

From the Pastor...

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. . . . let your light shine before others, so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

One of the little things I so love about our church is our use of the lighthouse "beacon" image. As you walk in the main bell courtyard door, you see a line of lighthouses atop our welcoming display case. Our newsletter is called "The Beacon." To me that means we are claiming our responsibility as a community of Christians to live into Christ's words from Matthew about being the light of the world. At least, we are trying to and it is often not easy.

Being the light of the world is not easy because we know the world is so big and our light shining out from UCC Westerly seems so very small by comparison. But it's not. Not really. Our little light is sort of like a flashlight shining in the dark, guiding its holder to a place of safety where more light abounds. Our little light, when combined with all the little lights of folks in other churches and synagogues and mosques and ashrams around the world, is able to illuminate the whole world. All we need to do is our part -- keeping our light shining brightly, as brightly as we are able, and trust God will handle the rest.

As we have met this fall in Stewardship's "Get Connected" small groups, I have become ever more convinced that our light is poised to shine even more brightly. These gatherings have been invaluable to me as your pastor as you truly connected with me and with each other in new ways. These groups gave rise to so many thoughtful and provocative conversations which in turn gave voice to some incredible new ideas even as tried and true possibilities were revisited and reclaimed. It has become clear to me that UCCW's light has been shining strongly ever since its birth as a uniting congregation almost 50 years ago and that same wonderful, courageous spirit is still alive and well here. We have so much to offer our community and in the coming months we will be deciding together just how to do that. Some of the ideas which have surfaced include creating a community garden on our expansive front lawn to grow vegetables for the food pantry at the PNC; identifying ways to reach out to the Castle Hill community where we are located to remind

them we are their neighborhood church; continuing to expand what we offer for children and families including the possibility of a children's choir; taking trips as a congregation which will widen our horizons even as they deepen our faith and our sense of connection with one another.

Our light on the hill is indeed shining brightly and our future promises even more light to break forth. The real question for you is how you will be a part of this bright and shining future emerging right here in our midst. As you ponder your answer, I leave with you with a new spin on a very old joke – How many UCCW-ers does it take to screw in a light bulb? Who knows? But we're sure gonna find out!!!!

Blessings,

Pastor Ruth

Operation Christmas Child

There has been a wonderful response to **Operation Christmas Child** so far. It is not too late to fill a box, donate items, or help defray the cost of shipping. These boxes are filled with items for boys or girls ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Things we take for granted, such as toothpaste, pencils, socks, or notebooks are such treats to so many children. Adding real treats, like a small toy, crayons, fleece blanket, t-shirts, or non-chocolate candy make the box even more special. You can write a letter to the recipient and include a photo. The cost to ship each box is \$7.00. Please return filled boxes to church by **November 11th**. See *Lynn Murray* if you have questions.

Mission Memos

*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
Fred	Jeff	Jim
Catherine	Debbie	Shirley Harrington
Millie Silver	Carole Lennon	Lisa
Vince Amkhamavong, U.S. Marines		John Dillon
Beverly and Family	Sheryl	David Jones Susan &
Devin	Doris	

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.

Help Wanted – “Coffee Angels”

Three to 4 people willing to make sure that coffee and ice water are out on Sundays without a coffee host. Also clean up.
NO FOOD! Only coffee and ice water.

THANK YOU ...

... “Special THANKS to the congregation for all your prayers, cards, and goodwill wishes for my recovery. You are a wonderful church family.”
- Joanne McNeil

...Pastor Ruth and Susan would like to thank *Gary Davis* for all his work in setting up and installing our new **computer system**. We also thank *George Gray and Karen Meara* for their input and advice.

The **Christmas Fund Offering** (formerly Veterans of the Cross) will be received on **Sunday, December 23rd**. This Fund which is administered by the UCC Pension Board, provides a financial safety net to individuals and families in need through gift checks to low-income retired clergy and their widowed spouses; emergency assistance to clergy in financial need; and funding for pension and health supplementation plans for low income retired clergy and lay employees. An envelope is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience.

We hope to encourage and increase our monthly donations to the **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center** by providing you monthly with a specific foodstuff that is especially needed by the community. For the month of November, if you are shopping and can purchase an extra or two and/or see a great sale, please consider adding to your grocery cart: **baked beans, tuna in oil, Spam, Chef Boy-R-Dee, instant mashed potatoes, and canned fruit: mixed fruit, peaches, pears and pineapple.** Of course, any and all donations are so needed. There is a red bucket in Fellowship Hall and in the upper parking lot sanctuary foyer. **Every second Sunday**, the Mission Committee will place an in-worship collection basket on the chancel (near the altar), to help remind us to make food donations part of our monthly or weekly offering. Thank you again for all you do for others in need. Remember the words from Micah 6:8: *“...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

REMINDER: The **WARM CENTER meal** for Sunday, **November 11th**, is going to be the responsibility of the *Board of Christian Ed.*

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Megan Gray – 5
Kali Bogue – 6
John Walker – 21
Christina Brummund - 25
Alison Schilke – 26
Sara Schilke – 26

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

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Nov 4	Claire Calabretta	(860) 536-3625
Nov 11	Gary Davis	(860) 599-4279
Nov 18	Ed Stratton	(401) 596-4740
Nov 25	Chris Fuller	(401) 315-2282

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

REMEMBER...

