



SPRINGBOARD

Monthly Newsletter of Spring Glen Church – United Church of Christ
July/August 2010

From the Interim Pastor

If the world were merely seductive, that would be easy. If it were merely challenging, that would be no problem. But I arise in the morning, torn between a desire to improve (or save) the world, and a desire to enjoy (or savor) the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.

That's one of the memorable quotes from author E.B. White. I've yet to come across a better way of stating the tension between the work we should be about in life and the respite from work that we need. Part of us wants to save the world. Part of us wants to just relax and enjoy it. No question about it, this makes it hard to plan the day. Or a lifetime.

Sometimes I think about how we live this same tension in the church. On the one hand, we want to work hard to make all the right things happen: worship, service, outreach, fellowship, the many forms of ministry and care that include not only the people of the church but also the building itself and all that goes with it. On the other hand, sometimes all that work, and the busyness it engenders, wearies us, and we'd like to just be able to enjoy church without feeling so responsible for it all the time. I think we are apt to feel that way particularly at the start of summer, when we are just coming to the end of a full program year that started months ago and has been going full-steam ever since. Whew. A lot has happened. A lot has been done. A lot of people have fulfilled a lot of roles extremely well. We've been a busy, focused congregation, trying to make good use of interim time. Now, we need some sabbath, otherwise known as summer.

An astute observer has said he thinks that many churches are "sabbathless places." That is, the hard-working people within them are devoted to working hard, and activity is almost seen as an end in itself, so that after awhile, it can be the activity per se that is sustaining us and our connection to church, rather than a more elemental spirituality. Some congregations barely ever stop to take a breath. They forget the rhythms of grace that become apparent when we allow for some down time, some rest, some space, some renewal. They can indeed become sabbathless places.

If we are not as good as we should be, from September through June, at keeping sabbath, let's let the arrival of summer be the respite we need. Not from caring, not from involvement, not from worship.... but from forms of the business of the church that can afford to take a break. Don't worry, we'll get to take them up again soon enough.

For now, let summer's pace be a gift we savor.

Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda

Summer Worship Schedule

*Sunday services at 10 a.m. Childcare provided for infants and toddlers.
Summer Sunday School for grades PreK through 6, except where otherwise noted.*

- July 4 Worship with Communion
*The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.
No Sunday School.*
- July 11 Worship with Hymn Sing
*A portion of the service will be devoted to the singing of hymns
by request.
The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.*
- July 18 Worship
Susan Owen, Member-in-Discernment, preaching.
- July 25 Worship
The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.
- Aug. 1 Worship with Communion
*The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.
No Sunday School.*
- Aug. 8 Worship
The Rev. Nancy W. Strickland preaching.
- Aug. 15 Worship
The Rev. Nancy W. Strickland preaching.
- Aug. 22 Worship
Susan Owen, Member-in-Discernment, preaching.
- Aug. 29 Worship
The Rev. Nancy Strickland preaching.

Dear Friends,

This time of year I think about all the books I have intended to read this year and didn't. I even bought some of them and in this coming summer season it seems like just maybe I might be about to actually take them off my bookshelf and read them! I love the possibility of summer reading and leisurely afternoons. Perhaps I just might get to a few books I have wanted to read:

O Jerusalem by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre

“This classic recounts moment by moment the spellbinding process that gave birth to the state of Israel. Collins and Lapierre weave a brilliant tapestry of shattered hopes, fierce pride, and breathtaking valor as the Arabs, Jews, and British collide in their fight for control of Jerusalem.”

Everything must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and Revolution of Hope

by Brian McClaren

McClaren travels worldwide seeking answers to a life-shaping question: “How do the life and teachings of Jesus address the most critical global problems in our world today?”

Living Buddha, Living Christ by Thich Nhat Hanh,

This Vietnamese Buddhist monk has been living in exile in France since the early 1970s. This book is an exploration of the spiritual crossroads where the traditions of Christianity and Buddhism meet. Both traditions place peace, love, and compassion at the center of life. This book gives the Christian reader information about prayer and meditation practice rooted in Buddhism that are compatible with Christian practices.

