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Vol. 24 No. 5 – May 1, 2010



May Newsletter

Editor – Carol Harvey
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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

Happy Mother's Day!

We extend an invitation to all great-grandmothers to worship with us on Mother's Day, May 9th. During this worship we will proudly recognize our great-grandmothers of the church. If you are recently a new great-grandmother or if your name is not on this list, please contact the church office and let us know. Happy Mother's Day!

Thelma Backe
Charlotte Bacon
Carol Baran
Ruby Bennett
Mary-Edith Bowman
Barbara Burgess
Del Buswell
Duffy Carruthers
Carole Christopher
Amy Cooke
Evelyn Danforth
Doris Day
Joan Dean
Phylis Dexter
Ruby Dimock

Jeannette Doane
Myrtle Furman
Hazel Gibbons
Lois Griswold
Shirley Griswold
Marion Hale
Jean Hamilton
Janet Hansen
Midge Harvey
Doris Hick
Gladys Kitchens
Janet Kunzelman
Eleanor Maynard
Ella Michaud
Betty Mooney

Irene Moore
Jean Palmer
Emily Rosenthal
Betty Rowe
Doris Schreier
Thelma Somes
Sylvia Steucek
Louise Tangarone
Joyce Toft
Liz Vann
Alice Weil
Dot Wenzel
Dorothea Wiley



A Message From
Pastor Barbara

Poet Wendell Berry suggests we “practice resurrection”... That invitation to “practice” resurrection intrigues me. I think we have to keep practicing it simply so we might try to get closer to comprehending it. Day after day, week after week, year in and year out our task is to “practice resurrection.”

In Eastertide we continue to reflect on the miracle of the resurrection. We focus on the meaning of the empty tomb on that first Easter. We focus on what it means for us to talk and walk in our own gardens with the risen Christ.

It does take “practice” to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Life does not always make it easy for us to “practice resurrection”. It does take practice and some intentionality to grow our faith, to move forward on our journeys of faith, to expand our faith.

In the same poem Berry encourages us to “every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world.” This world needs more love – there's no doubt about that. This world (and each one of us really) needs more affirmation, more reassurance, more tender care, and more love. (See Wendell Berry's “Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front”)

It is all too easy to get into a pattern of complaint, criticism, and fault finding.

Dr. Maya Angelou has inspired many to create an optimal world rather than complaining about the world as it is. Her quotation, "If you don't like something, change it, if you can't change it, change your attitude - don't complain" is the motto of an organization that calls itself A Complaint Free World. (See AcomplaintFreeWorld.org)

The world needs us to love more – to love one another, to love God, and to love the world. And yes, that is often hard work. And yes, that is sometimes not what we want to do. And yes, that sometimes does not compute. Yet, Jesus reminded us over and over again that love can make a difference in this world.

Practice resurrection! And every day, let us do something that “won't compute.”

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.

Book Study – The book study group continues on Wednesday's at 10:00am on May 12 and 26th in the Parlor There will also be a book study at 10:00am on May 23 and 26. We are reading “The Future of Faith” by Harvey Cox.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR EASTERTIDE

- May 2** **Fifth Sunday of Easter**
 Scripture: Revelations 21:1-6 The Rev. Barbara J. Libby
 John 13:31-35
 Sermon: “All Things New”

- May 9** **Sixth Sunday of Easter / Mother’s Day**
 Scripture: Acts 16:9-15 The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio
 Sermon: “Shall We Gather at the River?”

- May 16** **Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday**
 Scripture: Acts 1:1-11 The Rev. Donna K. Manocchio
 Sermon: “Waiting and Watching”

- May 23** **Pentecost Sunday**
The Orchestra will be playing at this service.
 Scripture: Acts 2:1-21 The Rev. Barbara J. Libby
 Sermon: “Filled with the Holy Spirit”

- May 30** **Trinity Sunday**
 Scripture: Psalm 8 & Romans 5 1:15 The Rev. Barbara J. Libby
 Sermon: “One God in Three”



Flower Chart in Chapin Hall

The 2010 flower chart is posted in Chapin Hall. **We have many vacant spots.** If you would like to reserve your flower Sunday, please add your name to the chart or call one of the committee members listed below. Thank you!—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

From the Financial Secretary

As I did in November, early this month, I will be sending to all of you who pledged this year an accounting of your pledge versus actual 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.

