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203 389-8946 – barlibby@rhccucc.org
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Vol. 24 No. 3 – March 1, 2010

March 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

CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND ELECTIONS MEETING

The annual Budget and Elections Meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is called for Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 11:15 am for the transaction of the following items of business:

1. to vote on the proposed local budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year;
2. to vote on the proposed benevolence budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and to
3. approve all special offerings for Missions and Diaconate;
4. to elect church officers and board and committee members for terms beginning May 1, 2010;
5. to approve the recommendation of the Fair Committee for expenditure of the proceeds from the 2009 events;
6. to vote on the distribution of the loose collections for the 2010-2011 fiscal year;
7. to conduct any other business brought before the congregation.

Marsha Hoffman, Church Clerk



A Message From

Pastor Barbara

Lent is a time that offers each of us options for spiritual journeys as well as options for growth and deepening faith. Connecticut Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree once offered the following about Lent: “Lent is a spiritual imperative: a time when we assess our lives and our priorities and set them before God; forty days of repentance and getting things in right relationship; a time of giving up that reminds us of the many blessings in our lives; a journey with Jesus in his last and lonely walk to Jerusalem.”

Although you may have already chosen a Lenten discipline for this Lent consider now what you might like to give up or take on for this Lent. Take the forty days of Lent as a time to intentionally journey toward Jerusalem. Here are some ideas for your Lenten journey:

- Write a question every day. At the end of each week write a response to one of the questions.
- Take a biblical chapter which you have always wanted to know more fully. It should be at least 40 verses long. At the pace of a verse a day, write a brief reflection.
- Write a letter a week. Identify at the start the six people to whom you will write - or the six categories (such as letter of personal gratitude, letter to an author who has touched you, letter for reconciliation, letter to a person with whom you only correspond by birthday card or Christmas card)
- Look out of your window every single day and write what you see there.
- Or perhaps it isn't words... perhaps a “Lenten Journal” for you will be a quilting project you meant to start... or the completion of a photograph album... or gathering from elderly relatives an anecdote from their childhoods...

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.

Lenten Book Study

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

Wednesdays, 10-11:30a.m. Fiorilli Room –through March 31

We are reading: 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.

Lenten Worship Schedule

- March 7** **Third Sunday in Lent / Communion / Family Worship**
Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9 The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio
Sermon: "Come and Eat!"
- March 14** **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 The Rev. Barbara J. Libby
Sermon: "Family Business..."
- March 21** **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
Scripture: John 12:1-8 The Rev. Barbara J. Libby
Sermon: "Extravagant Love"
- March 28** **Palm Sunday**
Scripture: Luke 19:28-40 The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio
Sermon: "Making Arrangements"

Donate a Chair or Table

THANK YOU! November's "kitchen shower" for Chapin Hall was a big success. Dozens of new items were contributed to the church kitchen...baking and cooking equipment, dish towels, crock pot, coffee maker, and more! Contributions toward new TABLES and CHAIRS for Chapin Hall total \$1,275.

It is not too late to make a contribution toward new TABLES and CHAIRS. The new tables and chairs will be easier to store, are much lighter to carry (easy on our backs!), and will help replace many of the old and damaged tables and chairs in use today. The purchase is estimated at \$5,000 to \$6,000. Donations can be mailed-in or dropped-off to the church, payable to "Rocky Hill Congregational Church." Please indicate that the contribution is for TABLES AND CHAIRS.

TABLES are \$50/each and CHAIRS are \$25/each

For more information, please contact Bob Inderbitzen (Board of Deacons), Ruth Jensen (Inreach), Jan LaCava (Heavenly Hosts), Jackie Little (Inreach) or Church Sexton Dick Webster.

From the Council:

The happy “side-effect” of fundraising:

As we approach our annual Budget and Elections meeting (Sunday, March 14), some of you may recall that our 2009 Budget and Elections meeting came at a particularly uncertain and grim time in terms of the general financial climate. As a result, and in part because our Memorial Fund had declined considerably, we presented a budget prepared with a “sharpened pencil”—all boards and committees were asked to cut back their requests, and no salary increases were programmed. On the other hand, a conscious and deliberate decision was made NOT to “cut to the bone”—we felt it to be important that we retain sufficient budget to allow us to remain active and vital.

