



The (soon to be renamed) **Evangel**

The Congregational Church of Westborough, United Church of Christ

Westborough Massachusetts

1724-2011

Embodying Compassion, Embracing Change, Growing Together in Faith and Love

Volume 31, Issue 10

November 23, 2011

EVERGREEN FAIR – DEC 3

COME AND WORSHIP

Service is at 10AM

December 4th

Holy Communion

Rev. Gaetaini preaching

December 11th

Christmas Pageant

December 18th

Rev. Legerstee Preaching

5-7pm All-Church
Christmas Caroling

December 21st

6:45pm

A Service of Quiet

December 24th

Christmas Eve Services

6pm

8pm

December 25th

Christmas Morning

Service 10am

Rev. Legerstee



Dear Friends,

The first Sunday of Advent is November 27th. Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation, a rare quality in our day of instantaneous gratification. Let us create a sacred space together away from the commercialism of our culture to allow the emergence of the Christ Child to be awakened anew in our hearts. Let us gather at God's Banquet Table on December 4th. May we share Christ's light through the Giving Tree gifts that will bring hope to children who have very little. Join us for Christmas caroling and spread good cheer. Step away from the crunch of shopping to find peace at a Service of Quiet on December 21st. Help our children to embody the story of Christmas through the drama of the Pageant on the 11th and come to share their joy! Celebrate the many gifts of Curtis Richardson and our choirs on Christmas Eve. Come all ye faithful share the best Christmas ever with your church family Christmas Sunday! And may God bless us all everyone.

A God becomes Child to save the children,
Shepherds chant with the tongue of Angels,
Salvation is described in a Mystery,
Heaven and Earth mingle into one Soul this
night.

Prophecy is the point of a Star.
Cherubim bow with the neck of Shepherds.
A cave becomes the Gate of the Universe
While kings search for the bed of a Beggar.

A Maiden becomes the Mother of Grace;
Life has been given another Life.
The Child reaches out, takes hold of the world
And smiles the Innocent Smile.

In this Miracle all miracles are born -
The blind receive sight and the deaf have song,
The cold and homeless have shelter
And pilgrims cease their wanderings.

In this Creation all creation is born
And all creatures have a voice.
We find ourselves kneeling alongside the Magi.
The Child turns, looks and recognizes.

Luke 2:11 - Stephen Glaros

May peace fill your hearts, may peace fill your homes, and the universe. The blessings of Peace be with you all.

Rev. Dirkje, Rev. Elaine, Lisa, Bonnie, Curtis, Sue and John.

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Bereavement: Helen Gerden passed away on Nov. 20th. The funeral will be December 3rd at 10:00 am at the Rand Harper Pickering Funeral Home.; The family of Bill Warren; The family of Arthur Wentzell; The family of Bob Gatley (friend of many in the congregation); May peace be with Bonnie Rossi and her family as they mourn the loss of her sister Toni Stewart.

New Prayers: Fran Kelly (Megan Huber's mom, facing surgery); Beverly Campbell (friend of Nancy Walker); James Hight; Jennifer Hamel (John Oliver's fiancé); Dave Russo; Marge Lightbody.

Continued prayers: Jose and Zoila Del Cid (friends of Carolyn Bent); Garry and Ruth Burke (friends of Kathy and Gabe Leblanc); Kyle Motta (age 1) facing heart surgery; Jean Newton; Mike and Maranda Newton; Christopher Doyle (Pam Faustine's brother-in-law); Adam Bent and his wife Amanda (Carolyn Bent's nephew); Amy (friend of Gen Benton); Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton); Fran Kelly (Megan Huber's Mom); Donna and Tony Marge (friends of Serena Leiser); Joanne & Jim Gingras (friends of Kathy Todd); Joan Jacobs; Debbie Weber (Richard Nichols' daughter); Robin Tammik (Heidi Tammik Synnott's sister); Peggy McCaleb (Mary Ann Brayer's friend).

Hospice: Aaron (Betty Gray's great-nephew).

Hospitalized: Audrey Birch (Dick & Linda Birch's sister-in-law).

Out of the Hospital: Richard Nichols; Brandon (Betty Gray's nephew).

Westboro Health Care Center: Bea Ladner.

Beaumont Nursing Home: George McKendrick; Louise Allen (Betty Simino's mother); Alice Tepper; Alba Kalenian; Gerry Green Jordan.

Celebrations: We celebrate the success of Mission 1. The goals of the food drive were surpassed with the help and generosity of those in our wonderful Congregation! A heartfelt "thank-you" to all who supported this Mission. Well Done!

Let us remember to pray for the Search Committee and all those who serve our church.

You can place prayer concerns on the church's email distribution list at epayers@uccwestboro.org. To add or renew an ongoing concern, please call the church office 366-2000 or westboroucc@verizon.net.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....

Andy Girard Comes to us from a Catholic tradition. Professionally, Andy has been working in Life Insurance and Disability Income Coverage for over thirty years. He enjoys reading history and fly fishing when possible. Andy finds Westborough a great community and is drawn to our "very welcoming Church".

Maria DeCew I first came to the church with my husband-to-be in December 2010 as a guest. When I first came I was welcomed very warmly. My husband and I got married in this church this past June by Rev. Legerstee. I would like to help out the church however I can.

