



The Evangel

The Evangelical Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Of Westborough Massachusetts

1724-2011

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

Volume 31, Issue 8

September 28, 2011

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00AM

October 2nd

World Communion

Rev. Legerstee preaching
All Church Special Meeting

October 9th

Indigenous People's Sunday

Rev. Legerstee preaching

Stewardship Season

October 16th

Rev. Gaetani Preaching
Charlotte Erickson Baptism
New Member Class

CROP WALK

October 23rd

Rev. Legerstee Preaching
God's Pie!!!
New Members Class
Beaumont Worship

October 30th

Reformation Sunday

Rev. Legerstee Preaching
New Members Received

November 6th

Communion

Heritage Sunday

**ALL CHURCH
CELEBRATION**

FROM OUR INTERIM MINISTER...

Dear Friends,

Naming is an activity that can connect us to the pleasure of knowing; recognizing a beautiful bird, or distinguishing a composer, expands ones connection with our world Names describe our characteristics, designate one's origin, or the vocations of one's ancestors. Sometimes life experiences change an individual and they claim a new name. In my 20's I rejected my childhood nick name, "Dikx" to claim my given birth name "Dirkje" as a declaration that felt more true to myself.

Names designate families, and groups. They are appellations that denominate. In Helena Engberg's book, *A History of the Evangelical Congregational Church*, she notes that in 1724 all the churches of the Puritan Settlements of Massachusetts were called "The Church of Christ in..." wherever it was located. The name of this community was The Church of Christ in Westborough. In 1825 it was the act of ceasing to be an ecclesiastical parish that caused the First Congregational Society to be organized in the Second Meeting House. Fasting, Christian Education and Christian disciplines were practiced and employed with rigor. It seems that the joy of singing was an early innovation soon followed by an organ in 1808. A longing for freedom to "try the Congregational method of council" was the reason for yet another change of name. Subsequently a new religious society was developed and reorganized as "The Evangelical Society" and retained a relationship with the old church. This action separated them from "The First Society which eventually morphed into the UU church. The Old Church with its New Evangelical Society built a new meetinghouse where it stands today. Qualified pastors and teachers, the gospel faithfully preached, regular attendance, unity among the members, and prayer were the five marks of this new Evangelical Church run with its prized Congregational polity.

The name of this community has evolved over the years reflecting the passionate faith of those who joined together to worship and serve God. In 1961 this church joined with hundreds of Congregational churches in Massachusetts to become a United Church of Christ, following Jesus' prayer "that they all may be one."

The freedom of a polity run by its people is illustrated by the term, "Congregational." Your denomination, The UCC, speaks boldly for love and justice. Your name carries with it a reputation for a quality of pastors, deep spiritual practices and lively missions. May you be blessed by the name you claim for this Chapter of your history, Oct.2nd.

-Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER...

Autumn Greetings Dear Congregation!

It is so good to be back in the swing of things during these glorious early days of fall! This is especially evident in our Sunday morning worship services, with your renewed attendance, with the children gathering, in the voices of the full choir participating and in all of our ministries being shared among and with one another. What a Blessing! What a gift to have a loving faith community gather with one heart and mind, a Heart and a Mind stayed on Christ. As we continue to traverse the fast moving, sometimes treacherous waters of change and transition, it is my prayer that we keep our "hearts and our minds on Christ Jesus." That we remember who and Whose we are, and that each of us has been called to serve in this time and in this place.

May we breathe deeply when we have difficult decisions to make, taking time to simply stop all activity and to pray to the Living God when the path is not clear and discernment is not within reach. May we incorporate Sacred Silence into our Practice that we may discern what is God's Desire for us. May we seek to align our will with God's Will and together discern the Spirit's good promptings in our midst. May we cherish and care for the Sacred Gift of this Faith Community, knowing that we can not say this is "my church," but rather know that it is truly God's Church.

May we come from a deep place of Call and Discipleship rather than numbers and membership. Rather than a few people doing too much, or just filling jobs with placing "warm bodies" in positions to fill our ministries' gaps, may we help one another to discern and discover the God Given Gifts in one another and help to support the use of these Gifts for the building of the church Body.....the people! May we understand "gifted and called" in a new way.....not Just for church leaders, but for All.

