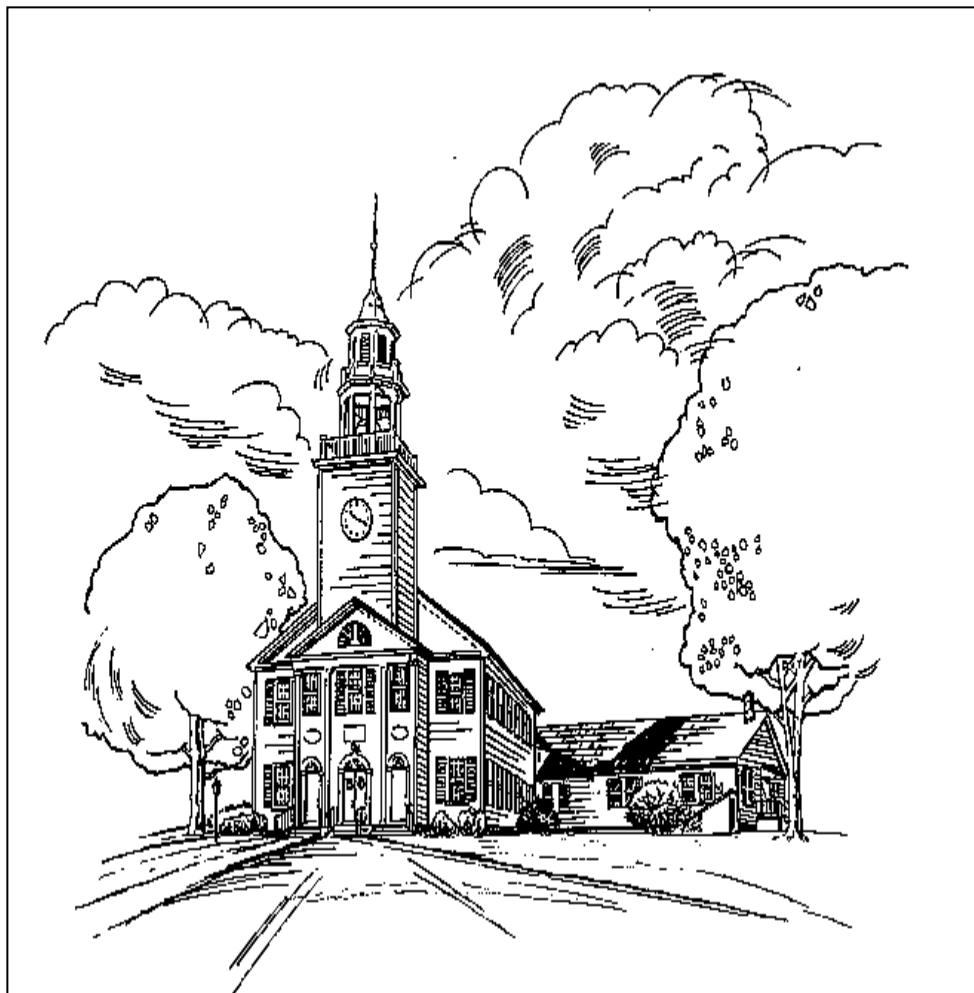


*North Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Woodbury, Connecticut*



November 2013 Newsletter



With a Blessing

by Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bardot

On Thanksgiving we are blessed with a filled table – filled with turkey and all the trimmings. But even better than turkey and stuffing and mashed potatoes, what truly fills our table is the gathering of family and friends. This year the count is coming in around 16-18, in a dining room that comfortably seats 12.

A few years ago we added another family member to our celebration. It wasn't a new baby or a new in-law. She is a cousin, a few years older than I am, and until a few years ago we had been out of touch for more than 25 years. We didn't have an argument or a falling-out. We just didn't stay connected.

Over the years I thought about my cousin often. When we were kids she lived on Long Island and we lived in Torrington and we corresponded regularly through letter writing. Our childhood letters always began, "How are you? I am fine." When we were kids our connection was important to us and we didn't think about the possibility of losing it. But as we grew older we just didn't stay connected.

Most of us agree that our connections – to our family, friends, and church – enrich our lives. But those connections don't automatically sustain themselves. Connections need our attention and care to remain strong and enriching.

Many of us will acknowledge that some of our important connections have slipped away. We might not think of them being gone, but we know something is missing.

Studies indicate that if we get up on two Sunday mornings in a row and decide not to come to church, chances are we will stop coming to church. We will let our church connection slip away. A few Sunday mornings with coffee and the newspaper instead of church and we give less thought to church. But we know something is missing.