Sara & Chad Chysna Chad and I celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary this past summer. Chad works for the Shrewsbury Police Department as their K9 Police officer. His "partner" is a German Shepherd named Buzzy. Buzzy lives with us at our home in Northborough. I am a Registered Nurse. I am the PCA Program Nurse at Baypath Elder Services in Marlborough. We have three sons, Aaron, Evan and Ryan. **Aaron** is in 3rd grade at Lincoln Street School and enjoys playing baseball, basketball and football. He is currently in the children's choir and plays the bells at church. **Evan** is in kindergarten at Lincoln Street School. He also enjoys sports like his brother, but loves painting and creating! **Ryan** just turned 3 on November 1st. He loves animals and reading/looking at books.

David L. McLeod I am a founding member of the Hopkinton AA Group called Barbershop Group. This coming year will be my 34th year as an abstaining alcoholic. If any church member has a problem with his or her alcohol addiction. I am available to reach out and help. (Let it begin with me.) I have also been a member of the Hopkinton Thursday night al-Anon Group called, Listen & Learn, for three years. I am also available to assist any church member who has a problem with alcohol use in the family.

Cathy Purcell Cathy was raised in the UCC and Presbyterian Churches. She spent most of her childhood in York, PA, and graduated from Pennsylvania State University. Her first job out of college was in Houston, TX, where she met and married Bud. They have four daughters; two married living in the Houston area, one a senior at WHS and one an 8th grader at Gibbons Middle School. Since quitting full time paid work to be a

stay home mom, Cathy has volunteered with church, school, women's groups and girl scouts. She is currently volunteering with the Westborough Fine Arts Education Association, that supports Westborough public schools, K – 12, in vocal, band, orchestra, dance, visual arts and theater programs.

Bud Purcell My family and I have lived in many different states and in another country, from Michigan to Texas to Ohio to Pennsylvania to Georgia and then to Toronto, Canada before settling into our home in Westborough. We have enjoyed each and every area that we have lived, not for the surroundings, but for the people that we have met along the way. Such is the case in our recent and last relocation to the Boston area. As the father of four daughters I have learned over the years to appreciate the empowerment of women in our society. So I am happy to see this exemplified in our new church home. I have been baptized and raised as a Presbyterian and I enjoy reading and studying the Word. My wife Cathy and I look forward to our fellowship at the Congregational Church of Westborough and pray that we may find some way to serve.

Sara Purcell Sara was born in The Woodlands, Texas, and has lived in 6 states/provinces since. She is a senior at Westborough High School, and active in the vocal and theater programs. She is currently trying to figure out where to go to college, and is considering a major in engineering or physical therapy. She likes to play softball, sing jazz, work out, perform musical theater and make pickles with her grandmother.

Rachel Purcell Rachel was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and has been drawing ever since. She is in the 8th grade at Gibbons Middle School, and participates in the after school Art Club. Rachel also likes French, and wants to grow up to be a French and Art teacher. She spent a month this summer being a counselor in training at the Boroughs YMCA day camp and still wants to be a teacher. Rachel also loves to swim, sing, read and perform musical theater.

Welcome !

FROM THE TREASURER

PROMISES, PROMISES

We make promises all the time. When we sign a car loan we promise to make the payments. When we buy a home we promise to pay the property taxes that provide for the services we will receive as a resident of the town. When we complete our church pledge card we are promising to be good stewards and share in the costs associated with operating our church and its ministries.

What happens when we do not make good on our promises? In the case of the car loan, our car will be repossessed. In the case of our unpaid property taxes, a lien will be placed on our property and we will not be able to sell it until the taxes are paid. What consequences await us when we don't fulfill our promise to pay our entire church pledge? Is our membership cancelled, is our favorite pew roped off, does our Evangel stop coming in the mail, do the pastors ignore us?

Of course not! So, one would conclude there are no consequences.

No so fast. There are serious consequences. Breaking our pledge promises risks the future of our church. How can the Trustees plan next year's budget when they cannot rely on us fulfilling our pledges this year? If they always have to plan for the worst, how do we continue to grow and thrive? When we make our pledges late, how do we expect the Treasurer to pay the bills on time?

At the end of October our pledged operating income was \$21,000 below budget. To put that number in perspective, the remaining three payrolls for the year total \$21,000. Please take a moment and review your last quarterly pledge statement. If you need a current update, Linda Sharkey, our dedicated Assistant Treasurer will be happy to provide one. If you have any questions regarding the church budget, please contact me. God has given us so much to be thankful for this year. He keeps His promises and so should we.

In faith,

Suzanne Arpante
Interim Treasurer

DEACONS

BAPTISM SEMINARS

Baptism seminars are held after worship on Baptism Sundays usually scheduled the third Sunday of each month. Call the church office 366-2000 for forms. Contact a Deacon with questions.

NEW MEN'S GROUP

"Fishers of Men Ministry" of Westborough
Meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday Evening
The South Street Diner from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

An invitation for all men who are seeking a closer walk with Christ, to join in this ecumenical group of men of all ages and stages of life. We are engineers, salesmen, retired, tradesmen. We are single or men with families. We welcome men who are looking for a place to fellowship with others and grow in our walk with God. Please join us for one or more sessions. Questions: Please contact **Doug Uhlman**, 508-962-3939.

