



THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



September 2007

Volume 30 No. 8



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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday - Friday
9:00am - 12:00pm.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday throughout the
day, by appointment.

Visit our web page at
www.tccucc.org

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
MONDAY, SEPT 17 - NOON

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Calling the Saints of the Church to Blessings!

The historic Congregational tradition trained and authorized Deacons to assist the pastor in the administration of the sacraments. In our tradition those are Holy Communion and Baptism. With our new church structure, the duties of the deacons have been shared with various ministers. Therefore, with the blessing of the Council, Pastor Mark would like to offer training to any member of the church interested in helping administer the sacraments. We will discuss the theology, symbolism, and administration of the sacraments. We'll also talk about prayerful preparation. If you feel God calling you to this ministry, please call or e-mail Sharlene in the church office. We'll begin discussions and training in late September once the church is back in the rhythm of the program year.

Pastor Mark

USHERS

We're looking for new ushers and/or confirmation of all former usher's interest in continuing for the next year. If interested, please contact Nancy Clough at (978) 597-2658 or Heather MacNeil at 978-742-9198

Heather MacNeil

TAKE YOUR NEEDLES and yarn with you to the beach so we'll have plenty of prayer shawls ready for Jan and RuthAnn. Knitting and crochet patterns are available from the church office.

OUR YOUTH

A GROUP OF COMMITTED MINISTERS is continuing the momentum of last year's children and youth ministry. If you feel that God might be calling you to help in Sunday school, Youth Choir or Youth Group, please contact Meg Genoter who will be leading the Youth Ministry Team.

Seeking Apple Pie Table Chair

Job qualifications: Must be organized, Able to follow directions, Love the company of good friends, Willing to laugh at mistakes, Can delegate, And, loves apple pie!

Experience not necessary. Call Lisa Hunt at 978-597-8773 or email elizhunt@verizon.net

Please join us in worship on September 16.
Our special guest preacher will be Jim Antal, MACUCC Minister and President.

Informational Meeting For the Invested Funds Policy

Sunday, September 9th in the sanctuary immediately following worship

The Investment Task Team invites you to an informational meeting to discuss the draft Invested Funds Policy and answer any questions. Copies of the draft policy are available now in the back of the Sanctuary and in the church office. Also, you can obtain an electronic copy via email by sending a request to carrie@davidsonanddavidson.com or jen@milestonefinancialplanning.com.

We encourage you to read the policy before the meeting. It is the team's hope that the Congregation will approve the policy at the Annual Meeting.

REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THE DATE OF OUR NEXT ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 20 AT 7PM



Ordained Minister's Code

Reflections from your Interim Pastor, The Rev. Mark Seifried

Throughout the next several months, in lieu of a pastoral reflection, I will be sharing various aspects of the UCC's *Ordained Minister's Code*, which comes from the Manual on Ministry. I am using

this column because the whole congregation should be on "the same page" as you prepare for the next settled pastorate, mindful that all members will be making a covenant with your next called leader. The *Ordained Minister's Code* has several sections: an introduction, partnership in ministry, ethics of ministry, growth in ministry, and commitments to self and family. What follows is the introductory perspective with my subsequent commentary.

I believe that God calls the whole Church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ; that the privilege of witnessing to the gospel in church and society belongs to every baptized Christian; that God empowers the ministry of the Church and its members by the Holy Spirit; that the Church nurtures faith, evokes gifts, and equips its members for service; and that God calls certain of the Church's members to various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the Church.

I have been called by God to be a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ and ordained by the United Church of Christ to preach and teach the gospel, to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church, and to exercise pastoral care and leadership.

I will seek to witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ.

I will preach and teach the gospel without fear or favor.
I will speak the truth in love.

I will administer the sacraments and rites of the Church with integrity.

I will diligently perform the work of ministry that I have agreed to perform.

One of the highlights of this section of the Code is: *every member of the church is a minister*. This was one of the primary imports of the Protestant Reformations, beginning with Martin Luther and continuing today. Ordained clergy are only part of the total equation. In our tradition, clergy are called from the congregation to: 1) preach, 2) teach, 3) administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion with the rites of the church (namely marriage, confirmation, and funerals), 4) pastoral care and leadership. (If you feel called to learn more about the sacraments of the church, please consider attending the discussion groups this fall.)

The church should consider the ramifications of over-functioning clergy who attend all the church's committee meetings, social events, fundraisers, etc. Odds are that one or more of the primary functions of the office are being neglected if he/she is spending inordinate amounts of time in other areas. There is a difference between diligence and workaholicism! You need to let the pastor know that the church will manage, even thrive, when left to its own devices. Caring for each other often equates to caring for the pastor. Settled pastors join the church as a member, after all.

Note also that the pastor is called to witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ and to preach and teach the gospel without fear or favor, speaking the truth in love. This is difficult work that requires care and prayer. The pastor who is reluctant to minister to the congregation from the pulpit will have little affect on the life of the church and spiritual growth of the members. Faithful clergy must often speak to issues that are cause for consternation in the community and the world. She/he must balance the role of pastor and prophet, called to reflect on the ministry of Jesus – teacher, prophet, healer, etc. Jesus broke with religious custom and social protocol to sometimes shock people into knowing God in new ways. Jesus was passionate, sometimes resorting to holy outrage – as were his disciples as they formed the early church. Jesus took tremendous risk even in healing. Jesus called people to deeper faith. Jesus' disciples who are called to ordained ministry must do likewise.

Let us pray that your next pastor has an intimate relationship with Christ. Let us pray that, with the help of God, this leader is well grounded in the truth of the gospel and will empower the community to be more just, loving and compassionate as he/she exercises pastoral care and leadership. Let us pray that every member can pray and care for the pastor in his/her own way so that Townsend Congregational, United Church of Christ can be the beacon of Christendom that I believe she is.