To that end, the Council committed to taking whatever steps might be necessary to raise \$5,000 towards that budget above and beyond what we anticipated receiving in pledges and other income. We did that because we felt strongly that to cut the budget further would be a step backwards and could result in a downward spiral of shrinkage, rather than the upward spiral of growth and vitality that we want to encourage.

As a result of some fundraising efforts, the \$5000 has been raised and we anticipate “more-of-the-same” for next year. But above and beyond the raising of the money, we have realized another positive benefit. Not only have the fundraising discussions and ideas generated considerable energy and camaraderie (which is always a good thing), but the fact that we stopped wringing our hands about lack of income and started taking steps to help ourselves has created a feeling of confidence in our future, rather than a feeling of helplessness at the budget shortfall. We are pleased at the outcome and at the future implications of taking more responsibility for our financial health.

Please support the following fundraising events:

- **Scrip sales**--This is the ideal moment to also encourage ALL church members to purchase “scrip” or gift cards through our “SCRIP-SURE” program. This is a completely painless way to increase our church income. We benefit from purchases that you would be making anyway (groceries, gasoline, drugstore items, etc.—there is a very long list). PLEASE participate. We are already seeing benefits from our scrip sales, yet we are only tapping the tip of the iceberg so far. Order your scrip by the last Sunday of each month and receive it the following Sunday.
- **Talent show**--Coming up later in March our CE Board will host a children’s Talent Show on Saturday, March 20th at 6p.m., which will be wonderful. Please attend and support our children as they “strut their stuff”.
- **Book sale**—On June 12, we will be holding a book sale as a fundraiser. Stay tuned for more details. OR, if you would like to help out before or during the sale, please call me (860/232-2238-home; 860/543-1520-mobile).
- **Church Fair and Roast Beef dinner**—the fair and dinner is by far our largest fundraiser and has enjoyed great success. It is also a wonderful model of what people working together can accomplish!! The fair committee will be donating part of fair proceeds toward our operating budget next year, which is a wonderful affirmation of our mission and vision.

2010 Budget and Elections Meeting—Something different this year.....

Please come to our annual Budget and Elections meeting on March 14. This is where we approve our tentative budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year, as well as the election of church officers and board and committee members. We will be talking about the budget in a **DIFFERENT** way this year—by presenting a “budget without numbers”, which links our budget with our vision and also looks at the many blessings that we receive from the joyful and generous sharing of our time, our talents and our treasures in our church family. (Don't worry, for those of you who are numerically inclined, we still have a traditional budget for your review).

Letting our Vision Lead the Way

So many were involved in the development of our Vision, that it would be a pity to have it sit on a shelf unused. We don't plan to let that happen!!! The vision is a beautiful and descriptive statement of who we want to be as a church family, and we are striving to keep it in front of us to lead and to inform all of the decisions we make and the directions we take. As mentioned above and in our “Budget Without Numbers”, our vision was actively considered in the development of our budget. Also, our Boards and the Search Committee are currently engaged in “staffing conversations” to determine what we need in terms of staffing to help us become the church we want to be.

This is a busy and exciting time for our church. We look forward in anticipation to seeing where God is leading us.

Ruth Fitzgerald, Moderator

Children and Youth Talent Show Saturday, March 20th at 6:00pm

**Do you have a talent to share?
Singers, Poets, Musicians, Comedians, Dancers**

Ages 1-18

Auditions will be held March 14th from 10:00am to Noon in Chapin Hall.

