

The Evangelical Congregational Church

SUMMER SABBATH

“Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work...”

Exodus

20:8

Ahhhhhhh, June 21, Summer Solstice... What does that mean for you, and what does that mean for us as God's People? Many television and radio commercials are beginning to push the idea of hectic summer schedules, racing from one activity to the next, planning for your non-stop vacations, and stocking up on all of your favorite “summer needs.” To all of this I say, “*get behind me!*”

This summer let us make every good attempt to do “*nothing*” and to do it for the Glory of God! How many of us truly heed the commandment to take one day off per week and to “*keep it holy?*” Might God know something about the nature of human beings and their needs? Might God know that we have a propensity to try to take control, to do everything ourselves, to push and work until we drop? Might God know that we need deep rest, and deep reflection upon God's provisions for us?

This summer, together as a faith community, let us seek to help one another strike the balance between work and rest, between labor and play, between control and letting go. Let us encourage one another to “*do nothing*” on the Sabbath and to “let the land be fallow” for future plantings. God knows what God is doing!

Some suggestions for summer reading (if you feel so moved) are the following:

Rest In The Storm: Self-Care Strategies for Clergy and Other Caregivers: by Kirk Byron Jones.

SABBATH: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in Our Busy Lives: By Wayne Muller.

Sabbath Keeping: by Donna Schaper.

The Sabbath: by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

So, this summer, pull up a hammock or a seat by the water's edge, a soft couch on a screened-in porch, or your favorite rocking chair and allow God to be God. This summer may we, “*Let Go and Let God.*”

Don't worry, the work will still be there, and it might just go a lot more smoothly when we come at with our hearts, minds and souls centered, rested and renewed by our Loving God.

Blessings, peace and deep rest to all of you,
Your Associate Pastor, who does love you!

Rev Elaine

REV THOMAS ON VACATION

Rev Thomas and his family will be on vacation through July 14. He will be back on duty July 15. **Rev Gaetani** will provide pastoral and emergency coverage with the assistance of the Board of Deacons and others until then.

GET YOUR EVANGEL ON-LINE

More than 100 people are now receiving their *Evangel* digitally. This saves the church money on paper, printing and postage. If you would like to give it a try, please email us at

brossi6@verizon.net. If you try it and change your mind, just let us know and we will again mail you a copy.

SUMMER HOURS

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

July and August 9:30 AM

Summer Office Hours

June 15 through September 4
9 AM – 1 PM Monday-Thursday

SEPTEMBER – WORSHIP RESUMES AT 10:30 AM

START-UP SUNDAY

Sunday, September 6

WELCOME SUNDAY

Sunday, September 13

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed our newest members, **Genevieve** and **Mark Benton**, in May. They were sponsored by Gen's mom, Kathy Leblanc. The Bentons appreciate the family and close-community atmosphere of our church. Their family is rounded out with twins Emily and Julia, born in 2003, and now in kindergarten here in town. Gen, who was born in Montreal Canada, is a paralegal, and a former member of St Luke's. Mark, an engineer, was born in Sydney, Australia, and formerly a member of the Anglican Church. Gen currently serves on the Nursery School Committee and will help with programs for Women's Fellowship next year. Mark would like to be a greeter, host Coffee Hour, and plans to invite a friend to church.

DEACONS

DEACON CONTACTS

Please feel free to contact a Deacon directly.

Lynne Caldwell 366-7635

Betty Gray 366-1039

Beverly Hall 366-2853

Jerry Lyle (*Lead Deacon*) 366-5542

Serena Leiser 870-3242

Jack Barry 978-779-5407

Barbara Graf 845-3035

BAPTISM SEMINAR

Baptism seminars are held after worship on baptism Sundays. Seminars are scheduled for **July 19 and August 16** or by special arrangement. If you have not had a family baptism here you need to attend a seminar before doing so. Baptisms are usually scheduled the third Sunday of each month except in May, when they are on the second Sunday. There are no baptisms in December. Call the church office 366-2000 for forms. Contact a Deacon with questions.