September

Birthday Wishes to:

1-Donald Ball & Hollyann Beauchesne;
2-Chris Guba; 10-Cynthia Curley;
12-Christopher Bennett; 15-Eric Gruber;
21-Kim Brackett; 23-Vera Bennett; 25-Pamela Kelsea;
30-Walter Spencer





SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Rally Day on September 9th.

Please join the Christian Education committee and our committed teachers in Fellowship Hall at 9:15 to kick off what we hope to be our best year ever. Come at 9am and join us for a informal continental breakfast hosted by the Ministry for Youth. We are planning a fun day with a special activities to welcome back all our youth.

If you can't make it to registration on Sept 9th please send the completed registration to the church. All registered students must also have separate completed medical forms which will be available at church on the first day the child attends class.

The Ministry for Youth is always looking for teachers and shepherds. As a teacher or shepherd you are only scheduled to a class for one month at a time. If there are scheduling issues we can work it out. It is a benefit to our children to get to know all the willing members of our church who want to share their continuing commitment to God. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the church or Meg Genoter at 978-597-2280.

Sunday School Schedule for September:

- Sept 9th--Rally Day Welcome back!!!!
- Sept 16th--Letters to Lamontville, South Africa
- Sept 23rd--Regular Classes
- Sept 30th--Outreach Extravaganza

2007-2008 SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION Townsend congregational Church

Name of first child: _____

Age:_____ Grade:_____ Birth Date:_____

Name of parents/guardians: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Names of those with permission to sign-out your children:

Name of second child: _____

Age:_____ Grade:_____ Birth Date:_____

Name of third child: _____

Age:_____ Grade:_____ Birth Date:_____

Name of fourth child: _____

Age:_____ Grade:_____ Birth Date:_____

Please circle one choice for each statement, and then sign below.

My child(ren) has/have permission to go outdoors on church property with the teacher present, and with my prior knowledge. **YES / NO**

Names and/or photographs of my child(ren) may be used for projects which remain in the church, or get sent home with the child(ren) **YES / NO**

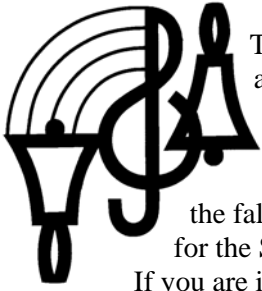
Names or photographs of my child may be included in projects shared with our sister church in Lamontville, South Africa **YES / NO**

Names and/or photographs may be used for newspaper articles covering church related activities. **YES / NO**

PLEASE SIGN:

In the interest of the cooperative effort required to make our Sunday School the best it can be, it is our hope that many of you who enroll your child(ren) in our program will share in the joy of teaching, assisting, chaperoning, or volunteering in some capacity during the Sunday school year. May we call you to consider:

Teaching a 4 week session____ Assistant Teaching____ Chaperoning
Field Trips____ Helping at Special Events____ Other____



Make a Joyful Noise! Calling All Musicians!

The Handbell Choir is looking for more members! We need people with some musical experience and a wish to make the bell music come to life. There are parts available from easy spots at the ends of the choir, to the more difficult spots in the middle of the choir.

The Agape Handbell Choir, those musicians who are in the ninth grade to age 101, rehearses every Wednesday from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the sanctuary beginning October 3. We play during the fall and holiday season, take January and some of February off, then start again at the end of February for the Spring. We end in May.

If you are interested playing in the Handbell Choir call Wanda Wilson (597-6803) soon.

Thanks for considering us!

Confirmation, continued . . .

As a continuation of the celebration of our newest members confirmed in May, the following is Colleen Doherty's statement of faith:

Faith is believing in something with your mind, body and soul. The challenge is not being able to see it with your eyes, but in your heart you know it exists. There may be doubt at times when you go through hardships in life, and you find it hard to understand why such terrible things happen. Everything seems to be falling apart, but you come to realize that God is the one putting the pieces back together.

To me God is the sun that shines through after a thunderstorm, he's the homeless man who has nothing but still smiles, the kind woman at the store that lends you a quarter, the boy who gets pushed around but never strikes back, the stranger who stops to help someone broken down on the highway, or the friendly person who finds someone's lost puppy and expects nothing in return.

I think the holy spirit works through people when they make an act of kindness from the goodness of their hearts, rather than to get credit for it. The holy spirit is an overcoming, peaceful feeling you have, from realizing God is by your side in life. He is with you during the happy times like being with your friends and family or playing a sport you love. He is there to carry you when you're too weak to walk, and that is the miraculous feeling of the holy spirit.

I learn from Jesus to forgive, to be humble, to love myself as well as my enemies, to be brave and stand up for what I

believe in. He was the one who got stones thrown at him, but did not throw them back. I follow Jesus, he is a miracle.



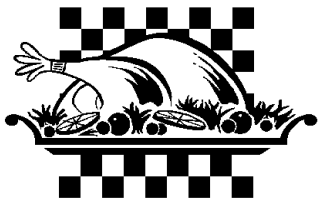
The theme of this year's campaign will be "What's love got to do with it?" Remember that God loved the world so much He gave us His only begotten Son.

I'm sure that when you think about your pledge this year, you will agree that love has everything to do with the amount you give back to the church from the abundance that you have received from God.

Andy Gustafson and his visitation team will be hitting the pavement soon to visit us all.

