



The Reverend Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Senior Pastor
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860 529-4167 Church – 860 257-9637 Fax

The Church Mouse

September 2013 Newsletter

RHCC e-mail address – office@rhccucc.org

Website: www.rhccucc.org

Summer Office Hours – 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Office is Closed on Friday

Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible

Save the Date!!



HOMECOMING/HERITAGE SUNDAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2013

Come join us for a Special Sunday!

10:00 a.m. Service

Honoring 50+ Year Members and
Food, Fun, & Fellowship in Chapin Hall

More information to follow

For transportation call the church office at 860-529-4167



From the Interim Senior Minister

TIME TO GET THE PROCESS STARTED!

In many years of intentional interim ministry, I've rarely if ever started in early summer. But that's how the timing worked out at

RHCC, which has meant that when I arrived in June we couldn't immediately start the congregational-input part of gearing up for a pastoral search. Too many folks aren't around over the summer – and if that process is going to be fruitful, helpful and reasonably representative of RHCC, it needs to include as many members of the congregation as possible. Besides, it's been good to have a little quieter time in which to start getting to know you as a congregation!

But our summer season is now behind us, our congregation gathers back in September, and the work of an interim process begins in earnest. What will the process be like? Here's a quick overview:

For starters, we're planning for **four all-church conversations, between mid-September and early November.** (And if we need more, depending on what those conversations are like, we'll have more). They'll take place right after worship, with child care provided, to make it as easy as possible for people to participate.

These conversations are absolutely essential, because they will provide the congregational input that will inform the pastoral search. In other words, the search can't start without them.

What will we talk about?

- The steps and stages of a search process in the UCC (why it takes months even when we move along diligently);
- What the "emotional temperature" of RHCC is right now – how people are feeling, what you are apprehensive about, hopeful about, excited about, sad about, etc.
- What's the current "snapshot" of the church? What are the strong things? What are the things that need building up or adding or resolving? Are there things left unaddressed from previous periods that we need to raise now? Things that need clarifying or deciding before you seek a new senior pastor?

- What's our history with pastors? How will that affect our next search?
- What's the vision for this church's ministry going forward? What's the core sense of identity and purpose? What's our understanding of why we're here, what the church is for, what we're willing to make it?
- How do we respond to the changing cultural context for the church? How do we think about being a vibrant church going forward, when so much for churches is "not the way it used to be?" What's our best use of "the way it is now?"
- How well is the church structured and equipped for what it says it wants to be and do? Are our lay leadership structures and our staffing levels what we need them to be? Do we have the resources we need?

And various other, similar topics. We'll want to see what emerges as the important themes as we go along, and shape our conversations accordingly. But I have found in other interim/transitional ministry that it is essential and helpful to get at the above-listed topics in some way. Typically they generate more than enough to work with.

It goes without saying that the search process is only as good as the preparation that precedes it. And that preparation can only be as strong as you will make it, as RHCC members. This fall is prime time for the collective wisdom, perspective and openness of the church to give shape to the next chapter. Did I mention that the pastoral search can't start until you all have done this work together?? Yes, I believe I did! We can name the Search Committee, but it can't complete its first task, the preparation of a congregational profile, without knowing how to accurately describe RHCC: who and where you are as a church as you search this time around. Which is not identical to the last time you called a new pastor, even though that was very recently.

So I look forward to our entering into this time and this process together. There is much at stake, much to gain, much to care about. After a few months of getting used to a transitional season at RHCC, this is the start of the exciting part of moving forward. Please... be sure you are part of it.

Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda



S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner Check-in

We spent the summer learning about the Fruit of the Spirit, exploring what it means to be part of God's creation at Koinonia 2013 – an intergenerational faith formation experience. After a great summer of learning and fellowship, S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School is back! This September we are kicking off a year of faith formation, focusing on "Moving with God". Through the stories of Noah's Ark, Christmas Journeys, Praying with Jesus, the Women of the Resurrection, and the story of Lydia and the Jailor, our faith will come alive anew through food, fun and games, community missions projects, arts, storytelling, music, and more.

