



The Reverend Barbara Libby, Interim Pastor
203 389-8946 – barlibby@rhccucc.org
The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Assoc. Pastor
860 529-3013 – associate@rhccucc.org
Meghan Davis Young, Acting Director Christian Education
860 966-2432 – christianed@rhccucc.org
Will Kanute, Director of Music
860 233-1704 – music@rhccucc.org
860 529-4167 Church – 860 257-9637 Fax
Vol. 24 No. 2 – February 1, 2010



February Newsletter

Editor – Carol Harvey
RHCC e-mail address – office@rhccucc.org
Website: www.rhccucc.org
Office Hours – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. M-F
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible



Sock-Hop Dance

Saturday, February 6, 2010
7:00 to 11:00 p.m. in Chapin Hall
Sponsored by InReach
Sounds by Jim Hogan's Music Mix!

Do you remember the 1950's? Would you like to part of a 50's experience?

Then Come to the Sock Hop!!!

Join us for a fun flashback to the 50's

Come check out the 50's memorabilia, have a dance or two (shoes optional), snack on some 50's style treats and have an ice cream soda, while enjoying DJ Jim Hogan's Music Mix.

Wear your most authentic 50's outfit and brush up on your dance steps you might even win a contest!

Be sure to stop by and check out the pictures – see Rocky Hill then and now, and try match the pictures of babies born in the 1950's to the adults they are now!

Tickets are \$10.00 per person – on sale in Chapin Hall and the church office.
Call Joan Tennyson at 860-529-8789 to reserve a ticket or for more information.





*A View from the
Interim Pastor's Seat*

We will soon move into the church season of Lent in the middle of February. Lent is a 40 day/ six week (minus Sundays) church season intended for spiritual journeying as well as for growing and deepening our faith. See the Lenten brochure inserted in this newsletter or available on-line at our website: rhccucc.org – this brochure offers you a variety of choices for walking with us at RHCCUCC this Lent.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th and runs for five weeks until we get to Palm Sunday, March 28. Palm Sunday signals the start of Holy Week when we remember the many events of Jesus' final week in Jerusalem, including his triumphal entry with strewn palms, his Last Supper with the disciples, his arrest, trial, and crucifixion and his days in the tomb until Easter morning when he rose to new life. Easter will be Sunday, April 4th this year. So Lent offers us six weeks in which to contemplate the significance of our faith story.

In keeping with longstanding tradition that began in medieval Europe, the day before Lent is called Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras. The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday is a day to prepare for our walk through Lent. Part of this tradition includes letting go of whatever sins we might be carrying around with us knowing that God hears our confession and absolves us of our guilt and shame thereby entering Lent with a clean heart.

Fat Tuesday is also a party day when traditionally all foods that were not to be consumed during Lent would be eaten up – like fat, cream, and eggs. In keeping with that tradition this church offers everyone a pancake supper in Chapin Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 16 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Come enjoy the festivities! (Please call the church office if you plan to join us!)

Wednesday, Feb. 17 is Ash Wednesday when we actually begin our journey through Lent. An Ash Wednesday service will be held in the Chapel to consider matters of life, death, and our own mortality as we begin Lent. The imposition of ashes will be available at this service for those who choose. Ashes may be imposed on your forehead or the back of your hand.

As you consider how you will spend your Lent please consider making Sunday worship a regular commitment and choose what other ways you can deepen your faith during this season.

Take time this Lent “to allow a fresh new taste of God!”

Blessings,

Barbara J. Libby, Interim Pastor



February Worship Schedule

February 7 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany / Communion / Family Worship Communion Sunday

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

The Rev. Barbara J. Libby

Luke 5:1-11

Sermon: "Deepening Our Discipleship"

February 14 Transfiguration/Mardi Gras Sunday

The RHCC Dixieland Jazz Ensemble will lead us in song.
Come and join in the celebration!

Scripture: Luke 9:28-43

The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio

Sermon: "Glimpses of Glory"

February 21 First Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The Rev. Barbara J. Libby

Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: "Lent...A Time of Preparation"

February 28 Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 13:31-35

The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio

Sermon: "Under Her Wings"

Please Wear Your Name Tag. We want to get to you know you...each of you. Please do your part by wearing a name tag on Sunday. Visitors (or if you've forgotten your name tag) can use the stickers provided in each of the pew pads. If you need a replacement name tag, please contact the church office or one of the deacons.