(singers, we have a pianist to accompany you, please bring your music choice to church as soon as possible to Dave Lewis, Elaine Somes or Meghan Young)

Sponsored by the CE Board ~ Inspired by the Youth

Any questions call or email: Elaine Somes 860 563-4099, elainet320@aol.com or Meghan Young, christianed@rhccucc.org

Peace,

Meghan Young and The Board of Christian Education



God's Extravagant Welcome Embracing Humanity with Olympic Spirit

"Lent—a season of self-examination, prayer, fasting and works of love." — www.ucc.org/lent

In February I was glued to the television, soaking in the 2010 Winter Olympics Games. The television coverage was incredible. From my living room vantage point, I grimaced and squirmed in my seat, watching athletes fall, tumble, and crash. And, I cheered and leapt to my feet as the medalists crossed the finished lines. I am swept away by the commitment of these women and men to their sport—each with their own story of hard work, determination and sacrifice. The Olympics honor the outstanding achievements of the human body and positive life values of sport, spirit and fairness.

Like the Olympics, our faith journey through this season of Lent shines a spotlight on our humanity. We are reminded that LIVING is a gift from God, and that LIVING requires hard work, determination and sacrifice. Our example is Jesus, the son of God, who embraces his own humanity: birth, life and death.

Your pastors and fellow church members have organized a variety of programs, activities and worship to help deepen your own Lenten reflection and self discovery. Please journey with us during these 40-days as we are called into a time of self examination—exploring all of our frailties, brokenness, hope and grace. Together, we prepare ourselves by reflecting on the fullness of Christ's LIVING, by witnessing Christ's faithful dying, and by waiting for that joyous Easter morning.

Faithfully,

Bob Inderbitzen, Senior Deacon
bobmike@cox.net



If you have questions, worship feedback, or a special concern or need, please contact any of your sisters and brothers of the Board of Deacons: **Laurel Cole, Deb Copes, Julie Dostie, Tom Fulda, Stephanie Heneghan, Bill Hoffman, Cheryl Hummel, Bob Inderbitzen, Julia Pickett and Gail Tine**



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship Committee continues its work

In last month's *Churchmouse*, the Stewardship Committee stated that its annual pledge campaign was gaining momentum. And indeed it is. By now you should have received the letter introducing the theme of the campaign ... "*From Jesus' fullness we have all received, grace upon grace,*" *John 1:16.*

On Sunday, March 14th, the RHCC's annual Budgets & Elections meeting will be held immediately after the morning worship service. At that time, the Fiscal Financial Projection and 2011 Budgets will be presented for review, questions, and explanations.

A few days following that meeting, we will contact you again and include a newly designed pledge card. It will contain the traditional options indicating your commitment to the shared fiscal responsibility for our church. And to keep pace with today's technology; it will also include an option for initiating your donation online as is done in many UCC churches today. More information on that process will be available at the March 14th meeting.

Occasional flyers and messages will appear in Sunday Bulletins focusing on the many, many aspects of what Stewardship encompasses - more than daily maintenance of our church, but also on the wider mission of showing *joy* and *gratitude* for what we have and being *generous* in sharing such with each other.

Think seriously about your part in making April 25th, Pledge Sunday, a special day. The April *Churchmouse* will contain more information about a Pledge Sunday event to happen in Chapin Hall following the worship service... a time to express our joy and generosity for the ministry and mission of RHCC.

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

"Bad" Girls of the Bible – A Bible Study for Women

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.

Local Works / Global Reach

Building Relationships

Your Board for Missions has had a busy month!



In February, we met with Charlie Kuchenbrod, 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 was great to learn more about how we work globally as a church, and we were glad to hear of all the good our contribution to the UCC is doing. He emphasized that supporting OCWM is a great way to be in relationship with our Church's work throughout the world, and here at home, as well. Look for information in Chapin Hall and other places about the UCC and Our Church's Wider Mission.

On February 15th, along with members of the CE board, we met with Catherine Haugh from Covenant to Care. We talked about their "Adopt a Social Worker" program, which we felt was a great fit for our congregation. We sign a covenant with a social worker, and promise to help that social worker whenever possible, especially when a need arises, like if one of their families needs household goods, or clothes, or groceries. We would also commit to one or two drives during the year. We would foster a relationship with that social worker, and "adopt" him or her as part of our church family, and work through a liaison here at our church. Stay tuned!

