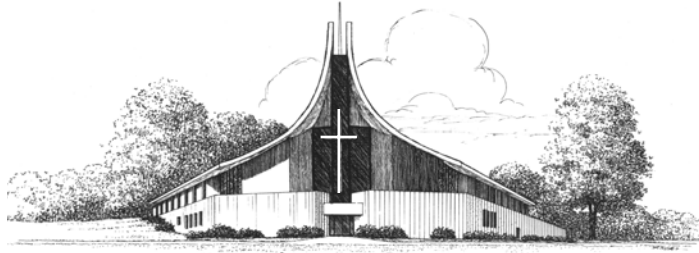




Volume 11, Issue 4
May 2010

THE FLAME



The United Methodist Church of Danbury

A look at . . .



**UMW
BAKE SALE
FOR MISSION
Sunday, May 9
following service**

**BOOK CLUB
Monday, May 17**

**MAY DINNER
Friday, May 21**

**UMW MEETING
Wednesday, June 2**

**BIKE AND BUILD
Wednesday, June 16**

Message from the Pastor . . .

What a busy church we have been lately! From March 7 until April 25, we did not have a single “perfectly ordinary” Sunday.

March 14: Celebration of our 40th anniversary (of the building—221 years of the congregation!) and reception of new members

March 21: Confirmation Sunday and reception of more new members!

March 28: Palm Sunday, with children’s palm parade

April 4: Easter Sunday—sunrise service, pancake breakfast, and celebration worship

April 11: Our first (annual?) Holy Humor Sunday

April 18: Minnie Rouse led worship,

while Pastor Karen was away

The Holy Spirit is at work in our congregation. Praise be to God, we are growing both in numbers and in spirit. Here are some examples:

- Worship attendance is up more than 10% over this time last year.
- More children, youth, and adults are taking part in our Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday classes.
- Our first Danbury Appalachia Service Project team will have nearly 30 members!
- As you will read inside, we are nearly reaching our goal of being a self-sufficient congregation, without the need to supplement our income with rentals.

This is remarkable, only two months after learning that our long-time relationship with the Logos Free Methodist Church was suddenly coming to an end.

Our Bishop, Jeremiah Park, is also feeling this stirring of the Holy Spirit, and he wants to celebrate! On the last day of Annual Conference, Saturday, June 12, he invites all United Methodists in the area to come to Hofstra University to join the clergy and lay members of Conference for the day. It’s going to be wonderful. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be exhibits and activities in three huge tents:

- In the Mission Tent, taste cultural tidbits from our global vil-

(Continued on page 2)

VISION

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 ✝

Pastor's Message

(Continued from page 1)

lages, enjoy dance from Ecuador, stretch out on the cot in the Haiti clinic, shop for handmade items from Ghana, Mozambique and Cambodia. Travel the obstacle course on a PET, Personal Energy Transportation!

- In the Advocacy Ministries Tent, take a “privilege walk” to find out how your personal income ranks globally. Have your picture taken with John Wesley or be a circuit rider on a horse! Find out what Permaculture is and why the world is so interested. Experience the shower of stoles or pray in a prison cell.
- In the “Youth & Children in Action” Tent, help build a handi-

capped ramp to be installed at a local residence. Find out why over 200 of our youth give their time and energy to the Appalachian Service Project each summer. The Noah’s Ark inflatable is back! There will be three other inflatables, plus a climbing wall and a Putt Putt Golf Course.

Lunch will be served at no cost to all who attend. At 1:00 we’ll move into the arena for worship, beginning with a parade of church banners, and including a celebration of all our new members, as well as our Volunteers in Mission teams, both global and domestic. Bishop James Swanson will inspire and challenge us with his preaching. We’ll be done by 4:00.

Bishop Park extends a special invitation to all who have joined our churches since 2004, when he came to our Conference. He hopes to gather 5,000 United Methodists in Hofstra’s arena, singing praises and giving thanks to God.

I will be there! **If you would like to come, please let me know right away so that I can RSVP for us.** (We want to make sure everyone gets a lunch.) There is some talk of area churches chartering a bus, too!