Healing Prayer Ministry

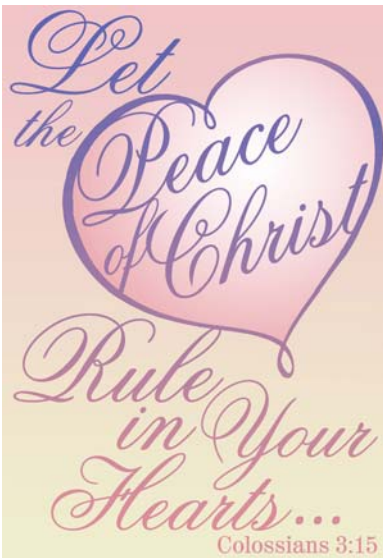
After instruction and discernment, the following people have answered the call to Healing Prayer Ministry: Nancy Clough, Michelle Enright, Meg Genoter, Dick Lee, Michelle Livingston, Cathy Parsons, Lorraine & Raul Quesada, and Jo Watson.



PLEASE PLAN ON JOINING US FOR THE FIRST SUPPER OF THIS CHURCH YEAR!

We will be serving our famous turkey dinner on September 29 from 5-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. The cost will be \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 3-8 years old. The sign-up sheets for donations of food and workers for that evening will be available in September. If you know where you want to sign up already, or have any questions, please call Wanda Wilson at 597-6803.

Working at the supper is a wonderful way to meet new friends, catch up on news, and provide a night out for those who enjoy our meal! Sign up soon: you'll be glad you did!



WALKING IN THE WAY OF PEACE

By Michelle Enright

The week of July 16--19 I went to a seminar entitled "Walking In The Way Of Peace." It was a seminar on keeping Shalom and how to resolve conflict within the church community. I attended this with Pastor Mark. Mostly I participated because I tend

to avoid conflict out of fear.

Conflict is natural in all relationships. One of the primary ways to avoid intense conflict that keeps the church from engaging in Christian love is to have a "Behavioral Covenant." A behavioral covenant is a document that is agreed upon by all members of a group. It specifies how we will treat each other with respect and what behaviors are not acceptable within our community - specifically during our meetings. This is agreed upon by everyone and may be framed within every meeting room to remind us of our commitment to each other.

We were taught a 4 step process of resolution. Used with permission © from Walking in the Way by Beverly Prestwood-Taylor and Karen Nell Smith.

STEP 1 Standing--where are we? What is the issue we want to resolve?

STEP 2 Reaching--where to we want to be or go--setting our goals

STEP 3 Joining Hands--brainstorming, no idea is cut down and we keep going until we run out of new ideas. Then we take the list and discuss how it will work. Sometimes we use 2 ideas together to make 1 workable idea, every thing is considered.

STEP 4 Walking together-- we make a decision to use one or more of the ideas and we work together to make it work and move forward.

I would like to try to use this model sometime during a meeting and show how we can make this work. Our learning these skills and discernment may help us to remain a loving church and uphold our vision statement that we all have come to love and believe we can accomplish.



"Speaking the Truth in Love, a 'Covenant' for Working Together."

Used with permission © from Walking in the Way by Beverly Prestwood-Taylor and Karen Nell Smith

Speaking

- We will *communicate directly* to each other using the first person
- We will ask questions for *clarification* in order to *confirm* that we have understood correctly and ask others to do the same

The Truth

- We will be as *honest* as we can with each other
- We will strive together to understand and speak from *factual information* rather than leaping to conclusions based on assumptions or speculation

In Love

- We will speak to each other with *respect*
- We will *affirm the merit* in another person's idea or concern before we note its weakness
- We will *listen* to understand one another's point of view, but don't necessarily have to agree

SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

Each of us has gifts, given to us by God. And, what a blessing it is when we share our gifts with others!

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirits for the common good."

As Minister for Gifts, I've accepted the charge to match gifts with the needs of our church community. With 200+ members and friends in our midst, I'll need your help. What is your gift? What inspires you, how would you like to share your gifts with our community? What do you see as the needs of our community that perhaps could be brought to council for discernment? As you well know, there are a wide variety of service opportunities. Ask yourself and others, how are you called to weave into our Townsend Congregational Christian tapestry by serving. Many of our tasks are short term, taking only an hour or two but are central to the community. (For example, do you like to garden, bake or help organize activities or events?) I'll be starting up a 'gift register' from which I and council members can make matches, please see me at coffee hour, call me at 978-597-8773 or send me an email at elizhunt@verizon.net?

Love and peace, Lisa Hunt

OUTREACH CORNER

Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?

Look Who's Coming to Dinner . . .

YOU ARE!!!

I asked for people to head up the dinners for this year and every month has a chairperson. YEAH!

They are served family style, from rolls to dessert, all you can eat, at a reasonable price! They are great for a nice Saturday night out!



There will be 6 dinners this year. To get us started this fall we will have a Turkey dinner on September 29(headed up by Wanda Wilson) and a Roast Pork dinner on October 27th (with Glenda in charge).

Next Year's dinners will be on January 26th with Dave Wilson, February 23rd with Christian Ed, March 29th with Nancy & Dick Lee, and , April 26th with Shannon Ireland. What the meals will be is still a mystery and we'll have to wait to see what the kitchen chiefs decide on.

I'm sure that there will be plenty of places for you to plug into, either by donating food, or time, or both. But, don't forget to bring your appetite as we raise money for our church. And what a great way to get together with friends and touch base with everyone!



Our suppers have been a place where memories have been made, with many more to come.

Thanks to all who signed up to run with the suppers!

Bon Appetite!

Glenda Homoliski (Minister for Income)

Are you so inclined...?

Remember that our church depends heavily on the fundraisers for our budget, so, please make every effort to support them. Plus, you might even meet a few new people and have fun, as well. If you have a great idea for a fund raiser for this year, and would like to run with it, please see Glenda Homoliski (Minister for Income) and she will bring it to Council for blessing. Thank you in advance!

If asked to define "poverty", most of us would probably speak in terms of insufficient financial resources. While this is true, there are also other ways we can be impoverished emotionally, physically and, sadly, spiritually.

Whenever we reach out to help one of our brothers or sisters, we are helping each other out of our own particular poverty.

