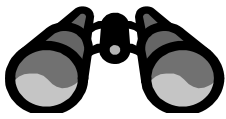




Volume 11, Issue 7
September 2010



A closer look

Youth Group

3PM Wednesdays

Helping Hands

10 AM Thursday
the 2nd

Homecoming

Sunday the 12th
9:30 AM Pancake
Breakfast

10:30 AM Worship



Sunday School

9:30 AM

Beginning the 19th

UMW Meeting

7:00 PM

Wednesday the 22nd



The Lord blesses
his people
with peace.
Psalm 29:11

THE FLAME



The United Methodist Church of Danbury

Message from Pastor Karen...

As we head into the fall, I can say we're having a very good year! Our 40th anniversary in March gave us a reason to celebrate, and brought lots of excitement and fun. We can also rejoice in the present: new members, visitors every week, Appalachia Service Project, baptisms and confirmation, Thursday Night Life gatherings, Vacation Bible School! And looking forward, we have a great deal to be excited about, as fall brings the return of Sunday School, Disciple Bible Study, and Confirmation, as well as some expanding programs. We are very sorry to lose our beloved organist, Becky Blomgren, but we are delighted for her that she has found a position fifteen minutes from her home (instead of an hour and a half!). We have struggled financially with the departure of the Logos Free Methodist Church from our building, but if everyone catches up on their pledges this fall and the Fall Festival (October 16) goes well, it looks like things will be fine.

We need to continue this momentum if we are to remain a healthy church body. But as a community of friends, family, and worshippers of God, our health and growth depend not only upon good programs and adequate funds, but upon ample communication—an honest sharing of goals and visions, needs and desires. When communication falters, relationships suffer.

George Bernard Shaw said it so well: "The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place."

We are working harder than ever to improve communications within our church. This is a spiritual issue as well as a practical one. Within the church, if people are surprised by changes—even good ones—we tend to get all upset and lose our focus on God. And beyond the church, we can have the most wonderful community, perfect programs, delightful classes, angelic choir—but if nobody knows about them, the Kingdom of God gains nothing.

We need everyone's participation for our communications to succeed. That wonderful old standby, word of mouth, is incredibly effective at spreading news—but it reaches only those who are already active and plugged in to the

Mission

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 †

Worship Schedule for September

September 5	<i>Last 9:30 worship service for the summer</i>	
	8:30 a.m.	Pick-a-Parable Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Worship and communion
September 12	<i>Homecoming Sunday</i>	
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School welcome-back celebration
	10:30 a.m.	Worship, with handbells and dance team
September 19	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for children, youth, and adults
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
September 26	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for children, youth, and adults
	10:30 a.m.	Worship



Pastor Karen will be preaching at all of these services.

Child care is available during Sunday School and worship.



**We praise God for our
Appalachian Service Project youth & leaders:**

Coralee DeMouth, David Zeigler, Kaylyn Clemens, Emily McWilliams, Lorena Tesbir, Will McWilliams, Katie DeMouth, Amanda Sutor, Mark Clemens, Serge Karpow, Meghan DeMouth, Madison Zeigler, Don DeMouth, Carla Pierce, Ashley Clemens, Nicole Sutor, Shirely Fogle, Karen Karpow, Mark Pierce and Myra Tesbir.

And for all who supported ASP prayerfully and financially.

Staff Parish Relations

In recent months the SPR Committee spent some time reviewing the workbook "Who Cares for the Pastor?" by Rev. Dennis Winkleblack. Available as a pdf through the New York Conference's web site (www.nyac.com), this is an exceptional guide for members of any SPR Committee. It offers tools and ideas how to best fulfill the role of an SPR Committee member particularly in relation to a Pastor and his or her family. We began discussing ways our committee may be able to offer on-going support and assistance not only for Pastor Karen, but also for other staff members. We hope to schedule additional meetings soon to work our way through the balance of the workbook.

On June 20th a meeting was held with everyone involved in the Sunday child care program in order to develop schedules and procedures with our child care coordinator, Jessie Raigosa, and her two back-up child care coordinators, Marlene Viera and Kori Krafick.

