

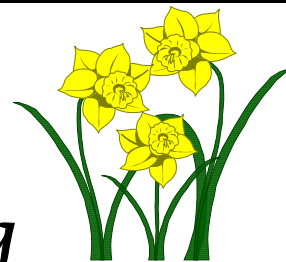
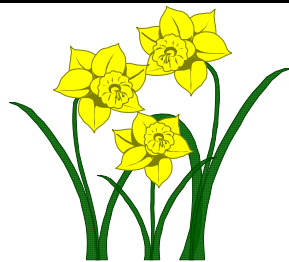


The Reverend Barbara Libby, Interim Minister  
203 389-8946 – [barlibby@rhccucc.org](mailto:barlibby@rhccucc.org)  
The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Assoc. Minister  
860 529-3013 – [associate@rhccucc.org](mailto:associate@rhccucc.org)  
860 529-4167 Church – 860 257-9637 Fax  
Vol. 23 No. 5 – May 1, 2009

## May Newsletter

Editor – Carol Harvey  
RHCC e-mail address – [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)  
Website: [www.rhccucc.org](http://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



## Spring Breakfast

*Saturday - May 2, 2009*

Rocky Hill Congregational Church  
805 Old Main Street  
8-10:00 a.m. - Chapin Hall

### *Menu:*

*Eggs Strata - Pancakes - Cereal*

*French Toast - Bacon - Sausage*

*Juice - Milk - Coffee - Tea*

*Adults \$6.00*

*Kids (4-12) \$4.00*

*"Teacup Auction" and Plant Sale and Bake Sale*



*A View from the  
Interim Pastor's Seat*

By the time you read this we will have completed Pledge Sunday and the Stewardship Committee will be counting up your pledges and following up on pledges not yet received. **If you happen to be someone who has not yet made a pledge of financial support to the Rocky Hill Congregational United Church of Christ for its 2009-2010 budget year - it is not too late! If you need a pledge card just call the church office and we will gladly send you one or help you make arrangements!**

This church, like many others in these tough economic times, will be examining how to use the many resources it has been given - both by current members and by faithful servants of the past who left this church an endowment legacy. The church needs your financial and spiritual support in the days ahead. This is a critical juncture in your church history – as you examine options for staffing, as you continue your visioning process, and as you prepare to begin a search process for a new Pastor - we need your presence with us now more than ever. In the months ahead this church will have some important talking to do about how it wants to spend the resources here at RHCC for this next year and into the future. We need to talk about what you value most about this church's ministry and mission. We need to discuss how to make ends meet when there's not enough money to go all the way around.

Give some thought as to how this church utilizes the gifts it has been given - both in pledges from current friends and members as well as from the gifts given to the church and held in the endowment. It is likely that there will be differing points of views and even strong emotional feelings among folks on these issues. It is possible for us to share differing view points without these views becoming divisive. Where there are differing viewpoints there is always the opportunity to grow and learn together as we seek to find common ground.

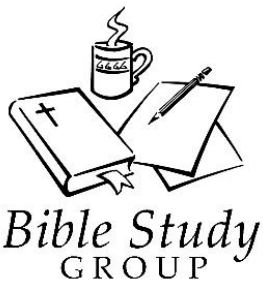
I would urge each of you to consider ways you might make a contribution in the year ahead to the ongoing mission and ministry of this church. Please consider your financial pledge **only part** of your commitment to the work and ministry of this church. Think about additional ways you might share your gifts and talents with this community of faith. Even in the short time that I have been aboard I have discovered an amazing abundance of talent and creativity! Let's build up and strengthen this Body of Christ so it can grow and flourish now and as it moves into the future! Come participate with us in the future face of this church!

Yours in Christ,

Barbara J. Libby, Interim Pastor



- May 3**                    **Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**All Church Communion**  
Scripture: Psalm 23 and John 10:11-18                    The Rev. Barbara J. Libby  
Sermon: "Sheep and The Shepherd"
- May 10**                    **Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
Scripture: Acts 8:26-40, John 15:1-8  
Sermon: "It's Pruning Time"                    The Rev. Barbara J. Libby
- May 17**                    **Sixth Sunday of Easter / Confirmation Sunday**  
Scripture: John 15:9-17                    The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio  
Sermon: "A Friend Request"
- May 24**                    **Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday**  
Scripture: Psalm 47, Acts 1:1-11                    The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio  
Sermon: "The Beginning and the End"
- May 31**                    **Pentecost Sunday**  
Scripture: Acts 2:1-21                    The Rev. Barbara J. Libby  
Sermon: "Earth, Wind and Fire"                    The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio



**Pastor's Bible Study Resumes with  
Interim Pastor, Barbara Libby**

We meet weekly at 12:30pm in the Parlor. Bring your lunch and whatever translation of the Bible you like. Focus will be on the lectionary texts for the coming Sunday. All welcome!