An Altar in the World, by Barbara Brown Taylor

The book is an invitation to seeing the sacred in our everyday lives through such simple practices as walking, working, and getting lost in deep meditations on topics like prayer and pronouncing blessings.

I wish you well in your summer readings and look forward to hearing what you found interesting to read this summer when I return in August.

In Faith,

Pastor Nancy

MID SUMMER LAY CARE GIVERS CHECK IN

The lay caregivers will meet at 11:30 in the Fellowship Room on Sunday August 1 with Rev. Brenda.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS

If you enjoy knitting, there is a new opportunity to be part of a prayer shawl ministry at Spring Glen Church. Wherever you find yourself over the summer months, perhaps you would be willing to knit a prayer shawl or two for people in the nursing center at Whitney Center. We will collect and bless the shawls in late September, then offer them to the Rev Charlotte White, the Chaplain at Whitney Center for distribution. Please speak with Pastor Nancy if you are able to knit a shawl.

The basic instructions for knitting a prayer shawl come from a book written by Rev Susan Izard and Susan Jorgensen, Knitting into the Mystery. The pattern they suggest is to knit three, pearl three, after you cast on either 57 or 63 stitches using either size 11 or 13 needles. Lion Brand wool works well for this and three skeins of yarn are needed. Approximate finished sizes are 26” by 60.” The significance of the K3 P3 pattern is not a random choice. Izard and Jorgensen note in their book, “the pattern of knitting in threes was a deliberate choice realizing that human existence has three stages: birth, life, and death. Time has three divisions: past, present, and future. The panorama of colors is based on three primary colors. Human beings have three parts: body, mind, and spirit. The virtues frequently mentioned are faith, hope, and love. The ability to compromise—to take two seemingly different (and often hotly disputed) points of view and create a third possibility—is another way the pattern of threes plays out in our world: not this or that, but the wholly other thing.” Of course three also could represent the Trinity: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

Fall Retreat at Weston Priory, Weston Vermont For Adults in our Congregation September 24-26, 2010

How does the spirituality and practice of a Benedictine Priory and UCC members inform and enrich one another? If you want to know more, come to the fall retreat at the Weston Priory in Weston Vermont. Set in the midst of the dazzling colors of fall, this weekend will offer us time for quiet, for group discussion and exploration of scripture, walks in the woods, and joining with the monks in their rhythm of times of prayer throughout each day. Our group will stay at a comfortable chalet near the priory, which we have reserved for our group. The basic cost of the weekend is \$100 plus food, which will be provided by our group. Rev. Kurt Shaffert, Chaplain at the VA in New Haven and Rev. Nancy W. Strickland will be the leaders for the retreat. There is a sign up sheet in the entry.



JULY FILM FESTIVAL

On Wednesday, July 7th at 7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Room, the Christian Ed Committee will be presenting “Milagro Beanfield War” starring John Heard, Sonia Braga and Ruben Blades and directed by Robert Redford. The Beanfield becomes a symbol for the townspeople who realize that they could lose their town and their history.

On Wednesday, July 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room the Christian Ed Committee will be presenting the movie “Gentleman’s Agreement (1947) starring Gregory Peck and Dorothy McGuire and directed by Elia Kazan. It is a story about a journalist who comes to understand the cruel effects of prejudice.



LIGHTS OUT AND LOCK-UP PLEASE

As equal partners at Spring Glen Church we are all equally responsible for tidying up, locking up, and turning out lights following church events. If you are the last to leave, then please secure the church as you would when you exit your home. The earth, your fellow parishioners, and the church budget thanks you.

Ron Offutt, Chair of House Committee

THANK YOU FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

From Ephesians Chapter 4, we make up the body of Christ and serve the community through the gifts that have been given us. "Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift."