The Holiday season is the perfect time to strengthen our connections to church. Remember the rich traditions of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas and come home for the holidays.

For 25 years, I thought of our cousin at Thanksgiving but it never occurred to us that she might actually be with us for Thanksgiving dinner. Now that we have all become connected again, Thanksgiving wouldn't be complete without her.

With thanksgiving for the blessings
of this congregation,

Bonnie



Parsonage Project

By Pete D'Amato

With the interior doors now installed, the second layer of subfloor laid on the 1st floor, and the half mile of trim fully painted, we're ready to get some color on the walls! The design team has chosen paint colors for the main floor, the bathrooms, and for the bedrooms. Once painting is complete we'll install the trim, then the kitchen and bathroom cabinets and fixtures. After that, it's on to the flooring. If all goes well, we're on track to be done before the holiday season!

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.

North Church

- 11/3** **Communion Sunday**
Time for Special Prayer
Luke 19:1-10
"Get Rich Like Zacchaeus"
- 11/10** **Celebration of Worship**
Veteran's Day Sunday
Psalm 145
"God, Bless You"
- 11/17** **Celebration of Worship**
2 Corinthians 9:1-8
"God Loves a Cheerful Giver"
- 11/24** **Celebration of Worship**
Thanksgiving Sunday
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
"Give Thanks for the Ordinary"

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
First Congregational Church
Woodbury
7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 26, 2013

Committee Meetings

Diaconate Meeting	11/21	7:00 pm.
Women's Fellowship	11/7	10:00 a.m.

Music Rehearsals

Chancel Choir, Sun.	11/3, 10, 17 & 24	8:30 a.m.
Bell Choir, Wed.	11/6, 13 & 27	6:30 p.m.

November Calendar

Other Meetings

Monday 11/4, 11 & 25 (*no meeting 11/18)

***Dr. Westerberg 12:00 p.m.**

***Wdbry/Bthlm Parents Connection 7:30 p.m.**

Boy Scouts 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 11/5, 12 & 26:

NA 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 11/12 & 11/26:

Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Kathrine Rutledge's Home

41 Owl Ridge, Woodbury

Tuesday 11/26:

Woodbury Hill Condo 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday 11/13 & 27:

Knitting 10:00 a.m.

Friday 11/1, 8, 15 & 29:

AA 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 11/2, 9, 16 & 30:

Young Peoples AA 7:30 p.m.

**ALL CHURCH HOLIDAY FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
9:00 PM — 3:00 PM**





The Diaconate

by Judi Lewis

November is a time of thanksgiving. The deacons are thankful to more of you finding your way back to North Church on Sunday morning, filling our pews. North Church is embarking on new beginnings with the prospect of a new settled minister leading the way. Here's hoping more of you follow suit and join us soon.

Your deacons must have found a new source of energy boost, for they are on a roll! Thanks to many folks saying "yes" when called to lay read, the task of finding lay readers has become easier.

Thank you to Suzanne Anderson for helping Deacons Guy Gabrielson and Bob Travers compile an up-to-date membership list, separating active members, associate members and inactive members. As soon as we have a settled minister in place, we will plan on preparing a picture phone directory. "I love when a plan comes together!"

Don't you just love having "Refreshments and Fellowship" in our new parlor? Our hosts and hostesses have been outdoing themselves lately. But don't let that discourage you from volunteering to host with a simple plate of donuts or such. Hosting does not have to be elaborate! Call Holly Gransky at (203)263-4032 for more information.

A pot of Fall flowers with all their beauty and simplicity is really all that is needed to adorn the Communion Table. Won't you consider honoring or remembering someone in this way. Call Susan Wood at (203)263-5325 or sign the proper book in the hallway to secure your favored date.

Please don't be discouraged by finding fewer people in the pews on Sunday mornings. Many of us (deacons), plus more from the Search Committee, have been out listening to prospective ministers preach. Sometimes these possibilities, to hear them preach, comes in bunches. We will return to the flock soon! Prayers of Thanksgiving to you all.



Women's Fellowship

"Festival Prep & Pizza"

The **Women's Fellowship Evening Group** will be meeting on Tuesday, November 19, at 5:00 p.m. in North Church's Fellowship Hall. Ladies will be unpacking and sorting items for the Treasure Chest Room and any other room that is seeking helpers. Pizza will be provided. Please contact Beverly Carlone, 203-263-0728 and say you'll come.

Thank you to all who participated and supported the Ladies of the Evening "Apple Fest Bake Sale." A total of \$444 was raised for the Parlor Fund!