With joy in Christ,
Pastor Karen

Trustees

At our last meeting the trustees agreed to a request to move the Youth Lounge from what is now the “old Youth Lounge” to Room 10 in the East wing. The old youth lounge will be renamed the Multi Purpose room—at least until a better name “bubbles to the top”. We also agreed to distribute funds from

the Mildred Morsey Fund to three youth activities; \$200 will be set aside to assist with tuition for our churches Vacation Bible School, \$450 to assist two youths with fees for Appalachia Service Project and \$300 for Hannah Foster to attend a Methodist summer camp in Maine.

—Don DeMouth, Chair

Thank you...

to all who donated eggs and candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. The front lawn was a colorful and festive sight. We had a wonderful turn out of children and beautiful weather. Thanks to all who helped.



—Coralee DeMouth

Worship Schedule for May

May 2	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School for children, youth, and adults Worship and communion
May 9	Mothers' Day 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School for children, youth, and adults Worship
May 16	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School for children, youth, and adults Worship
May 23	Pentecost 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School for children, youth, and adults Worship
May 30	Memorial Day observance 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School for children, youth, and adults Worship

Pastor Karen will be preaching at all these worship services.

Parish Nurse

Blood pressure is one of many important aspects to be considered in our overall personal health.

The few minutes I spend in the Choir Room on the fourth Sunday of each month is my gift of time and talent to our church family. The silent, rarely noticed numbers given to many of you are normal. A few of our friends take medication for control of their blood pressure and some have sought medical care, encouraged by the surprise discovery of an elevation of these numbers.

There are many people in our congregation who work in the medical profession, or are trained as First Responders—and willingly help in an emergency situation. When an opportunity arises for education in First Aid, CPR, or the Heimlich Maneuver, take advantage of it. You never know when you may be the only person available to help someone in need.

— Peg Slater, R.N.



Sunday School News

There will be no Sunday School on May 9th and May 30th.

On June 6th we will be celebrating the last day of Sunday School with an ice cream social. It will be held right after the worship service and everyone is invited.

—Coralee DeMouth



Vacation Bible School

Save the dates! Vacation Bible School will be held August 16th through the 20th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend and join in the fun of Galactic Blast, a Cosmic Adventure Praising God!



—Coralee DeMouth



Appalachia Service Project CAR WASHES

May 1 and May 15, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
May 23 – 4 p.m.

Tell your neighbors & friends.

Prayer Chain

Hi, everyone! A little while ago I began something new, sending emails soon after each Sunday's worship service sharing all the prayers that had been lifted up during the service. I named it "The Sunday 2:00 Club." Turns out that it was a lofty goal to get it out by 2:00 every Sunday, but I'll keep trying.



My hope in this endeavor was twofold—to reinforce our prayers by praying them again outside the church building and to highlight the prayers for friends who were not with us that Sunday.

The idea to include these lists of prayers in The Flame came up, so here we go with our first try in the monthly UMC Danbury newsletter.

We would like to reach out in two additional ways. (1) If you would like to be added to the list of email addresses just send me an email at davis@mags.net and I'll add you immediately. (2) We hope to highlight our prayer listings to members who do not have a computer or an email address.

— Jim Davis

Editor's Note: Thank you, Jim, for taking on this new ministry. We have not had prayers in The Flame for a long time and it is certainly needed.

Prayers from Sunday - April 11, 2010

Sandra Tunison
 Lois Darrah
 Ken Darrah
 Marlene Rosetti
 Steven Tranzillo
 David Basso
 Tom Vogt
 Audrey Kunicki
 Janet Burns
 John Apon
 Jean Walker's brother Butch
 Carol
 Women's and men's #92
 Marge Litchfield
 Kim Goodwin's father, Richard on the healing of his back
 Linda's mom and Linda (cancer surgery)
 Monique
 Kathy Larson
 People of Poland
 Jim Clark
 Debbie Clark
 Bob Clark

We lift up to you Lord, all those who are serving in the military, in particular the ones from our congregation—Patrick Foster, PJ Gebbing and Mickey McCormack. We ask that you would protect them and bring them home safe and soon, and beyond that Lord we pray that you would make a world where war is not necessary and that you would make us instruments of your peace.

Going Green Tidbits

Kathy Roig and Carla Pierce were noticed bringing their own "to go" cups during a recent coffee hour. Thank you Kathy and Carla! Our church will save money not having to purchase paper cups and we'll help our earth as well.

Another thought is to avoid using paper products as much as

possible. At my house we use cloth napkins instead of paper ones. They have to be washed, but the energy used to do that is much less than the resources used to produce paper products.



