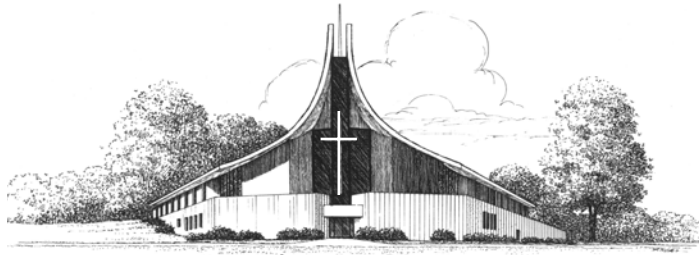




Volume 11, Issue 1
February 2010

THE QUAME

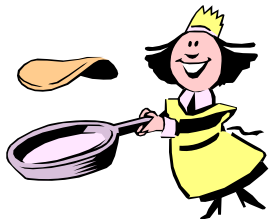


The United Methodist Church of Danbury

A look at . . .



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



February 16
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



February 17
7:30 p.m.
in the Chapel

Message from Pastor Karen...

The article below is an edited version of my report to the congregation at our Annual Meeting on January 13, 2010. I urge you to read all of the reports submitted by our church leaders—copies are in the narthex.

Pastor Karen

This is my third January in this appointment, two and a half years into our ministry together. We got off to a challenging start, as I was diagnosed with cancer three months after arriving in Danbury. My treatment took 16 months, but by the spring of 2009 I had my energy back.

Thank you for your loving kindness to me and my family while I was sick. I thank God for my healing, and for all of you!

It is a testimony to God's faithfulness and to the spirit of this congregation that, even in these less-than-ideal circumstances, our ministries have grown. Here is a sample:

- We have sent crews to Appalachia Service Project the last two summers, and this year we are launching ASP Danbury.
- Christian Education is strong. We provide Sunday School for all ages (including adults) throughout the school year, and child care during worship. In 2008 and 2009 we returned to running Vacation Bible School the week after school gets out in June.
- We are in our second year offering Disciple Bible Study. This year we have both Level 1 and Level 2 classes,

with 20 people participating!

- We have had a confirmation class every year. We have received ten new members by confirmation, and we have three more in our class this year.
- We have received twelve new members by transfer and affirmation of faith. We will have another new members' class before our anniversary celebration on March 14.
- Ten people are participating in a study group on healing prayer with me, which I hope will lead to a healing prayer ministry.
- We have an active youth ministry.
- We have a new dance team!
- Our committee and Council structure com-

(Continued on page 2)

Mission

Our mission as The United Methodist Church of Danbury is to represent Christ throughout our communities with outreaching love, faith and service.

Pastor's Message

(Continued from page 1)

petently manages the business of the church.

- Our presence on the Internet has been greatly enhanced with a new, up-to-date website.
- Worship attendance is higher than it has been in at least five years.

Many existing ministries of the church have continued to hum along, including the Flame newsletter, Thursday Night Life, Bible Study, Choir, Bell Choir, Helping Hands, Dorothy Day, Pumpkin Festival, Covenant to Care, United Methodist Women and Men, Altar Guild, and our Stewardship drive.

I greatly enjoy working with all our volunteers, and also with our staff. Becky Blomgren is our hard-working, bright-spirited, dedicated choir director, who travels nearly an hour and half from her home to be with us every Thursday and Sunday. Sherry Tyrrell started in the church office as a volunteer in October '07, just days before my cancer was diagnosed. Thank God—I don't know what we would have done without her! She has been on the paid staff since the end of that year. She recently took a full-time job, and

has been gamely fitting in the office responsibilities around her new work. One of the first tasks of this year's Staff-Parish Relations Committee will be to find a replacement for her. We wish her well in her new adventures!