Pastor Barbara Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 – 1:30 pm in the Fiorilli Room.

Pastor Barbara leads this lectionary Bible Study where we will read and examine the texts for the coming week's worship. **All are welcome.** No experience necessary. Bring your favorite translation or pick one from the shelf. Brown bag lunch optional.



BOARD of DEACONS

God's Extravagant Welcome

[Thanks to Deacon Stephanie Heneghan for sharing the following update from the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns.]

The United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns has announced a 2010 National Gathering with the theme "Any Body, Everybody, Christ's Body" for July 14-17 in San Diego. The Coalition has confirmed that UCC President and General Minister Geoffrey Black will speak.

The Coalition has expanded its criteria for new Open and Affirming (ONA) statements to include gender identity and gender expression effective with its 2010 National Gathering. This change means the Coalition will begin encouraging congregations to incorporate transgender in new ONA statements. This policy aligns the Coalition's ministry more closely with the General Synod vote of 2003 and its vision of a ministry inspired by the Good News of God's extravagant welcome.



The Coalition is offering several new resources, including movies, training films, and regional workshops for adults and youth. There are presently 844 listed ONA churches, 53 of which were added in 2009. The members of Rocky Hill Congregational Church UCC adopted an Open and Affirming Statement on June 7, 2009. More information can be found at www.ucccoalition.org

Your Sisters and Brothers of the Diaconate: Laurel Cole, Deb Copes, Julie Dostie, Tom Fulda, Stephanie Heneghan, Bill Hoffman, Cheryl Hummel, Bob Inderbitzen, Julia Pickett and Gail Tine

If you have questions, worship feedback, or a special concern or need, please contact any of the deacons.

Bob Inderbitzen, Senior Deacon, bobmike@cox.net

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE RHCC FAMILY? New Member Sunday Scheduled for February 28, 2010

We will receive new members into our church family on **Sunday, February 28, 2010**. The morning begins with a breakfast gathering at 8:30 AM, followed by the reception of new members during the 10:00 AM service, and concludes with a reception during coffee hour. If you have been with us as a visitor and would like to enter into full membership, please contact either Barbara or Donna. Those interested are also invited to attend a "Getting to Know You" session on Sunday, February 21 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM in Chapin Hall.



Lifting Up the S.P.I.R.I.T in February:

*Looking back on January...*The Christmas Pageant finally happened!!! Many thanks to Dick Webster, Will Kanute, all the parents, volunteers, and staff who made the pageant a success. But most importantly, thanks to our outstanding cast!

*Kicking off the Winter/Spring Unit & February Fun...*On January 17th we started our Winter/Spring Unit of Sunday School. Over the next few months we will be exploring the Gospel of John along with some worship Basics like the Doxology, Communion, and The Lord's Prayer. We are also very much looking forward to **Shrove Tuesday** and the start of Lent. **Please join us Tuesday, February 16th, from 5:30 PM -7:30 PM, for our Shrove Tuesday gathering with music, pancakes, and celebration!**

*Interested in Volunteering?...*In order to comply with our Safe Church Policy, we always need two adults in each Sunday School Classroom. Please consider volunteering and joining us one week in Sunday School. This is a great way to see what we're doing, while meeting the wonderful teachers and children who make our Sunday School so vibrant. If you are interested or have questions please email or call Meghan at christianedrhcc@gmail.com or (860) 966-2432.

Peace,

Meghan and The Christian Education Board

Book Study Group moves to Wednesday mornings! Join us!

Read: Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder

Wednesday, February 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fiorilli Room

A true story account of "the quest of Dr. Paul Farmer – a man who would cure the world." As a medical doctor with a tireless and ferocious interest and dedication to public health Farmer began in Boston hospitals and then went on to offer person to person medical care to people of Haiti, Peru, Cuba and Russia. Not only does he improve people's health he "changes people's minds through his dedication to the philosophy that 'the only real nation is humanity'." Published in 2003 yet quite timely in light of all we are seeing of Haiti following its recent earthquake, Farmer reveals much about life & culture in Haiti.