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY  
MAY 31, 2009**

Christians celebrate Pentecost as the "birthday of the church." It is appropriate then for us to welcome new members on Pentecost Sunday. New Member Sunday includes breakfast and an introduction to RHCC and its history and ministry beginning at 8:30am. New members are then received during the 10:00am service. If you have been visiting us for a while and are interested in joining the church or have any questions about membership, please contact Donna or Barbara.

## From the Moderator

Whew!! What a difference a few months makes!!! Just as the earth around us springs forth with the springtime promise of new growth and blossoming life, our church family is also full of activity which, with God's guiding hand, will lead us to new blossoming also. Following are a few thoughts on some current topics:

**Transitions:** In the past few months we have honored and said a fond farewell to Jonathan and have welcomed Barbara Libby as our Interim Pastor to work with Donna in ministering to us and in helping us through a transition process during which we can discern who we are now, who we want to be as a family of faith, and how to work toward moving in that direction. It is indeed fortuitous that we had already begun our visioning process to discern exactly those things prior to our transition of pastors. I look forward with anticipation to working with Barbara and Donna in this process.

**Budget:** If you were at the Budget and Elections meeting or if you read the draft budget in detail, you know that this was a difficult year for budget preparation. As noted at the meeting, this year's budget involves significant cuts over the previous year, but also includes affirmation of our faith in our future. Following long and difficult discussion, the Council made a very conscious decision to not make further reductions which might cut off our options in the future or limit our ability to be a vital and vibrant congregation. Which leads me to the topic of.....

**Stewardship:** It is up to all of us to be stewards—to serve in whatever ways we can and that God calls us to do. At this particular time of year, we are undergoing our annual pledge campaign. Now, more than ever, those of us who are able need to “step up” our commitment to the church that we love and provide for the financial underpinnings that allow us to operate.

**Open and Affirming Vote:** By now we have all received a letter informing us all that there will be a congregational vote on June 7<sup>th</sup> regarding our status as an Open and Affirming church. A copy of the statement that we will be voting on is printed elsewhere in the Churchmouse. I urge everyone to come to that meeting and vote as you feel God calls you to do. This is an exciting time for us as a congregation—and, yes, maybe a stressful time also. I believe that the fact that we have been willing to talk and learn more about this issue speaks well for our health and faith in each other as a congregation.

**Vision:** A final word about vision.....In looking through the wealth of input that we received at our visioning sessions late last year, we see that there is good news and bad news. The good news is that we're a family!! We love belonging here, we value the connections, we value both our traditions and our innovation, and our relationships here are deeply meaningful to us. The bad news is.....we're a family!!...with all the little dysfunctions that exist in **every** family, no matter how close, how strong or how healthy. Just as in our own families, where we might work as we grow and mature to improve relationships, let go of old grievances, or be more tolerant of the basic idiosyncrasies of other family members, we hope to develop ways to work together to do the same in our church family. No matter the outcome of our efforts, we are bound together because we belong to Christ's holy family of love and redemption.

Ruth Fitzgerald for the Council

## *Confirmation Weekend*

*Saturday and Sunday,  
May 16 and 17, 2009*

After a year of prayer, fellowship, service, and fun together, eight young people in our congregation will celebrate confirmation the third weekend in May. The weekend's activities include a 5:00 PM worship service and deacon-sponsored dinner on Saturday evening and the rite of confirmation during the Sunday 10:00 AM worship. This is a significant moment for each of the young people and for the life of our congregation. The prayers and presence of the church family are welcome leading up to this moment and during the weekend's activities. Please continue to support our soon-to- be-newest-members of RHCC!



### *Confirmation Class, 2009*

Michael Bighinatti  
Brianna Calderon  
Skyler Dean-Lee  
Rose Lewis

Joseph Malespini  
Daniel MacNeil  
Rebecca Scribano  
Jayson Veley



**BOARD of DEACONS**

As another fiscal year comes to an end and a new one begins, it is time once again to say farewell to departing Deacons and welcome to our new Deacons. I want to take an opportunity to thank Pat Howland, Barry Wilcock, Jean Palmer and Andri Smith for all of their contributions, support and fellowship. I want to welcome Bill Hoffman, Gail Tine, Stephanie Heneghan and Laurel Cole to the Diaconate. We still do have two openings on the Diaconate which we are hoping to fill. We will have other transitions as well on the Diaconate as we choose new or re-instate existing officers and representatives for our sub-committees.

By the time you read this Churchmouse article, you will have also received a letter from the ONA Committee, the Diaconate & Council announcing the culmination and completion of 1-1/2 years of work by the ONA Committee. The decision to become an Open and Affirming church and the adoption of the ONA statement will be voted on by the members of RHCC at a meeting to be held on June 7<sup>th</sup> after service. The Diaconate voted to disband the ONA Committee at our April meeting with our utmost gratitude for their dedication and for completing their charge thoroughly and outstandingly.

