

A VIEW FROM THE STEEPLE

JUNE 2009

The **View from the Steeple** is published monthly by The Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC.

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Ministerial Musings, June 2009 ~

This month, I am going to attempt to address (as comprehensively as I am able) two significant issues in the life of this church. They both call for deep thought, and attention to sacred processes within the life of the church. Thank you in advance for reading them carefully.

SABBATICAL TIME, TIME APART

God first, then Jesus, set precedents and modeled for us the sacred concept of “restorative time apart.” We (us mortals) have attempted to acknowledge the need for rest in our lives ~ rest from hard work ~ by imitating the process we believe God to have followed when, after six days engaged in the demanding work of creating the world as we know it, God took the seventh to rest. However, there appears to be at work in our world both a secular definition of sabbatical and one that the church is trying to resurrect. The second seeks to re-establish God’s intention.

In the “publish or perish” driven world that defines “academic sabbaticals”, one must take the time out of the classroom to either conduct research that one turns into a book upon one’s return to the classroom, or, if research has already been done, write the book during sabbatical [sic] time! I submit for your consideration that this is not sabbatical time as God commanded the Sabbath be observed. God intended the Sabbath (or sabbatical time) for rest and renewal.

Jesus further illustrated and modeled the sacred concept of self-care by balancing time apart (on the seashore, on the mountain, on the mountainside, etc.) with time engaged in ministry. Read the Gospels. The first time he did this, the disciples “freaked out,” searching for him every where (because he did not tell them where he was going), and rebuking him for taking time to himself when people were waiting for him to heal them and talk to them. Christ persisted in taking time to himself, though it would appear that he did tell the 12 where he was going from that point on. He must also have told them that he was absolutely not to be disturbed during those times because he never was. Instead he persisted throughout his ministry with taking time apart in between times of intense engagement with those who so needed his ministry in their lives. One might say it was his attention to self-care that made his life possible ~ so brief, so intense and so powerful as to create life in God as we know it.

So, I am part of a small and persistently growing movement in the world of the church to reclaim the ordained concept of Sabbatical. The Eli Lilly Co., through it’s philanthropic endeavors, has for the last number of years (at least 10) first piloted in Indiana (where Lilly is based and where I was then serving), and then nationally, programs by which it underwrites 1) clergy sabbaticals, biblically defined (if you write to receive one of these grants and you include in the description of what you will do reference to work, the grant will not be awarded) and 2) clergy study groups ~ another form of renewal ~ where groups of eight engage in crafting their own programs of study, which Lilly funds. In some cases, the groups will be flown to other places in the nation to meet with church specialists; their retreats paid for by these grants as well.

The time away that I will be taking this summer will allow for many professional issues to be addressed:

Sometimes I learn interesting things about myself as I hear what I say to others in narrating my own story. As I have heard myself say in several gatherings, the fact that I took no time off that first year I was among you has caught up with me. I came here first to “fill in” providing pulpit supply (while also visiting and filling the pastoral needs you had; and serving as the Executive Director of the Pastoral Counseling Center of West Hartford). When it became clear that your minister would not be returning, I become half-time (while serving another church “half-time” as their interim, effectively constructing between the two a parish that was, at minimum, an hour in circumference (☺!). We finally moved to full time ministry, still without taking a break, all while engaging in the process necessary to close the Center. I find myself exhausted at times and, after 27 years of ministry, painfully aware that I have never taken a sabbatical leave of any kind.

It is beyond time for me to pay attention to the kind of sabbatical undertaking modeled for me by Jesus and ordered by God, so that I can (spiritually and physically) continue to respond to the calls God issues to me ~ and the Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC has no provision for sabbatical time in its terms of call. Nor could you support one right now, even if you had it.

Sabbaticals require of churches that they pay their called minister *and* that professional who fills in while the called minister is away. Churches must plan ahead with great care for their minister’s sabbatical time, creating a line item that is funded year after year, the monies safe-guarded for use at the four- or five year mark during which called ministers may exercise their need for time apart, without fiscally harming the body they have been called to nurture towards growth (in all ways).

In an effort to solve both my professional dilemma of a need for time apart *and* not jeopardize the fiscal health we are working so hard to restore to this community of faith, and in the absence of a Lilly grant, parceling out weeks over a period of years seems a more prudent approach to sabbatical time than that institutionalized by the academics.

