



# *SPIRIT SONG*

## From the **PASTOR'S** Desk

### “The Leader’s Edge”

Dear Members and Friends,

June 25, 2009

Everyone has asked me, “How was Annual Conference?” For those of you who don’t know what Annual Conference is it is the main connecting link of all of the United Methodist Churches in our conference area. United Methodism is a connectional church system, which draws together all of the churches in our conference area which includes all of New England, with the exception of ½ of Connecticut and Vermont, but not for long. The United Methodist Churches in Vermont will be joining with our conference next year.

The theme for this year’s conference was “The Leader’s Edge.” It spoke to the critical issue of Equipping Leadership, which states, “As a people of God, we will equip our churches, clergy and laity for unabashed pursuit of effective ministry.” No one can complain that this was not pursued at this year’s conference.

Most of the time when someone asks me about conference, I start off by saying that after some opening statements and some standard motions, the program time was given to Rev. Adam Hamilton, the senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Church of the Resurrection is one of the largest mainline churches in the United States. Adam spent about six hours presenting material on three themes. They were Leadership, Quality of Preaching and Worship, and Outreach to the Community. I never thought I would see so much time given to a keynote speaker during an Annual Conference that was already shortened. But it did happen.

Adam gave some reasons as to why he was given time to make his presentation. In the time span between 2001 and 2007, membership dropped 2.4% and attendance dropped 8%. Out of approximately 16,000 United Methodist Clergy, 800 are under 35 years old. It seems like the United Methodist Church is in decline, and at the present rate, we have about 44 years left as a United Methodist Church. Then he asked the question, “Do we have something worth saving?” Then Adam went into the gist of his presentation.

As he made his presentation, I sensed a very passionate, humble person, who was very spiritual. He talked about his conversion experience, and of how he continues to call people to faith in Christ as he grows the church. Adam gave a lot of practical advice and used a lot of examples from his church and other churches. He said we could use anything that he presented and his goal was to enable us to turn our churches around and enable revival and new growth to happen. Adam did have his books for sale in the bookstore, which sold out.

The scripture verse for this year's conference was from John 1: 14: "...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Eugene Peterson's translation of that verse is as follows: "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." God was present in Jesus Christ and is present in us if we have come to faith in Christ. But if we think about Peterson's translation, the Word is already present in the neighborhood, and all we have to do is to go into the neighborhood to find it.

There was also an emphasis on telling our stories. We all have stories of faith, belief, and salvation which need to be told. We do encourage you to tell your story in church, during our joys and concerns, and at other times. In so doing, we will be growing in the faith, and hopefully helping others grow in the faith as we all work on developing our leader's edge.

God bless you and be with you this summer!

Sincerely in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. (Pastor) Paul E. Samuelson

## Come to **CAMP E.D.G.E.**

Come join us at Vacation Bible School this summer Monday July 27 through Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup> (5pm-8:30pm) to **Experience & Discover God Everywhere (E.D.G.E.)**. We'll have games, music, stories, snacks, SWAPS, a Scripture Challenge Wall, a maze maybe and just lots of fun. We will be trying something new this year at VBS. We will be starting at 5 pm and serving a light dinner for those of you who rush to feed your children before coming, this way we will also be able to start at 6pm with the program. The program is for children through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> and older will be help run the program along with adult supervision. Please come participate or volunteer your time. Registration sheets are on the narthex table. A wish list is also on the table.



Any questions, please call Karenlee Hickey @ 248-0572

## **COFFEE HOUR**

We are looking for coffee hour sign volunteers.

I thank the Men, Women, Sunday School and Youth Groups for providing coffee hour the past 8 months and hope they will start up again in September. Until then we need you to sign up during the summer months.

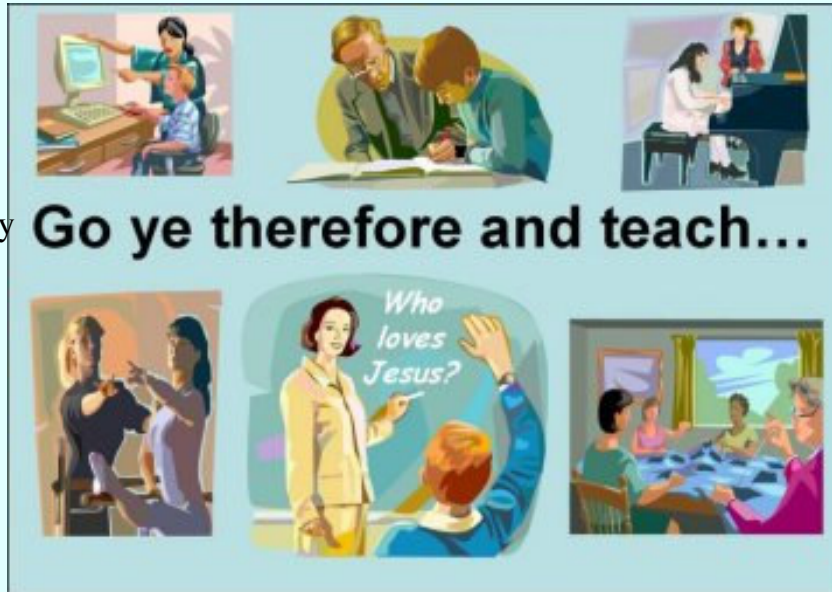
There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Karenlee



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

I would like to thank all the kids, teachers, parents and grandparents that made our play Donkey Tales a success. Without all of you it would have not happened. The children are amazing and did a wonderful job.



Have a great summer and see everyone on September 13<sup>th</sup>. I am looking for teachers if you are interested, there is a great need this year. As you have seen the kids are amazing.