As a result of this meeting, formal time sheets were created for our child care providers to use each week. These time sheets will be completed and submitted for the church's records and, hopefully, ease the process of issuing payment to our child care providers. Our online church calendar will now also list the name of the person handling child care on a given Sunday so that all concerned will know who is responsible for coverage.

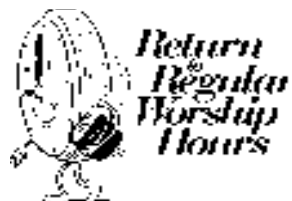
As we get closer to fall, SPR is looking for several teen volunteers to help with child care on Sundays. We are very grateful to both Katie DeMouth and Anna Jones for their continuing help, but we do need help from other teens. Hopefully, we will receive enough offers of volunteer help that Jessie Raigosa will be able to count on having one assistant each Sunday. This will also allow us to adhere more closely to our Safe Sanctuaries policy. If anyone is interested in helping out, please e-mail me at russocck@snet.net, or contact the church office. If you are available even one Sunday a month we would welcome your assistance.

On Sunday, July 11th, we were saddened to receive the news that Becky Blomgren, our devoted Music Director, will be leaving UMCD. Happily for Becky, she has accepted a similar position at the North Guilford Congregational Church which is only 15 minutes from her home. For Becky, this should be a welcome relief from the long commute she has been doing for many years now. On behalf of the SPR Committee, we extend our best wishes to Becky and our deepest thanks for her devotion and her talents as well as her delightful personality. She will be sorely missed.

In order for all members of the congregation to have an opportunity to thank Becky, the SPR Committee will be hosting the coffee hour on Sunday, August 29th in Becky's honor. The 29th will be Becky's last day with us before she begins her new position. Please be sure to join us.

-Chris Russock

10:30 AM
Sunday
September 12



Come to the United Methodist Women's Meeting



The next United Methodist Women's meeting will be Tuesday, September 22, 2010. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. in room three. *Our guest speaker will be Emanuela Lima, editor of the "Tribuna". She will speak on the social justice topic "Human Trafficking".* Plans for the UMW Tag Sale held during the Pumpkin Festival will be discussed during the business section of the meeting. A dessert social will follow the meeting.

Our unit is having a collection of the following for Dorothy Day: powdered drink mix, canned fruit, canned vegetables, ketchup, mustard, barbeque sauce, and hot sauce. If possible large sizes would be appreciated. Paper goods, for the soup kitchen, will also be gladly accepted. 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 or you need a ride please call Karlene Lombardo at 203-743-1260.

Christian Education

Homecoming Sunday

Homecoming Sunday is September 12th. Join us for a pancake breakfast at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meet the Sunday School teachers and play a challenging game of Bible jeopardy. Everyone is welcome!



MEET THE TEACHERS

Sunday School

Regular Sunday School classes will begin September 19th. Sunday School is held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. before the Sunday worship service. Sunday School classes are available for children and adults. Child care is available for children under 3 years old. Join the Sunday School bunch and learn about or revisit the stories of the Bible.

Successful Communications

Please return this form so we can begin distributing our Flame to you faster and with some financial savings. How would you like to receive your Flame:?

Emailed to _____

Distributed in the church narthex

Mailed

Thanks, but I'll just check our website

(www.DanburyMethodist.org)

Thanks for your help! We need it.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____

THE
FLAME

Thanks to all who made this Flame possible:

September Editor Kathy Roig

Production Staff Valerie Stagen, Bill Grandison, Dot Gadoci, Dot Treadwell, Kathy Roig

Contributors Pastor Karen Karpow, Karlene Lombardo, Jean Walker, Bev Anderson, Coralee DeMouth, Bishop Rouse, Chris Russock

Comments and suggestions regarding the Flame are welcome. Direct them to Karen, Jean Walker or Kathy Roig (or anyone else who might listen!)