UPDATE ON OUR GRADUATES

Scott William Bramley graduated from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington with a BA in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology in December 2008; followed by his graduation from the Basic Law Enforcement training Program at Cape Fear Community College in June 2009. He will be a Patrol Officer for the Wilmington Police Department following BLET graduation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUMMER FAMILY PROGRAM

Thursday, July 16 at 6 PM – Holy Hospitality

"Praying in Color" a family event

There are many ways to pray. We will explore some colorful new expressions. Led by Jean Newton. Drinks, burgers, buns, grill, condiments will be provided. Meet at Kirkside.

Thursday, August 13 at 6 PM – Holy Hospitality

Program to be determined

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The summer church school program is based the book *GOD'S PAINTBRUSH*, by Rabbi Sasso and Rev. Schmidt. It is a wonderful book and the illustrations are beautiful. There will be separate projects each week, but each

lesson will be taught for two weeks in a row. We have ten Sundays of this lesson in the twelve summer Sundays of church school. The other two Sundays will have a special class. Hope to see your children there.

Jean Newton, DCE/YM

- ☐ **What is God Like?** - Exploring what we mean when we say "God" through Scripture and our own experience.
- ☐ **Seeing** - Noticing the beauty of God's creation.
- ☐ **Hearing and Speaking** - Exploring how we experience God's love and how we express that love to others.
- ☐ **Touching** - Exploring how God comforts us and how we can respond to God with our whole being.
- ☐ **Doing** - Discovering how we can use all our senses to experience God and how we can be involved in doing God's work.

ECUMENICAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
"CROCODILE DOCK"

It takes place in the Bayou so our mission component will be some kind of assistance to New Orleans. The program is at our church and St. Luke's from August 17-21, with an evening program on August 20 at St. Luke's...so SAVE THE DATE!!! Also, remember to check your calendar for your availability as a helper/leader/craft person/decorations.

Jean Newton

Please find a VBS registration in this *Evangel*.

SUMMER CRIBBERY CARE NEEDED

The Cribbery will need care for the younger children from June 21 through September 7, 2009. If you are interested in the Cribbery all summer, that would be great. If no one is able to commit to the whole Summer, it is our hope in the interest of saving money for the church and CE budget, that we have parents come forward to volunteer for **one** Sunday in the Cribbery with your child and share the responsibility. It is for 1 hour and 15 minutes on the thirteen Sundays of the summer. Many hands make light work. Please e-mail me at ejnjen@msn.com. If you do not have children in the Cribbery and would like to spend time on a Sunday morning playing with them, we would love to have you join us as well.

Blessings, Jean Newton, DCE/YM

MUSIC NOTES

~HELP WANTED~
DO YOU LIKE MUSIC?
DO YOU LIKE TO LAUGH?
WE NEED YOU!
TENORS, BASSES,
SOPRANOS & ALTOS
AGE 9TH GRADE TO WHATEVER
PLEASE SEE CURTIS
RICHARDSON OR SUE MENZEL
AFTER CHURCH WITH YOUR
COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS.

UPCOMING SUMMER WORSHIP MUSIC

We have some wonderful music planned for our summer worship services. Please be sure to check each week's bulletin inserts for additional, upcoming information. Our church is truly blessed to have such dedicated and talented musicians within our congregation!

June 28 – Tom Erwin on clarinet,

accompanied by Kathy Barry

July 5 – Curtis Richardson,
featuring piano solos

July 12 – Charlie Flood & Myra Appleby –
Vocal duets

July 19 – The Noteables (Myra Appleby,
Marcia Hoffman, Pam Kapitz) –
Vocal duets with piano and flute

July 26 – Tom Erwin & Pam Kapitz –
Vocal and instrumental duets

Aug 9 – Guest flutist, Deb Markham
(from Zimbabwe), and Tom Erwin on
clarinet; Kathy Barry, accompanist.