We have so much to be grateful for, so much to offer, so much to give, so much to "Be" in this time and place. In this coming year may we find ourselves offering our deepest prayer and attention to God in all that we do, say, and in all that we are. May we gather together often for prayer, to build up one another and thus to build up this Body of Christ. May each of us tenderly hold the other in our hearts, even as Christ holds us in the "palm of His Hands."

Joining with you in Service, Prayer, Laughter, Discernment, Worship and Joy!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Elaine

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani, Associate Pastor

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Bereaved: Family of Nancy Dallaire; The family of Richard Smith.

New Prayers: Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton).

Continue prayers: Nettie Seavey (friend of Carolyn Bent); Rev. Cindy Frado; Bob Gatley (friend of many in the congregation); 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 Gringas (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); Olympia Fournarakis (friend of Jen Todd); Peggy McCaleb (Mary Ann Brayer's friend).

Westboro Health Care Center: Marion Holbrook; Bea Ladner.

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

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.

THE WORK OF THE WORSHIPPER

It is a lively intergenerational church that commissions workers, installs ministries, baptizes, blesses, and shares at God's table. Our life together gives us all a lot to talk about on Sunday morning. Help us be timelier by sending in your announcements for the bulletin to illuminate redundancy.

As God's beloved person in the pew, take care of your personal needs, sit, stand, close your eyes or not, do what is best for your precious body. Listen to the prayers or hymns if you would rather not speak or sing them. Allow the Spirit to move you: you might try opening your hands while praying, or swaying to a hymn that inspires you. You may need to sit in silence. Claim the freedom of our tradition that includes a wide diversity of styles and ways of being faithful. If you have a pressing appointment, please leave if you need to do so. Meanwhile, we will continue to do our best to respect the "hour." God may be known to us both in "Chronos", marked time, and "Karios", holy presence or timelessness. Inevitably we move through both of these realms at worship. Come to the banquet and be renewed in the Big Body of love around you. May we worship together in gladness and go our rejoicing in the Holy Spirit at all times! Rev. Dirkje

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

By now, all members and active non-members of the Church should have received an email or letter regarding the all-church survey that is being conducted as part of the process of calling a new Senior Pastor. If you have not received either of these communications, and have access to the internet you can complete the survey on line by going to

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EvangelicalCongregationalChurch>

If you prefer doing the survey by hand, please call the church office at 508-366-2000, and a hard copy will be sent to you. All surveys need to be submitted by October 17th.

We will also be holding some small group meetings in the coming weeks for anyone who would like to meet directly with members of the Search Committee. We ask that you sign up in advance for these meetings as we would like to keep the groups small to facilitate easier discussion. Please call the church office at 508-366-2000 to sign up for the meetings.

The first three small group meetings are scheduled for:

Tuesday, October 11, 6:30-7:30 pm in the Board Room and will be facilitated by Serena Leiser and Linda Borglund.

Saturday, October 15, 5:00-6:00pm in the Kerygma Room (3rd floor Church Annex) and will be facilitated by Brenda Lord and Ed Newton III.

Sunday, October 16, 11:30am – 12:30pm in the Kerygma Room and will be facilitated by Jim Brown and Ed Wong.

Members of the Search Committee are also available to meet one-on-one with anyone, either at the church or in your home. Please contact the Committee member you would like to meet with directly.

All of the information gathered through the survey, small group meetings, and direct input, will then be used to create a detailed profile of our church and what we are looking for in our next Senior Pastor. When this profile is completed, a notice will be posted by the UCC regarding the open position. Individuals who are interested will then submit their personal profile which will be reviewed by the Search Committee. After thoroughly reviewing and discussing the profiles, the Committee will do phone and/or live interviews of the top candidates. The committee will then select the top candidate and that individual will be asked to deliver the sermon at a Sunday service after which the members of the church will vote on the candidate. You do have to be a member of the Church in order to vote. If you are an active non-member, you might want to consider joining the church in the coming months so your vote can be counted.

Finally, please continue to pray for and with the Search Committee as we strive to discern God's plan for our church.

