

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



*September 2013 Newsletter*



# With a Blessing

by Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bardot

For as long as I can remember I have dreaded the back-to-school ads that appear every August in the newspapers and on TV. They always signaled the end of summer's relative freedom and the beginning of autumn's busy schedule.

My childhood summers meant swimming in the river, waterskiing at the lake, picking raspberries and blueberries, and riding my bike farther from home than my parents ever knew. Autumn meant shoes and dresses and sitting in a classroom from early morning to late afternoon.

Although my adult knees hurt at even the suggestion of waterskiing, my adult summer still offers unique joys like hummingbirds in the garden and reading on the deck in the evening. My adult swimming hole is a pool, not a river. I still love the fresh berries of summer even though I rarely get the chance to pick them myself. I catch the summer breeze in a convertible instead of on a bike.

My adult autumn also offers its unique joys. In the life of the church it means the return of worshippers who have been away for the summer. The Sunday School children will be back in the pews (Norton has missed you!) and the choir will be back in the choir loft.

I hope that during the summer you have found some time of freedom from your regular chores and you are refreshed to engage autumn's busy schedule.

This year we had a special prelude to fall with the dramatic reveal of our beautifully renovated parlor on Saturday, August 31 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Following August worship at First Church we return to our church on September 1 and welcome everyone back with Sunday School and choir beginning on September 15.

Blessings on our new church year,

*Bonnie*





## The Diaconate

by Judi Lewis

It is hard to believe autumn is upon us, school is already in session, Bethlehem Fair days are right around the corner and .... we soon gather for Rally Sunday! Yes, Sunday, September 15, the children will return to a new year of Sunday School with their pal, Norton de Bear!

We are looking forward to having a guest visit us on Sunday, September 22. He is an old friend to North Church, The Rev. Dr. Michael Ciba. Rev. Ciba is our UCC Southwest Regional Minister. He continues to be of great assistance to the Search Committee, as well as to Pastor Bonnie. He will be assisting Pastor Bonnie on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, as well as preaching the sermon. Come give Rev. Ciba a warm North Church Welcome!

Just want to remind you all to check the sign-up books in the hallway for Hospitality and Flowers. Hosting Hospitality in our "new" parlor doesn't need to be extravagant, you just need a smile and a "goodie" or two to make it happen! Surely, many of you still have garden flowers you would like to bring in to adorn our altar! All flowers are beautiful, especially when they are given with love.



## Music Notes

By John Wick

A new church year starts and the chancel choir convenes to bring vocal music back to the sanctuary.

We are a group of (with the exception of our organist/choir director) amateurs who love to sing and enjoy bringing harmony into the service.

We would benefit from more voices and again call out for volunteers. At this point we could especially use either male or female singers.

Renew your spirit with the joy of singing.

# North Church

- 9/1**                    **Communion Sunday**  
**Time for special prayer**  
**Luke 14:1, 7-14**  
***"Your Place at the Table"***
- 9/8**                    **Celebration of Worship**  
**Luke 14:25-33**  
**"What brings Us Back?"**
- 9/15**                  **Rally Sunday**  
**Celebration of Worship**  
**Luke 15:1-10**  
**"Found Before We're Lost"**
- 9/22**                  **Celebration of Worship**  
**Luke 16:1-13**  
**"Act Shrewdly"**  
**Guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Michael Ciba**  
**Regional Minister, Connecticut, UCC**
- 9/29**                  **Celebration of Worship**  
**Luke 16:19-31**  
**"Hope for the Rich"**

## Committee Meetings

**Women's Fellowship            9/5                    10:00 a.m.**

## Music Rehearsals

**Chancel Choir, Sunday        9/15, 22 & 29        8:30 a.m.**  
**Bell Choir, Wednesday       9/18 & 9/25        6:30 p.m.**

# September Calendar

## Other Meetings

**Monday 9/2, 9, 16, 23 & 30**

**Dr. Westerberg (not 9/2) 12:00 p.m.**

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

**Boy Scouts 7:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday 9/3, 10, 17 & 24:**

**NA 7:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday 9/10:**

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

**Kathrine Rutledge's Home  
41 Owl Ridge, Woodbury**

**Tuesday 9/24:**

**Woodbury Hill Condo 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Kathrine Rutledge's Home  
41 Owl Ridge, Woodbury**

**Wednesday 9/11 & 25:**

**Knitting 10:00 a.m.**

**Thursday 9/19:**

**Women's Fellowship Luncheon 12:00 p.m.**

**Friday 9/6, 13, 20 & 27:**

**AA 8:00 p.m.**

**Saturday 9/7, 14, 21, 21 & 28:**

**Young Peoples AA 7:30 p.m.**





# Board of Trustees

by Wayne Anderson

It is gratifying to volunteer for an organization such as North Church. The members all are truly a family of faith and remember their obligations and commitments.