And in this, the summer of 2009, the time apart will also provide for me much needed breathing space, and a time for my own introspective journeying as we enter into that mysterious place between us called “discernment” about whether or not I am called to stay with you beyond December of 2010.

Let me hasten to add that I will not be returning from this time apart with answers, an answer or the answer to the questions we will begin to ask of one another this fall. I hope to return with a good deal of the deep spiritual and personal reflections and self-inventory accomplished, however, so that as we move in to this time of searching ~ both self-searching *and* for God’s will in our midst, I am in a position to both hear and respond to what I am hearing with confidence that whatever the answer at which we arrive, I am as confident as I can be that I will be able to fulfill my end of any covenant we may forge.

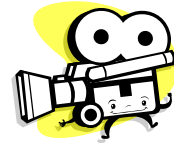
So, over the six weeks that I will be away this summer, I will not be available for the day-to-day business of the church. Others will be in the pulpit on Sunday morning (providing a rich and enriching variety of voices and messages, interpreting God’s word, bread for the journey); and others will be responding to more urgent pastoral concerns. And that will be hard ~ there will be people waiting for conversation and interactions with me, I know. However, as my God and my Savior have modeled for me, I will be practicing the fine art of restorative self-care, towards better serving you when I return. And while walking the beaches in communion with my God, I will be engaged in discernment practices towards questions that will shape my future in ministry in service to God as God’s will is revealed, in God’s good time.

May it be so with us all, as we move together into this time of discernment. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Claire



Movie Night!



The Evangelism and Church Growth Committee invites you to join us on Saturday, June 13 at 6:30pm for movie night in Kelsey Hall. We will be showing, "Ratatouille."

This is a Disney Pixar movie and is rated G. Refreshments will be served.

Coming – Covenant to Care for Children *Back-to-School Backpack Drive*

Summer is coming, and before we know it, we'll be gathering back-to-school items for our Covenant to Care for Children social worker's young school-age clients. At the end of June, a large box will be placed in the narthex to collect: backpacks, notebook and construction paper, pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, dividers, rulers, crayons, markers, calculators, glue, glue sticks, erasers, pencil boxes, pocket dictionaries -- any school supply, except no scissors. Watch for sales, and if you are shopping at Staples, CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, or many other stores – please support our scrip fundraiser and our church's general operating budget.

Your Mission-Social Action Committee - Audrey, Carol, Joni, Mary, Pauline, Rinette, Robin, and Ruthe

Prayer Shawl Meeting

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Thursday, June 25th at Joni Czajkowski's in Bristol. All are welcome to this fellowship of knitters and crocheters, or just come and enjoy our fellowship. If you'd like to learn how to knit or crochet, please join us on the fourth Thursday of the month. For a ride, call Carol during the day at 747-5174. The group will not meet during the summer months, but will resume in September.

♥ 45TH Annual "Young-in-Heart" ♥

The 45TH Annual Young-in-Heart day was celebrated on May 3, 2009. This event began 45 years ago when Rev. Dr. George Kelsey suggested we set a day aside a day to honor our members 60 years of age and older. George suggested we have a dinner and program to honor our members with 50 or more years of membership. We have continued this tradition through all these years. This year we honored Calvin Lyon and George and Audrey Lewis. As part of the celebration we surprised our honorees by inviting their families to attend and to help make their day extra special. The Diaconate has been coordinating the program all these years. The committee has invited many different parts of our church family to help this event to be successful and truly a celebration of the whole church. The Diaconate wishes to thank the following for helping to make this a special and memorable year.

Cheryl Marino and Bruce Edge for preparing and cooking the dinner. This year's dinner consisted of jello salad, mashed potatoes, green beans, roast pork loin, apple sauce and dessert was vanilla ice cream with strawberries. The Confirmation class and committee members served the dinner and did an outstanding job. Barbara and Bruce Edge provided the Geraniums on the tables. Bobbie Turcotte played piano for the hymns sung. Karen Hodge took pictures for our historical records and to share with everyone. Ken Hodge as moderator was our emcee for the day. Shirley Brown sent out the invitations and kept track of how many members would be attending. Rev. Claire helped the Diaconate with the gifts for our honored members. Lauralee Colella provided the special flowers for the honorees and the heart flowers on the altar on this special day. Lauralee also made the programs and the table favors which were book marks. The Women's Federation has once again supported this day with financial help. Thank you one and all!