Aug 30 – "Thee Six" women's sextet

NO RUMMAGE SALE THIS YEAR

The Festival Ringers are taking a year off of rummage sale duty. Do not leave any items in the church since there is no space to store things. You will be updated when the next one is scheduled.

THANKS TO CHILDREN/YOUTH CHOIR

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!!" With your voices and your instruments you certainly did a good job of making joyful noises during the past church year. Curtis, Jen and I would like to thank all of you for your continued interest and enthusiasm. We especially want to thank your parents, grandparents and anyone else who made sure you attended rehearsals and got to church on time (well, most of the time !!). This year 10 of you had perfect attendance and 9 of you only missed 1 or 2 rehearsals. That's fantastic!! Special thanks go to the Parkman Bells for their extra rehearsals to prepare "Colors of the Wind" for Children's Sunday.

I am including a revised list of the choirs as some children joined later in the year. Those with perfect attendance have a double asterisk (**) following their names.

Junior Choir/Jubilant Chimes

**Emily Benton, Julia Benton, Ella Fox,
Lauren Gray**, Shannon Hackett,
Sophie Keeler**, Lucy Ledoux,
Bridget Lord**, Claire Lord**,
Lily Mikolajczak, Emma Phelps,
Jack Phelps, Jared Ross**,
Sarah Shannon & Caroline White**

Youth Choir/Parkman Bells

Cameron Allen, McKenna Gray,
Robert Hersted & Sabrina Hersted,
Max Keeler, Rachel Keeler**,
Audrey Lord**, Sophia Mardirosoian,
Jessica Olson**, Allison Ross** &
Haley Tarasiak**

Have a happy, healthy summer. We'll see you in September. Be ready to make some more joyful sounds. Bring a friend and double the music.

Blessings to you from **Sue Menzel**



MISSIONS & SOCIAL CONCERNS

MISSION NOTES

► Twelve people from our church signed up to help with the *Habitat for Humanity* work day in Newton on June 20. Two needy families will have a new home which these volunteers helped to build.

► Our church youth left for their work camp this week. Would **you** like to participate in a work camp next year? The Mission Committee hopes connect with an organized work camp program in which our adults can participate by doing some "hands on helping!!"

► Thank you to the folks who signed up to provide meals and be overnight hosts to the three Interfaith Hospitality Network families at the St. Stephen's church in Westborough.

► Our congregation is "in mission" this summer by offering our facilities for the annual Westboro Vacation Bible School.

Be sure to sign up children, youth and adult helpers for the August 17-21 Vacation Bible School. Registration blanks can be picked up in the Vestry or at Kirkside and it is important to register by July 3 to assure a place for the children. **Marilyn Lyle**

"IMMERSE YOURSELF"

Often at the moments of greatest turbulence in our lives we discover the greatest sense of Christ's steadying presence. This was true for the disciples as they felt the wind around them and watched the boat being swamped, asking Jesus: "Teacher, don't you care that we are perishing?" Then came the reassuring words: "Peace, be still." Was Jesus speaking just to the storm? Or was he speaking to the disciples as well, to their fears, worries, and anxieties?

In recent months we have all been affected by the severe financial crisis gripping our world. Countless individuals have lost jobs, income, and in some cases, hope. Churches struggle to meet the growing need for care of those who are hurting while at the same time dealing with reduced income.

This week, as the United Church of Christ celebrates its 52nd anniversary, delegates to the 27th General Synod will be gathering in Grand Rapids, Michigan under the theme, "Immerse Yourself." To those braving the storms of economic distress, the Synod theme's invitation hardly seems welcoming.

But we have also known the comfort of being in the boat together by virtue of our baptism, and we have experienced Christ in our midst, and heard again and again the comforting words, "Peace, be still!" Is the water rising for you, for us? Then immerse yourself!

Rev. John H. Thomas
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Committee has been busy distributing prayer shawls to those in need. We always need to add to our supply. We can email or mail the directions to you. If you have any questions please contact either Rev. Elaine at the church office 366-2000, email revelaineg@aol.com, Marge Butcher (508) 366-9391, email mbutcher24@charter.net, or Nancy Walker 898-9476, email GreggDoug@aol.com.

