



The 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 9

October 26, 2011

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00AM

Note: Daylight Savings Time Ends.

November 6th

Communion Sunday

“Celebrating Our Heritage” with voices from time....

Special Coffee Hour

November 13th

Stewardship Sunday

Rev. Legerstee Preaching

November 20th

Rev. Gaetani Preaching

November 23rd

INTERFAITH

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

7:30 pm in our Sanctuary

November 27th

Pedro Silva, Student Minister
Preaching

FROM OUR INTERIM MINISTER...

Dear Friends,

Scarcity - the notion of never having enough, is a genuine concern for the poor and hungry of our world. Orphans who survived WWII slept with bread under their pillows to learn to trust there would be bread for the morrow. On the other hand, having more than enough does not necessarily make an individual feel rich enough to be generous. To live out of abundance is to live trusting in God's provision. Living from abundance brings connection and mutuality to giving. Great feelings of satisfaction come from helping someone or from giving a gift. The Native American tradition of give-aways understood giving as a great energy that flows in a round from a trust in Holy abundance that comes back to the giver with spiritual return. To be wealthy meant that one had much good, enough to give away. Respect and honor was given to the generous person. Giving was understood in relation with the natural world. Human giving from life is much smaller than the eternal giving of a river.

For many of us both energies of abundance and scarcity live within us. The magnanimous part of ourselves wants to give and while the cautionary fearful part of us wants to hold on to what we have or may never have enough. Our economic system drives on the power of scarcity. Our faith worships a God who gives and wants our all. We celebrate Christ who Self-emptied, and sacrificed everything for love. Somewhere between scarcity and abundance there is a response of giving, not sparingly or fearfully, but joyfully and generously. What return in this great round of extravagant giving that we have been so blessed to receive?

-Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER...

A Gift Evoking Community

Grace and Peace to you Dear Congregation!

There have been a half dozen of us folks meeting each Wed. evening for the Adult Ed. Program, Unwrapping Our Gifts. We have been exploring, discussing and reading about the idea of becoming more and more of a gift evoking community.....one that calls forth others gifts and potentials, one that "patrons" and supports these gifts, dreams and visions of one another, one that uses our God given Gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ, for the church.

We have allowed ourselves to dream Big Dreams for God.....to explore with one another what the world and what our lives would look like if we allowed one another to reach their deepest potential and to use It for God.

In the next months and coming year, we are hoping to be the leaven in the Bread.....and to join with all of you as we grow in Discipleship and not just in numbers, to grow in Gifting and offering our gifts and not just filling in open slots on committees.

What are some of your God given Gifts that you might use on behalf of building up the church? What vision has God placed within your heart that might be fulfilled in this time and in this place? What might we look like as a church if we were to operate out of this model of stewardship, gift evoking, vision carrying and blessed community? I think we just might catch a glimpse of Heaven.

Ministering with each of you In Christ,
Your Associate Minister,

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

FROM OUR STUDENT MINISTER...

I would like to thank the entire Congregational Church of Westborough for the warm welcome that I have received. This is my first experience in an engaged ministry outside of being a lay member. For this reason, a large portion of my learning agreement will revolve around this dimension of congregational worship. I think this is important for each of you to know as I see all of you as my teachers and I have a lot to learn. I appreciate and welcome your feedback and pray for God's blessing and grace throughout this engagement.

Thank you for your presence
So that the Presence can be felt
It's always been the Holy Way

To see God's face in someone else

It seems we've come from different places
But we spring from the same eternal home
All carrying a piece of the others Map
So that we won't try to return alone

As we get to know each other over the next two semesters, I am certain that we will find that in so many ways our paths mirror one another's. I'm grateful in advance for each of our blessings and I hope to stay out of Holy Spirits Way as I am taught more about myself and my call by learning about all of you.

In the Love of Christ,

Pedro

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Bereavment: The family of Betty Millard; The family of Barbara Minardi; The family of Shirley Gates.

New Prayers: Toni Stewart (Bonnie Rossi's sister); Jose and Zoila Del Cid (friends of Carolyn Bent); Gordon and Verna Dwyer in VA (Tom Dwyer's parents); Garry and Ruth Burke (friends of Kathy and Gabe Leblanc); Kyle Motta (age 1) facing heart surgery.

Continued prayers: Eileen Stewart (Bonnie Rossi's mother); Jean Newton; Mike and Maranda Newton (Mike is being deployed to Aghanastan this month); Adam Bent and his wife Amanda (Carolyn Bent's nephew); Amy (friend of Gen Benton); Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton); Nettie Seavey (friend of Carolyn Bent); Christopher Doyle (Pam Faustine's brother-in-law); Bob Rider (Nancy Reimann's Son); Fran Kelly (Megan Huber's Mom); Donna and Tony Marge (friends of Serena Leiser); Joanne & Jim Gingras (friends of Kathy Todd); Monica Osborn; Debbie Weber (Richard Nichols' daughter); Joan Jacobs; Marie Murphy's daughter; Cindy (Kathy Todd's co-worker); Jack Hero; Robin Tammik (Heidi Tammik Synnott's sister); Peggy McCaleb (Mary Ann Brayer's friend).

Hospice Care: Bob Gatley (friends of many in the congregation).

Westboro Health Care Center: Bea Ladner.

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

Whitney Place: Helen Gerden.

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.

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you are not a recipient of Prayer Chain emails but would like to be, please send an email to the Prayer Chain Coordinator at the email address: eprayers@uccwestboro.org. We welcome new participants. It is a good way to be aware of the concerns and celebrations of the congregation for inclusion in your prayers. The Prayer Chain webmail site is password protected and accessible only to the Coordinator and the church Webmaster. Note that the Prayer Chain is different from the Prayer List, which is managed by the church office and published in the weekly bulletins and monthly Evangel.