The Diaconate worked this year on resurrecting a parish care program. The program includes visiting home bound members and friends of the church and providing transportation to/from church services and programs. While other priorities did shift us temporarily from starting this program as soon after Laity Sunday as we wanted, I want to thank Julie Dostie and Cheryl Hummel for continuing to move this program ahead. Julie & Cheryl did meet in April with our volunteers to kick off our visitation program. Our ministers have identified for us a number of people who would benefit from a visit. We do have volunteers who are willing to provide transportation to/from church services and events. Please let members of the Diaconate or our ministers know if there is someone who would like a visit from our parish care volunteers or would like a ride to and from church.

Your Brothers and Sisters of the Diaconate,

Deb Copes, Senior Deacon

Laurel Cole, Julie Dostie, Tom Fulda, Stephanie Heneghan, Bill Hoffman, Cheryl Hummel, Bob Inderbitzen, Julia Pickett and Gail Tine



## Open and Affirming Committee

The Open and Affirming Committee completed its charge on April 7 and has been disbanded. In anticipation of the church-wide vote on June 7, the committee's self-study resources remain available. Elsewhere in this issue of the Church Mouse you will find a complete list of all of the references that can be found in the lending library and on the website. There are a host of resources available for those who would like to continue with their own personal research prior to the vote. Of particular note is an updated version of our September mailing to you, containing the answers to the questions you raised at the beginning of the process. There are multiple copies of this document in the library so that you may take one with you and read it at your leisure.

Michael Bower	Stephanie Heneghan	Ron Robbins
Laurel Cole	Bill Hoffman	Tom Rolfe
Mary Dean	Katie Hoffman-Fulda	Steve Smith
Tim Dostie	Pat Howland	Wendy Ware
Gail Hall, chairperson	Bob Inderbitzen	

### Self-Study References for Rocky Hill Congregational Church's Open and Affirming Discernment Process

#### Books in the lending library

- *Talking About Homosexuality*
- *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality*
- *Congregations Talking about Homosexuality*

#### DVDs in the lending library

- Recording of April 6, 2008 presentation : *Different Ways We Read the Bible*
- Recording of April 27, 2008 program by Wayne Rollins: *Jesus, The Bible, and You*
- UCC Video: *Open and Affirming – A Journey of Faith*
- PBS program: *For the Bible Tells Me So*
- **NEW!** UCC Video: *Call Me Malcolm* – a new reference focusing specifically on transgender issues

#### Handouts to take with you from the lending library

- American Psychological Association article on Sexual Orientation
- American Psychological Association article on Gender Identity
- Documentation of responses to congregation's questions
- March 9, 2008 Presentation on "What is ONA?"

## Website

- Documentation of all RHCC ONA programs
- Audio of September 28, 2008 scripture and sermon by Jonathan and Donna
- Short YouTube video featuring several transgender individuals
- Documentation of the ONA process at the Windsor UCC church
- Helpful website links

## Documents available both in the lending library and on the website

- UCC's history with the ONA issue
- Material shared in the April 6, 2008 program on *Different Ways We Read the Bible*
- Handouts from the small group Bible studies
- Article from SoulForce on the Biblical aspects of the ONA issue
- Articles from the American Psychological Association and Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)
- Several personal reflections about what it is like to be gay, some from our own members and some from elsewhere
- Information from churches that undertook an ONA process with varying results

## RHCC ONA process documentation available on the website and in the lending library

- All church mailing from the Diaconate
- Frequently asked questions from the Diaconate
- Committee Charter and membership listing
- Committee meeting minutes
- Church Mouse articles
- September all church mailing from the ONA Committee
- Printed copy of the September 28 dialogue sermon presented by Jonathan and Donna

### **ONA Vote set for Sunday, June 7**

Last week, every member should have received a joint letter from the Council, Diaconate and ONA (Open and Affirming) Committee summarizing the recommendations of the ONA Committee which were unanimously approved and advanced by both Diaconate and Council. Per our constitution, every member who is present at the meeting that day can vote. We will be voting by paper ballot. Please read the letter that you received for more information.

Prior to the vote, there will be two *informational meetings* to discuss the draft ONA statement that we will be voting on. These informal discussion meetings will be held May 3 and May 31.

The ONA statement that we will be voting on is as follows on the next page:

**Rocky Hill Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Open and Affirming Statement**

Because we believe that all people are created in God's image and thus are blessed and loved equally by God, and because love is a unifying and strengthening force within our Christian Faith,

We, the members of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hereby declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people.

We welcome all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background, to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.

Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children into God's covenantal community. As we grow together in faith and love, we will strive to celebrate the diversity in which God has created in us.