- **Don't forget the All Saints Day Service on November 4.**
Photos of loved ones now gone will be gratefully displayed during the service.
- **Directory Update:** A make-up session for folks who weren't able to make our September photography dates has been scheduled for Thursday, November 15. A number of appointments still available! We also want to take two special group photos of the remaining members of our two

- parent churches – the Christian Church in Westerly and Broad Street Congregational Church of Pawcatuck -- still in our midst. Date and time of photography to be determined. Please speak with Bill Street to be a part of these photos!
- **The BAD Bible Study** continues and is now meeting on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11am in the Parlor. Please feel free to join us anytime, whether you have done the reading for the session or not. Our November gatherings will be on the 4th and the 18th when our topics will be “Rebekah: Deceptive or Direct?” and “Tamar: Parasite or Persistent?” respectively.
- **3rd Wednesday Evening Prayer Service** is being deferred until after the first of the year due to the Thanksgiving Eve service at Avondale Chapel on November 21 and the Blue Christmas Service here on December 20.
- **Family Fun Fridays** continue to be a wonderful and energetic experience for elementary and middle school age children and their parents. Watch your email or speak with any CE Board member for details on our upcoming plans!
- **Have a talent you are willing to share with others?**
Consider teaching a class right here at UCCW as part of our Lenten program offerings this coming February and March. We are looking for classes in anything that interests you – knitting, crocheting, cooking, baking, woodworking, painting, photography – to name a few possibilities. If you would like to share what you know, we're interested! Please email or speak with Pastor Ruth anytime.
- **Mark your December calendars now for the following!**
 - **Saturday, December 8** – Women's Day Retreat with Pastor Ruth to the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, CT. See her for more details. Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Space is limited!
 -
 -

-
- **Thursdays at 10am** – December 6, 13, 20 – *Praying our Way to Christmas*
Pastor Ruth will be leading this brief Advent series on prayer as an opportunity for folks to give themselves the gift of a deeper relationship with God this Advent season. Speak with her for more details.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & TEA & SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, December 1, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please support our annual event!

The Silent Auction – Do you have a treasure or “favorite thing” that you could part with for the Silent Auction? You may bring clean, saleable items to church and place them in the room next to the craft room on the middle level of the church. Thank you.

Greens Room – We are looking for folks to cut and deliver all kinds of greens and berries to be used for our wreaths and arrangements. **Workshops** will be held on Monday, **November 26th** and Tuesday, **November 27th** morning and evening. You need not have prior experience to help. Bring a pruning tool and a pointy instrument to make creating easier. Small baskets with plastic liners would be appreciated, as well as containers that would be good for greens arrangements. If you purchased a wreath last year, please return your wreath ring for a discount on this year’s wreath. Please sign up to help on the Fellowship Hall sheets. See *Lynn Murray* if you have questions.

Bake Room – Breads, cookies, fudge, cakes, pies, quick breads, coffee cakes, biscotti, baked beans, jams, jellies, relishes, candy, or any homemade food item you would like to make will be much appreciated. If you have a family recipe you’d like to share, you might start a fan club, as many customers come year after year for some items we repeatedly have. Start early and freeze your goods or bake the week of the bazaar. Thank you for your continued support.

- Carolyn LeRoy, Carole Cravinho

The Children’s Shopping Room – is in need of people to organize, run and staff it! This special room is a place where only children are allowed to purchase reasonable priced gifts of new and/or gently used items which will then be wrapped or bagged for them to give as presents. There are already items stored to get started and members have been generous in donating items every year. It has been a rewarding experience for our family as our children have grown up in the church and we would be willing to answer any questions you might have. Please feel free to ask *George or Cathy Gray* for more information!

CLEAR YOUR CLUTTER, SUPPORT OUR CHURCH!

In addition to your always needed and much appreciated contributions of linens, hankies, knickknacks, jewelry, and housewares for the **Nostalgia Boutique** ...We have a little space now that the boutique spans two whole rooms! Have you any “Ugly” Christmas Sweaters or Ties to spare? (These are the outrageous-looking seasonal clothing items that are gifted to you by loved ones, or you buy on impulse but never wear!) Well, they are all the rage now, and we hope to put together at least a small selection for the Nostalgia Boutique. Please consider donating your extras for this year’s bazaar – who knows, maybe next year we will have a whole room full!

Workers are needed for the bazaar day as well as set up that week. Thanks! Please see *Claire Calabretta* (860) 536-3625 or *Becky Morrone* (401) 596-1070 with questions and suggestions.