The Diaconate



Take Me Out To The Ballgame!

Join us for Faith and Family Day at New Britain Stadium on Sunday, August 23 at 1:35pm and watch the Rockcats play the Reading Phillies. All kids get to run the bases after the game! There will be a post-game Christian rock concert and a giveaway. There will be a sign-up sheet in Kelsey Hall in July. Tickets will be \$5/person. Pack your lunch and enjoy a picnic prior to the game. Questions? Contact Marianne Wright at 506-2206 or at mares1994@comcast.net.



MUSIC NOTES...

Please join us for **AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND ICE CREAM**
on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at 6:30 P.M.

The Plainville Wind Ensemble's "Center Stage Jazz Entertainment" will play for us on the front lawn.

There will be an ice cream social as well. Come and make your own sundae!

Tickets for the ice cream are \$2 each and will be sold on June 14 and 21 in Kelsey Hall.
Bring your lawn chair and join us!

Sunday, June 28, 2009, is Music Sunday.

We will celebrate all of our fine musicians who lead us in worship throughout the year.

The Music Committee wishes to thank all of the members of the Chancel Choir and the Amadeus Ringers for providing beautiful music this year.

A special thank you to Rev. Claire, Bobbie Turcotte, Connie MacMillan and Karen Hodge.



Church Spring Clean Up ~ Saturday, April 18, 2009

A Belated thank you to the 22 wonderful volunteers who were able to give of their time on such a gorgeous day. The woodwork truly got scrubbed, windows were power and hand washed as well. Gutters and window wells were blown out, leaves, debris and sand were carted to the dump by Rex and his sturdy truck. Bruce Edge and his crew trimmed, planted and mulched to beautify many areas. Chris Johnson had previously cleaned up the courtyard and mulched for the Easter egg hunt - well done. Our diligent team was made up of:



Rinette Yanez

Al Seeds

Joe Robar

Bill Calder

Jeff Adams

Al Valeri

Russ Drachenberg

Rex Cone

Lauralee Colella

Ann Campbell

Paul & Kathie Marsan

The Ryan Family ~ David, Sherri, Avante & Robert

Jamie and Marianne Wright

Jim & Claranne Parker

Wally Smykla & Jackson Anderson

Our Church family truly appreciates the huge effort put forth, and the Trustees are especially grateful.

A TIME OF DISCERNMENT: ENTERING THE PASTORAL SEARCH PROCESS

Ministers are not “hired” to do “jobs.”

The spiritual choreography by which a particular minister arrives in the midst of a faith community (or by which a faith community receives a virtual stranger into a leadership role) is an unusual and wonderful process. Carefully and honorably done, one can only *know deeply* that God is at the center of it.

Ministers spend months creating their profile for the first time. (a profile is an official document, kept on file in the national offices in Cleveland, in which a ministerial candidate’s demographic information is listed, along with the names of references, excerpts from reference letter, the candidate’s Statement on Ministry, a self-assessment of their strengths and a theological statement, compiled and collated. If a minister is interested in exploring a particular church, they ask the Cleveland office to send their profile to that church, and the dance begins.) For who can feel that they have adequately represented themselves (in all facets and foibles) on sheets of paper, numbering around 8, which include multiple and forced-choice questions, short answers and very little unfettered narrative? I remember sitting at my parents’ dining room table, typewriter (yes, I am *very* aware of the fact that I am really dating myself here) clacking away, agonizing over every word ~ for weeks.

Churches enter into similar processes in preparing their own profiles. First, survey questions are developed. This is a care-filled process, as the questions themselves begin to shape the profile that will emerge as the responses are tallied, weighed, excerpted and assembled into a similarly constrained and constructed document. This document, then, will be the one by which ministerial candidates will make their first judgment about whether or not they will begin to investigate a call to a particular community of faith.

Did you notice I said “investigate a call?” Already the minister, engaged in this odd dance of discernment, is engaged in self-reflective questioning. An internal dialogue may be something like this: “This looks good to me. I feel inclined to look further into this offering,” or, “Wow. This church poses significant challenges; do I have the strengths and training to serve this community with integrity?,” ~ and followed by, “Is this where God intends for me to be?” Questions like these are the “home base” of questioning throughout the search process, the place to which the candidate returns before engaging in the process again, or deciding to move on.