— Beverly Anderson

A Special Note from Lois Darrah

Many thanks to my church family for the prayers, cards and visits while I was in the hospital.

P.S. I also enjoyed receiving flowers from the altar on Easter Sunday!

Quest for Self-Sufficiency

On behalf of the Finance Committee an announcement was made the third Sunday in February to describe the financial ramifications to our church due to the exit of the Free Methodist. Space usage funds from the Free Methodist were considerably off in 2009 and finally in 2010 they announced to UMCD that they would be leaving the church effective March 1, 2010. The deficit caused by the Free Methodist amounts to over \$45,000 annually, which is a large sum to suddenly “seek” to replace in our budget. But, on the third Sunday of February, the Finance Committee presented in church our going forward plan. The purpose of this update is to provide the current status.

Listed below are the three 2nd Sunday in February requests and the results to date:

I. REQUEST: Assess the affect of the Free Methodist exit on expenses.

RESULT: The Trustees assessed the affect superbly and determined that expenses would be reduced by ~7%. Thank you Trustees!

II. REQUEST: Every family unit was requested to increase their “giving” or “tithing” by \$10 per family unit... immediately. The first Sunday for increased contributions was the fourth Sunday in February.

RESULT: Our Sunday intake has increased by 12% compared to previous 2010 Sundays and 15% compared to the similar period in 2009. But we remain a little short and as you can see below, we will be challenged to hold the increase throughout the remainder of the year especially during the summer when intake is traditionally lower.

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Avg intake per Sunday YTD:	\$3,198	\$3,202
Avg intake per Sunday since the announcement:	\$3,572	\$3,115 (comparable period)
Required per Sunday w/o space users:	\$3,675	

Thank you UMCD for responding!!!

III. REQUEST: Initiate a mid-year pledge drive to re-submit your commitment considering our going forward financial need.

RESULT: It was decided by the Council that conducting a second pledge drive would not be productive since the response to the request above was positive and that in 6 months it will be time for the yearly drive.

Now, let’s take a deep breath, and thank God for all that we have and pray for the well-being of our great church. In addition to praying let’s do the following:

If you have not begun your extra \$10 per family unit, if you are able, please do so as soon as possible.

LINE 43. Do you know what Line 43 is? For those of you who use Form 1040, Line 43 is “taxable income”. Take a look at your taxable income, whether it is Line 43 or another, dependent on which form used for taxes, and assess where you are towards “giving”. Now is a great time to go through this exercise since taxes are fresh on every tax payers mind. Assess what you are giving. Are you giving 10% as God encourages us to give? If not, are you making strides to do so?

Remember God’s commitment to us... Malachi 3:10, 12: Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. “Test me in this,” says the Lord almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the flow gates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it”.

God bless all of you! We are off to a great start at becoming self-sufficient!

—Bishop Rouse, Chair
Council and Finance

SPR Committee

We are delighted to announce that Mark Baxter was recently hired to take over for Sherry Tyrell. Several months ago, Sherry accepted a full-time position working for the Ridgefield school system after very ably serving the Danbury UMC as Church Administrator for several years.

The SPR Committee extends our deepest thanks to Sherry for all her fine work. We also hope to host a celebration in Sherry's honor some time in the near future. We hope you all will be able to attend once the date has been set.

Mark will be handling the necessary administrative duties for the church as well as helping us reach out to the Danbury community at large through some improvements to our web site as well as developing a presence for the church via social media sites such as Face Book. With these

additional tools, we will hopefully attract more visitors to our services on Sunday and potentially new members for the congregation.

Mark has had a long career in the communications and public relations field and is presently a partner at Brandloft in Norwalk, which is an integrated marketing firm.

Look for Mark in the church office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Welcome, Mark!



—Chris Russock, Chair

Statement of Faith

The Disciple I class would like to share a “statement of faith” we developed as a result of one of our classes. After reading the book of Romans, our task was to break into groups to develop a faith state based on the theological ideas found in Romans. We then combined our statements, modifying and adjusting until we created the following:

We believe in an awesome God whose righteousness is revealed through the gift of salvation for all who have faith.

We believe in the risen Christ whose death and resurrection allows for the forgiveness of sins and a personal relationship with God.

We believe in a loving God that wants us to love one another and live in harmony with one another.