I do hope you will consider taking advantage of our electronic funds transfer (EFT) option for your pledge. If you need more information about it, please feel free to contact me. I will be on vacation from May 12-May 23 but if you e-mail me or leave me a message at home, I will return your call as soon as I return. 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

The Stewardship committee wishes to thank all those members of our Church family who place their offering in the plate each Sunday.

We recognize that some of us, who offer our treasure monthly, quarterly etc., may feel somewhat uncomfortable in not "putting something in the plate".

Therefore you will now find "Giving Cards" in the pews that can be placed in the offering plate. Feel free to use if you wish.

Thank you.

Giving Card

Part of my worship is giving back to God – with joy and gratitude – from all that I have received.

I have already given for this period, so today I celebrate this commitment, using this card as a reminder of my act of giving.



God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**





While leaving my first Diaconate meeting I remarked that my brain was “fried.” So much had been discussed and planned, so much to be decided and implemented. A fellow deacon explained that spring is a particularly busy time—things would calm down. I have not experienced a calmed-down time in our church community. But that is a good

thing indicating the vibrance of us all.

Speaking of energy, Bob Inderbitzen has completed his time with the Diaconate and his year as Senior Deacon. Had I ever imagined that I would be trying to follow his service I would have watched more carefully. But then who could pretend to keep track of the many roles and ways he contributes to our church family? Thanks does not hold enough meaning. Cheryl Hummel has also reached the end of her service on the Diaconate and her many roles with pastoral care and as treasurer will be missed.

As we welcome Judy Graham and Candy Smith we hope that all church members will support our endeavors with their ideas, opinions and prayers.

The Easter season and the blossoming spring of God’s bounty and beauty does seem, as Donna said, to be the beginning of a new church season, an appropriate time to change boards and committees and to rededicate ourselves to the service of our God and our congregation.

Stephanie Heneghan, Senior Deacon



A "Welcome Table" has been established in Chapin Hall by the Board of Deacons to provide information and conversation to any visitor or prospective new member. The table includes a WELCOME banner quilted by Deacon Stephanie Heneghan. Recently, a visitor commented that she felt a wonderful, positive spirit within our congregation. Please help us by warmly acknowledging visitors in the sanctuary and inviting newcomers downstairs to Chapin Hall.





STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee is still at work. Pledge Sunday has come and gone. If you have not returned your pledge form, there is still time to participate and share in the joy of giving. During the past three months we have been taking part in creating a new look to the annual task of raising everyone's awareness of the financial support necessary:

- to keep our church building safe, sound, and in good repair;
- to keep education programs for youth and adults current, informative, and inviting;
- to keep the music programs varied, inspirational, and an essential part of worship; and
- to keep the missions, ministry, fellowship, worship integral elements of our church life together.

In so doing, letters were sent by mail, articles written for the February, March, and April editions of the *Churchmouse*. Several members of our church family told of shared time, talents, and/or treasures during Sunday morning "Stewardship Moments." We were also treated to a special presentation of the 2010-2011 *Budget Story (Without Numbers!)* not just in the printed version, but with added videos and also online Website viewing. Our Pastors guided us in connecting biblical references to our everyday lives helping us to understand our covenantal responsibilities as faithful and generous members of this congregation.

As of April 27th 104 pledges have been submitted. Together we have reached \$186,070 or 69% of the proposed Local Budget; and \$41,110 or 87% of the proposed Missions Budget.