In preparation for the writing and creation of a ministerial profile, a deeply self-disclosing, personal inventory needs to be done. And this requires a good deal of quiet time; walking, praying and re-engaging in the process, and beginning the process all over again once you think it has been accomplished (at least it did for me). My mother inadvertently captured one of these moments on film as she took a picture of me from the porch of their lake house as I faced out to the water, one foot on the ladder of a trampoline we used instead of a diving board. I can almost tell you exactly what I was mulling in that moment. I was not thinking; it was much, much deeper than that.

In crafting my profile for the first time, I came to the conclusion that I was going to have to settle for something I could live with; I was not going to achieve a perfect picture of who I was and what I could bring to a leadership position in every community of faith. And I had to trust that in the personal interactions that would come as God guided this process; the conversations this piece of work might encourage. The search committees would fill in some of the blanks. Figuring this out for myself

prepared me to know that the church profiles I received would have commensurate blanks as well, and that I would need to be humble and attentive to information I, too, would need to glean from interviews with search committees and “clandestine” visits to worship on Sunday mornings.

Now, not every minister enters this process with the same degree of flexibility, and, I have learned, constraint. I once questioned the definition of a “call” when a colleague said to me, “I am searching for a call in the Farmington Valley.” However, I have come to understand that we are sometimes placed in situations where our geographic search radius can be very limited by family needs. For many, the days when a minister’s call could command the relocation of an entire family are gone. In these days of dual income families, accommodations are made to a “quality of life” that was not a consideration in former times.

So, now, even when region of the country is defined by familial ties and needs, the presence of a “call” *still* enters in to the picture.

So what, pray tell, is “call?” Phew! Hard to describe is the short answer. Maybe the best way to describe it for me would be to go back to that photograph of me at the Lake.

It was Sunday, the Fourth of July in 1982. I had been out that day, visiting churches in two towns in Vermont while they worshipped. The point was to share worship with them without them knowing that I was looking seriously at their profile, trying to decide whether or not to submit my own to them for consideration. I was also being considered by a church in Connecticut. As I looked out on the Lake, I was “feeling my soul” as I considered each faith community with which I was in process.

There is a phenomenon in scripture that explores the verb “incline.” To incline towards something from the inside (for me) is to feel your soul move towards that something, embrace it, if you will, or at least be moved toward that other thing with curiosity and a willingness or compulsion to engage. Again, for clarity, I am not describing the compulsion that would be a medical diagnosis. I am talking about a force, beyond conscious decision-making, moving you towards the object of your soul’s focus in this discernment time and place.

At the point captured on film, I was realizing that my soul’s inclination towards one particular church (discerned in those quiet moments at the water’s edge) defied cultural “wisdom,” and any definition of career track. I was feeling myself called to take a chance on making a next step towards serving a small, family-sized church in rural Vermont as their sole minister (office administrator, and receptionist), rather than the higher profile, upwardly mobile, already program-sized, multiply-staffed, and well-resourced church in a town in Connecticut that had already issued an invitation to me to be their candidate, at triple the salary the smaller church could offer.

I kept my options open in both places, asking the one to give me some time to discern while exploring the inclination towards the other, an inclination that put my suspicion that I was being called to Vermont at war with the cultural training that “bigger is better,” and that one needed to be immediately “on track” with one’s “career.” I did end up accepting the call to Vermont, and the rest, as they say, is history.

This summer I will be taking six weeks of time away from this church. Again, I will go to the water’s edge. I will be engaging more deeply in the discernment process I have been in since the Pastoral Counseling Center of West Hartford closed and I was serving you as pulpit supply while your called minister was out on leave.





SOULFEST 2009 IS COMING!

SOULFEST is a Christian music festival at Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford, New Hampshire and features over 100 artists and speakers: "Inspiring music, activities, and fellowship, all in a safe and beautiful setting."

An adult single day pass is \$50; adult weekend pass (Friday-Saturday) \$90; adult multi day pass \$120 now, but \$140 at the gate.

SOULFEST takes place this year from Wednesday, July 29th through Saturday, August 1st. Events begin at 12 noon on Wednesday through midnight on Saturday night. If you'd like to join in the fun and make a group of it, please see Suzanne Colley or Fran Heap!