Remember the prayer shawl is simple to make and it has given the recipient a very comforting feeling every time they use it. The Prayer Shawl Committee-
Rev. Elaine, Marge Butcher & Nancy Walker

STOP & SHOP and ROCHE BROTHERS CARDS

GROCERY CARDS FOR THE SUMMER

Summer is here and we know that it will be difficult for us to sell as many cards as we do during the school year. We know that although many of you will not be at church as often, you and your family will still eat! Please help us to keep this program going over the summer. We will continue to sell every Sunday after church. Cards will also be available at Kirkside Monday -Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM (1 PM in June). If those times do not work for you, please DO NOT hesitate to contact me (nquimby11@charter.net, or 508 898-3463). With 24 hours notice, I will make arrangements for me, or someone on our committee to be sure you have your cards before you go to the store! Also, please plan ahead and buy as many cards as you can if you know you will not be in church. If you are going to the Cape, remember that Stop & Shops are down there as well! In the meantime, remember your cards for graduation parties, barbecues, and family gatherings. Have a safe and happy summer, and remember the needs of your church!
Nancy Quimby

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

NOTE: Please keep the church office informed of updates to the prayer list. Thanks!

Bereaved: Dot Locke on the death of her husband. The family of Annie Gokey. The family of Steven Ronnquist The family of Frank Johnson. The family of Elizabeth Wilkinson Wells.

New Prayers: Reba Gray; Bob Whitaker (Mary Taber's father); Courtney Cochrane.

In Treatment: Melanie Mardarosian's mother, Shirley.

In Transition: Fred Porter at Whittier Rehab; Phil Achorn in ME (Steve's dad); Louise Allen at Beaumont (Betty Simino's mother); Serena Lanz at Whitney Place.

Facing Surgery: Don Gillis.

Continue Prayers: Mark (Mimi's father, Karen Hutchinson's friend); Heather Seibert (Marge Butcher's grandniece); Melanie Mardarosian; Jean Hall; Laurie Spalholz (Sue Menzel's sister-in-law); Deb Young (Rev Gaetani's best friend's sister); Philip Nanof (Kathy & Jen Todd's cousin); Bev Boyer; Heather Rupard (Melissa Barnes' cousin), Alan Brenner (friend

of the Birches); Terry Moore (Carol Moore's stepmother); Jean Curran; Mary Winn (Pam Kapitz's mother); Nancy Hansen (friend of Mary Gilson); Bill Leiser (Serena's brother); Betsy Peterson (friend of Deb Boucher); Maggie MacDougall (Liz Phelps' mother); Eileen Fox (friend of Pam Kapitz); Mahtab and her twin newborns (friend of Achorn family); Nancy Dazy (Bonnie Rossi's sister); Dot Melin; Jean Carter (Susan Cochrane's aunt); Cecilia Temple; Alice Lehmann (Cecilia Temple's aunt); Brennan & Brody (grandsons of Nancy & George Reimann); Steve Landry (Jean Newton's cousin); Amy (Roberts) Belmonte; Brian Cavanaugh (Neil's brother); Wendy & Paul Roberts; David Samson; Evan Brigham (Kristin's son); Dick Nichols; Kris Nazarro; the Bianchi family (friends of Nancy Cavanaugh); Ellen Lemon (Ina Donahue's friend); George & Lynn Day (friends of the Walkers); Marshall Lathrop (Donna Morgan's sister's friend); Ila Porter; Cindy Colella (Carolyn Bent's friend); Norm Bennett in ME; Dr Yadura Moharir (friend of the Achorn family); Louise Tyler; Pam Kapitz's brother-in-law; Barry & Donna Dorian (friends of Rev Gaetani); Olivia Trueb (relative of Nancy Walker); Justine Hall; Norm Helm; Bev Hall; Jim Boucher (Rich's brother); Ginnie & Bob Dobson; Ruth Wilson Stauffer (Jack Wilson's mother); Joe Furciato (Linda Sharkey's father); Charlie MacKenzie (Taryn Ouellette's father); Tim Hogan; Edna Christianson; Dick Smith; Mary MacDonald; Kristina (Melanie Mardirosian's niece); Bruce Caron (Chris's dad); Shirley Hero, Walter Temple; Marge Lightbody; Ambrose Peterson (Dana's father); John Murray (Diana Swets' brother); Marsha Norton (friend of Betty Gray); Joe Stillitano; Don Quigley (Paul's father); Howie Birch (Dick's brother); Anthy Thayer (Jay's mother); George & Beverly Bond (friends of Tom & Nancy Walker); Dr Barbara Baron (friend of Doug & Annie Wales); Serena Leiser's niece Jennifer & family; Penny Temple (Deb Lukey's step-mother); Lynne Parker (Barry Hackett's sister); Bill McCarthy (friend of Debbie & Keith Ledoux); Molly Quill (friend of Bill & Jennifer Carrier); John Williams (Sharon Kaiser's father); Lauren 'Eldridge; Cindy (Barbara Dickman's sister); Erin Carney (Julie Labbe's granddaughter); Lisa Shroff (friend of Deb Hardy); John Swets (Steve Swets father); Carol Jarosz (Bev Hall's sister-