Upon expressing your interest in joining the Prayer Chain, you will receive from the church's webmail provider, DreamHost, an email asking you to confirm that you want to "subscribe" to Eprayers. "Subscribe" simply means that you want to receive the Prayer Chain emailings. There is no cost, no form to complete, nor anything else to do except to click on the link provided in the email. The confirmation reply is required by DreamHost to prevent people from using DreamHost's webmail to send spam emails.

- Jerry Lyle, Prayer Chain Coordinator

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the All Church Survey. The results of the survey will be a critical part of the profile of our church the committee is developing. We will also use the input we received during the small group meetings, a meeting with the Intentional Transition Team and meetings with other Boards and Committees.

The profile the committee develops will be provided to candidates for the Senior Pastor position. It will also contain demographic information on the church and the town of Westborough as well as some historical information on the church.

Our goal is to have this profile completed by the end of November. We will then be ready to make it public through the UCC and start accepting profiles from candidates for the position. We have been told that we can expect to receive over 60 profiles. Obviously, it will take time to review the profiles thoroughly before starting the actual interview process.

We appreciate the prayers and support the committee and the church have been receiving through this process.

The Pastoral Search Committee
Linda Borglund, Jim Brown, Steve Fox, Barry Hackett, Serena Leiser (Chair), Brenda Lord, Sue Menzel, Ed Newton III, Ed Wong.

STEWARDSHIP 2011

"Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you in return."

Luke 6:38

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT – OCTOBER 16, 2011

"Count Yourself Blessed"

I am definitely blessed. I have a wonderful wife; three children that I love dearly. And I have an extended family (near and far), that are all truly a blessing to me and my life. I am also blessed with friends (also near and far) that are an important part of my life.

I also count among my blessings "my church family". I don't think in terms of "which programs do I find useful" or "which programs do my family members enjoy". Rather, I appreciate the people, the other individuals of our church family who make these programs and events and meals and services and boards and committees meaningful. The people make the difference – the individuals are the blessing – the individuals make this our church.

I want to support my church family and all that it means for me and my family. I want to contribute financially to our church and its mission; and I also want to contribute by participating in the life of our church. I encourage my family members to contribute and participate in the activities of our church. Perhaps it's become trite; but when you contribute, in any way, you receive many times in return. So, as we enter into this time of reflection; let's all consider how truly blessed we are to have one another and to have this church family and all that it provides for us and those around us. And, let's all prayerfully consider all of the ways we will contribute to our church family.

Enjoy our blessings!

Rich Lord

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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

Thanks to all our Church School Children who have been coming together to learn about God, themselves, and each other through Bible stories, discussions, and hands-on activities. We welcome new friends and familiar faces each week and look forward to seeing YOU soon! Read more to see what we've been up to this month and our plans for the holiday season.

In October

In Chapel we handed out offering envelopes to children to use toward their mission project. We are still deciding which mission to support and want to make sure it comes from the children. Please talk to your children about mission projects your family has been involved with and which ones are important to them. A special THANK YOU to our Chapel Leaders, Mary Ann Brayer and John Arnold, and to Rev. Gaetani for her chapel visit this month.

In the classrooms we began using our new "Seasons of the Spirit" Curriculum, focusing on scriptures from Exodus including the journey of Moses and his relationship with God, the 10 Commandments, and "The Golden Calf". We also did some baking in Divinity Diner, a favorite treat for everyone!

A big THANK YOU to our teachers and assistants this month: Nila Gray, Rich Lord, Darvin Kapitz, Ted Jaworski, Jennifer Carrier, Suzanne Arpante, Austin Adams, Maggie Reynolds, McKenna Gray, and CE members Brenda Lord, Amber Bock, Nancy Cavanaugh and Kathy Reynolds. Whether you taught each week or filled in once or twice we REALLY appreciate your help and couldn't do it without you!!!

In November and December

The holiday season will be upon us soon. We have wonderful things planned for the children which provide a variety of unique volunteer opportunities.

November will begin with a chapel service on 11/6. Older children (grades 6 and up) will attend the service with their families and participate in Communion.

November 20th is "Thanksgiving Sunday" and we are looking for 2 children in grade 4 or higher to serve as Acolytes at the start of the service. (Contact Kathy Reynolds if your children are interested in volunteering for this special role.)

November 27th we will offer all children the option of staying in church with their families or

joining us for multi-age activities including the introduction of songs and speaking parts for the Christmas Pageant.

December will come and go quickly with only three Church School Sundays.

December 4 - pageant practice

December 10 – Sat. pageant rehearsal,
time TBD

December 11 - Pageant

December 18 - Christmas stations

(card making, cookie decorating and crafts) A great way to get your feet wet volunteering!

December 25 – Merry Christmas

There will be no Church School this Sunday

Teacher Schedule and Training

Teachers and assistants still needed for November.

Please contact Kathy Reynolds at

kreynolds118@comcast.net if you are interested.

November – 3 weeks (Oct. 27, 6:30 training)

December – 4 weeks (pageant + activities)

Did you know....The new curriculum does not

"rotate" through the classrooms? Instead, the

children stay in the same classroom with the same

teacher for the month and we bring the different

components of the curriculum to them. When you

volunteer you will get to experience art, music,

discussion, Bible study and cooking with the age

level of your choice. Just let us know which grade

works best for you!