Worship is what sets us apart from other community organizations, and it is the first focus of my work as your pastor. I spend approximately half my time each week preparing for and leading worship. Teaching is a second focus of my work: I am currently leading two classes on Sundays, Confirmation on Tuesdays, and Thursday Night Life Bible study. Pastoral care is very important to me—whenever I know someone is in the hospital, I go right away. (I depend on all of you to let me know!) I also visit our shut-ins regularly, as well as providing pastoral care to bereaved families, families considering baptism, and people who are struggling in various ways. I attend church meetings several nights every week. I keep office hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 until noon, unless I have a conflict beyond my control. I am here many other hours during the week, but those are times when you can reliably reach me by phone or find me in the office if you stop by. I am also active in

the Danbury interfaith community and in the Methodist connection.

I believe our future is bright, although we will have to be courageous, generous, and faithful to claim that future. We have been in Danbury for more than 200 years, and in this building for nearly 40. God is not going to give up on us now! Still, we have some challenges ahead, particularly in two areas. The first is financial. Our long-term renter, the Logos Brazilian Free Methodist Church, is struggling, and this is greatly affecting our ability to meet our income budget. In addition, giving to the church by our own congregation is down slightly—not a surprise in this economy. We used about \$15,000 in savings to pay our bills last year, which is not a sustainable long-term plan. (At our Annual Meeting our Church Council Chair, Bishop Rouse, made an impassioned plea for tithing.) The second area is that of vision: why are we here? What are we supposed to be doing? With answers to these questions, we can confidently continue our journey together, knowing that God is with us.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Karen Karpow, pastor

Vision

We embody Christ's vision of a loving community and respond when Christ calls us to be his witnesses in the world. We are a growing and increasingly diverse Christian community that welcomes all to share Christ's love. Our active, ongoing Christian ministries strive to call people to discipleship through worship, music, education, fellowship, and outreach. Our ministries touch people in Danbury, neighboring communities and worldwide.

News from United Methodist Women

UMW Meeting

The next United Methodist Women's meeting will be Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in room 3 at the church. There will be a dessert social following the meeting. The program "Building Communities" will highlight some of the community groups that are represented in our UMW community of women. Paula West, from the Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield, Inc, will be our program speaker. Ms West will describe the OASIS Project (for veterans returning to college), and the creation of the Veteran's Room at WESCONN.

Our unit is having a collection of the following for the Veteran's Room: Kurig coffee K cups, office supplies, and homemade

cookies. Please bring donations to the meeting or leave them in the church office.

Try to make every effort to attend. This meeting is open to all women in the church. If you have any questions, concerns or you need a ride, please call Karlene Lombardo at 203-743-1260.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you need a knitting or crocheting project to keep your hands busy during the cold winter days and nights, please think about making a prayer shawl for the hospice patients at Bishop Wicke Health Center, United Methodist Homes, Shelton, CT.

Contact Jean Walker at 203-744-6175 for instructions.



Altar Guild

The 2010 sign-up calendar is located on the bulletin board in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Please take this opportunity to remember/honor a loved one or to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, wedding, birth or other special event.



Fresh flower arrangements, made to order, remain priced at \$20.00. If you are unable to attend church, call Jean Walker at 203-744-6175 and she will assist you.

If you have used flower containers, please return them to the sacristy on any Sunday. The Altar Guild recycles to help keep the cost of arrangements at a minimum. Thank you.

Annual Charity Breakfast of Renewal House (A program of Shelter of the Cross, Inc)

This year the United Methodist Church of Danbury will have a table at the breakfast sponsored by Beverly Anderson and Jean Walker. The breakfast will be held at the **Amber Room Colonnade** on Thursday, March 4, 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. The Renewal House is a two-year transitional program that provides a home for elderly homeless men and women. Your support is greatly needed. If you would like to represent our church, please call Bev (203-746-4800) or Jean (203-744-6175) for a reservation.

40th Anniversary Celebration!

Save the Date: Sunday, March 14

Great worship, lunch, fun, and fellowship are planned for Sunday, March 14, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the United Methodist Church of Danbury in our beautiful building on Clapboard Ridge. A delicious catered lunch will be served, followed by entertainment and fun for all. In addition, there will be a “history of the Church” exhibit with lots of interesting photos and documents. And stay tuned for other surprises!

If you know members or friends of the church who have moved away or are not currently active, please invite them. We want everyone connected with the church to come and help celebrate this special day!