STEWARDSHIP 2011

PLEDGE CARDS

Thank you to everyone who brought your 2012 Pledge cards to Stewardship Sunday on November 13th. If you were not able to be at the service, please complete your pledge card and either mail it in or place it in the offering plate. If you need a pledge card, please contact the office or one of the Stewardship Committee members. Your pledge is important for the mission and ministry of this Church. Count yourself blessed.
Pam Faustine.

WITNESSING STEWARD

Good Morning!

My name is Melanie Borglund, and I'm a junior at Westborough High School.

I have been attending this church for 17 years, basically since birth. I was baptized and confirmed here, so you could really say that this place means a lot to me. I grew up in Westborough, and I've lived on Summer Street my whole life. But that's not my only home. I like to call this church my second home. Growing up, I was here constantly. Between Sunday school and the children's choir, Jubilant chimes and youth groups, Vacation bible school and various church events such as the Picnics, I was coming to church many times a week. This really shaped my childhood. I was taught to believe and trust in God, and to rely on Him when all else fails. I remember loving to learn about this higher power, who would always be there for me and who I could lean on when I was having a bad day. All of this carried on into my young teenage years, when I would meet with Mr. Jaworski to learn more and more about the Bible and how Jesus came to save us. I remember meeting with Eddie Newton during confirmation to help me further my knowledge of God and my relationship with Him. All of this influenced me to live my life daily in the footsteps of Jesus, to follow him and to worship God. I became

more involved in the church, as my way of giving back to the many people and the church who helped to shape me into the young adult I am today.

I want nothing more than for every child to have the same experiences that I did growing up. I want the youth to continue learning about God and how he can help them with anything they need. My wish is that every youth will learn to appreciate this church and to eventually give back in many ways, by helping out with church events, playing with the younger kids in the cribbery, or even teaching the youth in Sunday school. But in order for this to happen we need your help. We need this church to continue enriching the minds of children and you can help by doing your part in giving back by continuing to fund the many programs that help the youth learn more about God. The children are the future of this church so let us pave the way for many generations to come in hopes of seeing our church continue to change the lives of the youth.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

Thanks to all our Church School children who have been coming together to learn about God, themselves, and their own special gifts through Bible stories, discussions, and hands-on activities. We welcome new friends and familiar faces and look forward to seeing YOU soon! Read more to see how we have kicked off the holiday season and what is still to come.

In November

This month the children focused on Parables of Matthew. Our student minister, Pedro Silva, visited the children in chapel this month and gave a lesson in story form related to our Curriculum lesson, "Ready to Shine." The following week they were asked the question, "How can we use God's gifts to us in faithful and extravagant service to God and neighbor?" The children discussed the small differences we can each make through gifts of kindness, conservation of resources, generosity, and choices around where to "spend" our gifts.

Also this month several children were called to serve as Acolytes, bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary at the beginning of the service. Thank you to Ben and Ethan Huber, Emma Phelps, Sophie Keeler, as well as Adam and Jake Dapolite. Please let us know if your child would be interested in serving in this special role.

A big THANK YOU to our teachers and assistants this month: Austin Adams, Sarah Chysna, Ben Huber, Denise Leblanc, Ted Jaworski, and CE members Darvin Kapitiz, Amber Bock, Nancy Cavanaugh and Kathy Reynolds. We were delighted to have a few new teachers this month including some High School students!!!

In December

Christmas Pageant – December 11

We have already begun preparation for the Christmas pageant this year. After enjoying last year's pageant for several years, we have decided to try a new script! A few roles have already been handed out but there are still opportunities to get involved.

If you or your children are interested in participating in the pageant we still need shepherds, angels, Inn workers, manger animals and singing voices. Please contact Kristi Allen (kristinallen@comcast.net) or Beth Dapolite (esdapo@verizon.net) and we will be happy to include them.

Following the pageant we will have a birthday party for Jesus. If you are able to contribute cupcakes or clear, bottled juice (apple, white grape or lemonade), please contact Beth Dapolite.

*December 4 - pageant practice

*December 10 – Saturday 10AM-Noon

*Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal

*December 11 - Pageant

*December 18 - Christmas stations

(card making, cookie decorating and crafts)
Also on 12/18 the Congo Kids/Jr. High Youth Groups will join the All Church Caroling followed by a "Yankee Swap" party.

*December 25 – Merry Christmas!

There will be no Church School this Sunday

Teacher Schedule and Training

If you are interested in teaching church school or would like to learn more by sitting in on a class please contact Kathy Reynolds at kreynolds118@comcast.net.

December – 4 weeks (pageant + activities)

January - 4 weeks (Jan 5 training at 6:30)

We can always use some help! If you have a special talent, life experience, a great book to share and would like to visit a class for one Sunday...we would love to hear from you. Please consider what your special gifts are and how you can share them with our Church School children.

Board of Christian Education

Nancy Cavanaugh, Chair

Kathy Reynolds, Supt. Church School

Mary Ann Brayer,

Minutes Secretary & Chapel Leader

Beth Dapolite, Communication Secretary

Kristi Allen,

Christmas Pageant & Youth Groups

Clif Newton, Youth Groups

Amber Bock, Curriculum and Cabinet Rep.