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

NAME CHANGE UNDER CONSIDERATION

Name Change a topic for October 2nd meeting

The concept of evangelism, spreading the good news, was a wonderful basis for a name for church when, in 1888 our church found itself in a period of transition and needed a new name. Reverend Dr. Legerstee's letter in this issue points out the origins of the name in earlier days.

Over the years the meaning of term and its related words (i.e., evangelical) has evolved and the concept has become associated with a more strident minority of the church. Recognizing this, Webster's dictionary added a second definition for the term evangelism to mean "militant or crusading zeal." The Christian right now seems to own the term and given it new meaning.

As a result, the name discussion has occurred in our church on more than one occasion in the past decade. We also see ample evidence that evangelism as a concept and a name have outlived their usefulness and actually caused problems for us. We know of prospective ministers who initially would not consider a pastorate with us because of what the word Evangelical in our name implies about our church. We have current members who stayed away from the church at first until they became more familiar with our theology and church life. We have seen newcomers arrive at a service, sit in the first pew, open their bibles and leave immediately at the conclusion of the service after recognizing that we are not what they thought we were.

After years of issues, in March the Congregational Church in Grafton dropped the term Evangelical from its name. I talked to a member there who said they were tired of being "constantly misunderstood by the community."

On October 2nd we will discuss the issues surrounding the word Evangelical in our name and vote on an alternative. The church leadership is currently working on a proposal for a new name. It looks like the recommendation will be to rename the church The Congregational Church of Westborough. This form of name is among the more widely used by the 373 churches in the Massachusetts UCC. A study of these names revealed the following:

- 119, approximately 1/3 of all churches listed, start their name with the word "First"
- 71 churches start their name with a proper noun with North/South/East/West,

Central/Center/Centre, Union, Trinity/Trinitarian and Pilgrim being the most popular

- 69 churches start their name with the word "Congregational" and end with a town name or start with a geography-related name (Tewksbury Congregational Church, Hadwen Park Congregational Church are examples)

We considered the idea of The Westborough Congregational Church but quickly realized that this would be a mistake. When you start to search (i.e., Google) this name, the first listing that appears is the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, the very ill-mannered people (to put it mildly) who travel around the country disrupting funerals and other private and personal events with distasteful slogans and protests. Given the prominence of web searches these days this would be a name fraught with issues and unpleasant connotations.

We thought of a proper noun with a history in our church, such as Parkman, but in discussion we became concerned that such a name might root us in the past at a time when we are seeking to be a forward-looking church.

A quick poll determined that people around town tend to call us "the Congregational church" and that a name that starts this might be a way to match our formal name with our casual name.

Our agenda on the 2nd is to review the process by which we arrived at the conclusion that a new name is needed and to encourage a healthy discussion. At the end of the process we will vote on a new name for the church.

One aspect of this discussion that is worth mentioning is that the church leadership strongly believes that a name change at this meeting will be a distinct advantage in the Pastoral Search Committee's efforts to obtain the widest possible interest among candidates for the permanent pastor position and that our current name will be an obstacle and a hindrance in the process.

Steve Swets, Moderator submitted on behalf of The Cabinet

FARMERS MARKET

The Farmer's Market was a huge success this year. This was an excellent partnership between our Church, Dismas House and the community. We look forward to doing this again next year.

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

ADULT ED

Save the Dates for

Discovering Your Gifts, Vision and Call,

a 6 week adult education group that will meet

Wednesdays from 6-8 PM

from October 5 - November 9.

This group, led by Rev. Elaine Gaetani, is from the 4th book in the Doorway Series (The same series as "Meeting Jesus in the New Testament") and speaks to those who are concerned about the pain and despair in the world and looking to identify ways to contribute to positive change. It offers a process for discerning your vocation and a model for working with others who share your calling. It will help deepen your connection with the Divine, build caring community, and discern your purpose in life.

Cost of the program is \$7 and scholarships are available.

CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

All children are... "Welcome Here"!

What a great start to our Church School year. Here's a look at what we've been up to and our plans for the months ahead.

In September

As summer came to an end, we were so pleased to welcome a tremendous turnout for the start of church school with both new and familiar faces. The children played team building games inside and out, getting to know each other, what we like, and how we may be similar. They then created artistic representations of themselves. Be sure to take a peek in our hallways and classrooms to see if you recognized any familiar faces or names.