## **Happy Summer...from the NCD Team**

The NCD Team met on June 10th to review the Focus Group discussions from the 31st of May. We are busy compiling all the data that was given to us at the round table talks, which was a lot of thoughts and ideas.

Our minimum factor turned out to be "Inspiring Worship", which is a very good thing as this is something we can really work on. Inspiring Worship is a personal and corporate encounter with God. We need our worship to be filled with joyous exultation and quiet reverence in the presence of God. Inspiring worship is not driven by a particular style of ministry focus group, but it is the shared experience of God's awesome presence.

We hope to add more health team members, the more the merrier.

Our next team meeting will be Sept. 2nd at 6:30 p.m. for an "Affinity Night Exercise", reducing all the ideas presented from the focus groups to 3-5 workable inspirational items.

Our Maximum factor, by the way, is Loving Relationships. This is a strong factor to have as we begin the process of Natural Church Development, moving forward to gain some balance in our worship and church lifestyle. As we all gain a better understanding of this process let us prepare our hearts to be really open to do whatever it is God wants us to do in our church ministry and in our lives.

Looking forward ...Have a great summer...stay safe and keep NCD and the team in your prayers.

Thanks, Diane

## **OUTREACH**

CCUMC is hosting SIHN August 26-August 30th. Again, we are asking for coverage during our commitment to this mission. We have recently increased our volunteer list from 14 people to 22 people. Please take this opportunity to experience the great feeling you will receive helping God's children who need help.

Outreach has been busy thinking of new ways to reach out to the communities in and around Charlton. A great way we can expose ourselves and our mission statement is by supporting the American Red Cross Blood Drive. We have July 7, 2009 from 1-6pm scheduled at the Charlton Library. You are asked to give one hour of your time and blood. If you are not able to donate please spread the word to friends, family, co-workers etc... Remember, Christ shed his blood to save us. Let us honor God by giving our blood for our brothers and sisters.

## **Nurture Committee**

The Nurture Committee has been busy working on ways to help us have "*Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors*".

We have completed our Women's Bible Study group at Martha Blodgett's home and we thank both Martha and Ken for putting up with us gabby women. We will be planning more small group programs for the fall.

On **August 2<sup>nd</sup>** Karenlee Hickey will be sharing with us some of the music and stories from VBS during our worship time. The music is always so lively and upbeat it always brings a smile to my face.

Kris Gerrard will be attending a Multi-Media seminar by Midnight Oil in August to make our Sunday mornings really dazzle in September when we meet again in our church sanctuary.

Our "Dinner and a Show Program" got off with a great start when Shiloh performed in March. A big thank you to all who came to encourage them. We are planning more of this type of family entertainment beginning with our October supper and we really need our church family to support this outreach program and make our guest singers feel welcome.

On **September 13<sup>th</sup>**, which is the opening day of Sunday School, we will have as our guests Teen Challenge from Boston to share their testimonies and music with us during Sunday School and worship. A Pot Luck lunch will follow and there will be sign up sheets in late August.

On **October 3<sup>rd</sup>** we are planning a five year birthday party for our church. Keep tuned for further details in the next newsletter.

Through God all things are possible, but we need to ask and seek the wisdom that only He can give us. We need to spend quiet time with Him in prayer and meditation. This summer wherever you travel, please don't forget He needs to hear from you.

## **Thank You**

Thank you to all who have helped with the music program this past year. The adult choir has been very consistent and helpful during practices and choosing music we enjoyed singing. The Sunday school has as always has been most enjoyable. The youth choir under the direction of Hannah Gunnell has given us some varied music. The men's choir was eager to choose songs they were comfortable singing. This all has to be a joint effort.



There are no professionals here and we all have very busy schedules. We probably didn't please everybody all the time but we tried. The music was meant for the glory of God and we hope it inspired you to have a closer walk with Christ.

While we relax during the summer I do hope we will have some special vocals or instrumentals. Please see me if you are interested in helping out.

Marion Sergel

## **Thank You**

The Hutchinson family would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all you did for our dad. It was so nice of the church family to step up to carry our load with the reception following the funeral service.



We have received so many wonderful comments regarding the funeral. It touched the lives of many there. The captivating story that Kris shared was a reflection of our dad to a "T." We are grateful for Kris taking time to speak with him as a man to man and holiness in Christ.

Thank you to all who shared their testimonies of dad's service and dedication to the family of God.

The Hutchinson family, Mogaveri family, and Reynold's family.

## **Links**

View pictures of Children's Day <http://picasaweb.google.com/CCUMC74/DonkeyTales#>

Read the Upper Room online <http://www.upperroom.org/daily/>

Church calendar <http://calendar.yahoo.com/ccumc74>

## **Get Newsletter by email**

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**Next Newsletter Deadline—August 23rd**

July 27—30	5:00 - 8:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
July 31	6:30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
August 1	5:30 pm	Wedding
August 22	9:00 am	Music Committee
August 22	10:00 am	Nurture Committee
August 26 – 30	All Day	SIHN
September 2	6:30 pm	NCD
September 6		Set-Up tent for Old Home Day
September 7		Old Home Day
September 10	7:00 pm	Men's Fellowship
September 12	9:00 am	NCD
September 12	5:30 pm	Men's Supper
September 13	9:00 am	Sunday School
September 13	return to fall church schedule	Teen Challenge
September 13	12:00 pm	Pot Luck

Check for the latest updates on  
<http://calendar.yahoo.com/ccumc74>

The Rev. Dr. (Pastor) Paul E. Samuelson

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