We also met this month with Doug Sudell, who works with Hands On Hartford, and discussed volunteer opportunities for our church. Hands On Hartford provides direct services to people in need and specialize in creating volunteer opportunities for groups or teams throughout Greater Hartford. 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.

Yours in Faith and Service,

Michael H. Bower

Chair, Board of Missions

missionsrhccucc@gmail.com

World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 5

The annual World Day of Prayer service takes place at ST Elizabeth Seton March 5, 2010 at 7pm. This year it is written by the women of Cameroon. It is observed around the world usually on the 1st Friday in March. All are welcome and encouraged to come to this inspiring service.

Building Project at Silver Lake

Volunteers are needed to help with the building of a new meeting space/dean's bedrooms for the Circle Cabin village. To be called the Circle Commons building. At this point they have the following dates set aside for construction. (Not all these will be building weekends. That will be up to the construction manager). The dates are March 26-28; April 9-11; April 16-18; April 23-25; May 7-9; May 14-16; May 21-23. They will need skilled and unskilled folks to be successful in meeting their goal to have the building completed by June 18th. See Donna for more details.

One Great Hour of Sharing

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

Appeal for Haiti

We're proud to announce that in February, our congregation continued to support the UCC Haiti Appeal. We have collected over \$3,000 from the congregation to date, which we matched dollar to dollar. Added to our original \$5000 donation, a total of \$11,155 was sent to help support the work to help Haiti. Church World Service and other UCC organizations that are already on the ground in Haiti have been mobilized, thanks to generous support from congregations like ours.

Foodshare Walk Against Hunger – Sunday, May 2

Interested in walking with us in the Walk against Hunger? It's an easy 3-mile walk, rain or shine. Get sponsors, collect money to help feed the hungry throughout the year, and have a fun afternoon with church friends! Look for sign-ups in Chapin Hall soon!

Where Did Your Money Go?

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

- \$2100 to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi
- \$3005 to the UCC's Haiti Appeal, matching the January contributions from our church

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

RHCCUCC Budget Story (Without Numbers!)



Once upon a time there was a church with a Vision.

OUR church. OUR Vision.

In the Vision, we see our church as friendly and welcoming. People feel a wonderful sense of belonging and a family relationship with other members. Children and youth are loved and valued and embraced—and they, too, love being a part of this church family and look forward to coming to church. Through the vision, members expressed their desire to seek God's presence in their lives through meaningful worship and fellowship together. They also expressed a desire to be part of God's wider mission, providing help and comfort to those in need.

The Vision also recognized that we have a long and valued history as a church family, with roots going back almost 300 years and a beautiful, historic building that we want to maintain, not only as a tribute to those who came before, but as a legacy to future generations. The church also provides a community gathering place both for members and for the wider community.

Yet, we also recognized in the Vision that there are some things we want, but have not yet achieved. We would like to be an even more welcoming place—so that we have a growing and vibrant church family with lots of activities and programs to enjoy and grow together. We wish for financial health, as we dislike having to worry about finances and would like to have our budgetary needs underwritten with no fuss and no muss.

Most of all, the Vision clearly communicates that people value being part of this church family. We love the sense of "belonging" that we come to feel when we invest our time, our talents and our treasures together in commitment to this church family. We love that sense of acceptance as a loved and valued member of this family.

PREPARING A BUDGET TO REFLECT OUR VISION

Our budget for the next fiscal year has been thoughtfully constructed to support key components of our stated vision. In particular, the Council has consciously decided to emphasize - through appropriate funding - staff needs and support activities that will help us to move closer to being the church that we want to be.

Perhaps most importantly, we have budgeted for an expansion of the hours for the Director of Christian Education. Last year, we agreed to cut back the hours for this position; unfortunately, our experience has demonstrated that this only provides for a "caretaker" role, and not a "nurturing and developmental" role. We have a faithful core of children and youth who want and need to



be nurtured and engaged. We plan to restore the leadership resources to a level that can more fully respond to this critical aspect of our vision.