Deadline for the October Flame

Sunday, September 19

Kathy Roig, Editor

My Dear Christian Friends,

Shown below is the announcement made regarding our church's financial condition. Please take note and respond to the call where applicable. Some members have responded already with financial and commitments of assistance for Fall Festival 2010.

July 25, 2010

We began the year with a deficit of \$1,157, which includes using ~\$10,000 from bequests. This deficit was as a result of slow receipt of funds from space users. We were notified at the beginning of the year that our major space user would be moving on to another facility which left a tremendous void in expected income. To make up for the void, in February 2010, I asked on behalf of the Finance Committee that all family units increase their giving by \$10/Sunday.

As of July 23, 2010 our deficit increased to \$8,400. This is an alarming number because we cannot pay all of our bills in a timely manner, e.g., our apportionments are 3 months behind. Of the \$8,400, approximately \$5,200 is uncollected funds from those that pledged. Yes, our giving increased to an average of \$3,118/Sunday from an average of \$2,847 compared to the comparable period in 2009, which is GREAT, TERRIFIC, but remains short of our self sufficiency goal of \$3,675/Sunday.

At this point, where do we go from here? First of all we don't give up, but we utilize our talents to:

1. Increase our membership.
2. Give as the Lord desires. If you have not increased your giving with \$10 more per Sunday please do so. And if your pledge is not up-to-date, please bring your pledge up-to-date as soon as possible.
3. Participate in making FALL FESTIVAL 2010, the greatest ever. Incomes from previous Fall Festivals have ranged from \$4,000 to \$7,300. I implore all to utilize our talents to do what's necessary to achieve greater than \$8,000, which would be a new record!

In closing, I am sure you would agree that not one of us can make the deficit go away alone. It takes all of us. In our last council meeting we closed the meeting with prayer and the reading of ROMANS 12: 6-8.

6We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

MAY GOD BLESS US AND LEAD US IN EVERYTHING WE DO. AMEN.

-Bishop Rouse, Council and Finance Chair



Believe!



Donations Needed

Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving,
Christmas items

Bric-a-brac — candy dishes, candles/holders,
figurines, music boxes, etc.

Baskets

Picture frames

Small furniture

Toys, games, puzzles

Kitchen/household items

Linens in good condition

DVDs, CDs, records

Now is the time to start your Fall cleaning,
putting aside all those unwanted items for our
Tag Sale.

Bring your donations to Fellowship Hall on
Thursday evenings from 5 to 7 OR Sunday
morning from 9:30 to 12 noon.

Pick ups/questions, call:

Jean Walker, (203) 744-6175

Karlene Lombardo, (203) 743-1260

Join Our Pumpkin Festival Team!

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Pumpkin Patch	Bev Anderson
Ad book	Bev Anderson
Books	Minnie Rouse
Chuck's wagon	Marcia Viestrogoski
Country Store	Marcia Viestrogoski
Kid's games	Coralee DeMouth
Granny's Attic	Deb Davis
Kitchen food	Sherry Tyrrell
Jewelry	Alice Corso
Tag sale	Jean Walker/Karlene Lombardo
Gold for Cash	Bob Doyle/Bev Anderson
votive candles	Emily McWilliams
Clean up	????
Advertising	Mark Pierce ?

Please contact any of the people above with questions
about the activity next to their name.

I don't have a date for the pumpkin delivery yet, but
will let you know as soon as I do.

There are ad book letters available. Please ask around
to see if you can find someone to take an ad in our book.

Please bring all costume jewelry in as soon as possible
and give to Bev Anderson so it can be cleaned and
packaged for sale.

As you search for jewelry for our festival, be sure to look
for broken gold jewelry or gold jewelry you no longer
wear. Bob Doyle, from Liberty Gold, Inc., will be here to
buy your gold. He will pay you on the spot.
Even better, the church will receive 60% of his profits!
More information will be sent to members in October
from Bob Doyle. I can also answer most questions.

Please contact Bev Anderson about any of the above
and I will try to answer your questions.
My home number is 203-746-4800.



