.



Women's Fellowship

January Luncheon

On Thursday, March 20, the Women's Fellowship luncheon will feature a program titled, "Let's Talk Sports" with Lee Lewis (son of Janet Lewis).

The luncheon begins at Noon. Please bring your own sandwich. A \$1.00 donation for coffee, tea and dessert is requested. Since seating is limited, reservations are required. Please call Marge Hubbard at 203-263-5920 if you plan to attend. ***We hope to see you there!***

February Ladies of The Evening

The Ladies of the Evening will be hosting a "Wearin' of the Green" potluck dinner on Tuesday, March 18, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Beverly Carlone. Please bring your favorite Irish dish and join us for an evening of wonderful fellowship.

We will discuss our March 30 Bake Sale and the Indoor Flea Market. Sign-up sheet is located across from the hospitality/flower sign-up table, or call Beverly at 203-263-0728. Festive attire is encouraged!



The Ladies of the Evening will be hosting a Bake Sale on Sunday, March 30, after worship. All proceeds will benefit the "Parlor Fund." There are several items still needed to complete Phase One of the Parlor renovation. Please stop by after worship to select a delicious, homemade goody. Thanks in advance for your support!

North Church

- 3/2 Communion Sunday
Time for Special Prayer
(*Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bardot's last sermon*)
- 3/9 Celebration of Worship
First Sunday in Lent
(*Rev. Dr. Westerberg*)
- 3/16 Celebration of Worship
Second Sunday in Lent
(*Rev. Smith*)
- 3/23 Celebration of Worship
Third Sunday in Lent
(*Rev. Dr. Westerberg*)
- 3/30 Celebration of Worship
Fourth Sunday in Lent
(*Dr. Vincent de Luise*)

Committee Meetings

Diaconate Meeting	Thurs., 3/27	7:00 p.m.
Women's Fellowship	Thurs., 3/6	10:00 a.m.

Music Rehearsals

Chancel Choir	Sun. 3/2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	8:30 a.m.
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March Calendar

Other Meetings

Monday 3/3, 10, 17, 24 & 30:

Dr. Westerberg	12:00 p.m.
Men's Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Wdbry/Bthlm Parents Connection	7:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts	7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 3/4, 11, 18 & 25:

NA	7:30 p.m.
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Tuesday 3/11 & 3/25:

Women's Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Kathrine Rutledge's Home 41 Owl Ridge, Woodbury	

Tuesday 3/25:

Woodbury Hill Condo	7:00 p.m.
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Thursday 3/13 & 3/27:

Knitting	10:00 a.m.
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Thursday 3/20:

Women's Fellowship Luncheon	12:00 p.m.
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Friday 3/7, 14, 21 & 28:

AA	8:00 p.m.
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Saturday 3/8:

NA Special Meeting	10:00-5:30p.m.
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Saturday 3/1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:

Young Peoples AA	7:30 p.m.
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Board of Trustees

by Wayne Anderson

Listed below are the various budgets and accounts for North Church as of year-end 2013. The Operations Budget for 2013 ended with a deficit of **\$(8,716)**. The 2013 ending balances of the funds that constitute money in the church's checking account totaled **\$23,866**. Note the cash flow support being used from T&I to cover expenses for the Parsonage Project as pledges are still being received. The approved 2014 Operations Budget includes a cumulative deficit of **\$(14,299)** due to the increased costs of the new Settled Minister. The Parsonage Project shows the estimated total cost to be \$78,723, well under the original estimate of \$90,000. This savings is almost entirely due to the volunteer work force under the coordination of Pete D'Amato. North Church still needs your pledges for both Operations and the Parsonage to maintain the momentum of the arrival of Pastor Sandy. Please give, cheerfully.

2013 Actual Operating Budget

Total Income	\$169,465
Total Expenses	\$182,911
Operations Balance	(\$13,446)
Prior Year's Deficit	(\$12,095)
T&I Loan Forgiveness	\$19,749
Net Fund Transfers	<u>(\$2,924)</u>
2013 Yr. End Bal.	(\$8,716)

2013 Fund Balances

General Operations	(\$8,716)
UCC Outreach	\$4,074
Gifts & Memorials	\$16,183
2014 Year's Pledges	\$2,945
Newell Fund	\$2,138
Reimbursed Expenses	\$1,005
T&I Cash Flow Support	\$15,000
Parsonage Project	<u>(\$8,763)</u>
2013 Yr. End Fund Bal.	\$23,866*

* (Money actually in Checking Acct at year's end)

2014 Revised Operating Budget

Total Income	\$205,570
Total Expenses	\$211,153
Operations Balance	(\$5,583)
Prior Year's Deficit	(\$8,716)
2014 Yr. End Bal.	(\$14,299)

Parsonage Project

Total Income To Date	\$68,024
Total Expenses To Date	\$76,787
Project Balance To Date	(\$8,763)
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$78,723
Needed To Complete Proj.	\$10,699





Outreach Committee

Who is CELEBRATING ITS 5TH BIRTHDAY??? The Nambale Magnet School (NMS) in Kenya!!! In 2009 the school opened for the first 30 students in Pre-K and Kindergarten. Presently, there are 250 students in grades Pre-K to Grade 6.