<http://www.thesoulfest.com/>

UnitedScrip – Ongoing Fundraiser

A BIG thanks for shopping with UnitedScrip! This is our church's ongoing fundraiser. This fundraiser is so successful because our congregation faithfully purchases scrip shopping/gift cards week after week. **As you need gifts for Father's Day, weddings, baby and bridal showers, and birthdays, please consider giving gift cards or purchase your gifts with gift cards.** Simply pick up a UnitedScrip order form in the narthex or in Kelsey Hall, check which national stores, restaurants, and gas stations that you frequent, then make a check out to our church and give the order form with a check to Carol after church in Kelsey Hall. Be sure to purchase your store/gift cards for all your normal shopping needs. You will receive the full face value of the gift card, and our church will keep a percentage of the face value. It's win-win for all!

<i>Our Scrip Profits for 2009:</i>	<i>\$\$ (Annual Budget Target: \$2,000)</i>	<i>% of Annual Budget Achieved</i>
Month of Jan:	\$48.80	
Month of Feb:	\$107.90	
Month of March	\$143.70	
Month of April	\$84.50	<i>Through April, 19% (target 33%)</i>
<i>Total Scrip Profit for 2009:</i>	<i>\$384.90</i>	

For March 29th through May 17th, we thank the following church families who participated: Astolfi, Bamberg, Blanchard, Boiczuk, Calder, Drachenberg, Edge, Fuller, Heap, Hoerle, Kordes, Letendre, Bonnie Mazurek, Brian Mazurek, Michaud, D. Pelletier, Pershken, Peterson, Potter, and Seeds.

For any questions regarding our scrip fundraiser, please call Carol Peterson during the day at 747-5174. Thanks.

Thanks for Giving to CWS Blanket Program

The Mission-Social Action Committee warmly thanks the congregation for supporting our annual Mother's Day Church World Service Blanket collection. This program provides blankets to people in need whenever emergencies occur around the world. Due to your generosity, we collected \$500, which enabled our church to purchase 100 CWS blankets.

Your Mission-Social Action Committee --- Audrey, Carol, Joni, Mary, Pauline, Rinette, Robin, and Ruthe

Message of Christian Concern – *Food for Friends*

As you drive by our church, you see a sign on the lawn announcing that “Food for Friends” is serving hot meals every Wednesday night in Kelsey Hall. What is this all about? For those who may not have heard the Message of Christian Concern delivered by Joni Czajkowski, Coordinator for “Food for Friends”, her Message is printed below:

Today I would like to talk about “Food for Friends” a new initiative originating from the Plainville Conference of Churches which includes the Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC, Redeemers AME Zion Church, Church of Our Savior, Episcopal, Grace Lutheran Church, Plainville United Methodist Church, and the Trinity Covenant Church. The clergy of these churches meet on a monthly basis and through conversations at these meetings they identified the potential need for Plainville residents who have been negatively impacted by the economic downturn to receive a warm meal on a weekly basis.

Members of the congregations interested in exploring the possibilities of this initiative were invited to attend a meeting. Four of the six churches have kitchens through which meals could be served, so the first month each of those churches took a week to serve one meal. The first week it was at Redeemers AME Zion Church on Thursday, the next week it was here on Wednesday, then at Grace Lutheran on Friday and finally at Plainville United Methodist on Wednesday. We realized quickly that serving the meals at different churches on different days was quite confusing for the volunteers not to mention the guests we intended to serve.

Consequently a discussion on one place on the same day emerged. The meals will now be served here every Wed between 5 – 7 PM. Each week a different church will provide volunteers to prepare, serve and clean up after the meal. There is more work to be done involving funding for the project. A free willing offering is accepted from those that can give. Volunteers are welcome to sign up to help. But we could really use help in getting the word out to those that would benefit from this outreach mission through our personal contacts, posting flyers and just talking about “Food for Friends”. For additional questions involving this mission outreach, please feel free to talk with me in Kelsey Hall.

Praying for friends in difficult economic times, and supporting the Plainville Conference of Churches Food for Friends outreach is your mission and mine.

Joni reports that on May 20th, 46 individuals were served a hot meal. If you would like to contribute to this initiative we would gratefully accept donations of grocery gift cards (scrip fundraiser), napkins, 9 oz paper cups, juice, ice tea mix, coffee, paper towels, salad dressing, pasta, jello, cake mixes, condiments.