Youth group will start back up in October. We're looking forward to fun outings, creatively worshipping together, and planning a summer 2014 mission trip. Stay tuned for details!

Join us for **Re-Covenanting Sunday on September 15th**, as we introduce our theme for the year, remember the promises we make to God and each other, play games, and welcome each other back. Then join us for the **first day of Church School on September 22nd**, as we kick off the first unit of the year: "A Rainbow Promise".

S.P.I.R.I.T. CHURCH SCHOOL – What We're Learning Now!

COME JOIN THE CIRCLE: Unit 1 – A Rainbow Promise

What's Noah's Story? The Bible is filled with stories of God's love. Genesis 1 begins at the beginning with the creation that God calls "good" and moves quickly to Genesis 6 with a brand new creation. But is God's love what you think of when you recall Noah and the ark? Or do you think of cute pairs of animals and a boat trip in the rain? You might remember the rainbow, but what about the altar Noah built on dry land? And most importantly, what about the covenant – God's rainbow promise?

Talking about the Promises. Children participating in this unit are digging into the story of Noah and God's love. Have you seen signs of their activities at church or at home? Are raindrops, rhinoceroses, rocks, and rainbows on display or are they topics of conversation?

Whether you are a member of a child's home family or church family, set aside time to share with children and others what you believe about God's promises. Listen carefully to their responses and follow up with some reflections of your own about where you see God's love at work in the world. Don't underestimate the impact of the words you exchange with the children who are part of your life. Acknowledging together that life has challenges and that everyone experiences both storms and rainbows will support the growing faith of these learners, enrich your own faith, and bring you closer together.

A Prayer For The Unit. God of all, thank you for the covenant you made with Noah and the rainbow promises you made to us. May we see the colors of your love all around us. Amen.

*Don't forget to learn along with us in our weekly bulletins.
Check them out for faith nurture ideas you can use at home.*

Here's What's Happening This Month...

S.P.I.R.I.T Church School Calendar: *What we're learning this month.*

Date	Lesson
Sunday, September 15	Re-Covenanting Sunday
Sunday, September 22	Week 1: A Rainbow Promise
Sunday, September 29	Week 2: A Rainbow Promise

Church School Registration 2012-2013

Parents and guardians are asked to submit any updates to emergency contact information and their child's allergies or medical conditions by September 15, 2013. There will be a table set up in Chapin Hall on September 15 and September 22 for those who would like to check their current information. Thank you!

GROW YOUR FAITH & GET INVOLVED WITH S.P.I.R.I.T.

The RHCC S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School is a place that values intergenerational relationships, growing in faith, and learning throughout our lives to be the disciples Christ calls us to be. You are invited to come join the circle and get involved. **We are currently in need of a Shepherds and Learning Center Guides.** Shepherds stay with a particular age group and help the class and learning center guide, connect the bible story from week to week over the course of a 4 week unit. Learning Center guides prepare engaging activities to teach the bible story through community service, drama, games, crafts, and food. Training and lesson plans are always provided. **If you are interested in shepherding, being a learning center guide, or sharing a gift or talent at a one-time class, please contact Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org.**

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are needed for Fall. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee (RHCCchildcare@gmail.com) for more information. You can also sign-up outside the Nursery.



September 1 **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship with Communion
Final summer service in Chapin Hall
Meghan D. Young preaching.

September 8 **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship returns to the Sanctuary
Guest preacher: The Rev. Edwin Ayala,
Exec. Director, Christian Activities Council

September 15 **Recovenanting Sunday**
Gathering in celebration of a new year;
beginning of Church School.
The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.

September 22 **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship and church school.
The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.

Interim Process Conversation #1 following the service.

September 29* **Heritage Sunday**
Honoring 50-year members of RHCC
Worship and church school
Meghan D. Young preaching.

