

From the Pastor...

*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
Matthew 6:21*

The professional church educator's group I still belong to has been having an interesting on-line discussion this past week. One of our members asked us to reflect on what scripture texts we find most grounding in our work as educators, pastors and teachers. It has been a fascinating discussion to watch unfold as so many different texts from both the Old and new Testaments have been surfaced by everyone from Sunday School superintendents to Senior Pastors at large churches. As I read each one, I marveled at how God speaks to us all through the sacred text of our faith in ever new and amazing ways. The Bible truly is a living and breathing gift which is as important to us as Christians today as it was when all those biblical writers first put pen to paper millennia ago.

You might be wondering which text I chose as most grounding for myself. This is not as simple a matter to me as you might think. You may have figured out that I love the Bible and indeed have many favorite verses, including 14 that I pray each morning as part of my daily prayer time. Each speaks to me in a different way, reminding me of all the challenges God has seen me through as well as all the abundant blessings with which God has graced me. But as I pondered which verse *grounds* me in my life and work, I realized that is a very specific question. It's sort of like asking someone to give a title to a book that would be written about them or a movie made of their lives. A biblical text which *grounds* you is one that shapes how you live your life each day. It's the one which reflects the process through which you make decisions about all the details, big and little, that make up your life each day.

As you may already have guessed, the text I ultimately chose is the one which appears as the title to this little article. Part of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, this verse follows Jesus' advice not to store up treasures on this earth where “moth and rust

consume and thieves break in and steal.” Instead, Jesus says we are to store up our treasures in heaven “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” I chose this verse because I think it sums up a basic principle of life – what is most important to each of us each day is revealed in the choices we make about how we invest our time, our lives and our energies. In other words, what we spend our time, our money and our energy doing tells the world what we love. I hope my life reveals my treasure to be my faith because it does ground every other aspect of my life and work.

So, I have two questions for you to ponder during this month of May. First, what bible text would you pick for yourself as a “grounding” text? What bible verse could be the title for a movie about your life? Second, how is that biblical text visible in what you treasure most in life? Think about it. Make some notes. Then send me an email or give me a call. I'm sure we'll have a lot to talk about.

Blessings,
Pastor Ruth

Confirmation Class forming for next Fall!

Pastor Ruth knows there are several confirmation age youth in the congregation (think 8th, 9th or 10th grade) and she is really psyched about creating a Confirmation experience with you that will last a lifetime. If you are confirmation age and interested in participating in a Confirmation experience next year, please call or email Pastor Ruth to get your name on the list. A meeting for all potential Confirmands and their parents will take place sometime soon so we can decide together on what this experience might be.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Brian Johnson – 3
Charlotte Korean - 4
Gregory Sugar - 5
Gene LeRoy – 7
Nicholas Schilke – 9
Rev. Kathleen Crockford - 10
Daniel Stratton – 20
Susan Moynihan - 27

Happy Anniversary to:

Mark & Elizabeth Dessaulles – May 6

Please add in your special days by calling the church office!

Getting Connected

The Stewardship Committee would like to find volunteers who would be willing to host “**Meet and Greet Gatherings**” with Reverend Ruth this fall between September 16th and October 26th. Feel free to choose whatever date and venue you would like and a Stewardship representative will attend to take care of pledge card distribution. Contact Stewardship members Bill Street, Jay Macko, or Elvis Torres for ideas, dates, or any information or assistance you would need. Thank you.

- The
Stewardship Committee

LIFE’S JOURNEYS

*Prayers of sympathy
are extended to the families of:*

**Evelyn Roberts
Laurie Lamb**

Parents’ Opportunity

*Please pray for the following members
and friends of our church:*

Elizabeth Ball	Pat Donovan	Jimmy
Ann Brown	Barbara	Barbara Simmons
Charlie Wright	Madelyn Stratton	Sandi Davis
Doris Gouvin	Fred	Jeff
Catherine	Debbie	Jim
Millie Silver	Carole Lennon	Jonathan Salovitz
Vince Amkhamavong, U.S. Marines		Shirley Harrington
Gretchen Dessaulles	John Dillon	Sheryl
David Jones	Ron Madill	Lisa
The Pendleton Family	Beverly and Family	Peter Knox

*If you would like anyone added or taken off this list for the
next newsletter, please call the office or let one of our deacons
know. Thank you.*

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Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
May 6	Bobbie DelPozo-Waldron	(860) 495-5389
May 13	Pam DelPozo-Waldron	(860) 495-5389
May 20	Claire Calabretta	(860) 536-3625
May 27	Gary Davis	(860) 599-4279

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The Board of Christian Education and the Sunday School teachers would like to invite all parents of children in the Sunday School program to a **special meeting** on Sunday, **May 20th** following Worship/Sunday School in the downstairs classroom. We would like to hear your thoughts about what you hope the Sunday School experience will be for your children here at UCC Westerly and how you might be involved in the program moving forward.

UCC of Westerly Youth Community Service Project

We are collecting food for Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center for summertime when local children are out of school and do not have access to breakfasts and lunches at school.