An expanded role for the CE Director also supports our vision of growth. We want to attract younger families, and what better way than to provide support and resources for the whole family? We have also included provisions for additional materials and resources to attract and engage new members.

We have provided a modest cost-of-living pay increase to our staff, after last year's belt-tightening freeze on all salaries and hourly rates. We recognize the need to be fair and responsible to our pastors and employees - as we continue to place heavy demands on all of them to meet our varied and expanding needs.

We have expanded the financial support for the Stewardship Committee, and will also be implementing new avenues for recurring and special gifts through online, electronic means. We have also greatly increased our targeted revenues from various fundraising sources, including the SCRIP-SURE program, a book sale, and allocating some of the next Fair profits to support our ongoing operating needs. This variety of fundraising opportunities will not only support our financial needs, but also help to provide more avenues for members to participate and become engaged in fellowship activities.



We have restored an allocation to the Music Committee for the purchase of new music, reflecting our desire to continue to offer a varied program of musical excellence. After a year of foregoing any new purchases of music, we need to recommit our support for a vital area of our worship experience that so many have extolled as a critical distinctiveness of our church.

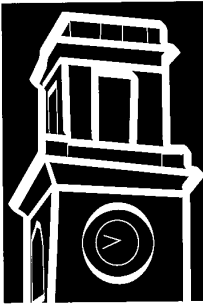


Our Benevolence Budget continues with last year's goal to place more resources toward local programs and charities by increasing support to Operation Fuel, the Cromwell Children's Home, Rocky Hill Human Services, and a new allocation to Hands On Hartford, all while continuing to honor our global mission.

Finally, we continue to provide the funding necessary to maintain our facilities and our administration at a level that efficiently yet appropriately supports our physical plant and our varied programming.

(For those who want to see the traditional "Budget with Numbers", please refer to the church web site.)





WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship
Communion 1st Sunday
10:00 a.m. with childcare



2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1 Noon-4pm Labyrinth 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	2 Noon-4pm Labyrinth 7:00pm Board and Committees	3 9:00am Quilters 10:00am Book Study Noon-4pm Labyrinth 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
7 "Scrip-sure" Orders are Here! 10:00am Worship and Communion 11:45am Lenten Program	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/Baptism 11:15am Budget & Elections Mtg 1:00pm Youth going to Mosque	15 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	16	17 9:00am Quilters 10:00am Book Study 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
21 10:00am Worship 11:45am Lenten/Lunch Program	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 9:30am CT Conf on Ministry 10:00am Book Study 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
28 Palm Sunday "Scrip-sure" Deadline Today	29 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	30	31 9:00am Quilters 10:00am Book Study 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir

VOICE MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

If you call the church and the Voice Mail answers, you do not have to listen to the entire message. Anytime during the message you can have the call transferred directly to the person you are trying to reach by simply keying in the following numbers:

Barbara Libby, Interim Pastor	202	Meghan Young	204
Donna Manocchio, Assoc. Pastor	203	Will Kanute, Dir. of Music	207
Carol Harvey, Office Secretary	201	Dick Webster, Sexton	205

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

805 Old Main Street – Rocky Hill, CT 06067

(860)529-4167 office • (860)257-9637 fax
 office @ rhccucc.org • website: rhccucc.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

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Search Committee 8:00pm Men's AA	5 7:00pm WORLD DAY OF PRAYER @ St. Elizabeth Seton	6 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 10:00am Community Event
11 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Fair Committee 8:00pm Men's AA	12	13 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 10:00am Community Event 6:30pm Movie/Dinner Nite
18 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Bad Girls of the Bible 8:00pm Men's AA	19	20 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 6:00pm Youth Talent Show
25 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	26	27 8:30am Yoga with Lynn

“Scrip-sure”
 orders placed by
February 28 are
 being delivered
March 7

The World
 Day
 of Prayer
 Service
**Friday March
 5, 2010 at 7pm**



**Pot Luck Dinner and
 a Movie
 “The Dish”
 Saturday,
 March 13
 at 6:30 p.m. in
 Chapin Hall**



**Offering will be
 received March 14th**

“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 February 28 will be delivered on Sunday, March 7. For program details, visit the church web site, www.rhccucc.org . If you have any questions, ask Dave Hall (treasurer@rhccucc.org).