Brian Johnson, Adult Education

Brenda Lord

Darvin Kapitz

MUSIC 's

COOKIE WALK

It's almost that time of year again. Yes, I'm talking about the Cookie Walk- a day that all those on a diet look forward to. The annual '**Cookie Walk**' will be held on **Sunday, December 11**, immediately following the Christmas Pageant Service. Come on down to the Vestry right after the service and feast your eyes on a grand selection of cookie treats. It's a great event for Kids and Adults alike. Grab a container and pile them up high! Cookies will be sold at \$6 a pound, with proceeds benefiting our Music Ministry. Your participation will not only enhance our Music Ministry, but will also provide you with a beautiful array of holiday treats!

WELCOME NEW CHOIR MEMBERS

The Music Committee and the members of the Chancel Choir extend a hearty "**Welcome Back**" to **Pat Ainsleigh, Judy Ellis, and Celeste Chenet-Monte!** We have missed their presence and are delighted that they have reclaimed their seats in the Soprano section! We are also happy to welcome a new member, **Rob Herstedt**, who has joined Charlie Flood in the tenor section! Rob has a busy 9th Grade schedule at WHS, but he will join us as often as possible!

We continue to encourage those of you who love to sing to join our Chancel Choir Family. We are especially in need of Altos and Tenors!! So please come give us a try! We would love to have you!

A LOOK BACK AT THE MUSICALE

The Music Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all those that participated and helped to make our October **MUSICALE "Music 'n more, Talent Galore"** so successful. It turned out to be a fantastic evening full of fun and entertainment and we brought in many new faces to our church. Some parts were hilarious. Several other parts were just awesome displays of musical talent. We finally learned who the Off-Church Street players were. I'm sure I was sober but I recall seeing a clown, a reindeer, and Victorian Ladies among other things. Who knew we had such theatrical talent in our congregation? And who could forget "Goofus". When all the Fay Mountain Ramblers came together on stage you could almost see a full set of teeth... which I'm sure put a smile on everyone's face.

It's impossible to adequately thank all those that performed and all those that donated so much of their time to help except to just keep repeating it over and over **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** You know who

you are so please give yourselves a much appreciated pat on the back.

NEW SIDEWALK SIGN

The Music Committee has recently purchased two Sidewalk Signs to help promote our events during the year and to control parking lot access for rehearsals. The committee is also pleased to offer other members of our congregation the ability to borrow 1 sign for other church events as long as we are not already planning to use it. If you are interested please see a Music Committee member to check availability and make a request.

MISSIONS & SOCIAL CONCERNS

MISSION 11/11/11 A SUCCESS

It is with great excitement that the Missions Committee would like to announce that the goal of collecting 1,111 items for the Westborough Food Pantry was reached on 11/11/11! Thank you to everyone who brought in their food and nonperishable items, as well as, those who wrote checks or donated Stop and Shop cards. Also, a special thank you to Al Mosher who delivers our donations to the Food Pantry every week. The Congregational Church of Westborough is truly sharing our blessings and making a difference in the community!

CONFIRMATION CLASS TO HOST AREA CHURCH CLASSES

WAMS (Worcester Area Mission Society) has announced the dates for the 2012 urban immersion for confirmation students and their leaders and mentors: March 21 and 31.

On Wednesday evening, March 21, from 5:45-7:30 p.m., participants will gather at **The Congregational Church of Westborough** for a pizza supper. The program will include experiential activities and presentations that look at economic disparities, the struggle of the working poor, and some of the ways WAMS and Central Association churches are responding to these challenges.

On Saturday morning, March 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the group will tour Worcester-based programs with a WAMS connection. These include Jeremiah's Inn, a transitional shelter program for men, and AIDS Project Worcester. Staff and clients will share their perspectives. The morning concludes with lunch at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, which conducts a vital outreach program to youth and seniors in the Main South area.

Cost for the pizza supper is \$5; the lunch, which helps to support Aldersgate's outreach activities, is \$8.

Most groups participate in both parts of the immersion but you also are welcome to participate in one or the other as your schedule necessitates.

Please e-mail **Bob Bachelder** at minister@wamsucc.org with questions or to let him know how many youth and adults you will bring. Thank you.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

EVERGREEN FAIR – DECEMBER 3

THE FAIR ! THE FAIR !
TATOO WON'T BE THERE
But there are lots of great things to do!

BAKE TABLE--Whatever you love to bake please bake it. Perhaps you could make two recipes of a baked good at Thanksgiving and freeze one for the fair. This is one place where we always run out of items early and we are an hour longer this year. We have aluminum containers with covers this year that fudge can be poured into, cooled and covered. These would also be appropriate for baking items such as Apple Betty or the like. The containers will be wrapped with ribbon and make a nice presentation.

JEWELRY--Please bring in your pre-used jewelry as soon as possible so it can be cleaned and priced. This is a favorite area at the fair and requires time to prepare the items. Perhaps you have friends who could help out here with a donation or two!

CRAFTS--Right up to the day of the fair there are simple crafts available with instructions that can be taken home to work on. If Interested please call Kathy Leblanc at 508-366-0409 or Serena Leiser 508-870-3242

GRANDMA'S ATTIC--Please bring in your donations any time after you get this Evangel.