Once again, we are fortunate to have Reverend Evalyn Wahkusama (Founder of NMS) as our honored guest on March 16. She will be the Lay Reader, give the Children's Sermon, and visit with the Sunday School and Confirmation classes. As has been our tradition, the loose offering (cash or check made out to cash with NMS in memo) from this service will again be part of our annual donation to benefit the NMS, which is a major part of the Outreach Program.

Please, plan to attend and celebrate with us and Reverend Evalyn!



Think Spring! Lunches to our "Ownfront" workers of North Church will be provided by your Outreach Committee throughout the Spring months. This can only happen with the generous \$5.00 donations by you! Please help. Leave your donation in the OUTREACH MAILBOX or hand it to one of the committee members. Thank you.



Parsonage Project

By Pete D'Amato

With all of the appliances installed and all bath and electrical fixtures in and operational, we have passed the final inspection by the town and have received our Certificate of Occupancy! The crew will continue to finish up the trim and paint touch-up. We will be hosting coffee hour in the Parsonage on Sunday, March 2, as a housewarming in preparation for Rev. Koenig and Susan to begin moving in the following weekend.

If you have any questions, please contact me at peted25@earthlink.net.



Sunday School

by Lorna Eckman

"YOU MAY NOT KNOW ALL THE DETAILS OF YOUR JOURNEY, OR CLEARLY SEE WHERE THE TRAIL IS LEADING, BUT GOD WILL ALWAYS GIVE YOU ENOUGH LIGHT TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP."

We are still in the midst of winter but March is the beginning of the end, and spring will soon be in the air. The trees will begin to bud and the flowers will begin to peak through to the sun. Isn't God wonderful? The Workshop Rotation will learn through the eyes of Solomon just how wonderful he thought God was in the story, "THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON." Solomon's love for God was so great that he built a temple in His honor. The class will build a temple out of Styrofoam in craft class.

Kindergarten through 2nd grade will continue to learn about the life of Jesus in the stories for this month. The first lesson, "GOD'S HOUSE IS SACRED," tells us how Jesus cleanses the temple. The class will bake cookies to share with Hospitality. Jesus prepares his disciples for the future in the story, "FAREWELL PRAYER OF JESUS." They will make a collage of the gates of heaven. Jesus continues to encourage the disciples in "PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS." This week the children will spread the good news by making cards for the homebound. The final lesson for the month is "GOD SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT," in which Jesus explains the Day of Pentecost and the class will make a fiery ring.

The Pre-K lessons will cover the story, "IF I COULD MAKE THE CLOUDS," about if you could make the clouds what color would they be. The class will make a cloud mobile. In "NUMBER ONE," we learn that there are many ways to be #1, not just by winning a game or contest. The craft is a #1 badge. God gave us a sense of taste so that we could savor the flavors He created and we learn about this in "FLAVORS ARE FUN," followed by the making of ice cream sundaes. We will talk about how it is much more fun if you have a friend to share things with. In the story "IT'S MUCH MORE FUN WITH YOU," we will make snowman friends in craft time. "A BALLOON FOR EVERY BLESSING"

is the story of a young girl who thinks everyone else has more than she does. Come to class and learn how her mother shows her how blessed she really is. We will make paper balloons and write a blessing that we have on each one.

There are lots of fun and exciting things happening in our Sunday School; stop by and see for yourself.

GOD BLESS.



UCC NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S CELEBRATION IX

Theme: "Together We Can" - Scripture: Psalm
133:1

March 28-30, 2014 • Holiday Inn-by-the-Bay*
Portland, Maine

Worship • Keynote Speakers • Music • Workshops & Forums •
Bible Study • Marketplace *Connections* (workshop for youth age
14 yrs and up) and more!

Online Registration is now available.

Check our website: uccwomenscelebration.org

*also using Westin Portland Harborview (formerly the Eastland
Hotel) and Williston Immanuel United Church.

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 Administra-
tor slot or emailed to the Church Office

by the 15th of each month.

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