We also spent time making plans for the church school year and what our special mission/offering project should be. Some of their favorite activities included cooking in the kitchen and scavenger hunts.

Suggestions for the mission project included the Red Cross, Children's Hospital and JDRF.

A big THANK YOU to our teachers for helping kick off the school year: Mary French, Nila Gray, Cam Welch and CE members Brenda Lord, Kristi Allen, Nancy Cavanaugh, Beth Dapolite and Kathy Reynolds.

In October

In October we will be using our new "Seasons of the Spirit" Curriculum which follows our Church's

Lectionary Schedule. We hope this will allow you to share in discussions with your children about what you all are learning about in Church!

Also starting in October, all children in grades 6 through 8 will be invited to attend the Communion Service on the first Sunday of every Month.

(Please note that our "Deepening Communion" program has been postponed until after the first of the year. We have big plans for this unit and want to make sure we have enough time to prepare! Please stay tuned for more details)

Teacher Schedule and Training

This year we will be scheduling volunteers by the month. All easy to follow lesson plans and training will be provided – no experience necessary, just your commitment to our kids and the programs we offer them. We need teachers, assistants and substitutes for all grade levels. Please check the schedule below to see which month works for you!
October – 5 weeks (see Kathy Reynolds)
November – 3 weeks (Oct. 27, 6:30 training)
December – 4 weeks (pageant + activities)

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.

As we ask our children to think about how they can serve the church and missions that are meaningful to them, please consider how you can donate your time and talents to the church school. If you have a special talent or story to share, let us know so we can incorporate it into our program. If you can not commit to a full month of teaching, but have time for one class, we would still love to have you join us. Chapel Sundays and the Christmas Pageant also provide unique volunteer opportunities.

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



PLEASE JOIN US!

Guess what?? There are still seats left in the Choir Room for additional sopranos, altos, especially tenors, and basses. We also need more children from third grade to eighth grade. Don't be shy.

Thursday is choir day:

Parkman Bells – 4:15 – 5 PM

Youth Choir – 5 – 5:45 PM

Chancel Choir – 7:30 - 9 PM

Come one! Come all! See Curtis Richardson or Sue Menzel if you have any questions.

MUSICALE!

Save the Date!!! The Music Committee invites you to our Musicale, "MUSIC 'n MORE, TALENT GALORE!" Saturday, October 22 - 7pm in the Sanctuary. A music extravaganza comprised of vocalists, instrumentalists, and comedy acts. Come see a number of talented musicians from our church and beyond, including the Choirs, small ensembles, duets, bands, and soloists. Also don't miss the Off Church Street Players as they make their special World Premiere appearance. Who are they? I have no idea, so you will have to come to find out. Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted in support of the music programs of the church. The event is being produced by Jim and Linda Duncan, and the Masters of Ceremony are Charlie Flood and Ken Gilbert! Did I mention it would be fun? You don't want to miss it!

MISSIONS & SOCIAL CONCERNS

FOOD PANTRY

URGENT NEED: The Westboro Food Pantry is in continuous need of support. Recently there has been an increase in need. There is a need for canned tuna, rice, pasta, canned fruit, Ramen noodles, cake and brownie mixes, and personal care items. Please help with a donation of food, grocery cards, cash or checks. Your help is needed and your support is appreciated. Thank you. Linda Birch.

IHN UPDATE

I want to give you an update on where we stand in our effort to raise enough capital to purchase a permanent home for Interfaith Hospitality Network program that our congregations share. We have raised approximately \$30,000 thus far. That is just

wonderful! Many individuals and a few of our congregations have already sent in generous donations. Thank you for anything you've done to help! We are on our way. We need to raise \$100,000 eventually, and still have yet to hear back on several grants that are very promising. We are hopeful and confident in our eventual goal.