UPPER ATTIC -- I have been told by Grandma herself that Grandma's **zing** is beginning to **zang** and she needs a head start and would really appreciate her deliveries from UCC Westboro Santa's as soon as possible. These are the more SPECIAL items we sell like Lenox and nice glassware etc. She'll have started getting the upper attic ready by the time this Evangel reaches you.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP-- Donations of new or like new items welcome anytime. We always need items for men, children and women. If you have baskets, filler for the baskets, leftover Halloween candy, mugs you never used, note cards, unused stuffed toys, puzzles and the like. Bring them to the church at any time. If you need a key one is available at the office during office hours.

SANTA NEEDS HELP-- We are coming into the final days of the workshops and there is much to do.

Even an hour of your time would be appreciated.
Hours posted on parking lot door of church.

WREATHS-- We will be decorating wreaths starting Monday, November 28th at 9am. **HOURS** for decorating are **9am-9pm Monday-Thursday**. Wear warm clothes. The heat is kept on low to keep the wreaths fresh. This is a great time for all with lots of chit-chat and much laughter. There is always plenty of help and pretty things to work with AND the GINGERBREAD COOKIES are being made at the same time and SOMETIMES one gets broken. YUM! The scent of the cookies is a designers inspiration. SO, COME JOIN the FUN! CREATE and on fair day watch your beautiful wreath or table arrangement fly out the door to grace someone else's home.

ARRIVAL of the GREENS--Mark **November 27th** on your calendar for the arrival of the greens after church. Many hands are needed to unload and treat them, then bring them to the cellar.

FINALLY, Have you found your volunteer area on fair day? We need you! Isn't it nice to know that no matter what you would like to do, WE NEED YOU! Give me a call OR email me, OR sign the board in the library OR just show up on fair day! THANK YOU EVERY ONE. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS THIS FAIR.

Carolyn E. Bent Fair Chair [508-393-7809](tel:508-393-7809)
ceb1217@gmail.com

STOP & SHOP and ROCHE BROS. GROCERY CARD SALES – 2011

Goal: \$12,000 Year to Date: \$9,011.50

Only 5 **more Sundays** to sell grocery cards to reach our goal!!! Thanksgiving is upon us; and we at Church have much to be thankful for. Our goal of \$12,000 is actually a commitment to the Church budget. While we realize that this is a stretch goal, together we can make this a success. So bring your checkbook or cash to Church or to Kirkside or call one of us and we will have cards ready for you as you make your many trips to the grocery store this Thanksgiving season. We will even deliver them if needed. So keep eating, keep shopping, and keep using your cards. Don't leave home without them! Happy Thanksgiving. Thanks! **Sue Menzel** 366-1268; **Sally Petersen** 366-5169 sbpetersen4@gmail.com; **Nancy Quimby** 774-249-4431, nquimby11@charter.net

GREEN CORNER

What you can do today: Your hot water heater represents about 20-30% of the carbon emissions of your home, the biggest user of energy in your house. Consider setting your hot water thermostat to 120 degrees F. Insulate your hot water tank with an

insulation jacket if available for your system. Arrange for your boiler to be serviced so it runs more efficiently. When you next replace your boiler, get a [condensing boiler](#) - they use less fuel than conventional boilers to produce the same amount of heat and can save 32% on fuel bills.

-(from the folks at 350.org)

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Dear Members of The Evangelical Congregational Church of Westborough:

Thank you!

One of the many things your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support funds are programs realted to children and youth. This includes:

- Confirmation retreats
- Christian Educators Communities of Practice
- Resource Center and seasonal open houses
- National Youth Event and Youth at Synod
- "Connections" E-newsletter for Christian Educators
- "Learn to Teach" seminars
- Education for Effective Youth Ministry trainings

Your giving is making a difference in the lives of our youth and children in the churches of the Massachusetts Conference and the United Church of Christ!

Andrew R. Gustafson,
Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship & Financial Development

PARISH LIFE

2011 – 2012 PROGRAMS

December 18 - Second Annual Christmas Caroling
4:00pm pizza in church vestry, 5:00pm to 7:00pm caroling at homes of our church shut-ins, 7:00pm meet back at church for Cocoa and treats

January 21, 2012 - Annual Adult Progressive Dinner

February - Sunday Pre Lent Pancake Lunch Held after church on Sunday

March 17 - St. Patrick Day Corned Beef and Cabbage supper

April 1 - Easter Egg Hunt behind Kirkside, (if available) (if rain, Vestry and Cribbery)

May 19 - Spring/Summer Game day Games such as volley ball, horseshoes, croquet

June ? - tentative Dessert for Children's Day picnic

Details will be posted on a monthly basis

NOMINATING

Please call Rich Lord (508-366-3835) if you are interested in serving on a church board or committee.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Betty Carlson
60 Brewster Road
Stoughton, MA 02072
(781)436-5736

Maureen Byrne
158 Westboro Road
Upton, MA 01568

AROUND THE CHURCH

UPCOMING SEASONAL CHORUS AND BAND CONCERTS

Here's a personal invitation to you to experience some super music in seasonal concerts by two special musical organizations in which I am fortunate to participate. The 2011-2012 performance season is the 152nd of the 100-plus member Worcester Chorus (Artistic Director Christopher Shepard), which performs as part of the Worcester Music Festival, now organized by Music Worcester, with which the Worcester Chorus is affiliated. As a community band, performing over several years in the eastern central Massachusetts area, the Interboro Band (Director Jamison Clark, on staff of Southborough's Trottier Middle School) plays a variety of music written for wind ensemble.