Happy Birthday!

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 01 | Bill Hoffman
Thomas Allaire
Todd McGowan
Bill White | 21 | Manuela Young
Ryan Bengston |
| 02 | Carole Christopher
Sean Painter
Rebecca Milles | 22 | Gladys Carpenter |
| 03 | Alice Weil
Pat Gordon
Grace Donahue | 23 | Marilyn Van Doran |
| 04 | John Van Doran | 24 | Hazel Gibbons
Bea Donahue
Janice Wine
Sarah Mosure |
| 05 | Tim Bishop | 25 | Marion Hale
Margaret White |
| 06 | Percy Hall | 26 | Todd Pender |
| 07 | Deborah Durgin
Margaret Vassilopoulos | 27 | Ruth Bergengren
Richard Sweezy, Jr.
Rebekah Van Epps |
| 08 | Dot Hunter
Joan Dean
Kevin Sudell | 28 | Gail Fu
Lisa Siembab
Nicole Graham |
| 09 | Colleen Schultz
Jason Hall | 29 | Katherine Burghoff
Carol Jensen
Laura Fell
Erik Rousseau
David Van Epps |
| 11 | Cheryl Robbins
Chase Corvo | 30 | Jayson Veley |
| 12 | Tim Dostie
Todd Doten
Suzanne Speers
Ryan Walker
Isabella St Pierre | 31 | Pat Hughes-Walworth
Mark Walworth
Jayne Bishop |
| 13 | Richard Somes
Jackie Little | | |
| 14 | Mary D'Addario
Dave Bell | | |
| 15 | Alex Ware | | |
| 16 | Shannon Vaillancourt | | |
| 18 | Jim Bishop | | |
| 19 | Louise Tangarone | | |
| 20 | Sue VanNess
Elaine Somes | | |



Jim and Lois Griswold
were married on
March 16, 1946

Congratulations!

From the Financial Secretary:

Spring is right around the corner (honestly!) and not only will we soon see tulips blooming, we will be entering a new pledge year. To make sure I record your collection correctly, please make a note of which pledge year your donation is for in the memo field of your check or on your offering envelope if paying in cash (e.g., 2009-2010).

As I did in November, in early May, I will be sending to all of you who pledged this year an accounting of your pledge versus contributions. It will include your pledge amount and contributions received and recorded by me from 5/1/09 through 4/30/10. In addition, the same mailing will include Chapin Hall pledges and collections received to date. If your pledge and Chapin Hall commitment (if applicable) were paid-in-full when I sent my letter in November, you will not receive another accounting letter from me. Everyone else who pledged, whether paid-in full, or overdue, will receive a letter from me. If you see any discrepancies between what I have recorded in the letter I send to you and what your records show you have contributed or pledged, please let me know as soon as possible.

And at any time you decide you want to be “green” and receive only e-mail communications from me, you can call me at 860-257-1099 or e-mail me at finsecrhcc@gmail.com.

Thanks so much!

Deb Copes, Financial Secretary

SAVE THE DATE!!! RHCC-UCC BOOK SALE JUNE 12, 2010

As part of our commitment to raise additional funds to help underwrite our budget, the Council is planning a Book Sale fundraiser in June.

Please support this book sale by:

1. Cleaning out your bookshelves
2. Volunteering to work with others on a fun project
3. Shopping at the book sale!!

If you would like to volunteer, please call Ruth Fitzgerald (860) 232-2238 (home) or (860) 543-1520 (cell)



SUNDAY SOUP AND STORIES

AT RHCC, UCC

11:30—12:45 pm Chapin Hall

A simple meal followed by a program for adults & children. Please sign up in Chapin Hall or email office@rhccucc.org or call 860-529-4167.