Reminders

All church school children must have a completed

registration form. Forms are available on our

website, outside the church school rooms and in

the library during fellowship hour.

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

About 'our sound guy'...**Josef Reznicek**

Many in the church now recognize Josef Reznicek from Marlboro. Josef is a Czech-born professional sound engineer and a highly talented musician. He installed our current sound system, and has also kindly assisted with recordings of many of our church events. Some are curious how we were lucky enough to get to know Josef.

Tom and I first met him nearly five years ago when he was recording a concert in our sanctuary given by the **Assabet Valley Master Singers**, for whom he records and masters CD's. We were also videotaping the event.

The church had recently received a bequest directed at improving the sound system installed during the 1994 sanctuary renovation. The company that had put that in was not even going to be able to give us an *estimate* for another 6 months. Tom approached Josef to see if he knew anyone who might be better able to help us move ahead with an upgrade to our sound system. Josef pointed out that he did such work as his profession.

Josef spent many hours working with Steve Achorn (then on Trustees) and Tom, understanding our needs, taking sound measurements in the sanctuary in the wee hours, and making recommendations based on systems he had installed at St. Mark's School in Southboro and churches in the area. In addition to giving us a reasonable price, he spent many hours carefully balancing the elements of the system, simplifying its operation, and explaining best practices for use and recording during services and events. We think we got a bargain.

Carol Steinbrecher told us that the quality of recordings of her sermons from our public address system was the envy of her fellow students. Josef points out that, while the current system is designed for the needs of our services and events, the acoustics of our sanctuary make it ideal for recording when professional equipment is used.

The church has greatly benefitted by his association with us.

- Donna Morgan

MISSIONS & SOCIAL CONCERNS

IHN UPDATE

The Mission and Social Concerns Committee has recently made a \$1,000 donation to the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Worcester's "A Place To Call Home", which will help make the dream of purchasing a permanent home become a reality! The IHN has the opportunity to purchase a two-family home in a safe, friendly neighborhood in Worcester with parking, a garage, a fenced yard for their guest families and enough space for their

program to grow!

The Interfaith Hospitality Network is an organization that unites people of faith to serve homeless families with shelter, meals, and assistance with housing and employment search. Our Church makes a commitment every summer to help the IHN with hosting responsibilities. Many of our Church members have signed up over the years to prepare meals, serve dinner, and stay overnight with these guests, many of which are young children. These families move to a different "host" location as often as every two weeks. Other Church members have helped raise money recently by participating in the IHN Ride for a Reason Bikeathon!

What an amazing gift from God to help provide a home so that they are not being displaced every two weeks! "To make the long-sought goal of a static site a reality; to promote the well-being of our IHN families; to abide by state codes and keep our guests and volunteers safe, we need to all come together!"

Anyone who would like to contribute may send their donation to: "A Place To Call Home", BayState Savings Bank, 628 Main St., Holden, MA 01520, Attn: Veronika Tovanyan

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY 11/1/11 – 11/11/11

Please join the Missions Committee and help support our local Food Pantry! For the first 11 Days of November we are hoping to collect 1,111 food and household items for the Westborough Food Pantry. Donate a Stop & Shop or Roche Bros. card (purchased at Church of course!) or write a check to the Food Pantry for \$11 or \$111! Did you know that a donation of \$1,000 from our Church can provide meat, eggs and bread for 85 families for a week! The Food Pantry is in desperate need of these items: canned fruit, tuna fish, rice, ramen noodles, canned pasta (raviolis, spaghettios, etc), baked beans, cake mixes and brownie mixes. (They do not need soup at this time).

Bring your items to Church and place them under the Missions table located in the Vestry. If you would like your donation picked up, call **Karen Hutchinson** at 508-870-1782.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Once again, the Knights of Columbus, in conjunction with several civic organizations and religious communities in Westborough, will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving Day dinner. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, November 16th, at the Senior Center. Home deliveries will be made at noontime on Thanksgiving Day and will only be available for those folks who receive *Meals on Wheels*. The dinner itself will begin at 1pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall. There are some openings available for volunteers in a

variety of capacities. Sign-up sheets will be forthcoming

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

All women of the church are invited to the November 7th meeting. In honor of Veteran's Day, a female Veteran will come share her experiences of serving in the military. Lynne Soukup served in the Army from 1989 to 1993, serving as a Russian Linguist, post Cold War. Come listen as Lynne shares the experience she had during her service to our country as she served during Operation Desert Storm. Social Time begins at 6:30 followed by 7pm meeting and program. We are asking people to make their favorite Fudge/Candy/Bark and bring the recipe to share. The Mission will be Massachusetts Veterans Inc. of Worcester, a program that helps veterans as they return home. Some items needed are gift cards of all types, men's & women's personal care items (alcohol free). You can also go to the website to look at their Wish List, www.massveterans.org or get a copy from the Mission Table in the Vestry. We will be collecting items at the meeting and on Sundays in November.

Also, the Women's Fellowship is still collecting donations for the Church World Service Kits – Hygiene and School Bags, plus money donations for shipping the kits and for CWS to put together their Clean Up Buckets.

LAY VISITATION

If you are interested in visiting, come join the Visitation Committee for

Session 3

Called To Care

Led by Rev. David Russo

Executive Director of the Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling Center

&

Rev. Dr. Drikje F. Legerstee

**Tuesday, November 1st, 9-10:30 am
In the Boardroom at Kirkside**

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS

THE PERFECT PASTOR

Dear Congregation: A recent computerized survey indicated (with tongue-in-cheek) that the perfect pastor spends 4 hours each day in the office so that she is accessible to her parishioners, 4 hours each day in prayer, study and sermon preparation, and the remaining 16 hours to calling in people's homes and visiting hospitals and nursing homes. While we joke about our pastors being available to us 24/7, realistically we know that it's not possible.