in-law's mother); William Kleinedler (friend of Mark & Sandy Domeij); Martha Osborn, Anne Mann (Susan Whitten's mother); Carl Walsh (Megan & Brandon Hight's uncle); Linda Borglund's sister & nephew Shawn; Don Gillon (Cecilia Temple's uncle); William Goodall; Conor Chappell (Paul Reynolds' cousin); Marjorie Dion; Robin Walker (Heidi Synnott's sister); Janet Morey & Marcia Nolan (Elaine Gallo's sisters); Jenny Stern; Lincoln Tripp (Karen Gavel's brother).

Beaumont Nursing Home: Alice Tepper; Alba Kalenian; Gerry Green; Hazel Wells; Fran Kendrick.

Hearthstone at Goldenpond: Bob Innis.

Whitney Place: Helen Gerden; Lee Parker; Serena Lanz.

CELEBRATIONS

- Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on June 21 was Leila Helene DiTullio, born July 31, 2008, daughter of Jessica (Pollio) and David DiTullio.

PASTOR/PARISH RELATONS

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) works to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between our pastor and the congregation. We seek to create an atmosphere of confidentiality and trust while encouraging constructive and caring communication.

Committee meetings provide an opportunity for the pastor to reflect about personal concerns, hopes, ambitions and frustrations. Meetings also allow Committee members to share personal observations and comments/concerns/feedback expressed by members of the congregation.

Occasionally conflict or misunderstandings surface. At these times direct communication with the pastor is encouraged and reinforced as the most useful option for resolution. When this is not possible Committee members offer to accompany members of the congregation as they meet with the pastor. When either of these options is not feasible, issues may be brought by Committee members directly to the pastor if the parishioner agrees to be identified.

Rev Paul Thomas' PPRC

David Gray 366-3794
Frank Stokes 366-7470
Kathy Leblanc 366-0409
Ken Gilbert 845-1666

Rev Elaine S Gaetani's PPRC
Karen Smethers 836-3369
Doug Wales 870-0086
Elaine Gallo 366-7903
Elaine Moore 366-8585
Mary Taber 366-5123

AROUND THE CHURCH

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS DEADLINE

If you have an item you want posted in the Sunday announcements, please email it or submit it to the church office no later than the Wednesday before. Thanks!!!!

THE EVANGEL

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
PUBLISHED: WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
PUBLISHED: WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 2

*Copy received before the deadline
is always appreciated!*

CHANCEL FLOWERS

If you would like to grace our Chancel with flowers on a Sunday morning, please sign the flower chart in the Vestry. Flowers are given in memory of, in honor of, or for a special occasion. Please call **Chris Mosher** 366-2250 with questions.