The Labyrinth will remain in Chapin Hall and Open to the Public 12 noon to 4 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday March 1st, March 2nd, & March 3rd Let your friends and neighbors know that they can also walk a labyrinth this Lent!

SUNDAY, March 7 – What do we believe? What matters to us?

Come join in a discussion about what's important and how our denomination, the United Church of Christ, supports us and offers us faith stories... Lunch by Board of Trustees



SUNDAY, March 21 – The Art of Extravagant Love

John's gospel records Mary of Bethany anointing Jesus with expensive perfume. This extravagant act of love has been imaged in many ways throughout the centuries. Come to explore these images and see how we might be invited to give extravagantly. Lunch by Board of Deacons



The RHCC Pastoral Search Comm. has met twice in February. We are currently working on a Senior Pastor Search website for the congregation to be able to use at a future date. Also, church members should have received their letters in the mail regarding our Church's Search and Call process. If you have not received your letter, please contact a Search Committee member and we

will provide one to you. The Search Committee has been working very hard on our Church Profile and will be meeting with Church Council in the upcoming weeks.

Please visit our display table in Chapin Hall or the hallway outside of the Pastor's office and kindly submit any questions that you may have. Our next meetings are scheduled for March.



Damaris Whittaker MS, has been promoted to Director of Marketing and Development by our Executive Director, Don Steinle. Damaris is a very energetic and dedicated employee and will do an excellent job with her newly appointed duties.

Edgewood Street Housing – The good news is we have four units under contract, which should be closed by early April.

The bad news is the Board of Directors voted at our meeting on January 25, 2010 to withdraw \$490,000 from endowment funds to pay off the interest on our loans. We should receive approximately \$800,000 in grants to pay off bank loans. In the end we should see a \$100,000 profit.

Rich

ADVENTURES IN THE CITY 2010 SUMMER PROGRAM We are Inviting You and Your Congregation to be our Partners!

We are targeting 250-300 children, pre K to 5th grade of Hartford inner city children, Latino, African-American, West Indies and others. Officially have two church sites plus at least one school site (Milner Elementary.)

Your financial support, together with the support of other friends, churches and foundations/corporations will make a difference in the lives of the children.

TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT!

For more information contact: Rev. Edwin Ayala at 860 527-9860
or email him at eayala@christianactivities.org



Christian Activities Council, 47 Vine Street, Hartford, CT 06112
www.christianactivities.org

ADVENTURES IN THE CITY, SUMMER PROGRAM

I would like to donate the following amount \$ _____ Check # _____

Please provide the following information in full:

Circle your preferred title: Ms Mrs Mr Dr None other: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Country _____ Email _____ () I do not want to receive email updates

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____



Ladies' Tea and Fashion Show

InReach is sponsoring a Ladies' Tea and Fashion Show, Sunday, April 11, 2010, at 2 PM in Chapin Hall. Please reserve your ticket by calling Joan Tennyson at (860) 529-8789. Tickets are \$7.00 and include luncheon. Benefits "My Sisters' Place, "a women's/children's shelter. Door prize is a pair of tickets to "Carnival" at the Good Speed this summer.

NEWS FROM THE FAIR COMMITTEE

The Fair Committee is planning our 2010 events. The tentative schedules are:

- Spring Breakfast & Plant Sale – May 1st.
- Memorial Day Parade Refreshment sale – May 31st.
- Fall Country Fair – October 30th.
- Goods & Donated Services Auction – TBA.

The Goods & Service Auction is a new challenge for the Fair Committee. The Church Council has asked if we could hold an event to raise additional dollars to supplement the 2010 – 2011 church budget. For this event to be successful we will need full support from our church family. If you have any suggestions or would like to help with the auction, please contact a member of the Fair Committee.

More details on these events will be in the Church Mouse and Sunday bulletins.

“COMMITMENT IS YOUR FINAL DECISION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE ONES GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO SERVE.”