Lenten Book Study

Wednesdays, 10-11:30a.m. Fiorilli Room - beginning February 24 through March 31

Read: This I Believe edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman (Holt publisher)

Come to discuss and reflect on the personal credos of many famous & not so famous people. Look for listing of essays and the order we will read them.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship 2010 gaining momentum

To paraphrase the opening of Ecclesiastes 3 – for everything there is a time and a time for every matter – it is that time of year when the annual Stewardship Campaign gets underway.

In last month's *Churchmouse*, the message from your Stewardship Committee was the first of several communications you will be receiving – some in the *Churchmouse*, in an occasional Sunday Bulletin, posted in Chapin Hall, and also by mail. The Committee is planning, gathering information, and designing the annual Stewardship Campaign for our 2010-2011 Budget year. We realize that this year continues the economic challenges of the past year. But we hope that as you plan ahead for your personal and home family's yearly budget, you will consider and be mindful of your "church family's" yearly budget needs.

The coming year promises to be one of excitement and anticipation as the congregation acts on and enriches the goals of the visioning process, and as the process of searching for a new senior pastor gains strength. Yes, "*God is still speaking...*" to each and every member and friend of RHCC. Stop for a minute or two to listen ... think about how you can contribute to the collective responsibility we share in enabling RHCC to become what we envision it can be. Pledge Sunday in April will be here before we know it.

So, stay tuned, we'll be sending you more specific information on the status of our current budget, proposals for the 2010-2011 budget, and suggestions of ways you can contribute to the financial stability of our church – a strong community of faith and action.

The Stewardship Committee

Co-Chairs, Louise Butts and Hilaire Leavitt, and Bill Bartley, Deb Copes (Financial Secretary), Al Diaz, and Brian Silkowski



The RHCC Search Committee met again in January. The Committee has set up a table in Chapin Hall and the main hallway to display information relative to the search and has provided a question box for the Congregation to submit questions. We are working diligently on the process to search for our new Pastor.

There may also be future plans for a possible Search Committee website. The next meetings are scheduled for February.

From the Council:

It is good to be starting off the year with lots of activity and energy. The Council has a number of “irons in the fire”. Following is a short summary of some of our activities:

Search for a new Senior Pastor: The Council has offered support to the Search Committee in whatever way they feel they need our input. While it is natural to be excited about finding a new Senior Pastor soon, we also recognize that the search process calls for patience in discerning our needs and our direction so that we can be clear to potential candidates about what we are looking for. Meanwhile, our search process is also a time of preparation, as we work to “get our house in order” to be ready for a new senior pastor. Part of this involves continuing to refine our vision and working to improve some of the way we do things so that we can be more efficient or effective.

Refining the Vision: In the December Churchmouse we listed the “condensed version” of our vision for who we want to be as a church family. During our December meeting, the Council began to identify ways in which we can work toward reaching that vision. We have much more work to do in that regard and hope to find ways to involve many others in that process.

Generosity and Gratitude: One of the things we have been told is that we are a generous congregation. Our contributions of our time, talents and treasure to the work of our church are apparent in so many ways. We are very excited about the training that Donna and Bob Inderbitzen attended recently on Joyful Generosity, which is about celebrating the generosity that we see demonstrated around us and showing our gratitude for that generosity. We’ll be hearing and learning more about how we can nurture ways to celebrate generosity of spirit. We will also explore ways to help ourselves and others to discover our individual gifts, as well as the joy of sharing those gifts.

Ruth Fitzgerald for the Council

“Bad” Girls of the Bible – A Bible Study for Women

February 18, March 18, April 15

7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Fiorilli Room

Come and explore some of the lesser-known women in the Scripture, whose lives are filled with jealousy, deceit, and rejection. Yet within these stories are words and deeds of courage and determination, commitment and faith.

On February 18, we will study and explore the story of Hagar, concubine of Abraham and mother of Ishmael. The texts we will explore are Genesis 16:1-15 and Genesis 21:8-21.

Come to one or all sessions! Sign up in Chapin Hall or leave a message with Donna at the church or via email at associate@rhccucc.org.



Board of Missions

Local Works / Global Reach

Greetings Friends,

On Tuesday, January 12, a 7.0 earthquake hit Haiti, striking 10 miles west of the capital city of Port-au-Prince. Many thousands were killed and countless left homeless. There is widespread destruction of homes, schools and other buildings, and major damage to water, electricity and road systems. The United Church of Christ has launched an emergency appeal, and RHCC is participating. Your Board for Missions has already sent a donation of \$5000, and beginning on Sunday, January 17 we asked church members and friends to donate to this cause, as well. The Board will then match dollar to dollar those individual contributions up to \$2500. If you would like to donate, please write a check to RHCC, UCC and indicate "Haiti appeal" on the notation line and bring it to church or mail it to the church office.