HOSPITALITY

If you would like to be added to this committee contact Betty Gray 366-1039. Participation involves cooking and delivering a meal to a family or individual, on occasion. Because we are many, no one is inundated with requests.

Betty Gray

HOSTING COFFEE HOUR

If you would like to host, please sign-up in the Vestry or call **Linda Borglund** 870-5784.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Joanne Alley, Director of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, wrote to thank our middle school youth for their generous donation, which came as a result of the Mother's Day cards they created and sold. She said our support helped those in need. **Daisy Girl Scout Troop 30125** sent a note of thanks for being able to meet at the church.

We wish to thank **Sue Menzel**. With a happy smile and a sunny disposition, she helps in countless ways around the church. Aside from the children's choirs which she directs, she generously gives hours of help (and some amazing insight) to the administrative side of church operations. She has shown up many times just when extra hands were needed. She considers the church another home. We are so lucky to have her among us.

NURSERY SCHOOL

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL

New this year...the nursery school is excited to announce we will now register children **2.9 years** and older. We currently have openings for the 2009-10 school year in our Tuesday/Thursday class for 2.9/3 year-olds and our Monday/Wednesday/ Friday class for four year-olds. Please visit our website at www.congregationalchurchnurseryschool.com for more information or call the school at 366-8783 for a tour. **Anne Deysher**

ADDRESS CHANGES

MOVING, NEW PHONE #, ETC?

If you move or change your phone or email address, please let the church office know. We don't want to lose touch with you.

CHURCH WEBSITE

If you have church related information you would like posted on the church website, send it in a word to webmaster@uccwestboro.org. If you are interested in helping work on the website or have questions, call **Doug Wales** at 870-0086.

MACUCC NEWS - SPOTLIGHT

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Find out about:

- Stewardship & Church Finance
- Leadership development
- Christian education
- Summer camps
- Mission work
- Conferences
- Retreats
- News from other UCC congregations
- Communications
- Ideas & insights

The Massachusetts Conference *United Church News* SPOTLIGHT is a biweekly e-newsletter dedicated to sharing stories of how *God Is Still Speaking* through the efforts of local churches. You can access SPOTLIGHT by going to www.macucc.org/spotlight.

THE WIDER CHURCH

Dear Members of The Evangelical Congregational Church of Westborough,

Thank You! Your congregation's gifts have made a difference in countless congregations and lives throughout Massachusetts, the United States and the world.

Here are **just a few** of the highlights of what your congregation's support of Fellowship Dues and Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support has accomplished.

We have trained, resourced and supported lay and clergy leaders in our congregations through programs such as "How to get more Members for your

Congregation"; Web fest events; "Unbinding the Gospel"; Stewardship University; E-newsletters filled with resources, articles and event notifications designed to aid them in their ministries in Christian Education, Evangelism, Mission & Justice, Stewardship; "Turning Tippers into Tithers"; Resource Center open houses; and Christian Educators Communities of practice.

We have helped to raise up a new generation of clergy leaders while nurturing and supporting the ministries of excellent, experienced pastors through New Clergy Groups (now expanded to Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island); working with Church and Ministry Committees and in-Care seminarians, including offering an in-care retreat for those in-care or discerning their call to ministry; authorizing and ordaining eight new clergy to ministry; conference wide Boundary Awareness Training; teaching UCC history, polity and theology to seminary students at Andover-Newton Theological School; and ongoing Clergy Communities of Practice.

We have established new congregations and worked to revive existing ones. The Mashpee new church start now had over 80 in worship, and successful turnarounds have been accomplished in Somerville and Wollaston.

We have nurtured faith formation through five confirmation retreats serving 235 confirmands from 43 churches and by sending 53 youth from seven Associations to the National Youth Event and service project.

We have assisted congregations and pastors in the Search and Call process.