**METHODISTS
ARE
GREEN**

(We know it's not easy)

Reduce the amount and toxicity of trash you throw away
and **reuse** containers and products. **Recycle** as much as
possible and buy products with recycled content.

The concept of reduce, reuse, recycle is equally important
for household hazardous waste and industrial materials.



Finances

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	-\$12,063.96	\$1,166.90
MAY	\$15,925.00	\$16,750.70	-\$17,321.01	-\$570.31
JUN	\$15,925.00	\$13,621.90	-\$14,892.16	-\$1,270.26
JUL	\$15,925.00	\$8,555.00	-\$12,895.67	-\$1,592.17
AUG	\$15,925.00			
SEP	\$15,925.00			
OCT	\$15,925.00			
NOV	\$15,925.00			
DEC	\$15,925.00			

YEAR-TO-DATE

TOTALS	\$193,366.00	\$99,194.78		-\$7,249.80
12/31/2009	Balance			-\$1,171.26
7/31/2010	Cash balance			-\$8,421.06

Pastor Karen's Message (continued from page 1)

grapevine. Our goal is a widening of the net, to reach not only those of us already here, but those interested, yet still on the sidelines. Everyone reading this knows people who don't attend church here or anywhere—people who are yearning for a connection to God and community.

With that in mind, we are revamping our communications. The Sunday bulletin and bulletin boards will provide essential information for those of you who join us every Sunday. We're also building out our website and our Facebook page for those who access information online. Inside this issue you'll find a questionnaire asking you to tell us how to get our newsletter to you — to get this information out more quickly and less expensively.

Please let us know how you want to receive our communications—at church, by email, or by regular mail. You'll find a form inside that you can return to the church office or put in the offering plate. We also want to know more about what news you are interested in hearing, and how frequently.

We have many tools for communicating with one another—sharing our ideas and our complaints and our hope—but they are only effective if we use them. Let us know your thoughts on what is missing, what is needed, or what needs to be changed.

If you have thoughts you'd rather share with me in person, that is welcome too! Please email, call or stop by. Here's how to reach me:

Office phone: 203-743-1503

Email: Karen.Karpow@gmail.com

Facebook page: Danbury Methodist

Church website: www.DanburyMethodist.org

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Our Book Club Members Want YOU!



Join us on

September 20 for Sarah's Key

October 18 for Have a Little Faith

November 15 for The Gurnsey Literary & Potato Peel Society

AND...



The United Methodist Church of Danbury

5 Clapboard Ridge Road • Danbury, CT 06811

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

A Safe Sanctuary for Children



Pastor: Karen Karpow

Music Director: Rebecca Blomgren

Lay Leaders: Minnie Rouse & David Zeigler

Director of Communications: Mark Baxter

Child Care Coordinator: Jessie Raigosa

So You Think You Know a Thing or Two About PUMPKINS.....

(Thank you Bev Anderson.....we think!)

A pumpkin is really a squash. It is a member of the cucurbita family. Pumpkins are believed to have originated in Central America. They are rich in Vitamin A and potassium and high in fiber.

Did you know that a pumpkin has an anatomy? Since we need to be pumpkin experts at our pumpkin patch here is a list of the pumpkin's anatomy:

Stem -at the very top of the pumpkin and looks like a handle but DON'T pick a pumpkin up by its stem.

Tendrils - thin hair like tendrils near the stem

Leaves - these are found on the pumpkin vine and absorb sun light for the pumpkin to grow

The Lid - when you cut around the stem to open the pumpkin it becomes the lid

Pumpkin shell - refers to the skin and the pulp of the fruit

Skin - thin, shiny, orange outer layer

Pulp - the meat of the pumpkin

Ribs - indented ridges running from top to bottom of pumpkin

Seeds - for next year's crop or to eat

Now you can amaze your friends with pumpkin knowledge!!!

An Invitation to All Your Friends

To Visit Our

Pumpkin Patch



In

October

UMCD'S 6th ANNUAL PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

10AM to 3PM