If you have not yet shared in this joy and expressed your commitment to our financial stability, now is the time to do so. The final accounting is still open! If you have questions, or need a fresh Pledge form, please contact one of the Stewardship Committee members or call the Church office.

Your dedication and generous expression of faith will always be gratefully received.

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

Thank You



Board of Missions

Spreading the Love

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him” John 3:16-17

During this Season of Easter, we reinforce the notion that God’s love, through Jesus, is steadfast and life-altering, both for his apostles and followers, and for us, his modern-day disciples. Part of the way we celebrate this love is to share it, both through our everyday relationships, and through helping those we may never meet. As Jesus healed the sick, comforted the grieving, embraced the outcast, and taught us to love one another as we would love ourselves, his followers went forth and did as he did, spreading that love through the building of the church, and through works of service and generosity.

On May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday, an offering will be collected to **Strengthen the Church**, which will help us, through OCWM, to strengthen our connection to the wider church community, and help churches right here in our area. **Strengthen the Church** grows the UCC's future by funding [new church](#) starts and **invigorating existing congregations**, nurturing **lay and pastoral leadership**, building [youth](#) and [young adult](#) ministries, and supporting the [God is Still speaking Ministry](#) and its extravagant welcome for all within the UCC. All gifts are directed to activities and programs of **your church's local conference** as well as the [UCC's national ministries](#). Pentecost is the time when we celebrate the founding of our church. What better time to celebrate our wider church and help support the mission of the UCC, both here in Connecticut, and throughout the world.

On Sunday, May 2nd, members of our church walked in **Foodshare’s 27th Annual Walk against Hunger**. Curious how much we raised? How many walkers did we have? Look for an update in the next church bulletin.

The Board for Missions is happy to welcome new members Tom Kainamura and Stephanie Kelley

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

Where did your money go in April?

Veterans of the Cross (Easter Collection)	\$1617
Chile Earthquake Relief Fund	\$ 50 (match from donations)
Rocky Hill Human Services	\$1200

Your Board for Missions are: Michael Bower – Chair, Linda Calcagni, Bob Carberry, Dave Edwards, Diana Gengenbach, Tom Kainamura, Stephanie Kelley, Marge Murk – Secretary, Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio

"All things are possible to those who believe."

MARK 9:23

Expanding Our Vision

Eva Chipenda challenged and inspired me to go to Angola. Let me tell you a little about her: As Eva closes in on 80 years of age, she has pushed with all her considerable might to open the Canata Preschool Program which currently enrolls nearly 100 children between the ages of 3 and 5. When you walk in the courtyard door, the children run to greet and embrace you – but, not with the same fervor that occurs when they see Dona Eva enter. They cry out her name and last week practically knocked her off her feet in their enthusiasm to hug her!



DONNA
DUDLEY

Creating a better life, for herself, her family, and others, has been the story of Eva's life. Of twelve children, she was one of only three in her family who survived to adulthood. Frequently uprooted, Eva often felt herself to be an outsider, but never let the changes that distanced her from family and peers stop her quest for education and training. As her husband, José became internationally known as head of the All Africa Conference of Churches, Eva often lived in his shadow, not uncommon for Angolan women. But in her own way, Eva always managed to emerge from that shadow to shed her own bright light. Everywhere they went – from New York to Geneva to Nairobi to Lobito – Eva availed herself of opportunities to learn and developed her vision to start projects in Angola – including dressmaking, culinary arts, and children's programs. Now these many projects have improved the lives of hundreds of women and children.

Eva has encouraged me and stretched my own vision of what is possible for women to achieve. The challenge is for each of us to step out of any shadow that can hide our light and become our best selves.

Donna Dudley serves with the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola. She assists with development projects and staff leadership training programs.



You make the difference . . .

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG

A message from Diaconate and Trustees...

Friends, many of you may have noticed some chairs at the back of the Sanctuary over the past few weeks. They represent part of a joint project by Diaconate and Trustees to determine alternative options for seating in the Sanctuary.