It is in these times that we realize how we are all connected, and how a simple gift can bring comfort to someone far away. Likewise, our hands can be busy in our own community to meet the needs of our neighbors. Here, we have the option to be physically present; to swing a hammer, to cook and serve a meal, to donate goods, to comfort or mentor a child. Your Board for Missions is continually aware of both our local need, and the need that we do not see directly, but which is across the globe.

We will soon meet with a representative from Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) to get more perspective on how our donations to UCC's missionary arm are used and dispersed. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how we can work globally.

Meanwhile, we have identified a new local organization which we will begin to support in the new fiscal year: **Hands On Hartford** (formerly Center City Churches) provides direct services to people in need and promotes civic engagement and volunteerism. They specialize in creating volunteer opportunities for groups or teams from throughout Greater Hartford. They emphasize service learning as part of the volunteer experience. Hands On Hartford is the local affiliate of Hands On Network., an innovative, international, rapidly-growing 58-city alliance of volunteer organizations that offers tested, proven programs for deepening volunteer participation. Hands On Hartford's direct service programs include Manna, Center for Youth, and Peter's Retreat, providing service in three areas: basic human needs such as nutrition and fuel, children's programming and family support services, and supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. They are non-sectarian. For more info, check out www.handsonhartford.org. The executive director for Hands on Hartford is RHCC member Doug Sudell (*grandson of Eunice Newell*).

We will also be meeting this month with a representative from Covenant to Care, and will be providing information soon about their “Adopt a Social Worker” program. Stay tuned!

Yours in Faith and Service,
Michael H. Bower
Chair, Board of Missions

Missions Survey / New Email Address

Thank you to all who participated in the Missions Survey in January. We appreciate your feedback and insight, and will continue to welcome involvement from the congregation. In that effort, we have created a new email address: missionsrhccucc@gmail.com. Feel free to use this email to contact us, or drop a note via “snail mail” to the church office, care of Missions. Or talk to any member of your Board for Missions during coffee hour on Sundays.

Where Did Your Money Go?

In January, your Board for Missions voted to pay the following:

\$3000 to Operation Fuel

\$5000 to Our Church’s Wider Mission

\$5000 to the UCC’s Haiti Appeal, plus matching contribution TBA

One Great Hour of Sharing

A special collection will be taken for One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 14.

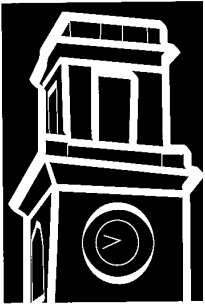
Your Board for Missions are: Michael Bower – Chair, Linda Calcagni, Bob Carberry, Dave Edwards, Diana Gengenbach, Marge Murk – Secretary, Chris Palazzolo, Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, and Steve Smith

UPDATE ON HAITI RELIEF

As of Thursday, January 21, 2010 we have received over \$1100 from RHCC members for Haiti relief. Please continue to send in your donations. Our Missions Board has pledged to match up to \$2500.

The national UCC office received a record \$250,000 from online donations as of January 19. Churches in Connecticut and throughout the nation are continuing to raise funds for the relief effort.

Let us continue to pray for Patrick and Kim Bentrott serving as Global Ministries partners in Haiti and for their infant son, Solomon.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m. with childcare



FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	2 7:00pm Board and Committees	3 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 6:00pm Staffing Conversation 7:30pm Adult Choir
7 10:00am Worship and Communion 11:30am Stewardship Mtg	8 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	9 7:00pm Council	10 9:00am Quilters 10:00am Book Study 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
14 10:00am Worship 11:30am Youth Lunch Bunch	15 Office Closed 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 6:30pm Covenant to Care 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	16 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday 7:30pm Baby Quilters	17 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Svc 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Svc 7:30pm Adult Choir
21 10:00am Worship 11:15am Youth Grp Fundraiser 11:45am Lenten/Lunch Program 2:00pm New Member Getting to Know You	22 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	23 10:30am Genesis Health-Care Service	24 9:00am Quilters 10:00am Book Study 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
28 8:30am New Member Breakfast 10:00am Worship/New Members 11:30am Youth Lunch Bunch 11:30am Music Committee Mtg 11:45am Lenten/Lunch Program			



