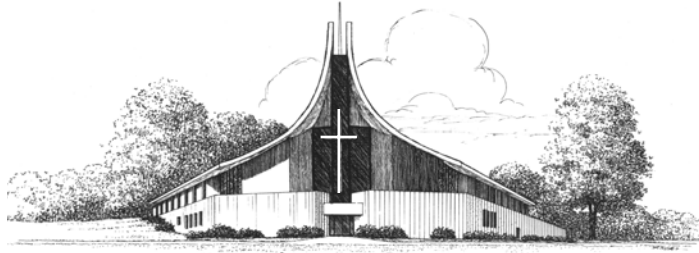




Volume 11, Issue 6
July/August 2010

THE FLAME



The United Methodist Church of Danbury

A look at . . .



**July/August
at UMC Danbury**

**July 18
ASP Slide Show &
Ice Cream Social**



**July 23
Hosting
ARC's Interfaith
Peace Camp**

**August 16-20
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Vacation Bible
School**



Message from the Pastor...

You may have noticed that our church has gotten a lot of press lately. A front-page picture of our beautiful Easter altar and a feature article about our 40th anniversary have appeared in The Danbury News-Times in the last couple

of months. Today a profile of our church was posted on www.credible.com, a website that provides original reporting about religious issues in Connecticut. They have also posted an article

about Bike & Build's third annual visit to us. For those of you who missed it, I have posted the profile below. May God grant that we live up to what the reporter thinks of us!

Pastor Karen



Credible

Danbury Church Preaches Love, Justice

by Tracy Simmons (6/2010)

DANBURY – Driving along Clapboard Ridge Road, you can't miss Danbury United Methodist Church. Its boat-like roof stands out – symbolizing praying hands lifted to God.

Organized in 1789, Danbury Methodist continues to have an active social justice ministry, said Rev. Karen Karpow. Helping others, she said, is part of a Methodist's DNA. "God is good to us, and God expects us to be good to each other," she said.

For 40 years the congregation has gathered in its current 7-acre location, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road in Danbury. Each Sunday about 110 people meet for the 10:30 a.m. service, though in July and August services will change to 9:30 a.m., preceded by an 8:30 a.m. Bible study. Services are followed with a coffee hour.

Karpow, who has led the church for the past three years, said there are plenty of ministry opportunities for members to get involved in, including

(Continued on page 2)

The United Methodist Church of Danbury

Making connections through Jesus Christ:
people to people, people to God, and faith to life.
✠ Abundant Life ✠ Joyful Spirit ✠ Servant Heart ✠

Danbury Church Preaches Love, Justice

(Continued from page 1)

Disciple classes, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women and various community organizations. Dorothy Day, for example, is a hospitality house that the church is committed to assisting. The church also works with the Shelter From the Cold Program and the Appalachia Service Project, which provides housing services to low-income families living in Central Appalachia.

Karpow noted that Danbury Methodist also has an energetic 20-member youth group, which recently hosted a group of affordable housing activists from the national Bike & Build organization.

Communications Director Mark Baxter is a newer member of the church and has been involved in the new member classes. "At this church the door is open to anyone," he said.

Karpow agreed and said no one will be turned away from Danbury Methodist. "What we provide here is a place for people to practice being a Christian. We practice loving each other so when we're called upon to love the world, we know how to do it," she said. "That's what we're doing here."

For information on the church, call (203) 743-1503 or visit its website at www.danburymethodist.org.

Prayers from Sunday, June 20, 2010



Gulf coast oil spill harm to wildlife, environment and residents

Jean Walker's brother Butch Sandra Tunison as she prepares for surgery July 2 and July 6

Linda Rouse

Audrey Kunicki

Patrick Foster, PJ Gebing and Mickey McCormack serving in the military

Patrick returning from Afghanistan in early to mid July

Barbara McWilliams

Sandra Marsh passed away – prayers for her husband Bob

Joseph Stavola – hospitalized

Dick Rouse – Agent Orange

Stacy Huntley – cancer

Peggy Bower – cancer

Pray for work for those who need it

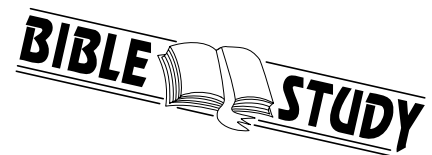
For guidance

Marti Foster's friend Mel – home after a stroke – full recovery expected

NOTE: To be included on the list for sharing our Joys and Concerns via e-mail on Sunday afternoon, send your e-mail address to Jim Davis at davis@mags.net. and he will add you immediately.