We believe God sent his son, Jesus, to show us the way and the Holy Spirit to give us the strength to follow.

We believe that nothing can separate us from our loving God, not even death!

Submitted by: Members of Disciple I

Doreen Ackell, Kathy Chambers, Don DeMouth,
Mark Pierce, Sue Teer, James Teer, David Zeigler,
Betty Avery and Phyllis Tranzillo

News from United Methodist Women

UMW Meeting

The next meeting of the United Methodist Women will be Wednesday, June 2, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will start with a potluck salad supper. The assignments are: A-H, main dish salad (chicken, tuna, egg, etc.), I-R, side salad (vegetable, tossed, fruit, gelatin, etc.), and S-Z, finger desserts. Rolls, chips, butter and beverages will be provided.

The program portion of the evening will focus on immigration. The biblical basis for the church's stance of welcoming immigrants will be explored. Get ready to take the "Immigrant Realities True/False Quiz." (No grades will be given!) The World Thank Offering will be taken during the worship time.

Try to make every effort to attend. This meeting will provide an opportunity for learning, fellowship and fun. It is open to all women in our community. If you have any questions or you need a ride, please call Karlene Lombardo at 203-743-1260.



UMW BAKE SALE FOR MISSION



**Mother's Day
Sunday, May 9**

**Let the United Methodist Women
do your baking for Mother's Day—
immediately following worship
in the Narthex**



Book Club

May 17, 2010

7:30 p.m.

**"Made in U.S.A."
by Billie Letts**

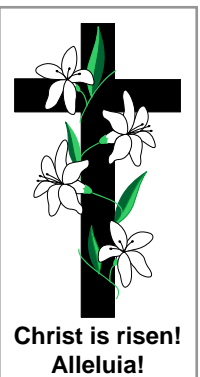
**at the home of
Lois Bornemeier**

Altar Guild

This year's Easter Memorial flowers were especially beautiful—all 77 of them! Not only was our sanctuary a beautiful sight to behold on Easter morning, but the air was filled with a heavenly scent.

Many thanks to everyone who so generously donated their Easter flowers to the sick and homebound and the people who delivered them. Nineteen plants were distributed—many of them right after church.

I would like to personally thank the members of the Altar Guild for making our sanctuary so beautiful for Easter Sunday. Sincere thanks to the congregation also for their many kind words.



— Jean Walker, Chair

Treasurer's Report

Cash Position 3/31/2010

BANK BALANCE	12/31/2009	\$ (1,171.26)
Receipts for:		
	Jan-10	\$ 16,915.23
	Feb-10	\$ 15,089.44
	Mar-10	\$ 15,031.90
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ 47,036.57
SPENT		
Apportionment		\$ 5,136.51
Church Bldg		\$ 17,228.70
Pastor		\$ 15,337.34
Office		\$ 2,348.79
Parsonage		\$ 2,354.30
Staff Parish		\$ 6,623.55
Teams		\$ 1,864.81
Trustees		\$ 89.95
TOTAL SPENT		\$ 50,983.95
3/31/2010 CHECKBOOK BALANCE		\$ (5,118.64)
EXCHANGE ACCOUNT		
ALTAR GUILD		\$ 3,008.31
INTEREST		\$ 0.51
YOUTH GROUP		\$ 267.00
NYAC		\$ -
TNL		\$ (210.68)
PARTY		\$ 252.68
SOUP KITCHEN		\$ 13.25
RENEWAL HOUSE		\$ 10.35
EXPENSE		\$ (19.50)
BALANCE		\$ 3,321.92

— Beverly Anderson, Treasurer

Bike and Build Reminder

On June 16th, 34 bike riders will be staying in our church. If anyone is willing to volunteer, donate food, or let us borrow air mattresses, please contact SHERRY TYRRELL at 203-746-4800. Here is a link to their website: www.bikeandbuild.org



Flame Info.

June 2010 Flame Deadline

Sunday, May 16, 2010

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Director of Communications: Mark Baxter

A Safe Sanctuary for Children

9:30 Sunday School • 10:30 Sunday Worship

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Friday, May 21, 2010

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Adults - \$10.00

Seniors - \$8.00

Children under 10 - \$6.00

Pulled Pork, Coleslaw, Beans, Bread and Dessert

**All proceeds from this dinner will go to support Bike and Build
while they stay at our church on June 16th.**