My grateful thanks to the members of RHCCUCC and the coordinators of the toy drive for their stunning generosity. Carloads of beautiful gifts for children arrived! May the grace of this sacred season be experienced a hundred fold by your congregation for all the love made manifest concretely to those in need.—Gratefully, Miriam Therese Winter

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

805 Old Main Street – Rocky Hill, CT 06067

(860)529-4167 office • (860)257-9637 fax
 office @ rhcucc.org • website: rhcucc.org
 Office Hours 8 am – 2 pm – Monday – Friday

The Reverend Barbara J. Libby, Interim Pastor
 The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Associate Pastor
 The Reverend Arthur C. Weil, Minister Emeritus
 Will Kanute, Director of Music



Sock-Hop Dance
Saturday,
February 6, 2010
7:00 to 11:00 p.m.
in Chapin Hall

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 1:00pm Community Event 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	5 7:00pm Dance Setup	6 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 10:30am Community Event 7:00pm Sock Hop Dance
11 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	12	13 8:30am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 6:30pm Movie/Dinner Nite
18 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Bad Girls of the Bible 7:00pm Fair Committee Mtg 8:00pm Men's AA	19 6:00pm Youth Dinner and Movie Night	20 8:30am Yoga with Lynn
25 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 10:00am Mapleview Service 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	26	27 8:30am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Yoga with Lynn



DINNER & A Movie
Pot Luck Dinner
and a Movie
"Autumn Hearts"
Saturday,
February 13th
at 6:30 p.m. in
Chapin Hall

"SCRIP-SURE" Order Schedule

SCRIP-SURE: Order forms for gift cards sold through our ongoing Scrip Fundraising program are available in Chapin Hall, and are also on the church web site. Orders that were placed by January 31 will be delivered on Sunday, February 7. Orders placed by February 28 will be delivered on March 7. For program details, visit the church web site, www.rhcucc.org. If you have any questions, ask Dave Hall (treasurer@rhcucc.org).



SHROVE TUESDAY
Tuesday,
February 16th
5:30-7:30 pm



- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 02 Anthony Asarisi, Jr. | 19 Leona Griswold |
| Suzan Rodriguez | 20 Midge Harvey |
| Cindy Hunt | 22 Myrtle Furman |
| Doreen Grandell | Brendan Flynn |
| Kandi O'Brien | Nathan Ware |
| 03 Najhaee Davis | 23 Lee Rafferty |
| Teagan Reed-Swale | Scott Bengston |
| 04 Bill Timrud | Brett Timrud |
| Thomas Ellegard | 24 Jan LaCava |
| 05 Kimberly Sweezy | Ben Rolfe |
| 06 Ryan Madsen | Will Rolfe |
| Cole Triblets | 25 Hannah DeGiovanni |
| 07 Angelo Rutigliano | 26 Christine Papineau |
| Cheryl Hummel | Larry Carlson |
| Susan Garvey | Betty Swain |
| 08 Susan White | Karen Birck |
| Robert Mullins | 27 Dot Wenzel |
| Christopher Gengenbach | Roxanne Molina |
| 09 Alicia Partynski | 28 Wayne MacNeil |
| 10 Daniel Scribano | Jean Krischus-Hedding |
| 11 Val Triblets | Sarah Angeloni |
| Matthew McTigue | 29 Joseph Sheehan |
| Jeffrey White | |
| Izaque da Silva | |
| 12 Annie Hokans-Doll | |
| Alfred Harlow, III | |
| Caryn Doten | |
| 13 Beverly Schmidt | |
| 14 Kurt Sheathelm | |
| Chris Mosure | |
| Brian Speers | |
| 16 John Speers | |
| 17 Laura Butler | |
| Ryan Painter | |
| Owen Geddes | |
| 18 Kathy Bighinatti | |
| Alexander Benson | |



Harry and Bev Schmidt
were married on
February 15, 1958

Congratulations!