The celebration during this exciting, joyous, and meaningful time of year is reflected in these concerts; please check them out:

* Saturday 03 December, 8:00 PM (Tickets \$37, \$34; student: \$20, \$15 at door): Worcester Chorus performs MESSIAH by Handel, at Worcester's magnificent Mechanics Hall – With professional guest soloists and the Festival Orchestra; this choral masterwork has been a staple of the Chorus's repertoire for well over 100 years, and continues as a cherished seasonal tradition in Worcester; special in this year's concert: a counter-tenor singing the Alto solo parts. For ticket ordering, contact Music Worcester at 508-754-3231, in Mechanics Hall at 323 Main Street (Worcester), online at www.musicworcester.org; or check with me. See more information online.

* Sunday 11 December, 2:00 PM (Free): Interboro Band, at Trottier Middle School, Southborough – A splendid mix of entertaining holiday and non-holiday fare.

If you can partake of these concerts, anticipate memorable musical experiences. Thanks!

Tom Erwin

STOP BY THE CHAPEL

Come take a look!. The sheers have been hung, Brad was down there tonight grouting the tile in the foyer. Jon Oliver is going to strip the floor and polish it on Monday. Next weekend the pews will be put back in place and secured in time for the pageant rehearsal the following Sunday. Steve was putting a second coat of paint on the hallway this afternoon. Many thanks to the Memorial Gifts Committee for supporting this project.

MOVING, NEW PHONE, ETC?

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

SUNDAY GREETERS

Please call **Linda Birch** 870-9911 or sign up after the worship on the greeter calendar.

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 or **Nancy Gage** 366-9266 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.

AUDIO VISUAL REQUESTS

Please let **Tom & Donna Morgan** 366-0358 know at least one week in advance if you have AV requests of church services or events.

HOSTING COFFEE HOUR

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Submissions for Sunday's bulletins must be received by 10 AM the preceding Wednesday.

THE EVANGEL - DEADLINE

The deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 7

Publication is Wednesday, Dec. 14

Copy received before deadline is appreciated!

CHURCH WEBSITE

If you have church related information you would like posted on the church website, send it in a .pdf file or in a Word document to webmaster@uccwestboro.org. If you are interested in helping work on the website or have questions, call **Doug Wales** at 870-0086 or Lisa at the church office 366-2000.

ASSABET VALLEY PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER

The AVPCC in Westborough is offering a round of new groups in September. If you are interested in a daytime or evening divorce support group or a grief and loss group, both running for 10 weeks, or a monthly women's group to run all year, please call Mary Taber at 508-366-4000 ext 3, at the center.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Rev Dr Dirkje Legerstee, Interim
Pastor

dlegerstee@comcast.net

The Rev Elaine Gaetani, Associate
Pastor

revelaineg@aol.com

Pedro Silva, Student Minister
psilva@ants.edu

Curtis Richardson, Director of Music
ccurtisrichardson@comcast.net

Office Administrator

WestboroUCC@Verizon.net

Church Office Phone 508/366-2000

General Church email –

WestboroUCC@Verizon.net

Church web site

www.UCCwestboro.org

U.C.C. web sites

<http://www.macucc.org> (Mass
Conference)

<http://www.ucc.org> (National)



ALL-CHURCH SURVEY RESULTS RECAP

The Pastoral Search Committee would like to again thank the 131 people who took the time to complete the All Church Survey. Below are the results of some of the key questions on the survey which will be used to create our church profile. If you would like to review the entire 40 pages of survey results, a copy is available at Kirkside during regular office hours.

The following is a list of 16 tasks that a church is likely to perform was given. Respondents were asked to indicate if they feel our congregation needs to give it more emphasis, if they are very or generally satisfied or if they felt the task currently receives too much emphasis.

1. Offering worship that provides a meaningful experience of God and the Christian tradition.
2. Providing worship that expresses the Gospel in contemporary language and forms.
3. Providing Christian education for children and youth.
4. Providing Christian education program for adults.
5. Helping members depend their personal, spiritual relationship with God.
6. Sharing the good news of the Gospel with the un-churched.
7. Engaging in acts of charity and service to persons in need.
8. Encouraging members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political and economic issues.
9. Providing a caring ministry for the sick, shut-ins and the bereaved.
10. Providing pastoral counseling to help members deal with personal problems.
11. Providing fellowship opportunities for members.
12. Helping members understand their use of money, time and talents as expressions of Christian stewardship.
13. Supporting the global mission of the church/denomination.
14. Helping members discover their own gifts for ministry and service.
15. Participating in activities and programs with other local religious group.
16. Expressing our denominational heritage/tradition.

For each task, the majority answered that they are generally or very satisfied with the emphasis currently given to the task. The tasks which the survey indicated could use more emphasis are numbers 3, 4, 6, and 15. The majority of the tasks only had 1 or 2 people indicated they received too much emphasis. Numbers 2 and 13 had 19 and 11 people respectively indicate they felt they received too much emphasis. The task which the respondents felt our congregation did best is number 1 and this was also the task that most people would like to see strengthened.

In order to carry out its tasks, every church must deal with certain organizational issues. Listed below are a number of statements describing such issues and the percentage of respondents who agree, disagree or don't know if the statement describes our congregation.