DEACONS

September is here! For some of us it is the end of vacations, carefree days spent without a full calendar of personal and family activities that challenge us to meet even a portion. But, for some it is a time of renewal and fresh starts. The Deacons, Ministers, and Boards are busy planning opportunities for you to use your talents, enjoy worship services, join Bible studies, grow in your personal ministry by volunteering as a liturgist, and maybe a re-activation of the Book club.

I read an essay this week by Rick Bragg. Growing up, he believed September was a blank notebook giving him endless possibilities of dreams and promise. I hope you use your blank notebook by coming back to church ready for all the activities our church provides for the members and community. God will provide the words for your blank notebook.

Summer Reading

In the July newsletter, I suggested adding the Bible to your summer reading list. I decided to use nutrition in the Bible as my guide – starting with figs. I found figs starting in Genesis and ending in Revelations. Early in my reading the blog of Betty Rosbottom arrived in my email. You guessed it, one of the two recipes of the week used figs and is shared below I plan to continue my reading using food references as my guide.

Fresh Figs with Creamy Blue and Walnuts

 (reprinted with permission)

<http://bettyrosbottom.com/2013/07/26/two-10-minute-summer-appetizers/#sthash.5OQMUPqX.dpuf>

10 fresh figs such as Black Mission ,

5- to 6- ounce wedge creamy blue cheese such as Saint Augur or Maytag Blue at room temperature,

1/4 cup walnuts, toasted, and then chopped finely.

Halve the figs through the stems, leaving the latter in place. Using a small metal spatula or a table knife, spread each fig half generously with some blue cheese, saving any extra for another use. Sprinkle the figs lightly with chopped walnuts, saving any extra for another use. Arrange on a platter. (Figs can be prepared 3 hours ahead; cover and refrigerate. Bring to room temperature 30 minutes before serving.)

Makes 20 servings.

Gail Tine for the Board of Deacons



MUSIC MINISTRY AT RHCC

This fall, there are some wonderful opportunities for people of all ages to join in the Music Ministry at RHCC! Come share the joy of offering beautiful praises to God!! The Music Committee and all of the incredible music volunteers invite you to join us!

Youth Music

This is a new organization for music lovers, generally for grades 6-12. Whether you play an instrument, sing, or would like to learn chimes or bells, or just want to participate, this is the place for you. All levels of musicians are encouraged to come. We will meet regularly, and practice pieces to present in worship services. Please join us - your contribution and talents will be encouraged and greatly appreciated! Stay tuned for details!

Children's Music

Another new organization, the Children's Music Ministry is generally for elementary grades through grade 5. We will rehearse, sing, and play chimes in worship services. Please stay tuned for details!

Church Orchestra

See message following.

Bell Choir

The Jubilate Handbell Choir would like to welcome new members! The choir meets every Monday evening at 7:30 pm and performs regularly in worship services. We plan to have an open rehearsal in the fall where you can try it out with a seasoned coach by your side!! Or just come on Monday night, or see Mary if you are interested. It is an absolute blast - guaranteed!

Adult Choir

Last but not least, our Adult Choir which sings weekly from September to June, would like to welcome new members. The choir meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm in the choir room. We have varied musical backgrounds, which we continually blend into one beautiful composite sound. For those who like extra help, there are sessions in basic skills and reading before most choir rehearsals. We would love to welcome you if you love music, like to sing, and just want to try it out. We aim always to bring beautiful, meaningful music to the worship service – whether it is Bach or Jazz, we sing from our hearts! Come join in the joy!

Choir Rehearsals to Begin in September

Our Minister of Music, Mary DeLibero, has scheduled the first choir rehearsals for the new program year. If you are interested in joining the first practice, please call Mary at 860-529-4167, extension 207 for location information.