**Family and friends of
Helen Griswold
who died January 4, 2010**



Join us for Dinner and a Movie
“Autumn Hearts”
Saturday, February 13th
at 6:30 p.m. in Chapin Hall

and



A different sort of love story. **Autumn Hearts** is a story of redemption, healing, and reconciliation. First screened as the Closing Night Gala at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival under the title **Emotional Arithmetic**, Susan Sarandon, Christopher Plummer, Gabriel Byrne and Max von Sydow give powerful performances in this lyrical moving drama about the consequences of war. The past has cast a long shadow over the present reaching into the picturesque farm where now married Melanie lives unhappily with her husband. When Melanie invites fellow Holocaust survivor, Jakob to her home, he unexpectedly brings Christopher, whose love for Melanie has never diminished since their confinement in an internment camp. Old feelings and long suppressed memories are stirred up and revealed at a climactic, life-changing feast.

God Trouble

Two little brothers always were getting into trouble, so when their mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children, she asked if he would speak with her boys. The preacher agreed but asked to see them individually. So the mother sent the younger one first, with the older boy to follow in the afternoon.

The preacher, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down first and asked him sternly, “Do you know where God is, son?”

The boy’s mouth dropped open.

The preacher repeated the question in an even sterner tone, “Where is God?”

When the boy didn’t answer, the preacher bellowed, “WHERE IS GOD?”

The boy screamed and bolted directly home and dove into his closet. His older brother ran to ask what happened.

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, “We are in big trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it!”—submitted by Linda Grillo

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU:
An information session about RHCC
Sunday, February 21 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Are you new to RHCC? Have you been worshipping with us for a while and desire to know more about our church community? Perhaps you're even thinking about joining the church. If so, please join the pastors and other church members at a session that includes basic information about the church including:

- RHCC mission and history
- our denominational affiliation: the United Church of Christ
- boards and committees
- church staff
- becoming a member
- belonging to the church
- YOUR QUESTIONS

CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED.

Sign up in Chapin Hall or contact one of the pastors for further information.



The Flower Committee has begun a new system for ordering flowers for each Sunday to be placed on the altar.

There is a new flower poster for you to sign up for whichever Sunday you desire. Date, signature and message will be filled out. We can have more than one arrangement for any given Sunday.

We would appreciate anyone who has been ordering flowers every year on a specific date to please fill in said date(s). We will retain our procedure of either ordering the flowers and billing you or having you order them yourself.

We feel this will be a way for everyone to order for that special day in our lives, but also to give those of us who weren't aware of how to order flowers an easy way to do so.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Joan Diaz, chair

The Flower Committee

- January/February—Denise Carberry, 860 563-8311
- March/April—Cindy Bennett, 860 721-6535
- May/June—Betty McKinney, 860 529-2023
- July/August—Pat Gordon, 860 665-1205
- September/October—Joan Diaz, 860 613-2889
- November/December—Lois Stevens, 860 632-5810



Snowy Sundays

In the event of winter weather on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of church members. Some winters the snow and ice are a real danger, and so worship is cancelled for the day. If such a storm happens, please know that a system is in place to make as many of our members and friends aware as possible. If and when worship is canceled, notice will be posted on Channel 3 WFSB-TV, and the voice mail greeting on the church phone will be updated with the cancellation if you choose to phone the main number. Additionally, an email and phone tree will alert church leaders to the same information. It takes a real storm to disrupt our worship, but if that happens, we want to be ready. Cancellations will also be posted on the church website: www.rhccucc.org

Give a little love....



“Around the world coffee and fellowship come together where we share community. A warm pot of coffee is often the centerpiece of fellowship hour and other gatherings.”

Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea or Hot Cocoa would make an excellent gift!

Why not pick some up after church this Sunday?

During fellowship time in Chapin Hall, the Inreach Committee has available for purchase:

Gourmet Coffee - \$6.25/bag Tea - \$3/box Hot Cocoa Mix \$5/can

For more information about the UCC Coffee Project: www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project

Town of Rocky Hill – Free Home Repairs/Maintenance

The Human Services Department is accepting applications for free home repairs and maintenance and are available to Rocky Hill residents. Homeowners who demonstrate a financial need and/or have a physical condition that prohibits them from doing the work themselves may be eligible to have work completed at no cost. Jobs included are painting, yard clean-up, window replacement, handicap ramps, door replacement, dry wall, handrails, steps, roof leaks and other such projects. The work is conducted by United Methodist Army trained volunteers during the week of July 26 – July 30, 2010. The U. M. Army is a 501 (c)(3) non profit corporation which has operated nationally since 1979. The work is professionally completed for homeowners who are determined eligible. Applications must be completed by 5/23/10, and pre-site visits to the homeowner will be done on 6/26/10. Rocky Hill owners who have questions and/or are interested in applying may call the Human Services Department at 860-258-2799.