A subcommittee of the two Boards has been formed to explore options for different seating. The subcommittee is made up of Neal Cox (Trustees), Lynne Lataille (Trustees), Deb Copes (Diaconate), and Stephanie Heneghan (Diaconate).

This effort is an attempt to make things more comfortable and flexible for all. The subcommittee will also explore other options around the Church to accommodate people with special needs (e.g. wheelchairs, walkers, etc.)

Rest assured that any changes to the seating will be done tastefully and in keeping with the historic nature of our Church. We welcome your feedback. Thank you.



How about a little equal-exchange for some bunny special?

“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:

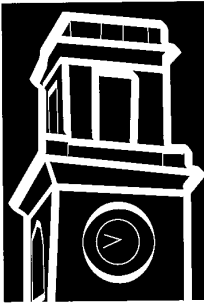
Gourmet Coffee - \$6.25/bag Tea - \$3/box Hot Cocoa Mix \$5/can

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



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. Pew Crew members have been taking your donations to the food pantry. Mark Williams sends a thank you note every month in gratitude for your generosity.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sunday Morning Worship
Communion 1st Sunday



2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
2 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Food Share Walk Against Hunger 3:00pm David's Farewell Reception @ Old State House in Hartford	3 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	4 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs	5 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
9 Mother's Day! 10:00am Worship	10 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	11 8:30am The Breakfast Club @ NY Pickle Deli	12 9:00am Quilters 10:00am Book Study 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
16 10:00am Worship	17 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	18 4:00pm Community Event	19 9:00am Quilters 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
23 Strengthen the Church Offering Today 10:00am Worship Orchestra Today	24 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	25 10:30am Genesis Health- Care Service 7:00pm Council Mtg	26 9:00am Quilters 9:30am Community Mtg 10:00am Book Study 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
30 10:00am Worship Service "SCRIP-SURE" ORDER DEADLINE TODAY	31 Office Closed Memorial Day Parade 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA		

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

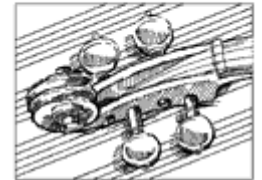
(860)529-4167 office • (860)257-9637 fax
office @ rhccucc.org • website: rhccucc.org
Office Hours 8 am – 2 pm – Monday – Friday

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



**Pot Luck Dinner
and a Movie
has been cancelled
this month.**

*Church
Orchestra*



**May 30
“Scrip-sure”
orders due**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 8:00am Spring Breakfast
6 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 5:45pm Staffing Meeting 8:00pm Men’s AA	7	8 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 9:00am CT Conference Meeting in Madison 9:45am Yoga with Lynn
13 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Bad Girls of Bible 7:00pm Fair Meeting 8:00pm Men’s AA	14	15 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 10:30pm Endowment Ministries Workshop 5:30pm Community Event
20 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men’s AA	21	22 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 9:45am Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Musical Cabaret
27 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men’s AA	28 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal 6:15pm Wedding Rehearsal	29 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 11:00am Wedding 4:00pm Wedding

“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 May 30 will be delivered on Sunday, June 6. For program details, visit the church web site, www.rhccucc.org . If you have any questions, ask Dave Hall (treasurer@rhccucc.org)..



- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | Wendy Moser | 21 | David Kromas |
| | Jeanne Timrud | | Karen Hoffman |
| | Cristina Connor | | Tate Veley |
| | Liam Flynn | | Megan Grandell |
| | Ashley O'Brien | | Emily Grandell |
| 3 | Beverly Ahlberg | 22 | Louise Butts |
| | Lee Durgin | | Cherilyn Moore |
| | Cynthia Sweezy | 25 | Bob Hamilton |
| | Laura Walker | | James McLean |
| 4 | Chris Sheehan | 27 | Priscilla Lexa |
| | Ben Bellizzi | | Laurie Pipke |
| 5 | Sara Toft | | Doug Elliot |
| | Abigail Bellizzi | | Carol Marshall |
| 6 | Joan Tennyson | 28 | Lynda Santiago |
| | Jane Lataille | | Karen Coughlin |
| 7 | Sharon Kromas | | Stephanie Kelley |
| | Brianna Calderon | | Justin Ross |
| 9 | Christine Mullins | 29 | James DeGiovanni |
| | Kim Rutigliano | 30 | Robin Welch |
| 12 | Waverly Kelley | | Brian Tokarski |
| | Louise Risley | 31 | Francesca Moot |
| 13 | Adam Carberry | | |
| | Mark Carberry | | |
| | Sara Harvey | | |
| 14 | Steve Smith | | |
| | Paul Burnham | | |
| | Randy Pulling | | |
| | Christine Kainamura | | |
| | Bob Furman | | |
| 15 | Milton Santiago | | |
| | Mark Pawlich | | |
| | Matthew Yorgensen | | |
| 16 | Jean Hamilton | | |
| | Hilaire Leavitt | | |
| 19 | Alana Hokans | | |
| 20 | Judith Milles | | |
| | Abigail Charamut | | |



Jim and Lois Stevens
were married on
May 14, 1955
Congratulations!

New Address:
Phil and Bette Swain
7314 Ashlar Village
Wallingford CT 06492
203 741-0739



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your cards and words of sympathy at the passing of my dear friend, Bill Holmes. It brings comfort to know my church family cares and understands with love.

God Bless,

Joan Tennyson

Why I Give of Time and Talent

Many times during my “career” at Rocky Hill Congregational Church I have been called upon to write—I’ll call them “blurbs”—for the Mouse, bulletin, reports, etc. And I bet if you went back and looked at those “blurbs” you would find that in almost all of them I refer to the “church family.”

So I questioned myself why that term comes up so frequently in my thinking about this church. I have my very own and very extended family, so why do I need another one? Well, it just happened that way. I will admit I didn’t necessarily have the “family” feeling in my first few years...but then I started getting involved, and I saw what makes it that way.

As in a family, we have those who take care of the house (Trustees, Pew Crew), those who take care of and educate our children; there are those who like to welcome and feed (Inreach). We have the ones who got the talent genes and like to gather and entertain the rest of us. We have those who find ways to support us (Stewardship), and those who are the wise overseers of the soul and spirit of the household (the Clergy and Diaconate).

And as in all families, we travel through life with or without members, through good times and bad. We joyfully anticipate and baptize new life, watch that child grow, receive a first Bible and be confirmed, graduate high school and leave for a while, then return, marry and start a new generation. And we witness those who grow old and infirm; we minister to their needs, pray for them as they weaken, and tearfully say goodbye as we celebrate the life of one among who has now gone to an eternal rest.

Yes, we are every bit a family...

And so, when our most special and enduring family member—let’s call the Stepney Guild our Great Aunts—announced two years ago that they no longer felt able to produce the funeral and memorial receptions they had so graciously planned for years, some of us stepped up to carry on this very special tradition.

I had personally known the comfort and care that came from this service when my own parents passed away not too many years before. I was not alone in believing that the family tradition should be carried on, so 25 or so of us went to work and created the Heavenly Hosts.

And so I stand before you today to tell you why I give of my time and talent, but I want to make it clear I am hardly alone when it comes to the Heavenly Hosts. I will not start to name names, for fear of leaving someone out, but every single person who has ever been a part of any reception, whether it be for 50 or 250 people, is of equal value.

I give of my time and talent, because that is what God has given to me, and it is the least I can do in thanks. Of all the positions I have served in at this church, this one is the most meaningful and personally rewarding. Tiring? Yes!!! Not always well timed or convenient? No!!! But when we're finished with this extremely important service to our fellow family members, in helping to comfort and ease their burden while preparing to say goodbye to someone they love very much, it is a feeling of great satisfaction. The Heavenly Hosts are honored to be able to say, "Don't worry about a thing—we've got it covered."