Worship Schedule for July and August

July 3	8:15 a.m.	Commissioning service for our ASP volunteers!
July 4	<i>Worship moves to 9:30 for the summer</i>	
	8:30 a.m.	Pick-a-Parable Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Worship and communion
July 11	8:30 a.m.	Pick-a-Parable Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	4-ish p.m.	Welcome our ASP volunteers home!
July 18	8:30 a.m.	Pick-a-Parable Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Worship—ASP celebration
		We will worship outdoors, weather permitting
July 23	9 a.m.-noon	Hosting ARC's Interfaith Peace Camp
July 24 thru August 7	Pastor Karen and Serge on vacation	
July 25	8:30 a.m.	Pick-a-Parable Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Worship
August 1	8:30 a.m.	Pick-a-Parable Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Worship
August 8	8:30 a.m.	Pick-a-Parable Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Worship and communion
August 15	8:30 a.m.	Pick-a-Parable Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Worship
August 16–20	Vacation Bible School!	
August 22	8:30 a.m.	Pick-a-Parable Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Worship
		We will worship outdoors, weather permitting
August 29	8:30 a.m.	Pick-a-Parable Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Worship
September 5	8:30 a.m.	Pick-a-Parable Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Worship and communion



Worship will switch to 9:30 from July 4 through September 5. We'll return to our regular 10:30 schedule on Homecoming Sunday, September 12.

Child care is available Sunday mornings during Bible study and worship.

Bike & Build

The Youth Group welcomed the Bike & Build cyclists on Wednesday evening June 16. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and were quite happy with the food we provided! The cyclists were very impressed that the Youth Group took the time and raised funds to provide refreshments for them.

A few of the cyclists presented a short program about Bike & Build. Emily McWilliams spoke about the Youth Group and their involvement at Dorothy Day and the Appalachian Service Project. The Bike & Build group was so impressed that they gave a \$150 donation to ASP!

We were also surprised by a visit from one of the cyclists that came last year. She told us that our church was definitely their favorite place. We were the most hospitable because we considered their needs: dietary, sleeping, showering, and we did not serve PASTA!!!

As the cyclists travel across the country, they are able to recommend to the Bike & Build headquarters two organizations that they feel meet the need for affordable housing. Last year's group recommended Renewal House (formerly Shelter of the



Sherry Tyrrell

Cross) and the Veterans House on New Street. Renewal House received \$100 and the Veterans House received \$500.

I think that the young people involved in the Youth Group at our church truly understand Jesus' commandment, love your neighbor as yourself. Thank you for being amazing young people, caring for those in need and for letting me be there to witness your hospitality.

—Bev Anderson

"Thank You" from the Westerners

On Thursday, June 3, the Westerners, their host families and Tommy John were invited to our church for Thursday Night Life (TNL). The Westerners are a collegiate baseball team in Danbury. The players come from all over the United States and are placed with "host" families for the season. Tommy John was a pitcher for the New York Yankees and has a surgery named after him.

The group was very grateful for our hospitality. The Westerners' Management paid for the food we served that evening. No one was sure how many people

would come, but about 40 folks took up the offer of our dinner. They all thought \$3.00 per person was a great deal! They were able to meet each other, talk baseball and share a meal.

Tommy John was the speaker at the Westerners' breakfast on Friday, June 4. He stayed at our church after our dinner until 10 p.m., offering lots of pitching advice and nutrition information as well.

If you have been or go to a game, you might hear our church's name announced as a community sponsor.

Aasta Moser Award

Please take the time to submit a name for the UMW Special Membership Award (the Aasta Moser Award). This award is given to a man or woman in our church who has given outstanding service to our church as well as the community. Nominations are being accepted by Jean Walker or Karlene Lombardo until August 1. Last year's recipient was Coralee DeMouth.

Altar Guild

Thank you for returning the used flower containers. It helps to keep the cost of flowers down. If you have more, please bring to the office or sacristy.

Summer's Financial Challenge

Since February, which is the month we as a church body took on the challenge of being self-sufficient, average income and attendance are shown below:

	<u>FEB-JUNE/10</u>	<u>FEB-JUNE/09</u>	<u>TARGET</u>
AVG INCOME/SUN.	\$3,189	\$2,327	\$3,675
ATTENDANCE/SUN.	102	94	more...

The good news is that we have responded to the call to give more... and we are attending in greater numbers. This is great!!!! The not so good news, however, is that we remain short of our average \$3,675/Sunday target. Achieving target means that we pay our salaries and expenses on time without the assistance of space users.

Next Sunday is the beginning of the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Traditionally, this is a time of relaxation, vacationing, etc., all around, which is great! And my Christian friends, we certainly need it after a year and a half of financial uncertainty. The not so good news, however is, this is also a time that our finances and attendance drift as shown below:

	<u>JULY-AUGUST/09</u>
AVG INCOME	\$2,378 (\$2,430 for JAN-JUNE/09)
ATTENDANCE	72



So UMCD... let's enjoy the summer, but let's contribute normally and if you have not increased your giving, please do so as you are able. Also, if you are not up-to-date with your pledge giving, please bring your pledge up-to-date.