Our church is blessed to have two wonderful pastors--an interim and an associate. Most of you are aware that our associate pastor is compensated for **20 hours per week**. However, all who work with her know that she dedicates far more than twenty hours a week to us as part of her gracious service to our congregation. During this time she is expected to assist in planning and leading worship services, funerals and weddings; support the Christian Education Committee; assist in pastoral care and counseling; seek out and welcome visitors and new members; and attend meetings of the Deacons, Christian Education Committee, Cabinet, Office Staff, and PPRC.

She abides by her contractual call agreement through wider church involvement with state and national levels of the UCC conference, participates in inter-faith and ecumenical ministry through the Westborough Interfaith Association and the Massachusetts Council of Churches, and fulfills her on-going educational requirements taken as a supervisor for Andover Newton and our students. In addition, she leads wonderful adult education programs, provides teacher training, and helps lead new member seminars.

She performs all these ministerial services with the love she has for her Call and for our congregation. We feel blessed to work with her and to support her, and we welcome your feedback at any time.

Informationally speaking, The Pastor Parish Relations Committee for the Associate Pastor: Jack Barry, Elaine Gallo, Serena Leiser, Elaine Moore, George Reimann and Mary Taber.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committees (PPRC) work to support and maintain open and healthy relationships between our pastors and the congregation. We seek to create an atmosphere of confidentiality and trust while encouraging constructive and caring communication.

Rev Dr Dirkje F. Legerstee's PPRC

Kris Knutrud 898-2051

Lynne Caldwell 366-7635

Linda Birch 870-9911

Dana Crawford 898-9527

Rev Elaine S Gaetani's PPRC

Elaine Gallo 366-7903

Elaine Moore 366-8585

Mary Taber 366-5123
George Reimann 435-9444
Jack Barry
Serena Leiser 508-870-3242

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

Goal: \$12,000 Year to Date: \$8213.25

Financial Update: Our goal to raise \$12,000 for the operating budget of our Church is an ambitious one. At the end of the 3rd quarter in September, grocery cards had raised \$7,636.00. That's pretty impressive but **15% below** where we need to be at this time. And we realize that some of our shoppers will be curious about the opening of the new Wegman's. Who isn't? We think we can still reach our goal if we use grocery cards to buy Halloween candy, gift cards to restaurants, stores, movies and more. Together we can do this! Contact us if you need cards
Thanks! **Sue Menzel** 366-1268; **Sally Petersen** 366-5169 sbpetersen4@gmail.com; **Nancy Quimby** 774-249-4431, nquimby11@charter.net

GREEN CORNER

Let's GO GREEN!

We currently have 110 people out of approximately 470 on the mailing list who have opted to receive their Messenger by email. Let's help the planet and save the church money by increasing that number. If you are willing to receive an e-messenger, please send an email to brossi6@verizon.net.

What you can do today: Save energy in the kitchen. Cook food in a microwave, which uses 50-70% less energy than a conventional oven. When you need to cook in a pan on the stove, use a lid to preserve heat, which will also cook your food faster. Cook double portions and freeze what you don't eat. (from the folks at 350.org).

NOMINATING

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

PARISH LIFE

2011 – 2012 PROGRAMS

November 18 - Friday night Big Screen Movie

YOGI BEAR (rated PG, 80 min). Refreshments will be served. Pajamas and slippers encouraged!.

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

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

CHURCH CLEANUP

A Little tender loving cleaning. Many thanks to the 21 men, women and youth for their time, sweat and contributions to a much cleaner and brighter church facility. A lot was accomplished on Saturday, October 15, that will be visually quite obvious to anyone walking in the door. It was not the number of people who showed up, but the type of people – worker bees; roll up the sleeves; down on the floor; up on the ladder; hands in a bucket of warm water and some additive – my kind of people. Many thanks to Brad Ridley, Kathy Reynolds and Brett Borglund for leading the different parts of the cleanup. It was a pleasure working beside everyone who participated.

We may hold another cleanup day, possibly in November. We will see what we want to accomplish and let everyone know.
- Art Sharkey

AROUND THE CHURCH

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members will be joining the church on October 30th:

Andy Girard
100 Fisher Street
Westborough, MA 01581
Cell 508-361-7141
Ajgirard1@hotmail.com

David McLeod
47 Granite Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748
508-458-5051

Maria Decew
8A Mayberry Dr. #4
Westborough, MA 01581
508-330-8545

Bud and Cathy Purcell, Rachael and Sara
19 Capt. Samuel Forbush Rd.
Westborough, MA 01581
508-366-0399

Sara and Chad Chysna and sons, Ryan, Evan and
Aaron
348 Church St.
Northboro, MA 01532
508-393-5679

UPDATES FROM THE MODERATOR

Results of the October 2 Special Meeting of the Congregation

Property Task Force update: In a discussion led by Jack Wilson, our architect/space planner Dennis Rieske presented an introduction to the possibilities of space transformation in selling Kirkside and moving our staff to the main Church side of the street. There were some specifics but the discussion was more about strategies and possibilities. Dennis' own experience of 30 years in the Newton Highlands Congregational Church as their architect and properties manager (among other things) coupled with his broad architectural practice (substantial emphasis on transforming/recycling older buildings) and objective, straightforward presentation helped present the possibilities from a third-party point of view. Many good ideas about ways to use the main church and annex buildings were suggested.