Thank you to all who have agreed to serve another term or start a new role on a church committee or board. Here is a list of committee members that have agreed to serve a two year term since our May meeting: Sam Lynn (Deacons, Youth Group representative), Teri Osborn (Christian Education), Debra Tangarone (Nominating).

A special thank you to these retiring Chairs who have graciously served four years or more on their respective committee: Lucy Lucker (Benevolence Treasurer), Scott Lucker (Senior Deacon), Nancy Thursby (Delegates Chair), and Sue Wilber (Treasurer).

At this time, I want to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for making all the phone calls necessary to fill these positions: Susie Hawthorne (retiring from Nominating), Carol Shank (retiring from Nominating), Julie Beaver, Barbara Hobbs, and Alison Uyeki.

Fellowship Hour Pledge Forms

Summer Fellowship Hour has arrived! Please come and enjoy some refreshing iced tea after worship during July and August. Of course, no Fellowship Hour would be possible without our church families who volunteer each week setting up and cleaning up Fellowship Hour. Earlier in the month, you may have received a Fellowship Hour Pledge form in the mail. Thank you to all who filled out and returned the form. Over the summer, the Fellowship Hour Committee will be producing next year's schedule. We are asking each church family to help out with Fellowship Hour one Sunday a year if they are able. If we don't receive your form back, you may be assigned a Sunday that doesn't fit in well with your schedule. If you have any questions, please call Laurie Bleickardt at 203 287-9247 or e-mail bleickardt@yahoo.com.



SPRING GLEN FARMERS' MARKET IS BACK IN SWING!

Come and join us every Tuesday afternoon from now through October for a variety of locally grown and locally produced goods. Fresh fruit and vegetables, honey, flowers, baked goods, organic cookie mixes, potted plants, cut roses, and more will be offered at this year's market. In addition, a great line up of musicians will be performing each week! For more information, please see the Spring Glen website and click on the farmers' market link on the left side of the home page. www.springglenchurch.org.



INTERFAITH BLOOD DRIVE

Forty- seven productive pints of blood were collected at the Interfaith Blood Drive at Temple Beth Sholom on Wednesday, June 9th. Our Spring Glen Donor Heroes were Joe Baker, Roger Johnson, Judy Offutt, Ron Offutt, Marian Page and John Uyeki. Gracious and familiar faces were present in our fine SGC volunteer workers; Mary Colwell, Nancy Elliott, Mary Cameron, Caroline Kranyak, Dotey Noyce and Dick Shank. Thank you all for your part in encouraging this partnership with TBS, and for providing blood for the urgent needs of our Connecticut residents. I hope to see all of you and many more when we host the next Interfaith Drive next Feb.

Barbara Hobbs



Daniel A. Brownell in Concert!
**Summer Organ Recital of Bach, Mendelssohn, Vaughan Williams,
Langlais and more.**
Sunday July 18, 2010
3:00 pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
5 Washington Ave.
Sandy Hook, CT 06482



FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

The following families are scheduled to cover Fellowship Hour during **July**. Contact Laurie Bleickardt at 203-287-9246 or lbleickardt@yahoo.com with any questions. **July 4** – Mary Cameron, Don and Jacki Colvin and Marian Page – **July 11** – Nancy Thursby, Nancy Whitney and Debra Tangarone– **July 18** – Dave McGalliard, Ron and Judy Offutt and Nancy Elliott – **July 25** – Sam and Liz Ball, Doug and Susie Hawthorne and Lee Laster.

The following families are scheduled to cover Fellowship Hour during **August**. **August 1** – Arnold and Carolyn Cary, Margie Liddell and Belinda Legere – **August 8** – Jim Coatsworth and Sharon Medak, Lee Heston and Cathie Marrandino– **August 15** – Dick and Nancy Beals, Karen Paul and Marian Page – **August 22** – Dave and Meg Myers, Carol Shank and Debra Tangarone – **August 29** – Roger Johnson and Ruth Resnick Johnson, Gayle Logan and Nancy Elliott.