The Choir Resumes Practice



Wednesday, September 4th at 7:30pm

Practice will resume on
Monday, September 9th at 7:30pm

Church Orchestra Needs More Members

We've been blessed to have a talented, musically balanced orchestra at RHCC for almost 10 years. At its peak, the ensemble had about 20 members. But with a number of members heading off to college or moving away over the past several years, our diminished numbers no longer assure us of achieving critical mass. We have only ten members returning from last spring, and it would be very helpful to add a few more to the ranks this year. We are particularly light on the lower instruments, but could use multiple additional members on just about any instrument. (Well, not bagpipes...)

Interested members should be able to perform at a middle school level. I do my best to ensure that each musician's music is suitable for that musician's capabilities. We typically rehearse 2-3 times in advance of a morning worship performance, usually from 11:30-12:30 on several Sunday mornings spread out over a couple of months. It's not a significant time commitment, and we do our best to accommodate everyone's schedule conflicts to the extent possible.

Are you in a school band or orchestra? Are you an adult who played a long time ago? Even if you're not sure, why not give it a try? Without additional members, the orchestra is at risk of disappearing.

If you (or your child) are willing to give it a try, please contact Dave Hall at treasurer@rhccucc.org.

Dave Hall, Orchestra Director



MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP

Hopefully everyone had a relaxing summer – was able to rest and rejuvenate before the fall and all too soon upcoming holiday seasons which will descend upon us.

As we go into autumn, we remind everyone that we are still accepting pledge cards. Thank you notes have been mailed, so if you turned in a pledge card, but did not receive a Thank you note from us, please talk to one of the Stewardship Committee members so we can make sure to include your pledge. To date we are showing a shortfall of \$48,000, which means our pledges thus far do not support our approved budget. If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, we urge you take the time to do so in the next couple of weeks.

This month, the pledge acknowledgement letters will be going out. So keep an eye out for one to arrive in your mailbox soon. If you feel left out and want to make sure you are included in the mailing, please fill in and submit your pledge card today. Pledge cards can be found in the narthex or in the church office.

Join us in the delight of giving!

Respectfully Your Stewardship Committee,
Al Diaz, Michele Jokl, Dave Sageman and Barry Wilcock

SUNDAY FLOWERS

Please sign up to contribute flowers for worship on September 29th, October 13 and 27. It is a lovely way to honor the memory or special events of family and friends. Sign up on the flower calendar in **Chapin Hall**, email office@rhccucc.org or call the church office (860-529-4167).

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

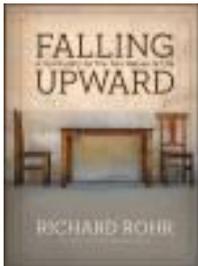
Weekly Bible Study: Wednesdays, 12 noon – 1 p.m. (Fiorilli Room) **Begins Sept. 11**

Led by the preaching pastor for the week, the study is based on the Scripture text(s) coming up for the following Sunday in worship. All are welcome. No experience necessary. Bring your favorite translation or pick one up from the shelf. Brown bag lunch is optional.

Fall Book Study: Two Thursday evenings, Nov. 14 and 21, 7 p.m.

Led by Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Falling Upward: Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life, by Richard Rohr



In this small and readable book, Franciscan and well-known spiritual author/teacher Richard Rohr explores the sequence of spiritual tasks through life and how they shift. It is not a book on aging. It is about spiritual journey, as it unfolds in human life. Rohr writes:

There are at least two major tasks to human life. The first is to build a strong 'container' or identity; the second is to find the contents that the container was meant to hold... It is when we begin to pay attention and seek integrity precisely in the 'the task within the task (what we're really doing when we're doing what we're doing) that we begin to move from the first half to the second half of our own lives....It is hard work. Most often we don't pay attention to that inner task until we've had some kind of fall or failure in our outer tasks.

Please use the sign-up and book order request in Chapin Hall. Books will be \$12 each. Sign-up deadline is Sun., Sept. 29.

RHCC Golf Tournament -- Sunday, September 22nd

This year's fall RHCC golf tournament is scheduled for Sunday, September 22, 2013 at the Wethersfield Country Club. We are planning for (6) foursomes and tee times will start about noon. Details of cost and tournament format will be available shortly.