The PTF has lots of homework ahead and plans are underway to visit with pastors, staff members, tenants, and affected boards and committees to collect the details on present and future space use/needs to help develop the next phase of plans for presentation at the January Annual Meeting where a vote on selling a building will be held.

The topic of moving the Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling Center with us, which remains a priority in the planning process, was more of a discussion than a plan. There are some unique issues here (furnishing/use of space that may not lend itself to sharing offices with other parties, needs for confidentiality, etc.) that will make a successful move

dependent on (1) the ability to find 4 or 5 offices together in one area, (2) flexibility in space configuration needs, (3) the ability to control any costs in a move (important to both parties), and (4) handicap accessibility. We continue to place an enormously high value on the mission of AVPCC and our connection to them and it and look forward to working with them further on this plan.

There was some discussion about creating a flexible space plan within the Chapel to dramatically increase its usefulness to the church. The Chapel is currently used approximately 20 days a year. One idea is to move some of the pews out to the edge of the room to allow for flexible space in the center and purchase chairs that can allow the Chapel to continue to be used for Sunday School worship (once a month) and small memorial services as well as other needs.

Dennis pointed out that with potentially modest enhancements, the Weavers Guild, a tenant that pays an annual rent for storage space at Kirkside, could be accommodated in the church's basement space (under the Vestry). We also hope that Alcoholics Anonymous, another Kirkside tenant, can be accommodated in the new plans as we try to create a space like the one they currently use that will be great for large church groups such as the confirmands, adult education and youth groups and Sunday School classes.

If the vote at the January Annual Meeting sets appropriate wheels in motion, the stated goal of moving folks from Kirkside to the main church building and Annex is to start with a low cost, first phase that accomplishes the basic tasks. No timeframe has been set and any plans to move people will depend on timing for other critical aspects of the larger project.

We are also forming a committee to look at the interior design portions of the project and develop some strategies that will allow us create a cohesive plan to tie the area from the front doors through the Vestry and on to the back hallways, cribbery rooms and Chapel together in a common design. Dennis has done some work in this area and has agreed to help us with this. There will be some costs associated with this part of the project which will be the subject of future information sharing and input discussions. In the meantime, thanks to the organization skills of Brad Ridley and Art Sharkey we are working in the vestry, kitchen and adjacent spaces (washing walls, floors and tables, etc and putting on a fresh coat of paint) in order to spruce up the public rooms for The Christmas Fair. Another work day is scheduled for Saturday, November 12.

Name change: With substantial preparation and communication in advance, discussion on this topic was fairly brief and to the point. The meeting counted approximately 80 attendees, almost all of whom were there for the vote (a 2/3rds majority required) which was overwhelmingly in favor of the motion to change the name with one Nay vote recorded. The new legal name of the church is "The Congregational Church of Westborough." There were questions about the cost and speed of the transformation. Some work remains to be done on this but between notifications to need-to-know parties (the state, the town, the UCC, etc), and changes to the signs and stationery, etc, it does not appear that the costs will be great. The Poskitt sign fund should be able to help with this. Changes to the bulletin and other paper-based materials can be made as they are needed. The idea of a contest to rename The Evangel was mentioned. The church's web site has been updated. John Matson has put the process of legally changing the name in motion.

Financial Update: Charlie Quimby provided updates on a number of topics:

The Dashboard: Charlie discussed the financials prepared by Treasurer, Suzanne Arpante for the period running through the end of the 3rd quarter. Our income is within 3% of our expenses and we are hopeful that expenses will continue to remain lower than projected, that we will do some catching up in the pledge shortfall and that our current deficit of \$6,800 may not grow much, if at all, as we look out over the final three months of the year. Charlie discussed the fact that as of this year we are in an actively managed mode on the budget and will not merely wait until the end of the year to see what changes we need to make and how much we may be short. In the next few weeks we will look at (1) cutting costs in the 4th quarter budget (which the Treasurer reports will not be easy as expenses are budgeted at a low level anyway) and (2) raising some new funds. Members of the leadership team have already come forward to add to their pledges (between \$150 and \$250) and we hopeful others in the congregation will follow. Linda Sharkey will keep track of any raised pledges as a group and will not report the names of any individual contributors.

The IRS matter: The issues open with the tax advocate have been closed with an IRS' assessment of \$4,800 which will be paid over the next 24 months at the rate of \$200/month. Al Eaton, our outside CPA consultant, plans to file amended returns for a portion of our payments in 2006 and 2007 and we are hopeful that we will get back at least the \$4,800.

The Audit: Charlie mentioned that progress on the 2010 "review" has been good, no untoward actions have been found, and that we should have the

finished product to report on at the January Annual Meeting.

Capital Campaign: We have about \$25,000 in the bank and have collected 95% of the \$826k that was pledged (somewhere around \$785k). We hope to receive some additional funds around the end of the year contribution deadline for reportable tax-saving items). Our remaining funds are pretty much committed to Missions and a \$15k payment on the \$60k loan left over from the last Campaign. We will plan to wrap The Campaign at the Annual Meeting. Someone asked about bathrooms on the second floor of the Annex if AVPCC were to move in up there. It was mentioned that the idea of bathroom up there and a fire escape on the back of the building (which the WFD says is not required) had over time dropped down on the priority list as the result of a variety of factors.

Submitted by Steve Swets, Moderator

Chapel getting a sprucing up

You may have noticed the work underway in the Chapel. Brad Ridley has laid some beautiful tile in the Chapel foyer. The woodwork has been washed and the walls are in the process of receiving a new coat of paint. Options for draperies are being reviewed.