Your Mission-Social Action Committee - Audrey, Carol, Joni, Mary, Pauline, Rinette, Robin, and Ruthe

UCC's Strengthen the Church Offering – June 7th

What does church mean to you? Mission? Compassion? Community? Praise? Prayer? Peace? We could sit in a circle asking that question and come up with as many different answers as people! But the value at the heart of every answer would likely be the same: Love. Our church is love.

When we think about how the church's love – God's love – has transformed and nourished us, we want to share it. We want others to feel the blessings of grace and acceptance, to know the joy of service and the freedom to live fully in God's moment – whether it brings joy or sorrow, struggle or laughter.

Each year, the United Church of Christ receives a special offering that helps the church's love to grow and thrive. Called “Strengthen the Church”, this offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. And this year, it will aid the God is Still Speaking Ministry and its message of inclusivity. We will receive this offering on Sunday, June 7th. We invite you to celebrate our church by giving to the Strengthen the Church Offering. Your generous gift ensures a vibrant church tomorrow. Spread the love. Strengthen the Church. God is still speaking.

Your Mission-Social Action Committee - Audrey, Carol, Joni, Mary, Pauline, Rinette, Robin, and Ruthe

Mowing Mowing Mowing Mowing Mowing Mowing

Thanks to those who have already signed up to cut the grass around the church!
However, we still have many unfilled slots, including two in June (at this writing).



Please see the sign-up sheet in Kelsey Hall to help out. ☺ Thanks!

How Are We Doing?

	Income	Expenses
January	\$ 22,034.24	\$ 20,391.20
February	\$ 17,978.25	\$ 20,161.89
March	\$ 20,913.57	\$ 19,438.88
April	\$ 35,027.32	\$ 28,247.28
	\$ 95,953.38	\$ 88,239.25

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Reading Corner. "In a time of economic and political distress and spiritual drought, *Radical Gratitude* descends upon us as healing water, thirst quenching, insight drenching joy." Joy Kogawa about [Radical Gratitude](#) by Mary Jo Leddy

[The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew ~ Three Women Search for Understanding](#) is one of the most profoundly moving books I have read in a very long time. Recommended by Rev. Claire.

MILESTONES AND HIGHPOINTS

New Members	None reported
Transfers or terminations of membership	None reported
Inactive	None reported
Deaths	None reported
Marriages/Unions	None reported
Births	None reported
Baptisms - Nicholas Michael Andrews ~ May 3, 2009	

A "Thank you" card was received from the Diaconate, to the Confirmation Class....

Dear Sarah, Shayla, Brian, Dan, Matt & Ross,

The Diaconate would like to thank you for helping out at the Young-in-Heart Dinner. Thank you for serving the meal and cleaning up after. You did a great job and were a big help.

Thanks again!

The Diaconate

A "Thank you" card was received from Dolly Pelletier....

I just got back from the "Young at Heart" Dinner and had to say Thank You right away! What a wonderful dinner and a great time. So pretty with the flowers and so forth.

Thank you to everyone that took part to make this happen.

Love, Dolly Pelletier

Our heartfelt sympathies to those who have lost family members this past month:

To the friends and families of: Marjorie Wilbur, Irma Eastwood, Lucille Rackliffe



Our thoughts and prayers are with: Marilyn Borry, Michael Fraychak, Becky Hoover, Elaine Cone, Kenneth and Maddie, Connie and Alan MacMillan, Jane MacMillan, Gerry Norton, Craig Mackenzie, Ernie Gallant, Stephen and Erin, Eleanor Kordes, Paul Dube, Ruth Pater, Kathleen, Debbie Wasel, Lachlyn Parker Nichols, Cynthia Bowes, Helen Wilson, Bert Michaud, Jessie Flanders, Pam Collins, Luke Santhouse, Dick and Joan Dante, Bunny Colter, Jim Fielder, Marcia and Woody Winslow, Gary Hubbell, Don Barrows, Dorothy "Dot" Haley, Maria Schatz, Davida Foy Crabtree, Jeff Schaefer, Peg Hoerle, Peg Young, Mary Devine, Gordon McCann, Helen McKernan, Jeane Pierson, Walter Smykla, **and the families of** Marjorie Wilbur, Irma Eastwood, Lucille Rackliffe, Sharon Warren, David Bowes (Lynnette Astolfi's father), Steven Stairs, Morgan Nichols, as well as members and friends serving in the military: James Palmer, Gabriel Smykla, and Mark Terrill.

We received a "Thank you" card from Lynnette and Renny Astolfi....