We will not charge for the party—we want it to be



open to all. However, we will be catering the lunch and hiring a DJ, and we need some money to pay for that. To help defray the costs of this event, we will collect a second offering on February 14 and

21. All donations—from your spare change that week, to a check with the corner notation “Anniversary Dinner”—will be much appreciated. Checks may also be sent directly to the Church with the “Anniversary Dinner” notation.

So that we can plan for the meal, we would appreciate an RSVP call to Carla Pierce at 203-744-2860 or Sue Teer at 203-792-1981. Let us know how many are coming from your family—and your guests! You can also speak to Sue or Carla on a Sunday, or send an email to eventlady@att.net.

Appalachian Service Project



The Appalachian Service Project (ASP Danbury) council meets monthly, generally on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Our planning for the 2010 trip is well underway. Our service dates have been confirmed by the ASP national office, we will be leaving Danbury on Saturday, July 3rd and returning on Sunday July 11th.

Upcoming events include an Information Session on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 7:00 pm for those that are curious and would like to learn more about ASP. A Rally will be held on Thursday, March 4 at 6:30 pm for all of those interested in participating. Both of these events will be held at the Danbury United Methodist Church. Anyone currently in

high school and who will be at least 14 years old by July are eligible to participate on the trip to Appalachia. There is no upper age limit.

We will begin publishing additional information, forms and links on the web shortly at www.danburymethodist.org/asp.

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
We are the people of the United Methodist Church.

Finance

Our budget for 2009 projected a balanced budget of \$204,221, \$21,083 of which is apportionments. To pay all of our projected expenses for 2009, we need to collect an average of \$17,018 per month, which includes \$1,757 monthly for apportionments.

Through the end of October, we have received the following:

Various contributions:	\$146,903
Space use:	46,130
Total:	\$193,033
Needed:	\$204,221
Difference:	\$11,188

Other contributions received for restricted or designated funds (not reflected in the above numbers) are:

Altar Guild:	\$3,745
Education:	\$1,050
Memorial Fund:	\$19,829
Music:	5,100
Property Improvement	\$1,200
Outreach	\$957
Other	\$3,595

Please note that all of the numbers above reflect INCOME only! They do not reflect any bills that were paid from these funds, and also do not reflect the actual balance that is in those accounts.

The pledge income for 2009 was just about on target. The Free Methodists are still three months behind on their space use fees. If they were current, we would be in very good shape. Of the memorial fund listed above, \$10,000 has gone into a CD, and the remainder will stay in the checking account for the present time as a "summer cash flow fund."

I thank all of you for your continued support, without which we could not continue to do all the good works that we do within the congregation and in the surrounding community.

Norma Bucko, Financial Secretary

Worship Schedule for February

February 7	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m.	Worship and Communion
Noon	New Members' class
February 14	
9:30 a.m.	NO Sunday School
10:30 a.m.	Worship
Noon	New Members' class
February 17 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
7:30 p.m.	Worship, in the Chapel
February 21 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m.	Worship
Noon	Anniversary Com. meeting
February 28 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m.	Worship
Noon	Coffee Hour at the Parsonage
Pastor Karen is preaching and leading worship at all of the services listed above.	



The guests at Dorothy Day Hospitality House and our own Beverly Anderson would like to thank the following for their generous donations.

- The members of the United Methodist Women for the drink mixes, coffee and tea collected at their Christmas party in December.
- The members of the congregation for the socks, gloves and other food items.
- Marcia and Chuck Vietrogoski for the New Year's dinner on January 2 from LaFamiliga, consisting of chicken parm, sausage and peppers, baked ziti and salad. It was a great treat!!!

Editor's Note: A big thanks also to Beverly for all she does to help the guests at Dorothy Day.