1. Members are well informed about what the various committees and groups in the church are doing. 80.2% agree, 19% disagree, .9% don't know
2. The activities taking place in the congregation are well publicized to the surrounding community. 75.4% agree, 20.2% disagree, 4.4% don't know
3. Study of the needs of the congregation and the community is regularly undertaken as the basis for church planning. 62.2% agree, 23.3% disagree, 14.7% don't know
4. Member and groups set a lot of support and encouragement for trying something new in the congregation. 76.6% agree, 17.2% disagree, 6% don't know
5. Members are encouraged to discover their particular gifts for ministry and service. 88.5% agree, 1.8% disagree, 9.7% don't know

6. Lay leaders are provided the training they need for their committee and task assignments. 55.7% agree, 20% disagree, 24.3% don't know
7. Every member who is capable and interested has an equal opportunity to hold key leadership position. 87% agree, 6.1% disagree, 7% don't know
8. The theological and biblical implications of important decisions are regularly discussed. 68.1% agree, 15.5% disagree, 16.4% don't know\
9. Important decisions about the life of the church are rarely made without open discussion by church leaders and members. 87.1% agree, 9.5% disagree, 3.4% don't know
10. Disagreements and conflicts are dealt with openly rather than hushed up or hidden behind closed doors. 66.1% agree, 26.8% disagree, 7.1% don't know
11. It is easy to summarize for visitors and non-members how our congregation differs from other congregations in the area. 65.5% agree, 22.1% disagree, 12.4% don't know
12. Members help each other out in times of trouble. 97.4% agree, 0% disagree, 2.7% don't know
13. Cooperative programs with churches of other denominations are highly valued in our church. 81.6% agree, 11.4% disagree, 7% don't know
14. The current morale of our church membership is high. 61.9% agree, 33.6% disagree, 4.4% don't know
15. There is a sense of excitement among members about our church's future. 73% agree, 21.7% disagree, 5.2% don't know

For the following questions, respondents were asked which of the two options they feel our church leans towards. For many of the questions, a good number of people felt we are right in the middle.

1. Our church is more influenced by history and traditions or by contemporary idea and trends. 55.3% history and traditions, 28.1% in the middle, 16.6% contemporary ideas
2. Members are similar to or very different from the people who live immediately around the church. 82.3% similar to, 14.2% in the middle, 3.6% very different
3. Our church is very involved or not at all involved with the community around the church. 69.3% very involved, 21.1% in the middle, 9.7% not at all involved.
4. Our church is primarily oriented to serving our members or to serving the world beyond our membership. 49.1% serving our members, 36.8% in the middle, 14.1% serving the world
5. Our congregation feels like one large family or like a loosely knit association of individuals and groups. 48.7% one large family, 22.1% in the middle, 29.2% loose knit association
6. Our church is known as a prestigious one in the area or is not considered one of the "status" churches in the area. 50.8% known as prestigious, 31.3% in the middle, 17.9% not a "status" church
7. Our church's approach to social issues is basically educational, leaving any action to individual conscience or is decidedly "activist". We take stands on social issues as a congregation. 56.2% educational, 23.2% in the middle, 20.5% activist
8. Our congregation's approach to individual salvation emphasizes education, nurture and gradual growth in faith or stresses conversion and a born-again experience. 92% gradual growth, 7.1% in the middle, .9% conversion
9. Our congregation gives strong expression to our denominational identity and heritage or it's difficult to know to which denomination our congregation belongs. 70.2% strong denominational, 9.9% in the middle, 17.1% difficult to know
10. Our congregation strives to create partnerships with other local churches or prefers to work by ourselves or through our denominational channels. 65.5% create partnerships, 11.5% in the middle, 23% work by ourselves

All congregations have an identity or a sense of who they are, that all members share in and yet any individual member stands somewhat apart from. Below are 6 statements and the percentages of respondents who agreed or disagreed with the statement.

1. Our church's identity, as it is, is one with which I feel comfortable. 81.5% agree, 18.5% disagree

2. It is easy for me to tell my friends what is unique about our church. 72.8% agree, 27.2 disagree
3. I have a clear understanding of what our church stands for. 82.4% agree, 17.6% disagree
4. An effective effort was made to instruct me in our church's mission. 74.8% agree, 25.2% disagree
5. I have a strong sense of belonging to this congregation. 83.1% agree, 17% disagree
6. Being at this church has made a difference in my spiritual life. 87.6% agree, 12.4% disagree

The respondents felt that the following are the most important in the ministry and service of our church:

1. Preparing and preaching inspiring sermons.
2. Planning and leading worship sensitive to the needs of the congregation.
3. Developing and supporting religious education programs for children and youth.
4. Visiting the sick, shut-in and bereaved.
5. Directly involving laity in the planning and leadership of church programs and events.

Although important, the following are of lesser priority:

1. Participating in denominational activities beyond the local church
2. Visiting members at their homes.
3. Holding social justice issues before members.
4. Supporting the world mission of the church.