We are a family; I give of my time and talent because I know that to be a fact, and I am just doing my part to see that we have a strong and happy, faithful and fulfilled group of people in this house, who share a bond in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you and God Bless—

Jan LaCava

BAD GIRLS OF THE BIBLE
THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2010 and MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2010
7:00 pm - Fiorilli Room

A Bible study exploring and examining the lives of women of questionable virtue in the Scriptures. In May, we will study Deborah, a prophet and judge. The relevant passages are Judges 4:1-22, 5:1-31. In June, we will look at Delilah, using the text from Judges 16:4-31. You can pick up copies of the readings outside the church office or call Carol and she will send you one. Join us for prayer, conversation, and connections to our lives. Bring a friend!

"THE BREAKFAST CLUB"

With Associate Pastor Donna

Tuesday, May 11 at 8:30 AM

New York Pickle Deli

397 Cromwell Avenue, Rocky Hill

On April 18, I preached a sermon entitled "The Breakfast Club." The text was from John's gospel and was Jesus' post-Resurrection appearance where he feeds the disciples breakfast by the sea. Using the movie "The Breakfast Club" as an example, I talked about the ways that being a community of faith invites us to learn about each other and follow Christ's command to love. Following the suggestion of some folks, I'm inviting you to join us for a "Breakfast Club" gathering on Tuesday, May 11. So, let's get together for breakfast - or just coffee - and conversation about life, church, and the way of faith. Please call the office or email me (associate@rhccucc.org) so proper arrangements can be made at the restaurant or if you have any questions. Hope to see you on the 11th! - Donna

PS If you didn't hear the sermon, you can still join in! And if you do want to read the sermon, you can find it on the church website: www.rhccucc.org!



Calling All Bowlers! The RHCC bowling league is looking for bowlers for the 2010-11 season. If you are interested in being a permanent team member or being put on the sub list, please contact Joan and Jim Ross at 860-563-5397 or JJJROSS@GMAIL.COM. Please read on for specifics:

The league runs from October thru April – we are just winding up this season so stay posted for some news on the outcomes of the winning teams!

The league bowls at 6:30pm on Monday nights at the Bowl-O-Rama on the Berlin Tpke. The cost for bowling and fees for our banquet is \$12 per week. Most folks on a team bowl every week, but some folks share a spot and bowl every other week or just 1/2 of the season. If you make a commitment to be on a team, payment is expected for each week you are supposed to bowl, unless you find a substitute.

Most of the folks in the league were beginner bowlers when they started. This is a very non-competitive league – we all just enjoy getting off the couch, out of the house and having a little exercise and fun with our friends! This year we had 4 teams of 4 people each – we'd love to have more! Please consider joining us in the fall. For more information or to sign up, please contact Joan and Jim.

**Walk with Us In Foodshare's 27th Annual
Walk against Hunger
Sunday, May 2, 2010**

An easy 3-mile walk, rain or shine, through Hartford's historic West End. A fun event for the whole family, and a great opportunity to spend time with church friends! Two stops provide rest rooms, water and fruit. This year our goal is \$4000.00, just over double what we raised last year! We can do it, and with your help, we can assist Foodshare in feeding hungry families for the entire year!!

What to do:

Write your name on the big board in Chapin Hall. Then sign up online at www.foodshare.org, click on "*Walk against Hunger*," click "*Join a Team*" and search for "*Rocky Hill Congregational Church UCC*." Then download a printable check-in form and recruit family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to make a contribution to sponsor you.

12:00 p.m. – Meet at RHCC to carpool, and tally our fundraising results

1:00 p.m. – Check-in at Hartford Financial Services Group, 690 Asylum Ave.

2:00 p.m. – Walk begins

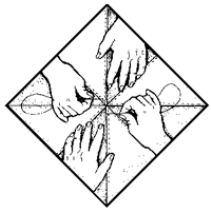


Thank you my friends!