On Saturday, September, 15th we have an opportunity to prepare and serve a meal to the resident of Our Father's House, a shelter for 20 men and 8 women who are experiencing homelessness. Everyone can contribute something to this effort. Whether it is a package of hamburgers, rolls, a salad, a tomato, or a prayer, your participation helps bring love and hope to these men and women. Pause for a moment and consider what it must be like to be alone and without a place to call home.

Later this month, we will be hearing from Arthur Heusser, Executive Director of the Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network about their work to provide temporary shelter to families with children. Perhaps there is something more we can do to help families in our own community.



The Outreach bulletin board in the hallway outside of Fellowship Hall, contains information on projects and programs of the Church World Service. Please take a moment to read about how our pledges are

helping people in the United States and in countries around the world. From the rebuilding of communities along our own Gulf Coast, to aiding earthquake victims in Peru or assisting refugees fleeing violence in Darfur, Church World Service is providing help and hope around the world.

If you have an idea for Outreach, please call or drop a note to Walter Spencer, Minister for Outreach, at 978-582-0933, or walwor1@verizon.net.

"Lord, when did we see thee hungry . . .?"

As a reminder of our ongoing support of TEO, a collection basket has been placed in the sanctuary beneath the Communion table. If you wish to support this ministry, contributions of non-perishable food items, toiletries and household paper goods are very much needed and appreciated. A special effort is currently being made to collect donations of shampoo and toothpaste.





LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT?

Go to www.heifer.org today and give the gift that really makes a difference!



What Lovely Music We Make Together . . .

The Band Concert on June 28th was a resounding success! After a week of humidity and a threat of unsettle weather for Thursdays event, God shone down upon us with a delicious cool dry breeze and no rain. That town green was not only marching to the band, but, humming with activity. People were happy to get out and they ate and played all night.

The final tally came in at \$1681.43. The best concert we've ever had! This only happens when everyone steps to the same beat and gets tuned in.

I know the figure was music to my ears, and, you all should give yourself a pat on the back for your fine job well done!

Thanks! Glenda Homoliski MFI



Choir Members Welcome!

Speaking of music - There are always openings in the choir. Call the choir director, Renée Fossey if you have any questions 597-8321

If someone in your family is heading off to college, please pass on their new address so they can receive their own copy of our church newsletter.



GET INVOLVED!!!

The preparations are well underway for the "Annual Crafts and Greens Fair" from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, November 17th, this year!!!!



Mark that day on your calendar and be sure to invite your family and friends to this festive event!!! Make sure you tell them about the Apple Pies (frozen or baked) (we still need someone to head up that event), the professionally made centerpieces and sprays to decorate their homes for the holidays, the Raffle for the \$300.00, invite them for lunch at the "Jingle Lunch Room", stop by for goodies in "the Sandwich Shoppe", bring the kids for pictures with Santa himself, pet the animals at the Heifer Project Tent, come to the children's room, invite some friends to come and check out VCCC for their childcare needs, AND , by all means plan on getting some Christmas gifts from our building full of crafters just waiting to serve you!

If you want to help out that day and haven't been asked, please see us (Nancy Clough or Glenda Homoliski) and we'll set you up!

Otherwise, Bring your used books and jewelry for those tables, dig out those well loved used Christmas Ornaments for Cathy Parsons to resell!

Make something for the bake table for the day of the fair!

The Greens table could use your extra baskets and greens! (Get in touch with Wanda Wilson.)

Sell some Raffle tickets! Sell some raffle tickets! Sell some raffle tickets! (See Nancy Clough)

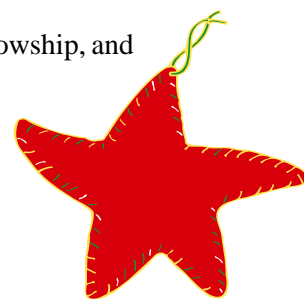
New this year, we will be making gift baskets (donated by us) to raffle off to help you with gifts for those favorite loved ones (or even yourself) on your Christmas list! (See Beth Klein about the details)

BUT

Most of all, come, share in the fellowship, and have Fun!!!

Sincerely,

Glenda Homoliski





THE TCC OPEN & AFFIRMING (ONA) DISCERNMENT TEAM

Offering the church the opportunity to participate in an Open and Affirming discernment process.

The Open and Affirming (ONA) Discernment Team is working on a statement that incorporates the variety of concerns and celebrations for including people of diverse relationships and sexual orientations into fullness of life in the church. As part of our ongoing discernment, we will present a draft of the statement at the Annual Meeting in September for the purpose of eliciting feedback from the congregation. Based upon that discussion, the ONA team will continue to discern how it would best serve God and TCC-UCC so that the congregation can come to consensus. Please keep us in your prayers as we work throughout the summer. We serve the church on your behalf.

We have placed a suggestion box in Fellowship Hall for ONA. Your questions and comments are welcome.

Your sister and brothers in Christ,

The ONA Discernment Team



Dear Friends in Christ, After much thought, prayer, reading, conversation and discernment, I have decided to step down as chair of the Pastor Search Team and off the team entirely. I have consulted extensively with Pastor Mark and Susan Dickerman, our U.C.C. resource staff to the PST, regarding

my decision and the subsequent steps I needed to take. Those steps were informing the Pastoral Search Team and Church Council. All have offered their support to me and to those continuing this important ministry for which I am grateful.

I leave a dedicated team of people who feel called to remain on the Pastor Search Team. They are a kind hearted and caring group who have offered an 'open door' policy so long as confidential information about individuals is not at risk of being disclosed. I invite you to support them in their journey and pray for them.

I am very sorry that this decision has left some people feeling hurt and confused. However, I truly believe my stepping down is the right decision for our church community and the search for our next settled pastor. The church community will remain in my prayers as the Pastor Search Team transitions to its next phase.