A sign-up sheet will be available in Chapin Hall in September, or you can contact Bill Hoffman (860-563-1367) to reserve your spot. Don't miss out on this fun event!

CALLING ALL BOWLERS...AND NON-BOWLERS!



The 2013-14 bowling season is fast approaching and we are looking for people of all skill levels who are interested in a fun night out. We bowl on Monday nights at 7:00 at Bowl-o-Rama on the Berlin Turnpike in Newington. The season starts on Monday, October 7th. You do not need experience to join us...the only thing that you need is the desire to

have fun! There are opportunities to bowl every Monday, or if you can't make it every week, we can try to match you up with someone that can share the spot on a team with you by bowling every other week.

Last year, the winning team (Jim Ross, Chris & Kathy Mosure, Jeremy Ross, Jim & Jayne Bishop) was able to select a charitable organization of their choice to donate the league winnings to – they chose Susan G. Komen 3-day for the Cure as their organization and made a generous donation of \$400 to this wonderful organization. So not only can you have fun while getting to socialize with others, we are still doing God's work by helping our community.

There is a sign-up sheet in Chapin Hall for all who are interested. Or you can email Michele Jokl at mjokl@joklfamily.com. If you have any questions, feel free to ask or contact Michele or Jim Ross. If you have a friend or family member who may be interested in joining us, please extend the invitation – they do not have to be a member of RHCC to participate.



Breakfast Club

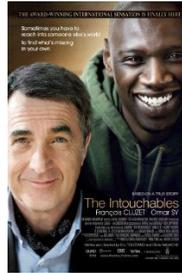
Tuesday, September 11 at 8:30 AM

We meet at BOB'S COFFEE SHOP, 33 New Britain Avenue in Rocky Hill. Come join us for coffee, conversation, and community!



**Come Join us for Dinner and a Movie
Saturday, September 14, 2013
at 6:00 pm in Chapin Hall.**

**The film showing is
"The Intouchables"**



A charming French movie starring Francois Cluzet and Omar Sy.

When Driss, an ex-con from the projects is hired to take care of an eccentric French aristocrat named Philoippe, his newfound job quickly becomes an unpredictable adventure. Speeding a Maserati through Paris, seducing women, and paragliding over the Alps are just the beginning as Driss turns the often humorous world of upper-class Parisian society upside-down. As this unlikely duo overcomes adversity of every flavor in this true story, they also shatter their preconceptions of love, life and each other. On the #1 international bestselling book, *You Changed My Life*.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR IN-HOUSE DECORATOR

A huge thank-you goes to Lynne Lataille, who has been working on needed furnishing and redecorating of the Senior Minister's office. Coordinating with Rev. Brenda, Lynne has installed valances, assembled a desk, and expertly re-covered two upholstered chairs for the office. Along with a new area rug, these additions have made the office lovely and functional, warm and inviting -- not only for use by the interim minister but also so that pastoral candidates who tour our church will see a well put-together pastor's office. You are invited to stop by and admire Lynne's handiwork, or peek through the window in the door! Thank you, thank you, to Lynne for her time, energy, expertise and care.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship

Communion 1st Sunday

10:00 a.m. with childcare



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 10:00am Worship in Chapin Hall	2 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Women's AA	3 7:00pm Board/ Committee Mtgs	4 9:00am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
8 10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary 11:00am Second Hour Rev. Edwin Ayala	9 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn 10:30pm Apple Rehab Svc 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:30pm Bell Choir	10 8:30am Breakfast Club 7:00pm Council	11 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Kaplan 7:30pm Adult Choir
15 RECOVENANTING SUNDAY 10:00am Worship 10:00am Church School begins	16 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	17	18 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Kaplan 6:00pm Community Mtg 7:30pm Adult Choir
22 10:00am Worship 11:00am Interim Second Hour Golf Tournament	23 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	24	25 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Kaplan 7:30pm Adult Choir
29 HERITAGE SUNDAY 10:00am Worship	30 9:00am Yoga w/Lynn 5:30pm Yoga w/Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell 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:

Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Pastor	202	Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music	207
Meghan Young, Acting Assoc. Pastor	203	Custodian	205
Office Secretary	201	RHCCNS (Nursery School)	208



2013

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	6	7 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 9:30am Yoga w/Lynn 10:00am Kaplan
12 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	13	14 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 9:30am Yoga w/Lynn 10:00am Kaplan 6:00pm Dinner/Movie
19 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Fair Committee 8:00pm Men's AA	20	21 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 9:30am Yoga w/Lynn 10:00am Kaplan
26 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	27	28 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn 9:30am Yoga w/Lynn 10:00am Kaplan

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be back on regular hours on September 3rd.

Hours are:

8:30am – 2:00pm Monday-Thursday and 8:30am 'til noon on Friday.



- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 01 Marge Murk | 15 Gail Walker |
| 02 Michael Fitzgerald | Tony Lupacchino |
| 03 Carolyn Taylor | John Doll |
| Tom Fulda | Ben Bishop |
| Phyllis Wilkey | 17 Neal Jensen |
| Bob Inderbitzen | Phyllis Carlo |
| 04 Liz Pulling | 18 Val Calcagni |
| John Corvo | 19 Lori Benito |
| 06 Richard Starr | Jared Friday |
| Bill White | 20 Gabrielle Pierson |
| Dorothy Bartley | 22 Gayle McGowan |
| 07 Nicole Chamberland | Nathan Pipke |
| Anne White | 23 Steven Sudell |
| 08 Scott Janes | 24 Michele Jokl |
| Mollie Engel | Christina Peterson |
| 09 Eleanor Maynard | 25 Al Diaz |
| Tom Schreier | Charles Kunzelman |
| Mckayla Stewart | 26 Diane Bengston |
| Joey Aseltine | 27 Ryan Chamberlain |
| 10 Eleanor Mahar | Emily White |
| Lisa Corvo | 28 James Ussery |
| Stephen Cardello | Kirsten Timrud |
| 11 Amy Wiknik | 29 Justin Knight |
| Katherine Flynn | Eric Jokl |
| 12 James Rolfe | George Moore III |
| 14 Peyton Laporte | 30 Evelyn Danforth |
| 15 Ilona Laporte | |



**Richard and Thelma
Somes**
were married on
September 6, 1947

**Gordon and Audrey
Titcomb**
were married on
September 7, 1946

**Jay and Ruth
Jensen**
were married on
September 10, 1971

Dave and Bobbie Hawkins
were married on
September 24, 1960

Bill and Susan White
were married on
September 25, 1965

**Angelo and Kimberly
Rutigliano**
were married on
September 26, 1970

SCRIP-SURE: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Our Scrip-Sure fundraising program is approaching its fourth anniversary. Since inception, RHCC has realized fundraising profits exceeding \$42,000, with more than \$14,000 achieved during the most recent fiscal year – positioning it as the church’s top annual fundraiser. We’ve budgeted over \$16,000 for the current fiscal year – and even more may be needed to fully “Fund our Faith.”

In case you are new, or haven’t really paid attention because you thought this didn’t apply to you, here’s a brief refresher: **What is it?** *Scrip-sure is a fundraising program which allows the regular shopping we do at a variety of retailers to generate income for the church. How? Participating retailers sell gift certificates or gift cards to our church at a discount. Church members buy the certificates for full face value and redeem them for full face value, and our church keeps the difference as revenue. Everybody wins! The retailers get our business, and our church gets a regular source of revenue that involves nothing other than what we would all be doing anyway – shopping/spending at grocery stores, drugstores, restaurants, gas stations, and many other businesses, including online retailers.*

While our program has to be considered a big success so far, more than half of our church members have never participated – so there is certainly room for significant growth. Perhaps the wide variety of retailers in our program makes it seem a bit daunting. If you haven’t yet been a Scrip customer, it may be that starting with just grocery cards is a simple way for you to ease in and get comfortable with the program.