Our budgeted amount for Pledges and Offerings from members for the first 7 months of 2013 totaled \$84,302. Monies actually received totaled \$83,818. This is only \$484 difference, and this timeframe includes the first month of summer. The budget is based on receiving approximately \$2,780 every week from the Pledges and Offerings, (which includes the Loose Offerings). Other items of Income are slightly below the estimated budget but the expenses for the first seven months are also slightly below budget. All in all, North Church stays financially strong thanks to you. And, contributions continue to come in for the Parsonage Project. Total expected cost is about \$78,000 with \$72,000 already pledged. It is hoped that the final \$6,000 will be pledged this year. Pledges may be paid off over two years.

There is one cause of continued concern for the Trustees and that is the Cumulative Deficit from previous years which now includes the deficit from the closing of the Nursery School. The amount of the deficit at the end of July is (\$26,043). This item will be a priority for the next budget cycle.

Obviously, the Trustees are pleased with the trend in offerings. This data justifies the Trustees' faith in North Church and its ability to move forward with a major capital project while simultaneously searching for a new minister. Your renewed participation in both the financial status and attending services is heartwarming and appreciated. Thank you.





## Parsonage Project

By Pete D'Amato

The former empty shell of the Parsonage is starting to really look and feel like a home. The sheetrock is up and the kitchen cabinets have been ordered, so we're getting ready to break out the paint brushes and get back to work.

Many of you have expressed an interest in helping out with painting. Marge Hubbard and the Outreach Committee are planning to provide us with sandwiches and desserts, so stay tuned for our call for volunteers and join us for one or more "painting parties" in September!

## All-Church Holiday Festival



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Saturday, November 23, 2013**

Plans have begun for this year's All-Church event and we will need everyone's help to make it another great success. This is a great opportunity to clean out your closets or attic and drop off donations in the church office (please no heavy equipment, large furniture, or clothing).

We need a Chairman for the Garden & Sports room – or two folks willing to co-chair – please call Nancy if you're able to lend a hand there. And of course we will need helpers in all of the rooms, kitchen, parking, clean-up, baking; there will be a job for anyone and everyone.

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

**Your event Co-Chairmen:** Bob & Nancy Grasing,  
203-263-5953.



## **Sunday School**

**by Lorna Eckman**

### ***"God authors our lives with Love and illustrates it with Children"***

The summer is almost over and I hope that everyone had a good time. Sunday School will begin on September 15. I am looking forward to welcoming our children back on Rally Sunday. There are some exciting new lessons this year, so please come and see what is happening in our Sunday School. There will be refreshments in the parlor following our first lesson. God Bless.



## **Search Committee**

**By Charles Bartlett**

The Search Committee met a couple of times in August and some of the members visited potential candidates to listen to their sermons. Minister Profiles continue to be received and the count is now up to 74. Interviews for two potential candidates are being scheduled for early September, and additional visits are also planned for nearby new candidates. When appropriate, the Conference Minister is contacted to gain additional information on promising candidates.

The summer period is generally vacation time for both the Search Committee and the Clergy, so we are hoping to receive more profiles in the near future.





## Women's Fellowship

### **SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON**

The September luncheon for Womens' Fellowship will be at Noon, Thursday, September 19. The program, by Mary Lou Pavlik, will feature actual "Letters from a Civil War Physician."

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



### **SEPTEMBER EVENING GROUP**



#### **"Grillin 'n Chillin"**

The **Women's Fellowship Evening Group** will host a "**Grillin 'n Chillin**" picnic dinner on Tuesday, September 17, 6:00 p.m. at the home of Beverly Carlone, 618 Upper Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury.

***All ladies of the church are welcome to relax and enjoy a picnic dinner and share the fellowship of your Christian sisters!***

Please call Beverly at 203-263-0728 and say you will come. (Rides will be provided if needed.)



## *Apple Harvest Bake Sale*



*Sunday, September 22  
following worship*

*Hosted by  
The Ladies of the Evening*

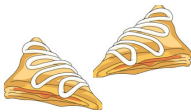
*Select from a wonderful assortment  
of anything apple and delicious!*

*Apple pie*



*Apple cake*

*Apple turnovers*



*Caramel apples*



*All proceeds will  
benefit the Parlor Fund  
and assist in the purchase  
of lighting and window treatments.*

## **A Note Of Thanks...**

Many thanks to all who helped prepare the parlor for the new flooring, the painting, and delivery of furniture. In a flash, the room was emptied, including all furniture, closets, and cabinets. The carpeting was removed and the floor was prepped for the installation of the new flooring. Electrical work provided a dimmer switch for the mantel sconces and installation of a floor outlet. Carpentry work was done, which added closet shelving and shoe molding. The parlor doors were shaved to fit the new flooring.

Also, while Kathie Logan was on vacation her office was painted. Many thanks to those who emptied the office and then replaced the furniture.

North Church is blessed to have such talented hard workers. Thank you again for giving of your time, talent, and treasure!

*- The Women's Fellowship Ladies of the 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](mailto:nchurchct@snet.net)**

**Website: [www.northchurchwoodbury.org](http://www.northchurchwoodbury.org)**

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

**by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

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