Grace, peace and love, Lisa Hunt

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Church Friends and Families,

It has been almost three years since the tragic death of our son Gregory. We would again like to thank all of you for your prayers and support.

As you may be aware, in Gregory's honor, we have established a Memorial Scholarship

Fund. This year three North Middlesex seniors were awarded scholarships in May totaling \$7,000.00.

To allow us to continue future scholarship awards, we are planning the 3rd Annual Gregory E. Reeves Memorial Scholarship Run. The run will take place in Townsend on Saturday, October 6, 2007. For those of you who did not know Gregory, he ran track (cross country, indoor and spring) for all four years at North Middlesex and was the Captain his senior year. The route for the race, is a route that Greg ran frequently, it was part of his training.

For those of you who do not run, there are many of us who will be walking the route. The 4.6 Mile Run/Walk is a very picturesque route through town. It begins in front of our church and will end there as well. The foliage should be beautiful! All of the proceeds will benefit the Gregory E. Reeves Memorial Scholarship Fund.

This year we have added a Kiddy Race which will be held after awards from the 4.6 Mile Run/Walk. The Kiddy Race will be held inside the Townsend Common, open to children ages three to seven.

If you would like to join us for this special event on this beautiful fall day, applications are available in the church office or online at www.coolrunning.com. The link to the web pages is: <http://www.coolrunning.com/applications/07/basic/GregoryEReOct6.html>

The Run/Walk will begin at 10:30 A.M and the entry fee prior to October 1, is \$15.00. Registration fee from October 1, through October 6, is \$18.00. There will be a cash prize of \$300.00 for the first place male and female overall. Gift certificates will be awarded for second and third place male and female overall and age group honorary awards will be presented to the top three male and female in each age category. There will be prize drawings for walkers. First 300 entrants will receive a free T-shirt.

Entry fee for the Kiddy Race is \$5.00. Prizes and free T-shirt will be given to all participants in the Kiddy Race. Lunch will be provided to all entrants of both events.

We would love to see you there to share the joy for this very special day. Please call us with any question at 978-597-5859 or email debillr@comcast.net. Thank you again for your support and please continue to keep our family in your prayers.

God Bless You!

Deb and Bill Reeves and Family

Giving Update (all amounts rounded to nearest \$1,000)

Prepared by: Carrie I. Davidson, Minister for Finance

Actual Unrestricted Giving (Sep 1 – Aug 12):	\$119,000#
Projected Unrestricted Giving per Budget (Sep 1 – Aug 31):	\$148,000*
Shortfall	\$ 29,000

Regular giving plus loose donations received year to date

* \$148,000 = \$117,000 estimated giving, \$6,000 loose donations
plus projected deficit of \$25,000

UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS

The 10th Annual Fall Quest Music Festival will be held Saturday, September 15 and will feature contemporary Christian music on two stages at Six Flags. For info: www.fallquest.com

Mark Thallander Returns to Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Massachusetts, on **Sunday, October 28, 2007** for another great Festival! We are honored to be part of the 150th anniversary celebration of Mechanics Hall. Several choirs have already indicated their interest in participating again! Hosted by Pastor Judy Hanlon. For more information, go to: www.markthallander.com or www.markthallanderfoundation.org

BEYOND OUR WALLS

MESSAGES FROM LAMONTVILLE:

7/1/07: Flo still has a lingering cough, but she is much improved. Praise God! She asks for prayers for the whole of South Africa. All of the civil servants have been on strike for three weeks. The schools are closed and the hospitals are not functioning properly. Even the private hospitals are being affected. The army has stepped in to try to help, but things are, in Flo's words, "Terrible." there. All provinces are being affected. Let us keep these, our brothers and sisters, in our prayers. **NAMANDLA, NENKAZIMULO/** and the power, and the glory

7/15/07: Flo is completely better from the flu. Her cough lingered a while, but she was having no luck with the OTC cough medicines, so she made one of her own and she says it's the very best thing for a cough. She mixes ginger with garlic and water and boils it and then adds a little honey and drinks it like a tea. She is now cough free !! She had dinner with

Ruthann and Jan last Friday evening, but has to watch her diet as she is diabetic. Ruthann and Jan will be in Lamontville on July 22 and Jan will be preaching. Last week Flo was at a convention of Sunday School teachers and she said it was wonderful. Praise God for our friends in Lamontville. *kuze kube-phakade/Forever*

7/29/07: Flo tells us that the service in Lamontville last Sunday was taped and Ruthann and Jan will bring it back when they return so we can all have a chance to see it. Jan preached on "how to strengthen relationships" and read letters to the congregation sent by Rev. Mark, Melanie, and Lorraine. Both the Sunday School group and a youth prayer group sang and the music was wonderful. At Rev. Mark's suggestion, the congregation sang, "This little light of mine ..." The congregation all dressed in their traditional garb. We look forward to seeing the tape of this lively service. Amen/Amen

8/5/07: The Lamontville Church is asking for prayers for Alice. She is an elderly member who has recently gone into the hospital for heart problems. Everyone is still glowing from Ruthann and Jan's visit and Flo assures us the video tape is on its way with them when they return.

8/19/07: Responsibilities at the Care Center have kept Flo so occupied that she has little time for phone conversations. We send our prayers of support for this vital mission and those called to serve.

8/26/07: Sadly, Alice, the woman we had been praying for, passed on. Flo said the funeral was not sad because Alice loved God and everyone knew that she was with Him at last. The Lamontville Woman's Group attended a woman's conference in Zimbabwe this week and the church is anxiously awaiting their report when they return. The weather in Lamontville has been fluctuating just as it has here. It's winter there, but they have had very hot days and very cold nights. Flo's cough has returned, but she thinks it may be an allergy. We hope so.