**News from the Fair Committee**

Your Fair Committee is working hard getting things in order for the fall fair. The fair will be on Saturday, October 24th. We are in desperate need of chairpersons for the Silent Auction and Tag Sale Booth. If you are able to help us PLEASE contact Jim Stevens as soon as possible. These booths generate a good deal of revenue for the church. The success of the fair is dependent on all of you who volunteer your time and effort and we truly thank you for that!

We would also like to welcome new members Mary Dean, Candy Smith and Neal Cox to the committee.

The next meeting of the fair committee is on Thursday, May 21st at 7 p.m.



## Board of Missions

### **Christian Activities Council**

The CAC sends along its thanks for funding “Adventures in the City,” an educational program to help Hartford area children. It will be extended this summer from 5 wks to 10 weeks as a request from the HTFD public school system, and our donation will help a great deal!

We’ve received news that Stimulus Package money will go toward the “Neighborhood Revitalization Plan,” which will refurbish a home to sell in the Hartford area.

### **Foodshare Walk for Hunger**

Thanks to all who supported and/or walked in the Walk to End Hunger on May 3. Look for more opportunities to support Foodshare in the future.

### **Pastoral Counseling Center**

Free seminars are being offered by professional staff on various subjects, such as “Surviving and Growing in Times like These.” See Dave Edwards for more information.

### **Hartford Immersion Trip**

Thanks to all who attended the immersion on Monday April 13.

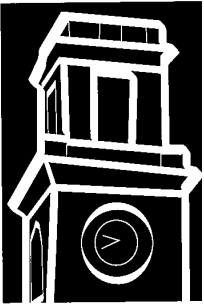
### **Blanket Cards for Mother’s Day**

We will be selling blanket cards in Chapin Hall on May 3. It is a great way to honor our mothers and to help mothers and families around the world.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** has raised \$813 so far.

**This year’s Easter offering** raised \$1600 (\$100 more than last year!) with half going to Back Bay Mission and half going to Rocky Hill Human Services. Thanks to all for your generosity!

**[The listing of prayer concerns is omitted from the online version of the newsletter.]**



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m. with childcare**  
 Children are invited to go to their Sunday  
 school classes after Children's Lesson



**2009**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>3 Family Worship/Communion</b> <b>Children's Mission / Baptism</b> 11:30am ONA Discussion 11:30am Lunch Bunch 3:00pm Confirmation	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Boards and Committees	<b>6</b> 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
<b>10</b> <b>Last Sunday School Class</b> 10:00 am Baptism 3:00pm Confirmation	<b>11</b> 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Council	<b>13</b> 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
<b>17</b> 10:00am Confirmation Sunday 2:00pm Community Event	<b>18</b> 9:00am RHCCNS Picnic 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Baby Quilters 7:00pm Hartford Assoc Annual Mtg	<b>20</b> 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
<b>24</b> <b>Preparation for Children's Sunday</b>	<b>25 Office Closed</b> 7:00pm Women's AA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00am Quilters 9:30am CT Conference 12:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
<b>31 New Members</b> <b>Preparation for Children's Sunday</b> 11:30am ONA Discussion 12:00pm Tea & Fashion Show			

**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 Minister	202	CE	204
Donna Manocchio, Assoc. Minister	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, Senior Minister  
 The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Associate Minister  
 The Reverend Arthur C. Weil, Minister Emeritus  
 Will Kanute, Director of Music



**Annual Report**  
 due  
**May 15<sup>th</sup>**

If you cannot be on time please call Carol in the office and make arrangements.

Thank You

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:00am Spring Breakfast
<b>7</b> 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> CT Conference Annual Mtg 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 8:30am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Dinner/Movie
<b>14</b> 9:00am RHCCNS Picnic 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>15</b> <b>Annual Report Due Today</b>	<b>16</b> 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 3:30-pm Confirmation Practice, Worship and Celebration
<b>21</b> 12:00pm Community Meeting 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Fair Meeting 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>22</b> 8:30am Rocky Hill 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> graders tour	<b>23</b> 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 8:30am Men's Bible Study
<b>28</b> 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>29</b> 8:30am Rocky Hill 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> graders tour	<b>30</b> 8:30am Yoga with Lynn



Lois Wilcox has been requiring more care so it was in her best interest for the family to move her. She would appreciate cards or letters sent to:

Lois Wilcox  
 91 E. Shore Blvd  
 Unionville CT 06085-1561



- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 2  | Jeanne Timrud<br>Cristina Connor<br>Liam Flynn                  |    | Milton Santiago<br>Matthew Yorgensen                                |
| 3  | Beverly Ahlberg<br>Lee Durgin<br>Cynthia Sweezy<br>Laura Walker | 16 | Jean Hamilton<br>Bill Evans<br>Hilaire Leavitt                      |
| 4  | Christopher Sheehan<br>Ben Bellizzi                             | 17 | Rebecca Behlman   |
| 5  | Paul Maynard<br>Sara Toft<br>Abigail Bellizzi                   | 19 | Keri Lamontagne<br>Alana Hokans                                     |
| 6  | Joan Tennyson<br>Jane Lataille                                  | 20 | Judith Milles<br>Abigail Charamut                                   |
| 7  | Brianna Calderon<br>Charles Vassilopoulos II                    | 21 | David Kromas<br>Tate Veley<br>Megan Grandell<br>Emily Grandell      |
| 9  | Chris Mullins<br>Kim Rutigliano                                 | 22 | Louise Butts<br>Cherilyn Moore                                      |
| 10 | Catherine Riberio<br>Eric Hart                                  | 24 | Melissa Blake   |
| 12 | Waverly Kelley<br>Louise Risley                                 | 25 | Bob Hamilton<br>Jim Wakeman<br>Jim McLean                           |
| 13 | Adam Carberry<br>Mark Carberry                                  | 27 | Priscilla Lexa<br>Laurie Pipke<br>Doug Elliot<br>Carol Marshall     |
| 14 | Steve Smith<br>Paul Burnham<br>Randy Pulling<br>Bob Furman      | 28 | Lynda Santiago<br>Karen Coughlin<br>Stephanie Kelley<br>Justin Ross |
| 15 | Tia Sheathelm<br>Debbie Linklater                               | 29 | Jim DeGiovanni  |
|    |   | 30 | Brian Tokarski  |



**Please pray for the  
family and friends of**

**Eunice Newell**  
who died on  
**February 22**



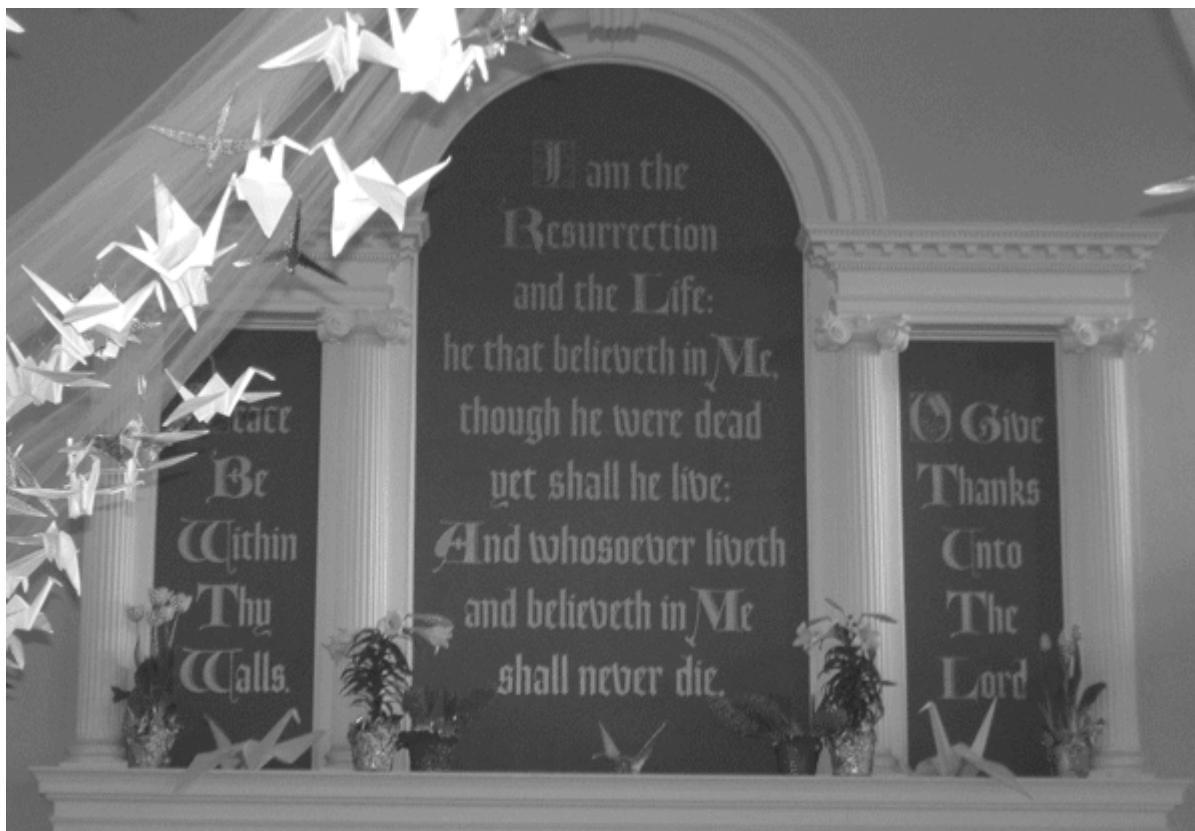
**Bill and Janet Pierson**  
were married on  
**May 4, 1963**

**Jim and Lois Stevens**  
were married on  
**May 14, 1955**

**Al and Joan Diaz**  
were married on  
**May 15, 1964**

**Bob and Dot Hunter**  
were married on  
**May 19, 1951**

## We Give Thanks!



The RHCC sanctuary is filled with over 1500 paper cranes, made during the days of Lent by members and friends of the church. A universal symbol of peace, the cranes invite our commitment to sharing the peace and love of Christ made known at Easter with our community and our world. The cranes will remain in the sanctuary until Pentecost Sunday, May 31. To all who helped create and decorate the sanctuary for Easter and the Easter season we give thanks.