Get ready to help us rename The Evangel

With the change in the Church's name it appears that we will need a new name for this newsletter. Put your creative thinking caps on and look for upcoming details on a contest to find a new name for The Evangel.

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, Nov. 16

Publication is Wednesday, Nov. 23

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.

STORIES FROM THE YOUTH WORK CAMP IN KEANSBURG, NJ

Sam DiOrio

Before camp, I was a little nervous about going away for just the second time ever. But when I got there on Sunday, I knew it would be a great week. The staff was so friendly and the kids made sure I was comfortable as soon as I got there. As we walked to our room on that afternoon to bring in our gear, Jesse walked up next to me and said "Hey, I'm Jesse, you're

a first timer, right?" We had a short conversation, and from that moment on, I felt like part of the group. My crew turned out to be awesome and I made some great friends that I plan to keep in touch with. But the best part of the week was getting to know my resident and her family.

My resident Ruth and her husband Tom had both been out of work for over a year and a half. They have two small children that were always there to brighten our day and have fun with us while we worked. Thankfully, both Ruth and Tom recently got jobs, but the house wasn't in great condition while they were working hard for their family. The family needed their house painted desperately as much of the paint was either peeling or had already peeled off. Monday afternoon, we met Carol, Tom's mother. Immediately she invited us inside and told us all about her family and her mother who had just entered hospice. This was one of our many "God Sightings" during the week, because we knew that if she could carry on her daily life, then we could help her family for a single week. Throughout the week, she brought us food, like watermelon, donuts and bagels. In addition, Tom filled a large cooler with ice, Gatorade and water every day for us. Their acts of kindness came as an unexpected and gratifying surprise. We were there to help them and they were helping us, a true example of Christianity.

Coming into the week, I wasn't expecting to make deep spiritual connections, but I got a lot out of the spiritual aspect of the camp, especially the evening programs. After a great week, writing care cards wasn't a highlight, but receiving them really gives you a good feeling that you've done a great job and made new friends. I really enjoyed work camp and am definitely planning to go back next year.

Luke Freitas

Going into work camp for my second time was just as exciting as my first time. In Canada, I felt sort of an outsider since it was my first time, but in New Jersey I had the feeling of a leader among the guys. And with the youth group really bonding from last year, everyone became close friends. As one of the older kids in the group, it was up to me to get the younglings to have a memorable time. Everyone felt accepted in a matter in seconds and the good times together started instantly. I, like everyone else, I believe had a feeling of comfort around each other that helped them to open up to the group.

Just like the last work camp, I was excited and yet nervous to meet my crew for the first time. Last year I was lucky and got the best crew I could ask for. God surprised me again by giving me an even better crew than before. Right off the bat I knew this would be a good week with them and it didn't let me down. With that said, our first day on the job we met our very nice resident Lorraine. You could see that she was delighted to have us around as she immediately

started to tell us stories of her family. This made working on her house even more important and everyone was motivated to make it look its best. My crew worked extremely fast and finished all the painting and other jobs in only three days. It was sad that we had to move onto another site but helping others was what we were here for. By the end of the week we had been to three work sites, which I think was a work camp record. It wasn't a surprise that my crew still keeps in touch even to this day.

The most fun however, did come from spending time with my friends from work camp. My little group of friends entered the ultimate Frisbee tournament. It was our first time playing but it didn't stop us to making it to the semi finals. They will remember us as the "Boro's Beatdown". The kids are just a great group to hang around and we all found it easy to have fun. With the trip came a lot of laughs that will be remembered for a life time. It was a great time overall and I can't wait for next year.

Laura Hart

This year was my third work camp! I was on a single crew for the first time, and I loved it. Our task for the week was to stain the outside of a house.. This house was large compared to the other houses I've worked on, and needed a lot of work. We managed to finish up the job on Friday thanks to the assistance of Mel Borglund's crew.

My residents name was Barbara, and she lived with her nephew and their cat. Barbara was an inspiration! She was a nurse for thirty years and then an EMT for the next thirty years. At the age of 86, she still goes into work every Thursday! On our first day of work, Barbara provided us with huge sub sandwiches, an abundance of soda and many snacks for the week! Another amazing thing that Barbara did for us was donate \$200 to group work camps! This was so generous of Barbara, seeming as we were doing this to help her out and in return she helped group work camps out.

Throughout the week our youth group bonded tremendously! Every day we played some sort of game out on the field and even invented our own game- football hot potato. There was also a Frisbee tournament that our boys participated in, and made us proud coming in third place!

On Wednesday, we all went to the beach where we walked around, rode the waves and played a great game of volleyball. After that we enjoyed a great meal at a restaurant located right on the water! One of the highlights of the week was when Linda Borglund gave one "Dan Dan the Boss Man" a Mohawk! This wasn't because he wanted a new hairstyle; instead it was because we managed to collect 4000 canned goods to donate to the food pantry! This was an amazing accomplishment and great to see Linda practicing her skills

Overall I had an amazing time at work camp and can't wait until next year!

Sabrina Herstedt

As a first year work camper, I didn't really know what I was getting myself into. I thought I would be going to New Jersey, building a few things, singing a few songs, and sleeping on the floor of a high school. Thankfully, I was wrong. Just pulling up to the church the day we left, I could feel all the energy (yes, even at 7 in the morning) and excitement emanating off of everyone. It was a great way to start off the week. The whole way down was an adventure. We sang songs, did some (limited) dancing, and some of us got into a few food fights between cars. Upon arrival, we were greeted with the friendly staff waving and cheering. My expectations of what work camp would be like immediately changed; it was a pleasant surprise.