LAY VISITATION

**THE MINISTRY OF VISITATION
IS A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE....
I WAS LONELY AND YOU VISITED ME,
I WAS SICK AND YOU COMFORTED ME,
I WAS SAD AND YOU CHEERED ME**

Want to visit? Join the
Visitation Committee as we discuss

**Visiting for Everyone
Led by Rev. David Russo**
Executive Director of the Assabet Valley Pastoral
Counseling Center

**October 18th 11am
In the Boardroom at Kirkside**

The greatest gift we have to give another person is the gift of our presence. Visitation is at the core of our Judeo Christian tradition. Abraham serves three strangers and they are veiled as mystical messengers. There are visits: from the Angel Gabriel to Zachariah, to Elizabeth and to Mary; between Mary and Elizabeth; a heavenly host to the unsuspecting shepherds; and three wise figures from exotic lands to the infant born under the star of Bethlehem. During his ministry, Jesus loved to gather with people. He says to Zacchaeus, "I'm coming to your house today!" In John's gospel he loves to visit his friends Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrew's 13:2



CARE FOR CAREGIVERS

Care for Caregivers will be held Saturday, Oct 22, 9:30am – 3:30 pm at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, MA just south of Boston. The day will include unique worship, gentle yoga and stretching, large and small group spiritual exercises, a presentation on practical caregiver resources and more. The retreat cost \$50 per person. If you have any questions or want more information, contact Lindsay McGrath at 781-385-9401 or visit www.spiritedmovements.org.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Fall Dinner: Social time: 6:30, Dinner at 7:00.
At our October 3rd meeting of Women's Fellowship we will enjoy the dinner and fellowship together. We will be collecting as our October Mission project, donations for the Church World Service Kits that help folks who have had floods and tornados or other disasters in their communities. We know that the Clean Up Buckets have been very much needed in our New England areas affected by the recent big storms. Because purchasing and mailing the buckets and supplies is expensive and heavy, money donations can be given c/o of our church so that the CWS organization can assemble and deliver them easier than we could. There are lists of the contents and samples of the Hygiene Kit, School Kit, Baby Kit and Clean up Bucket on the Mission Table in the Vestry. Women's Fellowship will ship the kits next month after we receive the donations. Please look for the boxes under the Mission table to collect the kits. You can see Marilyn Lyle for more information or go on the churchworldservice.org web site and click on Kits.

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS

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: \$7634.50

You are welcome here! You are welcome to help boost sales of our Grocery Card program. Our Church buys Stop & Shop and Roche Bros. gift cards in bulk at a discounted price. We sell them to you at face value. The profits support our Church programs. Sales have been steady all summer long and sales at the Farmer's Market have been strong. We continue to seek your support in order to meet our 2011 goal.

You are welcome to purchase cards after worship on Sunday morning, during office hours at Kirkside, or add you name to our delivery list and we'll bring the cards to you!

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: Wash your dishes by hand and let them air-dry. If you must use a dishwasher, run it only when you have a full load, and skip the energy-intensive drying cycle by choosing the "air-dry" option. Or just stop the machine once the water has drained and leave the door open overnight. (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

October 15 - Family Lasagna Supper .Kids are welcome to wear costumes (small prizes for costumes) Halloween craft for children

November 18 - Friday night Big Screen Movie with refreshments (movie t.b.a later)

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

Dear Serena Leiser, Carolyn Bent and all involved in the Prayer Shawl Ministry for my beautiful yellow shawl. I have it handy on the hook of my closet to grab when I need it.

As a recipient of a prayer shawl, I can say (it sounds crazy I know to some) when I wrap up myself, I can actually feel the love surrounding me. Thanks so much, Love, Cathie Achorn

Dear Congregational Church,
Thank you so much for your support. We really appreciate it.
Katherine, Sam and Kris Nazzaro

Dear Everyone at ECC,
Just wanted to say thank you for the continued prayers and thoughts and cards. I'm doing well and hope to return soon.
Thanks Again,
Blessings, Monica

A huge Thank You for returning my salad bowl. It was a gift from my Sunday School teacher who purchased it in Hawaii.
Carol Moore

A LETTER FROM A DEAR FRIEND

Dear Church,

In 1956, I was in my first year of seminary. My fieldwork assignment was with a church (not to be named) where I was charged with starting a senior high youth group. A sizeable group was formed. But one day the Pastor asked me how many of the kids were members of the church. I confessed that I did not know. He told me to find out. When I did, several of the kids were Catholics. I was told that I would have to tell them that they could not be part of the youth fellowship. I refused to do that and so I was asked to leave.