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.



Sunday School

by Lorna Eckman

"OFTEN THE ANSWER TO OUR PRAYER DOES NOT COME WHILE WE'RE ON OUR KNEES, BUT WHILE WE ARE ON OUR FEET SERVING THE LORD AND SERVING THOSE AROUND US."

November is a busy time in church, as well as in our own homes. With the Holiday Festival and Thanksgiving, we are all busy preparing for these events as well as the coming of Christmas. The workshop rotation will learn the meaning of Advent , "the coming," the four weeks leading to the birth of Christ. This is a special time for the church and for many families as we prepare for the Birth of Jesus. Come and join the fun as we make this journey with lessons and crafts.

Our K-2 group will be learning about John baptizing Jesus, Jesus teaching the people, and "A Poor Woman's Gift." Each lesson will be followed with a craft to help reinforce the lesson.

This month our Pre-K will hear lessons about being thankful. Thanksgiving teaches us to be thankful, but most of what the children get out of it is to be thankful for our food. These stories will remind them to be thankful for families and all the little things in life. The lessons will include crafts, along with a turkey with feathers of things we are thankful for.

Please join us for the season of thanks and the preparation for the birth of Christ.

PLEASE NOTE: ANY CHILD WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, INCLUDING ANY OF THE KIDS IN CONFIRMATION CLASS, PLEASE BE IN CHURCH ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN DECEMBER. WE WILL BE GATHERING TO DECIDE WHAT PARTS EVERYONE WILL HAVE.

GOD BLESS.





Search Committee

By Scott Anderson

For those who are accustomed to the hiring process in the business world, hiring a minister is very different. In business you have a timetable. You advertise the position, review resumes, cut the field to 12-15 candidates, interview, cut the field to three candidates, check references, re-interview, then hire. With a minister, it is not nearly as simple as that. First of all, the steps are similar, but they all go on at once. Each candidate has their own timetable, as does every other church out there that is working with the same pool of candidates that we are.

The result is that there is no clear timeline to completion. We have been advertising the position for over a year. We currently have candidates in the profile (resume) stage, we have had several first interviews, we have committee members scouring the internet for information and often traveling to hear candidates preach (checking references), and we are poised for a second interview with one candidate. The Search Committee asks for your prayers and your continued patience. North Church is on a path that leads into the future. Each of the candidates is also on a path. As these paths cross in the search process, we each learn and grow together for a few steps. When we find the candidate that is right to share our path for the next leg of our faith journey, we will know it, the candidate will know it, and God will join our paths together.

ATTENTION HOLIDAY BAKERS

Please, while baking for the Holiday Festival Bakery, we would appreciate it if you would make a few extra goodies and freeze them for our Christmas Tea on December 8. Thank you in advance.





Outreach Committee

A NOTE OF THANKS...

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Safe Haven Drive during the month of September. It was a huge success!

P.S. We received a thank-you letter from the Executive Director of Safe Haven, which has been posted on the Outreach bulletin board.

Nambale Magnet School News in Western Kenya (A NCC Outreach Project)

Good news for those of you who have signed up to be a Prayer Partner with a NMS student ... your student's photo is here! They are on the bulletin board in the office hallway. Please take the photo of your student and enjoy their image as you keep on praying for them.

2014 will be the 5 Year Anniversary of the first 30 students at the Nambale Magnet School. In January, they will be starting 6th Grade. If you would like to be updated and learn more about the school and anniversary celebrations coming in 2014, please stop by the office hallway bulletin board as the Nambale Magnet School newsletter will be posted monthly.

Linda Leidel



Music Notes

By John Wick

The Chancel Choir and the Music Committee celebrated the 10th year of Mark Focarile leading music at the church. It is a tribute to the good relationship of Mark, the choir, and North Church that we have been able to keep such a talented musician, coming to us right out of college. He brings the best out of our ragtag group, and we hope to keep him for another decade. At least.

The Chancel Choir continues with a few interruptions this fall, and looks forward to the Holiday Season. The Christmas music program for 2013 will be during Sunday's December 15 worship service. This is always a special time for the congregation, and also for the singers. We always swell our numbers for this service and hope to see even more of you join us in the choir loft. If you are considering it, put it on your calendar now. We will have one rehearsal at 8:00 a.m. that morning.

On another note, please mark your calendar also for Friday, December 6. Bonnie Stephens' Chamber Singers of the Connecticut Choral Society and my Valley Chordsmen will join for our annual Christmas Concert in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Get into the spirit by joining us as we fill the sanctuary with song!

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
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