When asked about what type of a pastor they are looking for, the respondents indicated the following:

- 29.9% preferred expertise in Biblical and theological matters which 70.1% preferred an emphasis on spiritual development
- 70.4% prefer interactions to be thought provoking and challenging while 29.6% preferred interactions to be comforting and reassuring
- 48.5% preferred someone who usually emphasizes the Bible while 51.4% prefer emphasis on contemporary issues
- 74.1% prefer someone who welcomes new approaches and ideas while 25.9% prefer someone who likes things to stay "the way they have always been done"
- 27.1% prefer someone who tends to be a strong and decisive force in decisions while 71.9% prefer someone who encourages congregational and lay leadership decisions making
- 84.3% prefer someone who has a relaxed interpersonal style while 15.7% prefer a formal style
- 31.2% prefer someone who achieves set goals regardless of cost where ends justify the means, while 68.9% prefer someone who believes the cost of goals sets priorities where means determine the ends
- 72.2% prefer someone who helps people figure things out for themselves, while 27.7% prefer someone who advises people what to do
- 14% prefer someone who is reserved and reflective, while 86% prefer someone who is outgoing and socially engaging
- 48.6% prefer someone who maintains a private life of family, friends, personal and professional development, while 51.4% prefer someone who gives whole self to the life of the church and work as a pastor

The respondents feel that a good worship service:

- Provides worship that is emotionally moving
- Provides worship that is intellectually challenging
- Has parts of the worship especially for children
- Includes time for silent prayer/meditation
- Provide time for members to greet one another
- Gives attention to sacraments

- Involved lay participation in leading worship

Of slightly lesser importance are

- Uses creeds or statements of faith
- Includes corporate prayer in which the entire congregation participates
- Uses contemporary worship styles, music and language
- Uses inclusive, non-sexist language
- Provides worship at times other than Sunday morning
- Uses new or unfamiliar hymns

The respondents feel that the following are important in a good sermon:

- Touches directly on my everyday life
- Is challenging and thought-provoking
- Is carefully composed and skillfully delivered
- Is spiritually moving and inspirational
- Makes one reflect on issues and events that go beyond one's personal life and local community
- Sets forth a clear faith position as a guide for making decisions and living a faithful life
- Obviously flows from the depth of the preacher's own personal faith and spiritual convictions

Of slightly lesser importance is a sermon that:

- Sets forth various sides of an issue without advocating one position as the only Christian position
- Is Biblically based and illustrated
- Is comforting and reassuring
- Is based on a clear, unambiguous religious authority
- Contains scholarly or literary illustrations

Currently 78.7% of the respondents are satisfied with the congregation's Sunday worship, 83.1% are satisfied with the music during worship and 71.7% are satisfied with the way their spiritual needs are being met in the worship service.

Finally, the respondents were asked to what extent they would like to see the pastor of our congregation emphasize or embody each of the following 10 images or dominant roles in terms of which clergy variously orient their ministry.

1. Minister of the Word/Teacher of the Congregation: Finds primary fulfillment in preaching and teaching and is attracted to a congregation with a strong educational emphasis. 30.8% essential, 35.6% very important, 27.9% moderate, 5.8% not very important
2. Church Administrator: fulfillment comes in administering and managing a productive, varied and effective church program and organization. 18.3% essential, 21.2% very important, 43.3% moderate, 17.3% not very important
3. Social Activist: Ministry centers in relating the Gospel to the social context, enjoys being on the cutting edge of social concerns and involvement in community affairs. 9.7% essential, 23.3% very important, 35.9% moderate, 31.1% not very important
4. Group Facilitator: Centers ministry around work with small groups of people, helping them relate particular interests and needs to the Gospel; organizes the church around a variety of interest, study and task groups. 8.8% essential, 33.3% very important, 40.2% moderate, 17.7% not very important
5. Celebrant/worship Leader: Is most at home in leading the congregation in worship; deep appreciation for ritual and ceremonial in both formal and informal settings. 22.1% essential, 41.3% very important, 29.8% moderate, 6.7% not very important

6. Spiritual Guide: Encourages development of all members' spiritual lives; works intensely with those interested in pursuing spiritual disciplines; minister has exemplary spiritual life. 22.9% essential, 41.9% very important, 23.8% moderate, 11.5% not very important
7. Witness/Evangelist: Focus of ministry is sharing the Gospel with those in and outside the church; developing the church's evangelistic witness is a primary task. 6.7% essential, 5.8% very important, 32.7% moderate, 44.8% not very important
8. Counselor/Healer: Spends a major part of each week in pastoral counseling and visiting in homes and/or hospitals; finds fulfillment in helping people face their crisis. 15.4% essential, 31.7% very important, 45.2% moderate, 7.7% not very important
9. Community Chaplain: Finds fulfillment in civic roles and leadership; often serves on community committees and task groups; may be chaplain to community groups. 3.8% essential, 13.3% very important, 43.8% moderate, 39% not very important
10. Friend/Fellow Traveler: Warm and loving person who relates to us as an ordinary human being; compassionate and good listener; not afraid to reveal personal pain and struggle.. 45.7% essential, 41.9% very important, 8.6% moderate, 3.9% not very important

Due to space, we decided to not include any of the demographic information received on the survey. If you are interested in this data, please feel free to stop by the church and see the full 40 page report of the survey results. If you have any specific questions on the information provided, please contact any of us.

The Pastoral Search Committee

Linda Borglund, Jim Brown, Steve, Fox, Barry Hackett, Serena Leiser (chair), Brenda Lord, Sue Menzel, Ed Newton III, Ed Wong