Your Fair Committee,

Jim Stevens – co-chair

Phyllis Wilkey – co-chair

Annie Hokans – Doll

Neal Cox

Candy Smith

Mary Dean

Elaine Somes

Bob Simmons

Lynn McKenna

Nancy Flynn, Treasure



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



**Join us for Pot Luck Dinner and a Movie
 “The Dish”
 Saturday, March 13th
 at 6:30 p.m. in Chapin Hall**

In this comedy based on real events, a small shepherding village in Australia is thrust into the spotlight when NASA employs its massive satellite radio dish to serve as a backup transmitter for the 1969 *Apollo 11* moon mission. But when a change in the spacecraft's schedule puts the primary dish out of range, it's up to the Aussies to ensure that the history-making mission is broadcast to the masses. [Sam Neill](#) and [Patrick Warburton](#) star.



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.



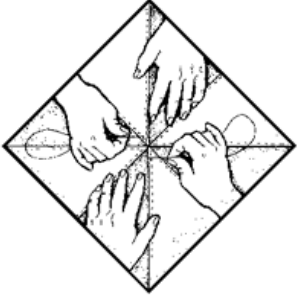
Frank Roswell Fuller was born in Hartford on August 23, 1873 and attended local public schools. He went to New York City and later formed his own company at 40 Wall Street known as Fuller & Company, which operated from 1904 to 1920. When he retired he came to live in West Hartford. He died on March 1, 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



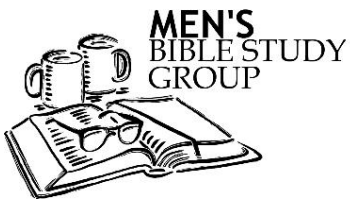
Throughout the year the Quilters have assembled colorful lap robes and small comfort pillows. In December these are given to our local Rocky Hill nursing homes – Apple Rehab, Rocky Hill Health Care, and Mapleview Manor, and to the Veterans Home and Hospital. Quilters also make monetary contributions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



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 Has been postponed until further notice.

AARP'S 4th Annual Women's Scholarship Program

The AARP Foundation is calling for entries to its 4th Annual Women's Scholarship Program. This program provides scholarships to women 40+ who are seeking to gain new job skills, training and education to support themselves and their families.

All application information can be found at: www.aarpfoundationwlc.org
If you have any questions, please contact the AARP CT state office at:
ctaarp@aarp.org



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Food Bank – March 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. Mark Williams thanks the Pew Crew for their prompt response in delivering our donations.

Worthington Trio will perform on March 7 at 4:00 p.m. at Asylum Hill, 814 Asylum Ave., Hartford. \$15 / An afternoon of classical chamber music performed by three of Hartford's most talented musicians; David Bradley and Dan Campolieta on piano, and Lisa Kugelman on violin. A bit of a "world tour," this concert features selections by Mozart, Ravel, Saint-Saëns and Piazzola.

Christian-based Divorce Recovery Seminar – at 1st Church of Christ in Wethersfield on Friday and Saturday, March 12 and 13, 2010. this program includes eight weekly follow up sessions on Wednesday evenings. For further information on the program, fee, or scholarship availability please call 860 529-1575 x212. There is a brochure on the bulletin board on the Old Main Street side of the church.

“Jesus Christ Forever” – A new musical by Neely Bruce on Sunday, March 14 at 4pm. Experience the living history of 1st Christ in Wethersfield and the town of Wethersfield through the centuries! A celebration featuring First Church choirs, soloists, handbells and brass. Reception to follow – free-will offering received – Childcare available—250 Main St., Wethersfield

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 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

Permit #7

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TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed February 25, 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
March 15**



Let Everything That Has Breath
Praise God

**The World Day
of Prayer Service
Friday March 5, 2010 at 7pm
St. Elizabeth Seton
280 Brook St., Rocky Hill**

This is an ecumenical service observed around the world on this date every year. It is hosted by a different Rocky Hill Church each year. This year it takes place at ST. Elizabeth Seton.

Please contact Marge Murk 860-563-0025 or hmmurk@aol.com.