I was having so much fun walking around and meeting people, I was upset that we had to stop and go to service. I thought our services would be long, boring, and hard to follow. But again, I was wrong. It was centered around *us*. When we got the gym, where our service was held, the staff were greeting us with enthusiastic high 5's. The night consisted of games, songs, and the famous "I Get Down" dance. Then the time came for us to meet our crews. I was excited to meet a few new high schooler's from different states... but I was wrong, my crew wouldn't be full of kids. It consisted of one older adult, two men out of college, and a girl leaving high school. To be honest, I was disappointed. But I quickly realized I wouldn't have had it any other way. They are all amazing people whom I was blessed to meet.

The next morning, I woke up *early* to eat breakfast take a shower after a hot night in the classroom. I was so excited! I quickly learned that, at work camp, you can make friends anywhere: Brushing your teeth, in line for food, or even in the shower. Not many kids were up, and the hallways were quiet. So when the loud speaker blared, "WAKEY WAKEY WORK CAMPERS!" I was startled. But it was something I came to love and miss waking up to.

Our crews task to build a porch for a blind man and his wife. The first day was relatively easy after we were able to fine a sledgehammer to breakaway old cement and brick left behind by an old porch. We got right to work, and by lunch, we were so ahead of schedule, we took an extra long break. We really got to know each other and had lots of fun just eating lunch! It was the first of many memorable lunches... Over the week, we would juggle fruit, debate about which kind of jelly was the best, and even experiment with how much food we could put in a sandwich before it started to taste bad. Little things like that came to be some of my favorite memories of this year's work camp.

I was so blessed to have the residents I had. They were such lovely people who opened their home to us. Debbie, one of the residents, did everything she could for us while we worked. She frequently brought us food and drinks and came out to thank us and compliment us on what a great job we were doing! We had devotions with them every day, and they shared so much with us. Within a couple days, they had trusted us enough to tell us things about themselves that were hard to talk about.

After awhile, a prominent pattern set in: wake-up, take a shower, eat breakfast, got to morning service, take a scary ride to my work-cite (my driver was CRAZY), work and lunch, get home and shower *again*, hang out at the field and walk around, dinner, evening service, then some more hanging out with kids. Maybe it was playing Frisbee and getting ready for the ultimate Frisbee match or just walking around to get to know each other. Whatever it was, our free time was a blast. But the services were probably the best part. The little skits, the songs we sang, and the "Big Game Extravaganza" were all part of a fun night program. Each night the service became more and more in depth about our week's theme, "Connect". On Wednesday, the program ended in silence. We were allowed to leave when we wanted. Many people left but after awhile, only 100 remained. And after a long silence, all of us started to sing together "Shout to the Lord." It was amazing, there was such a connection among all of us that night. But it did not compare to the service that would come on Thursday, or, "cry night." After a long sermon, we were, again, allowed to sit and listen to some music as long as we needed. All of us had a chance to sit by the cross to have a few seconds by ourselves. I was one of the last people to go up, and when I did, I was the only one. A boy came up to me and sat beside me and told me that everything was going to be okay. A couple other kids from our own youth group came up to be with me too. Even after I had left, I was receiving hugs from people who passed by me. At that moment I realized that work camp wasn't just a camp. It was something truly special, a family. It was place where many kids go to connect with Jesus and do good things. To me, it all just clicked.

I truly miss the people and the time I spent at Keansburg. I miss getting 4 or 5 emails on the wall on a slow day (I was probably the only one), I miss our own youth group devotions after services, and becoming better friends with our group and work crew. But I know that our relationships will only grow and our spiritual connections will continue to grow stronger with every new year of work camp. Finally, I'd like to thank everyone I've met and became friends with there. Our youth group, our leaders, and the many other kids and staff guided me through my first work camp and made it such a wonderful experience. I cannot wait to go back!!

Alan Hutchinson

Keansburg, New Jersey.

Middle of a hot summer.

Outside temperatures in the high 90's!

400+ people in a non-air conditioned high school gymnasium.

300+ teenagers!

Inside temps. in the 100's?!

Sleeping with 25 others on the floor of the school's music/choir room; broken air conditioner!

Cafeteria food!

Shower options: Scalding-hot or bone-numbing cold!

Poor-tasting tap water, i.e. too much chlorine!!

Attire: The more worn and tattered, the better!

Sounds like a fun-filled "vacation", eh? Actually, it was a FANTASTIC week! One that the 34 individuals representing the Westborough Evangelical Congregational Church will not soon forget!

This was my fifth work camp experience (Lansing MI, Youngstown OH, Elmira NY, and Cornwall Ontario the others) and I was again fortunate to have an incredible work crew of six, 3 males and 3 females, representing Massachusetts (E. Bridgewater), New York, Virginia, Maryland and N. Carolina. Our resident was an active, affable, spiritual and religious (Catholic) 88-year old man who was most hospitable, proud of his Italian heritage and Brooklyn roots and who possessed a true "sweet tooth" (which we benefitted from in the form of daily desserts)! He (Peter) lived in an adjacent community to Keansburg, on a quiet residential street with well-maintained, yet modest single-family homes. Our task for the week was to paint the exterior body and trim of his raised-ranch style home. One of the great (albeit selfish) results when serving others is that you (the server) always benefit from the experience at least as much as those whom you serve. Never was this more evident! Work camp is so much more than the menial tasks that are accomplished. It's as much about how each of us is capable of making a meaningful difference in others' lives. At the beginning of the week everyone (resident, adult crew leader, and teenaged crew members) is apprehensive about what this week entails. By the end of the week (if not sooner) there is this sense of togetherness, of unification, a connection with each other and with Christ. Good stuff! Powerful stuff!