From the Scholarship Committee

Each year, our church awards college scholarships which are funded by investment returns from the Scholarship Endowment Funds. Applicants should be members of Rocky Hill

Congregational Church, active members of one of its youth organizations, or active participants in the life of the church. Awards are based upon church and community involvement, demonstrated scholastic achievement, financial need, and the completion and submission of a scholarship application form. Scholarships may be awarded for up to four years of undergraduate studies. Recommendations on scholarship recipients are made by the Scholarship Committee, whose members are appointed by the Board of Trustees. This recommendation is then subject to the final approval of the Trustees.

Graduating high school seniors and returning college undergraduates who are seeking a church scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year should obtain an application from the church office or from the web site, rhccucc.org and may be submitted electronically. Please complete and return it prior to April 15, 2010. Scholarship awards will be announced in June.

Scholarship Directory Available

A directory of scholarships that are available to college-bound students in the 29-town Greater Hartford region is now available from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Students can pick up a copy of the directory from their school guidance office or you can access it online at www.hfpg.org/scholarships, or call the Foundation to obtain a copy.

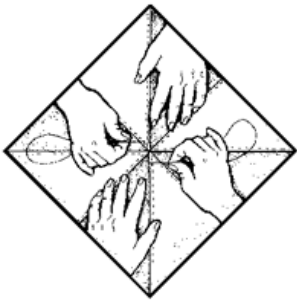


Frank Roswell Fuller was born in Hartford on August 23, 1873 and attended local public schools. He went to New York City and later formed his own company at 40 Wall Street known as Fuller & Company, which operated from 1904 to 1920. When he retired he came to live in West Hartford. He died on March 1, 1957. His will, probated in the Probate Court for District of Hartford, established a substantial scholarship fund. Mr. Fuller was always interested in helping “needy, deserving” students obtain the education that he had not been able to enjoy himself.

There will also be application packets in the church office.

Remember to file your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to federal processor by March 1. You may obtain a FAFSA application from your high school guidance counselor or at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The deadline for submitting your application and other documents is May 15th.



Wednesday Morning Quilters

Throughout the year the Quilters have assembled colorful lap robes and small comfort pillows. In December these are given to our local Rocky Hill nursing homes – Apple Rehab, Rocky Hill Health Care, and Mapleview Manor, and to the Veterans Home and Hospital. Quilters also make monetary contributions to Human Services for fuel assistance or food.

Sewing Packages are ready!—Would you like to sew at home, either hand stitching or machine stitching? Packages of blocks are ready to be assembled to make lap robes for patients in nursing homes. Better still—Come sew with the Quilters on Wednesday mornings. We are assembling blocks for the next Fair Quilt.—Grace Cole

Women's Fellowship – Quilters/Crafters

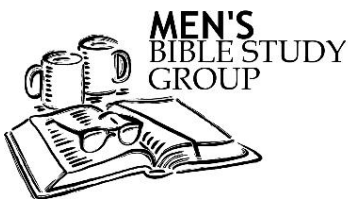
Due to low attendance the last few months, Crafters/Quilters' meetings on third Tuesday night of the month will be suspended for a few months.

In the spring, I will re-solicit interest and perhaps re-organize meeting night etc. Until then...keep busy!—Thanks, Kim



Always Welcome! – Hunger never takes a holiday... Food Pantries need our help to meet the food demands...Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item, laundry detergent, or baby items to worship every time you come.

The large basket in the front foyer of the church welcomes all food donations. One of our Pew Crew members noticed that the narthex was overflowing with your generosity and thought Bill McKinney could use some help. We put out a call for help and as usual the Pew Crew responded immediately. Mark Williams sends a thank you note every month in gratitude for your generosity.



The Saturday Men's Bible Study Group As always they are seeking additional members. If you are interested in studying scripture, discussing how it relates to our daily lives, engaging in open religious and spiritual discussions, the Men's Bible Study Group may be just

what you have been looking for. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor.