We have engaged in prophetic witness together. Scores of churches elevated their communities' awareness of global warming by ringing their bells 350 times; Mission & Justice Fair brought together outreach committee members from throughout the state; continued work of nine task forces on homelessness and other issues of compassion and justice; and the Young Adult Retreat focused on Peace, Love and Justice as part of the City Mission Society's MLK Day of Service.

None of this can happen without your congregation's generous support. Thank You!

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity" 2 Cor. 9:11

AROUND TOWN

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

Enjoy a free community dinner Tuesday, June 30 at 6 PM at the Westboro Senior center sponsored by E. L. Harvey & Sons and presented by Central Mass Convention & Visitors Bureau. Make your reservation by June 25 by calling the Senior Center 366-3000.

REFLECTIONS

I read a fable about a man who was browsing in the store when he made the shocking discovery that God was behind a sales counter. So the man walked over and asked, "What are You selling?" God replied, "What does your heart desire?" The man said, "I want happiness, peace of mind, and freedom from fear...for me and the whole world." God smiled and said, "I don't sell fruit here. Only seeds."

In Galatians 6, Paul stressed the importance of sowing seeds of God-honoring behavior, for "whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (v.7). We can't expect to experience the fruit of God's blessings if we don't recognize the importance of doing our part.

It helps to follow the example of others who have sown good seed. Author Samuel Shoemaker said that a good example can either inspire us or cause us to say, "Oh yes, he (or she) is like that. He is not troubled by temper or nerves or impatience or worry as I am; he is just a happier temperament." Shoemaker continued, "It may not occur to us that perhaps he had to fight for his serenity, and that we might win if we would do the same."

Are you weary of the way you are? Ask God for His help and begin sowing seed of new actions and responses today. In due season the Spirit will give the increase

– Joanie Yoder

We're always sowing seeds in life

*By everything we do and say,
So let's make sure the fruit we reap
Comes from the good we do each day. – Hess
Excerpted from Our Daily*

Bread

Sept.Oct.Nov

2009

Christ comes to us as one unknown, without a name, as of old by the lakeside he came to those who knew him not. He speaks to us the same word: Follow thou me, and sets us to the tasks which he has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey him, whether they be wise or simple, he will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in his fellowship, and as an ineffable mystery they shall learn in their own experience who he is.

Albert Schweitzer

Companion and Savior,

What work do you need us to do, this time, this place?

How is it you are with us working in the world, walking with us, speaking through us, reaching out with our hands?

What is the work this time requires?

Surely, it is no different from your time, the call to make peace, do justice, pour our God's love on your people.

At times, your task requires of us cost; at times, your company draws us into mystery, and a bliss unique to your fellowship, and we know, in our time, who you really are,

Amen.

Rev Andrea Castner

Wyatt

The Rev Paul Thomas, Pastor
paulthom2@verizon.net
The Rev Elaine Gaetani, Associate Pastor
revelaineg@aol.com
Curtis Richardson, Director of Music
ccurtisrichardson@comcast.net
Carol Steinbrecher, Student Minister
carols@thumbdamp.com
Jean Newton, Director of Christian Education
& Youth Ministries
ejnjen@msn.com
Lee Reid, Office Administrator
WestboroUCC@Verizon.net
Bonnie Rossi, Administrative Assistant
BRossi6@Verizon.net
Linda Birch, Wedding Coordinator
birchouse@verizon.net
Sue Menzel & Jen Keeler,
Bell Choir Directors

westcongmusic@yahoo.com
Ed Newton, Treasurer
Linda Sharkey, Assistant Treasurer
Jon Oliver, Custodian
Church Office Phone 508/366-2000
Church Office Fax 508/366-5867
General Church email –
WestboroUCC@Verizon.net
Congregational Church Nursery School
Anne Deysher, director, 508/366-8783
www.congregationalchurchnurseryschool.com
Church web site
www.UCCwestboro.org
U.C.C. web sites
<http://www.macucc.org> (Mass Conference)
<http://www.ucc.org> (National)