To anyone reading this: If you've ever thought of attending a work camp, do yourself a favor and do it! You'll never regret it! And to those who have supported and contributed to this experience (prayers, donations, words of encouragement, well-wishes, etc.), I/we thank you.

I am extremely blessed to have shared my 2011 work camp experience with such an awesome group of people. From the time that we left the church parking lot (July 10th @8:00 am) until the time that we returned (July 16th @11:15 am), each of us had experienced a different/deep/obvious/first-time

connection with Christ. Anytime you can witness others serving those in need, He is present! Our Senior High Youth group represented Him well throughout this faith-filled week!

Amanda Hutchinson

Every year I go on Work Camp my experience gets better and better. As a high school senior, this was my fourth trip and my best yet. This summer one of my crewmembers lived in a world very different from my own. Kipp was from North Carolina and he believed this town of Keansburg that we were working in was a city. While really this town was not much different from Westborough. I was very fortunate to learn about Kipp's culture and how he was brought up as a child. Although God is very important to all of my crewmembers, we all have different views of him and our own portrayals. I think that was one of my biggest lessons learned for my week at Work Camp, that God is important in many peoples lives but he is important in different ways.

The theme this year was "Connect" and we talked about bringing people together to shine God's love on the world. I was fortunate enough to share God's love with my resident Robert. Robert is an eighty seven year old man living alone in the house that his parents left him; his house was like a time warp to the seventies. Everyday Robert sat outside and ate lunch with us but he never really shared stories or joined in the conversation. He just really enjoyed having company.

After the week was over and my crew had finished painting the inside and the outside of Robert's house, Robert came to the Friday night service where we honor our residents. Robert enjoyed every minute of it, listening to the music and watching kids compete in the Big Game Extravaganza. At the end of the night Robert couldn't thank us enough and he told us how much he would miss having us around. I don't think I had ever received a more powerful or meaningful hug in my lifetime. I could feel Gods love all around me during our embrace.

Work Camp is such a great experience and no one will ever truly understand what we do there until they are a part of it. It's one week of my summer that I feel the closest to God and where I feel I can truly be myself. Our Senior High Youth Group is amazing. We all accept each other for who we are and we all get along so well. I can't imagine Work Camp with any other group of people. I had an amazing time and I cannot wait until next year!

Mike Lawler

My sixth work camp and definitely one of the best. Keansburg is an interesting town; it is situated along the coast so one might think that it would be a nice area of expensive houses. That certainly was not the case. While there did not seem to be any particular area that had terrible housing conditions, the

general condition of the housing that I saw was substandard. There were certainly more than enough places to keep the 70 work crews staying at Keansburg High School busy for a week.

I had a fantastic crew, 5 kids ranging from 14 to 18 years old from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut and New York. We got along very well right from the beginning, we chose crew roles easily and once we were together on the work site had a lot of fun while accomplishing a great deal of work. We worked on 2 separate sites during the week. The first was in Keansburg and involved both interior and exterior painting. We divided the tasks, organized well and were able to complete that project by mid day Wednesday. We had a bit of a difficult experience with our resident on the first site, but we made the best of it. Our second project involved mostly painting and minor repairs at the home of a wonderful elderly woman in Middletown, about 10 miles from Keansburg. We were able to finish at about 2:45 on Friday, in time for a quick swim in our resident's pool.

It was a great way to finish a good week with a great crew of dedicated and hard workers.

Our Wednesday afternoon off at Sandy Hook was a pleasant surprise--a beautiful wide beach, nice waves and a nice hot day. Everybody seemed to have a great time. Afterwards we ate as a group at a local waterfront restaurant which was nice too. It was a very pleasant and relaxing afternoon.

The camp activities back at the high school were well organized and well conducted. The staff from Group Workcamps was outstanding and delivered a powerful and enjoyable set of programs that were meaningful for the kids and adult participants as well. One notable strength of this work camp was the relationship between Group staff and the host church--the host church had people on site all the time and took an active, personal interest in what each work crew was doing. This had a very positive effect on the success of the camp.

As usual, the Westborough group of participants was outstanding. They were involved in all the activities at the high school, were hard working members of their work crews, were willing participants at our youth group activities, and all seemed to have fun as well. It is a privilege to participate as an adult leader at these work camps with such a tremendous group of energetic, dedicated and fun loving young people. There is a lot of planning, organizing, fund raising, meetings etc that goes into getting ready for work camp, but reflecting back on the great experiences from Keansburg it is surely worth it. The members of our church should be proud of the way in which they were represented by our youth and by all that was accomplished--almost 1000 hours of volunteer effort by our group alone. We surely made a lasting impact on the lives of many in the Keansburg area!



Al Mosher

Wow, what a week! Easy trip to and from Keansburg! Great welcome by blue shirts (sponsors). Great HOT weather to work, play, and worship. Great youth, adults, and staff!

Our theme was 'connect' and I connected with my resident, red shirts, crew, and group. My crew painted, rebuilt stairs, did yard work, devotions, and socializing. We hit it off! The days and nights were HOT& HUMID, we stayed HYDRATED and had fans in our 'music' room. We endured!

It was my best experience yet! Great youth group, hard working crew, plenty of good food, friendly staff, inspirational devotions, meaningful theme, and organized program!

Words I took away with me:

"Believe in God, Depend on God."

"See yourself as God sees you."

"You are a child of God."

"God loves you."

West Virginia, here we come!

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