LUKE 6:38(NIV): Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

—Bishop Rouse, Chair
Finance & Council

Welcome New Members

On June 20 we were delighted to welcome the following new members:

- Mark Baxter
- Jodi Morales
- Jeanne Moran



Book Club

July 20, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

“Going Rogue” by Sarah Palin
at Bev Anderson’s

August 17, 7:30 p.m.

“Firefly Lane” by Kristin Hannah
at Minnie Rouse’s

UMC of Danbury 2010 - Financial Position

Month	Monthly Budget	Income	Expenses	Difference
JAN	\$17,058.00	\$16,915.23	-\$20,069.48	-\$3,154.25
FEB	\$17,058.00	\$15,089.44	-\$16,722.55	-\$1,633.11
MAR	\$15,925.00	\$15,031.65	-\$12,479.75	\$2,551.90
APR	\$15,925.00	\$13,230.86	-\$12,163.96	\$1,066.90
MAY	\$15,925.00	\$16,750.70	-\$17,321.01	-\$570.31
JUN	\$15,925.00			
JUL	\$15,925.00			
AUG	\$15,925.00			
SEP	\$15,925.00			
OCT	\$15,925.00			
NOV	\$15,925.00			
DEC	\$15,925.00			
YTD TOTALS	\$193,366.00	\$77,017.88	-\$78,756.75	-\$1,738.87
12/31/2009	Balance			-\$1,171.51
5/31/2010	Cash Balance			-\$2,910.38

— Beverly Anderson, Treasurer
UMC Danbury

Coffee Hour Supply Location

The coffee hour supplies have been relocated around the corner from the sacristy. There is a narrow hallway next to the sacristy door that leads to a men's bathroom. Before you reach the bathroom, look to your right for the entry door into the new supply room. Everything you will need for coffee hour is there: spoons, forks, sugar, coffee, knives, napkins, tablecloths, etc. If you aren't sure where the room is, ask Minnie Rouse or Bev Anderson.



Pay A Bill

There is a bulletin board located next to the stairs going down to Fellowship Hall. Copies of our bills are posted on the bulletin board. If you would like to help pay a portion of a bill, attach your check to the copy and put both in the offering plate. Please don't think that you have to pay the entire bill!!!! Any little bit towards the total would be helpful. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me or give me a call at home (203-746-4800).

—Beverly Anderson

Appalachian Service Project

By the time you read this the Danbury Appalachia Service Project (ASP) crews will either be close to heading to Mercer county West Virginia or may be at their job sites working already. Our trip will be July 3–July 11, our work week will be July 5–9 with two travel days on both ends of the trip. This is our first year of organizing our own trip; members of our church have taken part the last two years with Jesse Lee Memorial UMC in Ridgefield. There will be 24 participants on our trip, 16 high school age youth and 8 adults. Around two thirds of the participants are from the Danbury UMC, and we are very thankful to have the others that are not from our church family joining us.

While in Appalachia the volunteers will be working on the homes of low-income families to pro-



vide basic needs such as patching holes in floors, providing safe exits for handicapped family members, repairing roofs, or installing insulation on poorly heated homes.

The ASP team would like to thank the congregation for providing space and services for our activities, our church members for your extremely generous support in our fund raising activities as well as the members of the other congregations that will be sending members with us for their very generous support. We hope you will be able to join us for a slide show of our trip and an ice cream social after the church service on Sunday, July 18th in Fellowship Hall. The slide show will start at 11:00 a.m.

—Don DeMouth

Trustees

There are two things to mention this month. First, thanks to everyone that worked at the work day in June. During the work day, the old youth lounge walls were primed by the church youth group, two of our ASP adult leaders worked on finishing the recycling container, the “storm” window coverings were removed from the office windows, the fire lane and handicap lines were repainted in front of the church (three new handicap parking spaces were added), and Pastor Karen’s office was given a spring cleaning and a



half. At the parsonage there was painting and trim work completed on the back patio and also garden weeding done. Thank you very much to everyone that helped.

Thing two is that the ASP (Appalachia Service Project) advanced training project of reroofing the parsonage patio is complete and turned out very nice. Two crews of youth and adults worked for both days, one each, over a weekend in May to complete the job.

—Don DeMouth

Flame Info.

September 2010 Flame Deadline

Sunday, August 15, 2010

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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

Director of Communications: Mark Baxter

A Safe Sanctuary for Children

8:30 Bible Study • 9:30 Sunday Worship

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Vacation Bible School
Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!

Date: Monday, August 16 – Friday, August 20

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 per child; siblings are half price.
Scholarships are available.

Ages: Preschool to 5th grade

Additional Info: Coralee DeMouth, 203-730-8103

Hurry and sign up your child for a fun week at VBS. He or she will become a cadet on the starship Galactic Praise as we learn more about our wonderful, incredible, amazing, magnificent, awesome God. Songs, skits, crafts, games, Bible stories—all make VBS a can't-miss-experience. (Dinner is also included.)