Treasurer's Report

Cash Position 12/31/09, edited 1/8/2010

	Current Expense \$	Restricted	Total
12/31/08 checkbook balance	\$3,734.21	\$6,862.38	\$10,596.59
Received in 2009 for:			
altar guild		\$3,715.00	\$3,715.00
memorial money		\$24,829.00	\$24,829.00
misc (cov care, etc)		\$3,064.83	\$3,064.83
current expense	\$194,821.01		\$194,821.01
Total	\$194,821.01	\$31,608.83	\$226,429.84
			\$0.00
Spent in 2009:			\$0.00
			\$0.00
Apportionments	-\$21,083.04		-\$21,083.04
Church building	-\$63,407.95		-\$63,407.95
Pastor	-\$64,184.28		-\$64,184.28
Office	-\$9,659.09		-\$9,659.09
Parsonage	-\$8,661.15		-\$8,661.15
Restricted	\$0.00	-\$26,962.52	-\$26,962.52
Staff Parish	-\$23,069.71		-\$23,069.71
Teams:			\$0.00
education	-\$4,056.25		-\$4,056.25
communications	-\$3,330.03		-\$3,330.03
fund raising	-\$4,983.13		-\$4,983.13
stewardship/finance	-\$1,620.14		-\$1,620.14
worship & music	-\$1,192.04		-\$1,192.04
other	-\$140.62		-\$140.62
Trustees	-\$8,041.66		-\$8,041.66
Total	-\$213,429.09	-\$26,962.52	-\$240,391.61
GRAND TOTAL FOR 2009	-\$14,873.87	\$11,508.69	-\$3,365.18
Money needed to transfer			
memorials back to Trustees	Emily Wellstood		\$9,724.00
	Bill Cerveniski		\$105.00
	Maxine Clark		\$1,764.65
	Helen Sturges		\$3,406.00
	Behari		\$1,691.73
	spent on computer		-\$1,414.57
	TOTAL		\$15,276.81
Cash position for 12/31/09			-\$18,641.99

Beverly Anderson, UMCD Treasurer

Danbury United Methodist Church 2010 Book Club Schedule

Prepared by Barbara Fulton

Host	Date	Time	Book Title	Author
Shirley Fogle	February 15	7:30 p.m.	The Expected One	Kathleen McGowen
Karlene Lombardo	March 15	7:30 p.m.	My Life in France	Julia Child
Barbara Fulton	April 19	7:30 p.m.	Clara's War	Clara Kramer
Lois Bornemeier	May 17	7:30 p.m.	Made in USA	Billie Letts
Dot Godoci	June 28	7:30 p.m.	Change of Heart	Jodi Picout
Beverly Anderson	July 19	7:30 p.m.	Rouge	Sarah Palin
Barbara Fulton	August 16	7:30 p.m.	Firefly Lane	Kristin Hannah
	September 20	7:30 p.m.	Sarah's Key	Titany DeRosney
	October 18	7:30 p.m.	Have a Little Faith	Mitch Albom
	November 15	7:30 p.m.	The Gurnsey	Literary and Potato Peel Society
	December 13	7:30 p.m.	The Christmas Sweater	Glen Beck



Groundhog Day
February 2



Valentine's Day
February 14



President's Day
February 15

Flame Info.

March 2010 Flame Deadline

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Editor: **Kathy Roig**

203-743-7939

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February Editor..... Jean Walker

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Don DeMouth, Pastor Karen, Karlene Lombardo,
Nan Salamon, and Jean Walker



The United Methodist Church of Danbury

5 Clapboard Ridge Road • Danbury, CT 06811

Phone: 203-743-1503 • Fax: 203-743-1533

Pastor: Karen Karpow

Music Director: Rebecca Blomgren

Church Administrator: Sherry Tyrrell

A Safe Sanctuary for Children

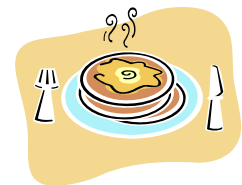
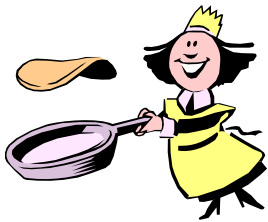
9:30 Sunday School • 10:30 Sunday Worship

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SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 16, 2010



Continuous servings from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
in
Fellowship Hall

Adults - \$8.00

Children under 12 - \$4.00

Children under 3 - FREE

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Pancakes, sausage, applesauce, fruit, coffee, tea and juice

Sponsored by The United Methodist Women