More than half of our profits come from the sale of grocery cards, and some RHCC members buy only grocery cards and nothing else. Every week, we have cards for several local grocery stores available for immediate sale: **Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe’s, West Side Marketplace, and Whole Foods.** Do you shop at any of those grocers? When shopping with Scrip, you use the gift cards at the checkout just like you would use a credit card – by swiping the magnetic card strip in the same card reader. The amount of your purchase is deducted from the card balance, leaving any remaining balance available for the next time. You don’t need to spend the entire card balance all at once. If your purchase exceeds the balance on one card, you can also use a second or third card on the same trip. The store itemizes the cards used on your receipt and indicates any remaining balance. Many regular Scrip shoppers mark the remaining balance on the face of the card with a permanent marker (e.g., a Sharpie) to simplify tracking. But you can also usually check your remaining balance online or by phone (the number is listed on the back of the card.)

RHCC typically earns 5-10% on the sale of grocery cards, so if you spend \$200 on groceries in a month, the church would earn \$10-\$20. That may not seem like a lot, but it obviously adds up when many members follow suit.

Once you get comfortable using Scrip for groceries, we hope you’ll consider branching out to other retailers. We keep a rolling inventory of many popular cards so that you can buy them at the Scrip table in Chapin Hall any week. At the end of each month, we also put together a master order for those cards that aren’t generally in stock.

What do you think? You all eat regularly, right? **THINK SCRIP!**

COME CELEBRATE THE
INSTALLATION OF
THE REV. KENT SILADI



Saturday
September 28, 2013
2 PM



First Church of Christ,
Congregational
2183 Main Street
Glastonbury, ct



The Installation
service will be
followed by
a reception.

More details will be
available later.

Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ
125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105
www.ctucc.org
(860) 233-5564

“Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.”

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1

Hearts Breaking, Minds Hearing



GLORIA
VICENTE CANÚ

I recently accompanied a group visiting from the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Tennessee. It immediately seemed to me that they were a glowing and warm group. Because of that I believe we walked together during the entire week witnessing, breathing, smelling, feeling and touching the air, spaces and people that surrounded us. As we walked together in various settings, I saw myself differently than before. I was not only a woman representing the church as a missionary of color, but as a mother, as a Maya, as a member of a colonized people and an interpreter of the language and culture. As I processed the visit, I saw what my brothers and sisters meant when they said, “You got a full load”. But more important was the love I received from their visit. My role is to accompany visiting church delegations so they may open their eyes and have their hearts broken in such a way that together we may learn about the social reality of a colonized and oppressed people. And from that realization, we must also learn to ask questions, as individuals and as churches, about whether or not we are following Jesus’ example of love, justice and compassion with and among our brothers and sisters in Christ, abroad and at home. One lesson learned which impacted all of us who were present is found in the words of Presbyterian pastor Osmundo who said, “We are not investing in building churches but rather investing in building people.” What an opportune time to hear these words because they came at a “breaking point,” a point in which our hearts needed to feel and our minds needed to hear. Despite all of my feelings and my “full load”, I know that it is through this love that I too receive. That will enable me to continue to be resilient despite the social conflict and continuing repression in Guatemala.

“God of justice, free us from the tyranny of false choices. Grant us wisdom to integrate our thoughts, feelings and actions so that we may be integrated agents of transformation. Amen.” Dwight Lee Wolter

Gloria Vicente Canú is serving a three-year term with the Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala (Consejo Ecueménico Cristiano de Guatemala – CECG), as a consultant for communication, interpretation and women’s projects.



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.

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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.



You're invited!
Re-Covenanting Sunday
September 15th, 2013
10:00 am

Join us for Re-Covenanting Sunday as we remember the promises we make to God and each other to act in love and discipleship as a community of faith. As we begin a year of reflection, transformation, and growth, come September 15th and be part of the spirit filled worship, special music, S.P.I.R.I.T. programming for our children and youth, and an ALL church block-party picnic following worship.