For your prayers, thoughts, phone calls and cards. This move to the south was quick and hard. I appreciate your concerns about Mel and me. The “southerners” have been tolerant and welcoming.

I am feeling better every day – recovering from my surgery – following the rules. Kate, Sue, Rob, Mary and Julia have all come here to help. My house has become “Smith Family South.” Come on down and it will and can be “Rocky Hill South.”

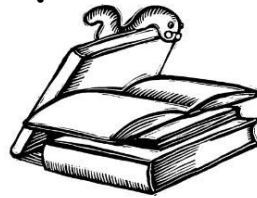
Love to all,
Mary Smith



Thank You! Thank You!

The Quilters are so happy and grateful to the Pew Crew for painting our room. We are so fortunate to have these men willing to give of their time to keep our church building so well maintained with paint brush in hand!

We Need Your Help for our RHCC Fundraising



Book Sale

JUNE 12, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We need:

BOOKS!!! (All kinds, including children's books—the newer and nicer, the better). We also want audio books, DVDs, and videos. Please drop off books in the room next to the Senior Pastor's office (former Pastoral Counseling Center).

VOLUNTEERS!! To help sort and sell. If you would like to volunteer for the book sale, please call Ruth Fitzgerald (860) 232-2238 (home) or (860) 543-1520 (cell).

If you are willing to bake for the bake sale, please contact Jackie Little (860) 721-9308



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! The RHCC Senior Pastoral Search Committee would like to thank all who participated in our April 18th – 2nd hour Forum. Your input and suggestions were well received and we truly appreciate your time and attendance. We have also received several interesting suggestions from our suggestion box – please keep them coming! The Suggestion

Boxes are located in Chapin Hall and outside of the Pastor's office. Our Sunday Schooler's have provided some exciting points of view and information to us on what types of "things" they would like to see in Church and in the future and we are currently focusing on getting information from the young adults of our Church. Our website is up and running and can be accessed at www.rhccucc.org – click on the Search Committee button. There you will find the minutes to our meetings and other relative information. Our Church Profile is coming along well with more work to do. We will be discussing our Profile draft with the Church Council in May and will share the Profile with the congregation. Our aim is to complete the Profile by the end of June. We want your input to help us become the Church that you would like us to be!

Habitat for Humanity's



House of Abraham

Interfaith Adult Social

Building on Strong Foundations of Faith and Community

June 2, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:30pm

Program will begin at 7:00pm

Jewish Community Center

335 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford CT

RSVP by May 12, 2010

Krista Colletta krista@hartfordhabitat.org (860) 541-2208 x122

*In celebration of House of Abraham II
and anticipation of House of Abraham III*

Update on CT Conference *Now for the Future Campaign*

Rev. David F. Peters and Hugh and Kate McLean, Co-chairs for this campaign, wrote a lengthy update summarized here: The campaign to date has done much at Silver Lake Conference Center already including: energy efficiency upgrades in the year-round buildings, built two Commons Buildings for the new cabin villages, added ramps, a lift and golf carts for accessibility, replaced the docks and added recreational elements, rebuilt and upgraded the summer kitchen with new refrigerators and freezers, reconstructed bathrooms and replaced the furnace on the Lodge, undertaken substantial deferred maintenance work, ensured that every project was undertaken with appropriate architectural, engineering and town/state oversight, with a particular eye to environmental sustainability, laid out a plan for the future, based in the strategic plan for ministry for Silver Lake, to assure its ongoing vitality and viability. In addition, support has been sent to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi with a tithe of gifts received to date. Two matters converged that have led to the following decision to close out the campaign by June 30, 2010: First, with the Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree's retirement as our Conference Minister, it is clear that change was needed in regard to the campaign. A time of transition makes an ongoing capital campaign difficult. Secondly, a final due diligence cost analysis for the proposed Retreat Lodge (including unanticipated site work, sprinklers to meet new codes, and required septic upgrades) more than doubled the fundraising required to complete that building within the next 14 months. After careful review, the *Now for the Future* Steering committee, decided not to proceed with the Retreat Lodge at this time. There are now plans afoot to lay out alternatives that will enable an adult friendly, accessible retreat accommodations in new ways. All gifts and pledges received until then (including future payments on pledges beyond that date) will be credited to the campaign.