Now I was in a real pickle because I needed the field work experience as part of the seminary requirement, but who would take a raw seminarian who had been fired? My answer came when I was called to the office to meet a delegation from this church. Ken Brookes was the pastor and he knew of my situation, but was willing to give me a new chance. My challenge was the same – to enhance the senior high youth fellowship.

To support me, he met with me each week to evaluate and guide the process. But it was more than that, for he coached me in the needed skills to be a more complete clergy person.

After a couple of years and after my ordination in 1959, he asked me to become an Associate Minister. I accepted, but at the same time, I had married my wife Bobbie and we had our first child, bought our house, I had been appointed an assistant Chaplain at the Walpole State prison and in May of 1959, was appointed Chaplain at the Lyman School for Boys.

But Ken, and this church, was patient with me and allowed me to assume many of the normal clergy responsibilities as time allowed. But in 1969, I gave up being an Associate in the formal sense, but continued to be called upon to preach, do weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. as the called Pastors needed the help.

And so many of you good friends accepted me with all my rough edges and offered me encouragement and love. Not to be overlooked or unrecognized was and is the love you have shown my now departed wife and our kids and even our grandkids. I have been blessed.

But now we are at another turn in the road. With two Pastors on staff and the prospect of a new senior pastor and with the direction of the UCC, I now agree that it is not appropriate for me to perform any more clergy duties within this church.

This does not mean that my love and friendship with so many will end. It will continue and I will always be eager to help you in any way I can, but now as a friend, not a clergyman. All it means is that my actions, consistent with the protocol of the UCC, clears the deck for the called clergy of this church to work without the confusion of my role in the life of the church.

But I want to end this "letter" with once again expressing my gratitude for all you have done for me. If I have grown at all in trying to become a true Christian, it is largely because of what this church has done for me. Seminary was necessary, but learning to live and work with people was taught here and within the walls of the prisons.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this Church.

Sincerely,
Bob Brown

CROP WALK

Please reserve October 16th at 1 PM for the annual four mile Crop Walk, which will begin and end at the Congregational Church. Crop Walk stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty and aids hunger relief efforts around the globe. Please don't just talk the talk, come walk the walk. Look for registration packets in the vestry. Thank you, Judy Powell and Alan Hutchinson.

AROUND THE CHURCH

PROPERTIES TASK FORCE

Property Task Force to hold additional discussion at October 2 meeting

In the special meeting to be held after the service on Sunday, October 2, the Property Task Force will present the results of its additional study on the subject of inventorying our buildings and the possibility of selling one, either 7 Church Street or Kirkside.

Dennis Rieske, the architect hired to present options for relocating our staff and members of the Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling Center to other quarters, if so voted, will be present to explain his analysis of our spaces and their potential uses and issues. Dennis is a 30 year member of the Newton Highlands Congregational Church, where he has often headed and planned space expansions and adaptations, as well as a developer of non-profit properties, a practicing architect and a realtor.

Dennis attended our Welcome Here service on September 11 and lingered during the coffee hour to get a sense of our church before taking a 2 hour tour to explore every nook and cranny of our 4 buildings (the main church and Annex counted as two).

No vote will be taken at this time on this matter. After this discussion we will propose a vote at the January Annual meeting or at a special meeting of the congregation called for another date to address the issue.

Submitted on behalf of the Property Task Force by Jack Wilson, Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

If you are interested in finding out more about our Church or would like to join the Church, please plan on attending the New Members Seminars on October 16th and 23rd. New Members will be joining the church on October 30th. For more information contact Linda Borglund at 870-5784 or the Church Office at 366-2000.

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.

EVANGEL DEADLINE

THE EVANGEL - DEADLINE

The deadline is Wednesday, Oct. 19

Publication is Wednesday, Oct. 26

Copy received before deadline is appreciated!

GET YOUR EVANGEL ON-LINE

Many people are now receiving their *Evangel* digitally. This saves the church money on paper, printing and postage. If you would like to give it a try, please email us at brossi6@verizon.net. If you try it and change your mind, just let us know and we will again mail you a copy.

CHURCH WEBSITE

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

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 Table at 508-366-4000 ext 3, at the center.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Church web site

www.UCCwestboro.org

U.C.C. web sites

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

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