If you can help, please bring in cereals, breakfast bars, peanut butter, fluff, jelly, tuna, soup, canned pasta, or macaroni & cheese.

Place foods in the special boxes in the foyer between **May 13 – June 3**.

THANK YOU!!!!

**SAVE THE DATE NOW FOR
UNITED CONGREGATIONAL'S LEADERSHIP RETREAT
Saturday, June 30, 2012
9am – 3:30pm**

Central Congregational Church, UCC, Providence, RI

All members of the church's groups, boards and committees are urged to attend this event where we will begin the process of envisioning what the future could hold for us.

Please speak with Pastor Ruth with questions or concerns.

Annual Barbara Murano

Scholarship Ham & Bean Dinner **Saturday, May 12th, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

- *Sponsored by the Deacons to raise money to grant yearly scholarships to our church members of any age who are pursuing higher education!*
- *Those interested in applying for the scholarship are encouraged to help out before, during, or after the dinner if possible.*

MENU: Baked Ham, Homemade Baked Beans, Brown Bread, Cole Slaw, a variety of freshly baked Desserts, and Beverages

Cost: \$10.00 – single ticket

\$ 25.00 – for a Family

Take-out is available.

Donations of baked beans, brown bread, and desserts would be greatly appreciated. Please **sign up** on the sign-up sheet that is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Barbara Murano was a member and Deacon of our church. After her death on September 9, 1990, the Diaconate Board established a scholarship in her memory. Scholarships are awarded to members of the church who are continuing their formal education in some manner. To help support this fund and keep it growing, the Diaconate Board has a Ham & Bean Dinner each year. Please support this worthy cause and enjoy a great dinner and fellowship.

Scholarship applications are available in the church foyer. Any member who is pursuing higher education may apply. Please submit completed applications by Sunday, **May 6th**. Applications may be left in the Deacons' mailbox outside the church office or handed off to any deacon. Announcement of scholarship awards will take place on *Children's Sunday, June 3rd*.

Mission News

Thank you to the congregation for your One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which totals \$184.15. The next UCC-wide offering is **"Strengthen the Church"** on **May 27**. Don't forget to watch the Duck Race on April 28th at 1:30 in downtown Westerly. Your kind support has raised \$282.85 for our church; a portion will go for the General Fund and a portion for a global mission education and awareness resource for our members.

The **UCC Coffee Project** is another name for one of our ongoing missions. You may also know it as **Equal Exchange, Fairly Traded**. This is the little table where you can purchase coffee, tea, chocolate and other items in Fellowship Hall. Just to let you know, our church and the UCC do not make any profit from these sales; the money from our sales is sent directly to the growers and owners of small farms in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the U.S. to help them build a better future for themselves and their families. The farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit, and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust. In 2011, the UCC Coffee Project raised \$9,260.05 for the Small Farmer Fund! We have some new products to offer: Organic Camomile Tea, Organic Peppermint Tea, Organic Darjeeling Tea, Organic Espresso Bean Chocolate, and Organic "Mind, Body, and Soul" coffee (medium/Vienna roast). There is a **new price-list** at the table. We sell "at cost" with no mark-up.

Every second Sunday is "**Mission Sunday**." This is always the Sunday that our church sponsors the Westerly WARM Center meal. The boards and committees are assigned a month in the year for this local mission. The WARM Center meal for Sunday, **May 13th**, is going to be the responsibility of the *Board of Deacons*. Watch for more information about what the WARM Center does and specific details on how we help. The Mission Committee has decided to add a food/living supplies offering on each Mission Sunday to better benefit the **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC)**, our other local mission. Please bring a few items to place in the wicker basket on the floor near the altar. It is our hope that

with this monthly ritual, we will remember to generously feed our neighbors. Please note expiration dates on food. Items of particular need are *tea, coffee, fruit juice, jams, and jellies*. Glass jars are acceptable. The Red Buckets are now located in Fellowship Hall by the Mission bulletin board.

In an effort to truly be aware of all our church's mission work, we would like to issue a **formal request to all boards and committees** to make a list of all their service projects, donations, outreach, etc. and place it in the Missions mailbox outside the office. Challenge your group to think of every possibility. Some examples could be: Trustees – our church provides electricity, heat, and a meeting place for several community groups; Christian Education – our children will be collecting food for the PNC Summer Fill-a-Backpack drive. You may be able to attach an estimated value to each donation. **Individual church members** are welcome to write their recollections on the chart on the Missions bulletin board. For example – We contribute to the pastor's discretionary fund every Communion Sunday. We are trying to get a good view of what we already "do," as we think about and evolve our mission work in the future. Ideally, we would support and/or educate about local, national, and global missions. Thank you for your help!

-Jenny

Brummund for Missions

THANK YOU ...

Our THANKS to everyone who made the following events at the church so successful. The following amounts were realized at each of these events:

Soup Supper & Swing - \$400; **Valentine Tea** - \$1,180; and the **Corned Beef Supper** - \$570. All of your efforts are greatly appreciated.

*Thank you also to everyone who worked and/or donated items to the **Attic Treasures Sale**.*