After June 30th, new gifts (not designated for *Now for the Future*) will be used at Silver Lake for capital projects included in the Strategic Plan for Silver Lake. SLCC needs ongoing support and engagement by all CT UCC churches and all churches are encouraged to include this Conference Center in any future capital campaign or for special fundraising over the years ahead. Silver Lake is one of the few church camps and conference centers across the country that is thriving, with over 1100 at summer conferences and over 3300 people from 109 groups during the retreat season. Churches and donors of the CT Conference are urgently requested to continue with fund-raising programs and pledges. Additional projects on high priority projects include: renovating and expanding existing buildings to be more handicapped accessible and adult-friendly, replacing the heating system in the Pines, upgrading the summer restroom facilities, taking care of key safety, code compliance and efficiency projects. Grateful thanks was extended to all donors and churches for their ongoing support for this campaign. Thanks to God for renewed relationships and a shared vision of transformative outdoor ministry to and with children, youth, families and adults was also shared.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

What: A Women's Heart Health Workshop
When: Saturday, June 5, 2010 – in the morning
Where: St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Rocky Hill
Why: To empower women to know more about their health and their bodies
By Whom: St Frances Hospital will bring a group of affiliated experts to share information as part of an ongoing program for women and their heart health.
Cost: This is a Free Event – Registration at the door

Look for more information and fliers to be available later in May.

Rocky Hill Historical Society – Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner – Friday, May 14 at 6pm at the United Methodist Church, 623 Old Main Street. \$5.00 pp covers coffee, tea, dessert and paper goods. Call 860-563-6704 for reservations. After dinner there will be a short meeting to elect officers. Program by Mike Marino, "Rocky Hill Then and Now," will follow.

Firehouse Museum Dedication – The museum on church Street will be open between 9am and noon. After the Center Green ceremony, on Memorial Day, fire department personnel will march to the Firehouse Museum for its dedication ceremony. The public is welcome.

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!!

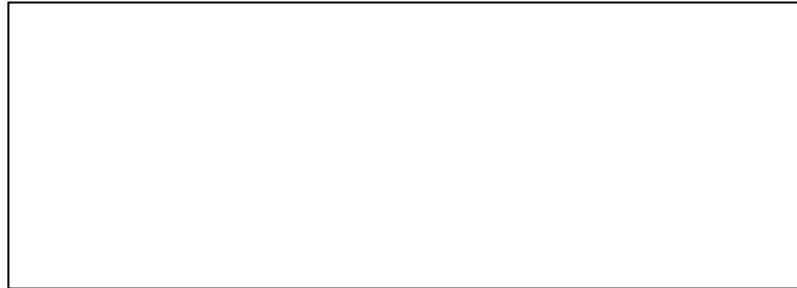
ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067
Telephone # 860 529-4167

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

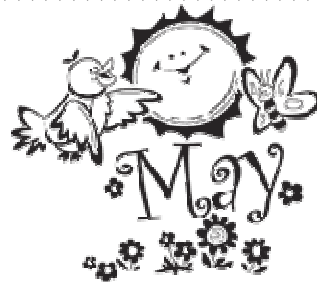
Permit #7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE MAIL

Mailed April 29, 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.



Spring Breakfast

Saturday, May 1st

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Egg Strata ~ Pancakes ~ French Toast
Cereal ~ Bacon ~ Sausage ~ Juice ~ Milk ~ Coffee
Adults \$6.00 Kids (4-12) ~ \$4.00 under 4~free



Plant
Sale



Gift Basket
Sale



Bake Sale