Ibandla lami linge lakho / My church is your church

The following page shows some lovely photographs with brief descriptions. These photographs were sent to us by Jan and Ruthann Hall after they shared a wonderful Sunday service with our partner church in Lamontville. Along with the photographs was a multi-page letter filled with detailed descriptions of the people: who they are, what they wore that day and what ministries they are involved with. There are references to the music and the prayers, and how the sermon is interspersed with singing. They tell us about the children and the prayers of the people. It is, overall, a wonderful connection to a deeply spiritual community. It was simply too much to summarize here, but I hope you get a chance to read this letter and to share in the connection we have with the Lamontville community.

Cathy Hill

Sanibona, Townsend!

Following are six messages along with photos from our visit to Lamontville.



The first photo, taken before the service, shows Mpumelelo Shangase and Flo Madlala in their 'traditional' finery for the day, with Ruthann.



The second photo, taken before the service, shows Ruthann with Cynthia Madlala. Mrs. Madlala's traditional outfit is not Zulu, but Xhosa (she's from another part of South Africa, originally, but married a Zulu man, the brother of Flo's husband, and settled in Durban).



Ibandla lami linge lakho / My church is your church
Ruthann and Jan Tore Hall

The third photo, includes glimpses of Mpumelelo Shangase at the lectern, and the videographer.



The fourth photo shows the special singing group composed of some of the young adult ladies of the youth group who also form a prayer group, so Flo Madlala tells us. We're thinking that they could be a very good potential contact point for young adults in the Townsend congregation? We'd recommend speaking with Flo or with Audrey Chiliza – who's a member of this group, that's her on the right – about this. As Carol knows, Audrey has email, so communication can be very easy. The ladies sang most beautifully, a gospel / praise service sort of song.



The fifth photo is of Audrey Chiliza surrounded by Sunday school children. Audrey is the Sunday school teacher who's a contact person for the Townsend relationship.

The last photo, however, wasn't taken on the Sunday of our visit. We thought we'd taken a photo of Emy [pronounced 'Emmy'] Mcumu on Sunday, but appear not to have done so; this photo is from back in late May, when we saw her at the official 'launch' ceremony for the Lamontville Themba lethu Care Centre, the community health project for which Flo Madlala is the driving force.



Anyway ... Emy's proper name is Emigrant Sibiya Mcumu, and she is a retired teacher in her late 80's. As mentioned in the text about Sunday's visit, she came up to Ruthann after the service and said that she was responding to the appeal for more folks to get directly involved in the connection effort between the two churches: she'd like to have a pen pal at Townsend. Her postal address is:

Emy Mcuma
2520 Kaula Road
Lamontville 4027
Rep. of South Africa.

Emy was the last house visited by Gail and Ruthann with the Isililo women last June. Her son, Eric, is confined to a wheelchair and must be cared for around the clock. A second son came to stay with Eric on this Sunday morning so that Emy could attend church.

Making Adult Disciples

Throughout the fall, Pastor Mark along with other church leaders will be offering adult faith-oriented discussion groups on Thursday evenings from 7:15 to roughly 8:30, depending on level of engagement. Three of the sessions will focus around addresses recorded at General Synod (GS). Please come to all programs to which you feel called.

~ **September 27:** Holy Communion – What’s It All About? Training for Servers. Baptism – Water, Fire and the Holy Spirit – Take the Plunge!

~ **October 4:** Lynn Redgrave, actress, on “Making Every Moment Count”

~ **October 11:** Stewardship Training with Andy Gustafson

~ **October 18:** Bill Moyers on “Calling Jesus back to Duty”

~ **October 25:** Marian Wright-Edelman, founder and president of Children’s Defense Fund on “American Family Values – Resetting the Moral Compass”

~ **November 1:** God’s Politics – Faith Informs Politics

~ **November 8:** Let It Shine - Telling the Story of our community



Massachusetts Conference 208th Annual Meeting - Pt II

Saturday, September 29, 2007 in Worcester, MA

Highlights will include 25 workshops, the installation of Minister and President Jim Antal, a vote on the Board’s proposal, *A Still More Excellent Way*, and other business.

OCTOBER

The bluegrass gospel project in concert to benefit Ecclesia Ministries common cathedral – October 12, 2007 at the Old South Church, Boston, MA

The common cathedral has been forming spiritual community with homeless people since 1994. Concert endorsed by the Homelessness Task Force.

U2charist service at Edwards Church - Sunday, October 14, at 5 p.m. Edwards Church and First Congregational Church in Natick are working together to host two U2charist services, one in the fall at Edwards, and one in the spring at First Cong. in Natick. A U2charist service is a worship service that uses the music of the band U2 and focuses on raising awareness about extreme poverty and AIDS. The offering will go to UCC-related programs that fight poverty and AIDS (the specific ones are yet to be determined).



General Synod 26

Here are a few highlights:

➤ The weather was outstanding: thank you, God!

➤ Bill Moyers, an ordained Baptist minister who converted to the UCC forty years ago, described the ways our beloved nation is being transformed from a people who once inspired others to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” into, one obsessed with materialism and narrow morality. He challenged us to imagine Jesus “striding through the holy precincts that had been transformed into a market place, a stock exchange, upsetting the dealers, scattering their money across the floor, even bouncing them forcefully from the temple.” “Let’s call that Jesus back to duty,” he said, “and drive the money changers from the temple of democracy. If you don’t, who will?”