BOOST YOUR GREEN KNOWLEDGE

The following is a list of resources you need to know about “going green” and saving the earth:

gogreenonline.com is a portal of resources that provides checklists for developing greener habits.

sustain.lane.com is filled with news and you can also find out what is the greenest city in the U.S.

epa.gov/watersense teaches you how to cut back on excess water waste.

thefabricofourlives.com/cotton-green-quiz tests your knowledge about saving the planet.

idealbite.com is a daily newsletter of tips ranging from top picks for organic foods and how to make natural cleaning products.

LAY READERS/LITURGISTS

If anyone is interested in becoming a lay reader/liturgist, assisting in the leadership of Sunday worship, please see the sign up sheet in the entryway or contact Dave Cotton at 203-284-5807 or email d.c.cotton@comcast.net.

Update from the Search Committee

The Search Committee is working to complete the Local Church Profile, with our goal being to have it ready within the next couple of weeks. A large percentage of the Congregation responded to the informational surveys, which provided the Committee with important and helpful insights to the Committee.

We have agreed to continue to meet weekly until the Local Church Profile is ready. We greatly appreciate the continued support and patience of the Congregation during this process.

Youth Ministry Update: Moving Forward!!

Thinking and planning toward the 2010-11 church program year has been underway for a couple of months. Church leaders and interested others had a chance to meet in May with the Rev. DaVita McCallister, Associate Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adults, Connecticut Conference, UCC, and follow-up meetings have yielded energetic vision for a new year. New youth group leaders will be in place, and a newly forming ad hoc Youth Ministry Council (adjunct to the Christian Education Committee) will also work alongside these leaders to plan, organize and coordinate, resourced by the pastors. More information to follow. Specific fall info. will be sent to high school youth and their families before the new program year begins in September.

Adult Faith Enrichment for 2010-11

There will be a meeting after church on August 15 with Cynthia Licata and Pastor Nancy at 11:30 in the Fellowship Room for the newly forming ad hoc Adult Education and Formation Committee. The group will meet to discuss plans for the program year 2010-2011. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to the meeting. This group will be under the auspices of the Christian Education Committee.

Coming in the Fall: REACH

As part of the adult faith enrichment offerings for the 2010-11 year, Rev. Brenda will be leading a small-group opportunity called *REACH: Reconfirmation Experience for Adult CHristians*. This is a program she has developed and used in several other churches, aimed at revisiting, as adults, the basic questions of Christian faith that we typically explore in the church in our youth, as confirmands. Through the lens of adult experience, the questions change, and therefore so does our understanding of how our tradition “answers” those questions. What are the points at which we feel ourselves pushing against the traditional wisdom? Where is there a push-and-pull with our own inherited religion and its “certainties”? Where do we find ourselves wanting to REACH for some new insight and understanding? REACH will be a small-group opportunity for this kind of exploration, and will culminate in the writing and sharing of faith statements by participants, something which has proved to be extremely meaningful and significant for participants in other congregations.

Watch for more information to follow. Group size will need to be limited, and will meet approximately once a month, beginning in October and extending into the spring.

A NOTE FROM NEW HAVEN HOME RECOVERY

New Haven Home Recovery thanks you for helping us turn homelessness into hope. As one school year ends and we gear up for another, we need your help with our annual backpack drive. Last year, we were able to provide backpacks to over 200 children thanks to the generosity of Spring Glen Church and other donors in the community! This year, however, the need is greater than ever. The number of school-age children we are helping this year has more than doubled to well over 400! Therefore, we're starting our backpack drive early so we have plenty of time to gather much needed supplies for all of the children who need them. We need the following items: backpacks, loose-leaf lined paper, glue sticks, spiral notebooks, dry erase markers, pencils, highlighters, 3-ring binders, pocket calculators, pens, erasers, folders, composition books, rulers, glue, crayons, and colored pencils. This year, we also need gift cards to Target and Walmart so that we can buy school uniforms for children whose families are unable to afford them. New Haven Home Recovery thanks you for your continued support of our valuable programs.