THANK YOU to Joan Diaz, Judy Graham, Dave Hawkins, Dick Webster and the Flower Committee for decorating the church throughout the Advent and Christmas season. The poinsettias were beautiful!—from the Board of Deacons

CHRISTMAS OFFERING UPDATE. THANK YOU! The Board of Deacons reported that nearly \$2,000 was collected for the special Christmas Offering. Those monies will be divided between the Children's Home of Cromwell and special ministries of the United Church of Christ in the Holy Land.

Spread the Word



"Happy New Year!" The time is getting closer! Come, **Renew Your Spirit!** Join other women from New England when we gather to celebrate our faith in **Burlington, VT March 12-14, 2010**. This is a once-every-four-years event. Approximately 1,000 women attended in 2006.

It's not too late to register for the **UCC Women Leaders of New England CELEBRATION VIII, Together Building Bridges**. You can still register and choose from **28 stimulating workshops** and sign up for of the speaker meals planned during this exciting event by going to our website <http://www.uccwomenscelebration.org>.

Be sure you make your hotel reservations by calling one of the three hotels we have suggested - The Sheraton, The Holiday Inn or The Best Western. **Ask for the New England Women's Celebration VIII rate.**

Please invite your daughters, granddaughters (14 and older) and friends for our intergenerational participatory workshop, "**CONNECTIONS**".

Your Association, church or women's group, may have **scholarship money** to help send some of your youth or members of your church to this once every four year event for women around New England. For information contact the Coordinator, Susan Waldron 860 923 2887 or swaldron01@snet.net There is not much time left to register.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Food Bank – February 7 Please continue your efforts in offering the donation of non-perishable food items, laundry detergent and baby items on the first Sunday of each month. We thank Bill McKinney and the Pew Crew for their prompt response in delivering our donations.

The National Association of Free Clinics (NAFC) and its partners will be sponsoring a one day free medical clinic for the uninsured on February 3, 2010 from noon to 7pm at the Connecticut Convention Center 100 Columbus Boulevard in Hartford. They will offer basic medical care and health education. Come help thousands of families gain access to medical screening and care they otherwise may not receive. The Connecticut C.A.R.E. Clinic needs medical and non-medical volunteers! Sign up today! For information: <http://www.regonline.com/ctcare>

Voce Chamber Artists will perform on February 7 at 4:00 p.m. at Asylum Hill, 814 Asylum Ave., Hartford. \$20 advance/\$25 door / They will feature works that cross the boundaries between formal classical chamber music and improvised jazz. This concert will include a compositional premiere by Dan Campolietta, *7 Sketches for Clarinet Trio*. As part of Voce's mission to give back to the community, all proceeds will support Loaves and Fishes ministries.

Celebrate Recovery – Thursday nights at First Church in Wethersfield. The purpose of this ministry is to fellowship and celebrate God's healing power in our lives through the 8 Recovery Principles. This experience allows us to be changed. By working and applying these Biblical principles, we begin to grow spiritually. 6:00-6:45 Dinner (\$4.00 donation), 7:00-8:00 Large group meeting, 8:00-9:00 Safe, supportive gender-specific small groups, 9:00-9:30 Coffee and Dessert / Crosstalk Café. For more information call 860 529-1575 x210 or email care@firstchurch.org



Yoga classes offered in Chapin Hall

Yoga with Pam – Quiet the mind, increase flexibility, reduce stress and promote health and wellness. Wednesday evenings at 6:00-7:30pm with Pamela Clark, R.N. Beginner and advanced beginner students welcome! Gift certificates available.

Yoga Offered by Core Power, LLC – Experience the dynamic flow and challenge of yoga which builds strength, balance and flexibility for an overall fit and healthy body. Classes are for all-levels with options for everyone! This class meets: Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30pm, Thursdays mornings from 9:00-10:00am and Saturday mornings in from 8:30-9:00am (Yin Therapeutic Yoga). Contact Lynn MacDonald 860-550-4660 to register – Water bottle, yoga mat, and a friend!!

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067
Telephone # 860 529-4167

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Rocky Hill, CT

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Mailed January 28, 2010



Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we.
The United Church of Christ:
No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
February 15**



SHROVE TUESDAY

Tuesday, February 16th

5:30 PM -7:30 PM

Chapin Hall

Music, pancakes, and celebration!