➤ Walter Brueggeman, a noted theologian described two narratives that guide our thinking: there’s the narrative of the Security State, exemplified by Pharaoh, Solomon and U.S. Empire. It’s characterized by this triad: overwhelming might, vast wealth, and a supposed monopoly on wisdom, knowledge and truth. When we are grasped by this narrative we place ourselves on a trajectory of death - Pharaoh’s power disintegrated, Solomon’s kingdom ended in exile, and so we ask what direction the American Empire is headed. But there’s another narrative as well, that of neighborliness and covenant

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship – September 21 - 23, 2007

Wollaston Congregational Church UCC, Quincy, MA

A weekend with the Rev. Dr. Thomas Long, author of *Beyond the Worship Wars*. Learn about the nine characteristics of congregations that make for vital and faithful worship. Includes a reception, pancake breakfast, workshop and worship. Sponsored by Wollaston Congregational UCC; endorsed by the Commission for Evangelism & Church Vitality.



with God. This narrative is exemplified on Mt. Sinai, and lived out by Jesus Christ. This triad as articulated by Paul is steadfast love, justice, and righteousness. Remember, Paul talked about human wealth and knowledge being incomparable with God's poverty and foolishness. And our Lord told us that Solomon in all his splendor was never equal to one of God's lovingly crafted lilies.

➤Barack Obama, a lay member of Trinity UCC in Chicago said, "doing the Lord's work is a thread that's run through our politics since the very beginning." He disputes the idea that faith should have no role in public life. He suggests that people are coming together around a simple truth - that we are all connected, that I am my brother's keeper; I am my sister's keeper. And that it's not enough to just believe this - we have to make it a reality. We can sit in church and pray all we want, but we won't be fulfilling God's will unless we go out and do the Lord's work.

➤A fabulous laser light show was the highlight of the 50th Birthday Bash. Why? Charles Towne, one of the discoverers of the physics involved in lasers fifty years ago is also a UCC member! He spoke of his discovery as a revelation from God and proof of the compatibility of science and religion.

➤Many musicians shared generously with their talent, including the Children's Orchestra and a young violin soloist.

➤Rachel Barton Pine, whose inspirational story strengthens her mission to bring classical music to rock venues. Her variation on the familiar "Happy Birthday," was a sensation.

➤Sunday's worship was an incredible experience with opening music provided by organ, orchestra, jazz band and vocalists. The service was punctuated with music from a 1000 member choir; there were powerful old hymns and rousing new ones; youth and dancers, a stirring sermon by our Minister and President, John Thomas, and finally the blessed communion of saints, 9000 faithful sharing bread and cup and Christ.

➤Over 100 exhibitors from throughout the denomination and the world. No-Valerie Tutson's beautiful story telling, Phil Porter's creative use of movement.

➤Cookies everywhere!

➤The smiling faces of all, from the youngest to the oldest.

➤Synod in the City-so many events, so little time.

From "The Princeton Spire", July/August edition

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER 2007						1
2 Worship COMMUNION Healing Prayer Service	3	4	5 7:30pm Snr Choir	6	7	8
9 Worship/SS Sunday School begins Church Inv. mtg after worship.	10	11 7pm Music Team in Quiet Room	12 7:30pm Snr Choir	13 Investments team meeting	14	15 BBQ at <i>Our Father's House</i>
16 Worship/SS Guest Preacher: Rev. Jim Antal	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOON -	18	19 7:30pm Snr Choir	20 7pm Annual Meeting	21	22
23 Worship/SS 275th Anniv. parade	24	25	26 7:30pm Snr Choir	27 7:15pm Discussion Group: Holy Communion & Baptism.	28	29 5-6:30pm Turkey Supper
30 Worship/SS Guest preacher Arthur Heusser*			GOD IS STILL SPEAKING 		E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER EDITOR, CATHY HILL: newsletter@tccucc.org Questions? Home # 978-597-5864	

* Arthur Heusser is the Executive Director of the Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network



OUR BLESSINGS:

Congratulations to Stacy Coccia and Don Stevens who were married here in June. Congratulations to Meg Gugarty who was a recipient of a Department of Social Services Distinguished Youth Excellence Award. Lee McTighe is going to be a grandmother. Karen Baer's nephew is

having a better-than-expected recovery. Cheryl Simoneau and Dick Lee are both "looking good" after successful cataract surgery in July. Our very own VCCC has completed another fabulous year of caring for our youngest members and friends. We praise the staff for their wonderful ministry. Hannah Anne Gruber arrived Tuesday, July 10 weighing in at 7 lbs. 8oz. Joshua and Julia's little sister has brown hair and is 19 1/4 long. Praise God for the miracle of birth and the gift of new life. Laura Gustafson has turned 21. The Holy Spirit was alive and working during discernment at our special meeting in July. We are truly blessed to be able to hear God speaking still today. Nancy Clough joins the Church Council, answering a call to be the Minister for Hospitality. Praise God for providing for us at the very moment we need His help the most. Prayers of thanksgiving for our guest preachers in July, Steve Cloutier and Raul Quesada. A team is forming so TCC-UCC will be a lively part of the Townsend 275th Anniversary Parade on September 23rd. Susan Dickerman from the Massachusetts Conference, UCC visited the Search Committee this week. She said TCC-UCC will need to call an exceptional pastor to minister with such an exceptional "cutting-edge" congregation. Susan reports that our reorganization and spiritual discernment are things many churches haven't yet dreamed of, much less implements. Praise be to the Spirit moving among us and through us.

CONCERNS: Prayers of healing for Donna Howard, recovering from appendicitis and Robert Hotaling, recuperating from surgery. Prayers for the family and friends of Roger Ireland who died on July 31. Prayers of healing, support and hope for those affected by the earthquake in Peru and the mining tragedy in Utah. Rev. Joan-Anne Westfall. Cathy Hill's brother-in-law Russell. Sterling - 9-year-old with chronic kidney disease. Linda Modica's mother, recovering (slowly) from a stroke. Betty Nelson. Don Ouellette's mother, Jean. Gwen Shank. Phyllis Senecal. Dick Collette. David Wright. Ruth Colburn. Continued support for the Pastoral Search Committee. Wisdom for the TCC,UCC ONA Discernment Group. God's grace for the TCC, UCC Transition Team and the Church Council.