### Easter Flowers

On behalf of the Flower Committee, thanks again to all who generously contributed to the beautiful floral display in the Sanctuary this Easter Sunday.

Special thanks to Judy Graham and Dick Webster who always do such a wonderful job of decorating.

This year's service was especially beautiful due the efforts of Julia Pickett and Mary Dean along with their helpers. The very creative display of the symbolic cranes in flight was absolutely breathtaking.

Please accept my personal apologies if there were any errors or omissions in the memorial flowers listing.

Joan M. Diaz  
Chairperson, Flower Committee



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

*"We are all stewards – an ongoing process"*

We are still accumulating the data from Stewardship Sunday and those pledges that were returned to the office. Remember, our goal this year is 100% participation. If you have misplaced your pledge card, please call the church office and one will be sent immediately. If you have not returned your pledge card, please return it as soon as possible.

The Stewardship Committee will be contacting those individuals who have not returned their pledge cards shortly.

The Stewardship Committee has postponed the remaining Planned Giving Seminars until the fall. It was obvious, when we only had one individual sign up for the Life Insurance Seminar that we need to do better in educating the congregation on the personal benefits of these seminars.

"YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE WHERE YOU ARE UNTIL  
YOU DECIDE WHERE YOU WOULD RATHER BE."

For the Stewardship Committee,

Jim Stevens, Chair

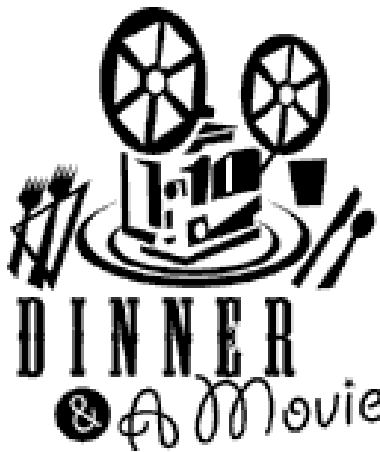
### Financial Secretary



The 2008-2009 pledge year ends 4/30/2008. Please try to pay any remaining pledge amounts promptly. Over due statements will be issued using Church Windows in a new format as of 4/30/09. To assure payments are correctly allocated please mark in the memo section of your check the pledge year. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Financial Secretary these last six years and wish Deb Copes well as she steps in.—Kim Batterson Biglow



In an effort to reduce spending we will be removing the water coolers. If anyone out there uses Poland Spring for home use and wants to purchase the bottles which we have not used please call the church office and make arrangements with Carol for pick up. Thank you—Dave Hall



**Come for Dinner and a Movie!**  
**Saturday, May 9 in Chapin Hall**  
**6:30 pm**

**This month we will be trying a Pot Luck dinner**  
**so bring your favorite dish to share.**

The movie is *Henry Poole Is Here*. Henry Poole is a disillusioned man who attempts to hide from life only to discover he cannot escape the forces of hope.

Shattered by circumstances beyond his control, Henry Poole settles in to suburban isolation, but his well-meaning busybody neighbor destroys his exile when she discovers a mysterious stain on Henry's stucco wall that is seen to have miraculous powers.

With the help of the beautiful young divorcee next door and her daughter, Millie, Henry finds himself gradually drawn towards life as he realized his plan to live out his days in quiet desperation is going to be much harder than he imagined.

Luke Wilson in one of his first non comedic roles is Henry Poole.

## **New Testament Poem**

**MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE** and **JOHN**

Tell what Christ did in every place;

The **ACTS** tell what the Apostles did,

And **ROMANS** how we're saved by grace.

**CORINTHIANS** instruct the church;

**GALATIANS** show us Christ alone;

**EPHESIANS**, true love, and in

**PHILIPPIANS** God's grace is shown.

**COLOSSIANS** tells us more of Christ,

And **THESSALONIANS** of the end;

In **TIMOTHY** and **TITUS** both

Are rules for preachers to attend.

**PHILEMON**, Christian friendship shows,

Then **HEBREWS** clearly tells how all

The Jewish law prefigured Christ;

And these Epistles are by Paul.

**JAMES** shows that faith by works must live,

And **PETER** urges steadfastness;

While **JOHN** exhorts to Christian love,

For those who have it God will bless.

**JUDE** shows the end of evil men,

And **REVELATION** tells of Heaven;

This is the end of the New Testament

And all the books are twenty-seven.