Dear Church Family, Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy. It helped to receive so many lovely cards and we really appreciate your support during this time of sorrow.

*Sincerely yours,
Lynnette, Renny & family*

We received a "Thank you" card from Bev and Bob Raymond....

Dear Church family and members;

We loved the Lovely Lily plant that Russ Drachenberg delivered from the Church to us. We appreciated it So Much!! It is now planted on our front lawn. They come up nicely every year as our others have done!

I Thank the Church family for the thoughtful cheer card sent to me. It was nice to be remembered! We love our caring church!

Our choir music has been very moving to our hearts during service. To all of you doing music Thank You! Your beautiful voices are so appreciated!

Sincerely, Bev & Bob Raymond

We received a "Thank you" card from Ruth Pater....

Dear Church family, Thank you for all your notes of concern and prayer during this difficult time. I also love the prayer shawl you gave me. I feel blessed to have such wonderful people in my life.

Yours in Christ, Ruth Pater

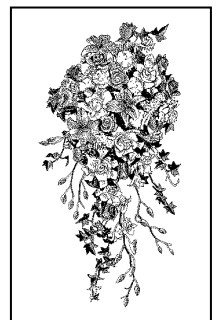
We received a "Thank you" card from Marlene Hoerle....

Dear Friends, I was so pleased to get your wonderful, thoughtful card. Thank you. That is church at its best.

Fondly, Marlene Hoerle

We wish a very "Happy Birthday" to the following members of our congregation who have birthdays this month: Donald Williams will be celebrating his 92nd birthday on June 3rd. More June birthdays are... Shelby Palmer (June 4), Mary Fuller (June 5), Shelley Johnson (June 6), Bonnie Mazurek (June 11), Savannah Eaton (June 20), Karen Hodge (June 27), and friend of the church Robert Bamberg, who turns 80 (June 30).

We also wish a very "Happy Anniversary" to three couples this month:
Cheryl and Michael Marino (June 19), Joni and Hank Czajkowski (June 22),
and Barbara and Bruce Edge (June 29).




CHURCH CALENDAR



June 2009



Steeple articles due by: June 19, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31</p> <p>8:30 am - Confirmation Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am - Worship: Pentecost Sunday ~ Confirmation Sunday</p> <p>7:30 pm - Recovery</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00 am AI Anon</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30 am - AA</p> <p>6:00 - 7:15 pm New Member Class</p> <p>7:00 pm - AA</p> <p>7:15 pm - <u>All Committee Meeting Night</u></p>	<p>3</p> <p>5-7pm Food for Friends</p> <p>7:30 pm- Adult Choir</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 pm - NA</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 pm - NA</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00am - Worship: Communion ~ New Members Received ~ Strengthen the Church Offering</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 am AI Anon</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30 am - AA</p> <p>7:00 pm Church Planning Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm - AA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5-7pm Food for Friends</p> <p>7:30 pm- Adult Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 pm - NA</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 pm EVCG </p> <p>Movie Night "Ratatouille" (Kelsey Hall)</p> <p>6:30 pm - NA</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am - Worship</p> <p>~Thrift Shop OPEN after Worship, and until 12:00pm~Thrift Shop Board Meeting</p> <p>5:00 Music Search Committee</p> <p>7:30 pm - Recovery</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 am AI Anon</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30 am - AA</p> <p>7:00 pm - AA</p> <p>7:30 pm - <u>Church Council</u></p>	<p>17</p> <p>5-7pm Food for Friends</p> <p>7:30 pm- Adult Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30 pm - NA</p>	<p>19</p> <p>*All Steeple Articles due (July/August)*</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 pm - NA</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00am - Worship ~ Youth Sunday ~</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 am AI Anon</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30 am - AA</p> <p>5pm - Meeting: Food for Friends</p> <p>6:30 - 8:00 pm Music Committee ICE CREAM SOCIAL (outside)</p> <p>7:00 pm - AA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5-7pm Food for Friends</p> <p>7:30 pm- Adult Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30 pm Prayer Shawl Joni's home</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 pm - NA</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am - Worship ~ Music Sunday ~</p> <p>Choir Picnic at Cone's House</p> <p>7:30 pm - Recovery</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 am AI Anon</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30 am - AA</p> <p>7:00 pm - AA</p>	<p>1</p> <p>5-7pm Food for Friends</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 pm - NA</p>