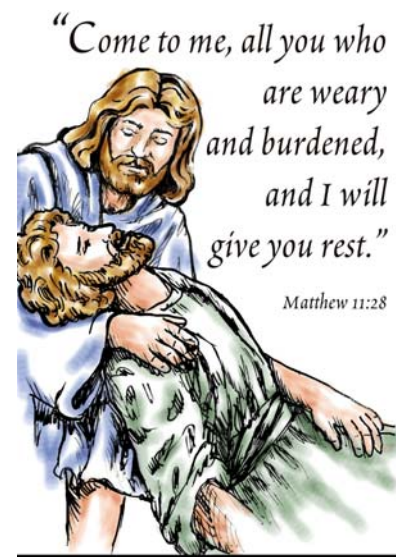
CANCER FIGHTERS: Rev. Mary Lu Esposito. Ann Kelleway. Palma Coccia. Lisa Collins. Donna Howard's cousin, Marie. Jennine Borandi, a 28-year-old relative of Laurie and Holly Gustafson, recently diagnosed with liver and lung cancer. Ken Lowe's cousin, James Ayotte. Caroline Tolman, breast cancer. Sally Waite. Max, a four-year-old

Downs Syndrome child with liver cancer. Cathy Hill's sister Morag in Australia. Sarah Rogers. Marron Ryan, Cheryl Simoneau's friend and co-worker. Arlene Connolly. Jim O'Shea's daughter. Georgia Vogel. Chris Johnson's friend, Sam. Judy Manson Hackett. Glenda Homoliski. Lisa Collins. Alan Williamson. Stephanie Herman. Kim Decker, Lyn Bennett's cousin. Carroll Jones, Lyn Bennett's brother-in-law. Judy Russell's cousin, Cynthia Blood. Cheryl, friend of Linda Hatch. Jeffrey Lothrop. Ned Robertson, cousin of Nancy Morse and Judy Russell. Betty Lou Brown. Dottie Grant. Bette Matters, friend of June Cloutier. Phil, Carole Gustafson's brother-in-law.

GROUP CONCERNS: Courage for those in broken relationships, especially those being abused, to get the help they need. Those struggling financially. Those in need of food, clothing, housing, and health care. Those struggling with addictions. All those dealing with ill/aging parents. Members and friends dealing with mental illness. Those dealing with AIDS. All those living in fear and anger. All those who have returned or are returning from Iraq. Victims of terrorism. Those assisting the elderly to continue living independently.

STATE AND NATIONAL CONCERNS: World peace. Christian Peacemaker Teams. Guidance for state and national leaders, for church leaders, and for the Church. The soul of our nation. Care for our planet as we confront our roles in climate change. Wisdom for the nations as they assist in ending the genocide in the Sudan.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Adam Thibault. Daniel O'Gorman. Christine. Shaun Jokinen. D. J. Canon. Joe Calore. Jon Staib. Eduardo and Amanda Zaragosa. Michael Cannava. Matt LeBreton. Dawn Newman MacGregor and Ian MacGregor. Debbie Kravitz. Eric Jancaitis. Andrew Langone. Jared Rourk. Cassie Ayott. Travis Dery. Steve Ritter. Christopher Sherritt. Church Dunn. Christopher Dunn. James Low. Shelagh Dunbar. A. J. Kalil. Bill Taylor. Charles Millard. Andrew Nelson. Tim Fortin. John Wales. Trevor Moore.





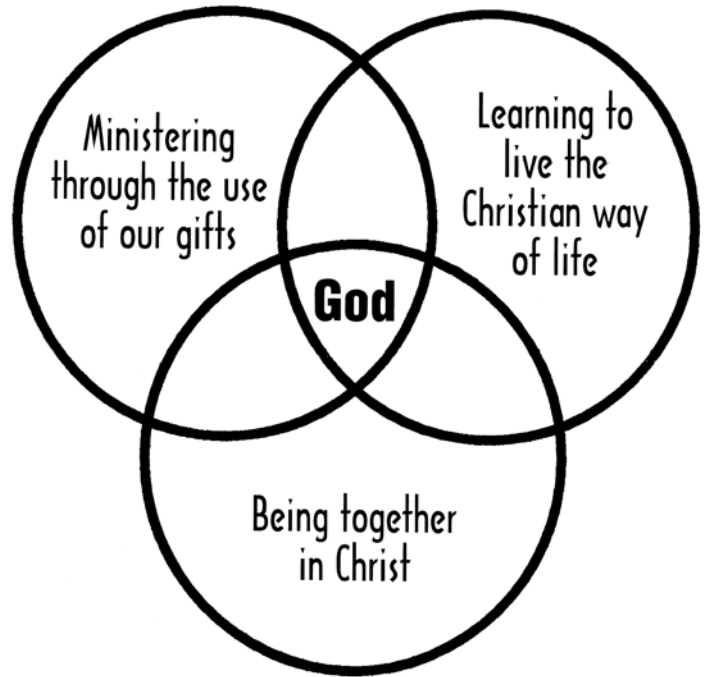
SHARING OUR SPACE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

Weddings, Child Dedications, Holiday Parties, Baby and Wedding Showers, Family Reunions, Organization Meetings



We are blessed with a beautiful sanctuary and great space within our building for use that we are able to share with others. If you or someone you know is

looking for a location for an event, contact Sharlene, our church secretary, at 978-597-8925. This use of our building helps support the maintenance of our facility.



VISION STATEMENT

SEEKING TO FULFILL THESE THREE COMMANDMENTS OF CHRIST:

- To love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30)
- To love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31)
- To love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34)

WE AT TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ARE COMMITTED TO MINISTERING THROUGH THE USE OF OUR GIFTS, LEARNING TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE, AND BEING TOGETHER IN CHRIST.