—Author unknown

## A Message from the Trustees

After considerable discussion and deliberation, the Trustees have decided to experiment with a measure to increase the safety and security of the church and our congregation. On Sunday mornings, about 5 to 10 minutes after the beginning of Worship, we will lock the Center St and Old Main St doors and put up a sign welcoming late comers and asking them to enter thru the front doors of the church. Also as a reminder, during the week, the Center St door will be locked when staff members are alone in the church; so if you don't have a key, you will have to use the intercom to contact the office.

Dave Sageman



### SAVING GREEN/GOING GREEN

In an attempt to save postage and office supplies the Board of Trustees is asking members, who are able, to receive church correspondences via E-mail or on the church website. Items will also be available for pick up at the church office. Please contact Carol in the office with your E-mail address or let her know if you are interested in picking items up.—Todd Doten

### **HARTFORD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

**MAY 19, 2009**

**7:00 pm**

**RHCC**

This year, RHCC will host the annual meeting of the Hartford Association. This is a gathering of the 27 churches in our association to help build and celebrate our covenantal commitments and conversation, and to do the work of the association. This year's gathering will have an exciting celebration! Our meeting will include the installation of a new church – La Nueva Cosecha (New Harvest Church). The church meets at Broadview Community Church, UCC in Hartford, and was received into the association through an ecclesiastical council held in March. The pastor, Jose Santiago, and the people of La Nueva Cosecha will provide a spirited worship in our sanctuary, and we will have an opportunity to pray for and with them. **ALL MEMBERS OF EVERY CHURCH IN OUR ASSOCIATION ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**, and it would be wonderful to have members of our congregation welcome and greet people. If you'd like to attend or can help out that evening, please give Donna a call or send her an email at [associate@rhccucc.org](mailto:associate@rhccucc.org)



### **RHCCNS - Fall 2009 Nursery School Openings**

Our nursery school has openings in both the 3 and 4 year old classes for next year. Our 3's class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the 4's class is held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Both programs run from 9:00 AM – 11:30am. If you know someone interested in finding a quality preschool program, please

invite them to drop by and visit us. Please help us spread the word throughout the community. Our school year ends the middle of May, but visitors are welcome to come in during our final few weeks of school. Your recommendation of our long standing program is our best advertising! Applications are available in the hallway outside the classroom.



If you would like a name tag to wear on Sunday mornings please call the church office at 529-4167 and I will make one for you. You can also put your request in the offering plate on Sunday and it will be given to me.—Carol Harvey



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.

The deadline for submitting your application and other documents is May 15<sup>th</sup>.



The gathering of women who have made Baby Quilts in the past was originally begun under the umbrella of Women's Fellowship. Attendance has been dwindling and we have decided to reinvent ourselves. So all types of projects are welcome...come to quilt, sew, crochet, knit, do needlework, scrapbook, make crafts for the fair or any other type of project but mostly to enjoy the company!. Quilts kits will still be available to those who want them and dessert will be provided. We will continue to meet the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Fiorilli Room. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions please contact Kim Batterson Biglow.



**The Saturday Men's Bible Study Group** is 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Saturday of each month from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor. We also evaluate local coffee and donuts at each session. If you are interested and would like to attend one of our sessions, please feel free to contact Phil Swain, Bill Hoffman, Bill Timrud, Frank Vann or Jim Stevens – or just show up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 8:30 a.m.



Every Sunday, the coffee served after our church service supports The United Church of Christ Coffee Project. Coffee is available for sale in Chapin Hall during coffee hour on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. The Inreach Committee has available for purchase in the Parlor: Gourmet coffee (\$6.25/each), Tea (\$3/box), Hot cocoa mix (\$5/can). Please consider making all of your coffee and tea purchases at church! And, offer a donation for the cup of coffee you enjoy every Sunday. Now that's really "good to the last drop!"

## Your "At Large" Council Members Are All Ears!

We are ready to hear your ideas and comments.  
We are the voice of the congregation to the Council.

Just contact:

Bob Hamilton, 635-5648 (RevBobJean@aol.com)

Wendy Ware, 563-5631 ([sware@snet.net](mailto:sware@snet.net))

Jan LaCava, 529-2192 ([janetyl@aol.com](mailto:janetyl@aol.com))



## The Pause

We have many voices inside that speak to us. I often hear my father's voice who says "there is so much to do and so little time to do it." I heard that so often it became a mantra, one that I have had to battle, as I face rush-a holism.

The only thing that slows some of us down is getting sick but often we can not get well fast enough. We are a society of constant motion. We feel angry if things take too long. We want higher and higher speed on the internet. We pray that the economy will be revived yesterday. Some believe that New England is the most rushed place in the country. When was the last time your body, mind, and soul actually felt relaxed?