COVENANT TO CARE BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Christian Action Committee would like to invite the congregation to help with our Covenant to Care Backpack program. Once again Bonita Robinson is hoping for 45 backpacks to give to the children in her care. The ages provided for range from grade school to high school. The need is great! Amy Baker will provide the sign up sheets....they will be at church on July 11th. The project should be complete by Sunday August 8th. Please contact Bernadette Welsh at 203 927-3659 with any questions. Thank you.

Staff Vacation Dates

Following are vacation periods for church staff members this summer:

Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka Aug. 2 through Aug. 29

Rev. Nancy Strickland Pastor Nancy will be away July 1-August 1; three weeks vacation and one week study week at the Shalem Institute July 20-27 in Washington, D.C. where she will complete her year long Clergy Contemplative Leadership Program. Her fourth vacation week will be August 30-September 6.

Gayle Logan July 12 through July 16
Aug. 23 through Aug. 27
Sept. 6 through Sept. 10

Jennifer McCleery Ten-month position: off July and August



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are ready to take flight!!! The Spring Glen Church Summer Sunday School programs begins June 27th. Children entering grades pre K- 6 are invited to join the fun and experience round-the-world travel. We will learn about some far-flung and exotic places... and how God's love reaches to every corner of the earth!

June 27: Kick-off! Get your passport, go through the security gates and learn about why people are different all over by reading the Tower of Babel story. We'll also be playing theater games and learning how to "communicate".

July 4: No Sunday School or child care due to Holiday.

July 11: Travel to Malawi with Cynthia Licata and Chris Watkins. Today the children will learn about an orphanage in this African country and what life is like for children in Malawi.

July 18: Next stop... Turkey!! Our church has a connection to this wonderful country and we will learn more about Turkey from some of our resident experts. Hear about the caves and make your own out of clay.

July 25: Our Spring Glen airplane will be making a scheduled stop in South Korea with Charlie and Eunyoung Yang. Please come learn about this interesting country from this family from Korea.

August 1: Children stay in the pews with their families for Communion Sunday.

August 8: G'day Mate!! Today you'll be exploring Australia with Dick Smith, his daughter Becky, and son-in-law Mo Barton (a real Australian!) Eat Fairy Bread, learn how to play the diggery-doo and hear about the Outback. It is going to be an adventure, Mate!

August 15: Travel to India with Richard Davis and Rita McCleary. The children will be doing some fun activities with these experts on India.

August 22: Have you ever wanted to go to Italy? Here is your chance!! Our children will be visiting this wonderful country with Teresa and Dan Del Vecchio. They will learn about Italian artwork from Teresa (a elementary school art teacher) and paint upside down like Michelangelo did in the Sistine Chapel.

August 29: Time to make our travel documentary! Dick Smith will be directing, Nick Appleby will be shooting the video, and Eric Summerer and Suzie Hawthorne will be our "TV personality interviewers". The children will have a blast discussing their travels and watching themselves on video afterwards. Next stop, the Oscars?!

September 5: No Sunday School or child care due to Holiday.

September 12: Fall Session Kick-off!!

SPRING GLEN CHURCH, UCC
1825 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517

Spring Glen Church
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Pastor
Rev. Nancy W. Strickland, Associate Pastor
Jennifer McCleery, Christian Education Coordinator
Dr. Terese Gemme, Organist and Choir Director
Rev. Kurt Shaffert, Chaplain, Veterans Affairs
West Haven Medical Center
Jeff Owens, Sexton
Gayle Logan, Office Manager

Worship and Sunday School 10 a.m.
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month.
Telephone (203) 288-3381 – Fax (203) 248-2070
Spring Glen Church Web Site:
www.springglenchurch.org