We want our food fast and we do not want our healing to take too much time. We want our children to be getting ready for college by the time they start kindergarten. We speed read and we connect with zooming emails. When is the last time you got a genuine handwritten letter from someone who cares about you?

And yet, the pause is what can save us. For in the pause the Soul finds its flow nourished and God gets a few minutes with us. Charlotte Bell, a yoga teacher, said *"slowing down the pace of our lives transforms the mundane into the transcendent."*

A friend in southern California has done some wonderful work on the pause. Dr. Ernest Rossi, a Jungian Analyst and Clinical Psychologist, believes that there is a natural rhythm of activity and rest in us that runs for about an hour and half through the day. He says that every hour and half we need to take a rest break. If you don't he has found that we lose our focus, tend to make mistakes, have accidents, and experience stress that can eventually leave us sick. Shakespeare said *"wisely, and slow. They stumble that run fast."*

To increase productivity and quality perhaps our places of work should have daily nap times or places of silence where we can stop and close our eyes and have some time to catch up with ourselves. Perhaps each day we need a couple time outs where we journal and shut out the world and take a slow walk.

William Henry Davies said: "A poor life this if, full of care. We have no time to stand and stare." Learning to pause is a spiritual practice that allows us to downshift and find ourselves, and feel our soul.

I imagine Jesus took his time, walked slowly and often closed his eyes and took a deep breath and found the kingdom of God wherever he was.

(by Rev. Dr. Robert Henderson, Director, Pastoral Counseling Center, Inc. He can be reached at [Rob444@Cox.net](mailto:Rob444@Cox.net) or (860-659-0183)



# A NEW YOGA CLASS!

*Quiet the Mind  
Increase Flexibility  
Reduce Stress*

*Promote Health and Wellness*

**Instructor:** Pamela Clark R.N.  
(Certified Instructor of Integral School of Yoga)

**When:** Wednesday Evenings

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Rocky Hill Congregational Church  
Chapin Hall

**Cost:** \$80 for 8 Classes / \$12 a Drop-in Class

**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. Class is for all-levels with options for everyone!

*Warning: a side effect from practicing yoga is a clear focused mind, increased energy level and a toned body free of stress!*

**Day:** Saturday mornings  
**Dates:** May 9, 16, 23, 30 / June 6, 13, 20, 27  
**Time:** 8:30-9:30am in Chapin Hall  
**Location:** Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT  
**Fee:** Drop in: \$10.00 / 10 classes for \$70.00 / 5 classes for \$40.00  
**Instructor:** Lynn MacDonald / Please contact 860-550-4660 to register  
**Bring:** Water bottle, yoga mat, and a friend!!



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Food Bank – May 3** 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 for his prompt response in delivering our donations.

**The Town of Rocky Hill Human Services Department** announces the availability of financial assistance to help pay for the cost of a summer camp experience for children in Rocky Hill. Families who demonstrate a financial need and lack resources may apply for partial assistance toward the total camp cost. The maximum benefit per household is \$200. Income guidelines are a gross maximum of \$38,279 for a family of 2, \$47,286 for a family of 3 and \$56,283 for a family of 4. There is a liquid asset guideline of \$5000. Applicants are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. The camp is the parent or guardian's choice. Community donations have made it possible to offer this resource to financially deprived families. If you have questions, please call Human Services at 258-2799 or 258-2724.

**The Volunteer Care Teams of Rocky Hill** – invite you to their annual reception to honor volunteers and friends of the Volunteer Care Teams on Wednesday, May 13 from 7-8:30pm at the Rocky Hill Community Center Room 1. The evening includes dinner, a speaker and an awards ceremony. Rev. Ron Cox from United Methodist Church will be the featured speaker.

**First Church of Christ in Wethersfield is presenting “Musical”** on Sunday May 17 at 6pm. Cherub, Carol and Pilgrim Youth Choirs will be performing. Free-will offering will be received. 250 Main Street in Wethersfield.

**Press Release – Food Pantry Donations Needed** – The Town of Rocky Hill Human Services Department is in need of donations for our food pantry which is maintained for needy residents. Our food pantry has a variety of non-perishable food items available for qualified residents. Donations from various churches, community groups, and individuals provide the supply for the pantry. Our supply at this time is very low. If you are interested in more information or interested in donating to the food pantry please drop off donations at the address below or call 860-258-2799 or 258-2724. Please be aware the expiration dates on donations as we can not take any donations that are expired.

**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](mailto:care@firstchurch.org)

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

Non-Profit Organization  
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Rocky Hill, CT

Permit #7

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Mailed April 28, 2009



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  
May 15**



**Inreach is sponsoring a  
Ladies Tea and Fashion Show  
Sunday, May 31, 2009  
at 2:00 pm in Chapin Hall**

to benefit My Sister's Place Shelter for  
battered women and children. The cost will be \$6.00 per  
person. Tickets will be available in Chapin Hall starting  
Sunday, May 3, 2009.