

# SPIRIT SONG

November 2008

Volume 3, Issue 8

## “Living the NET- Work”

Dear Members and Friends,

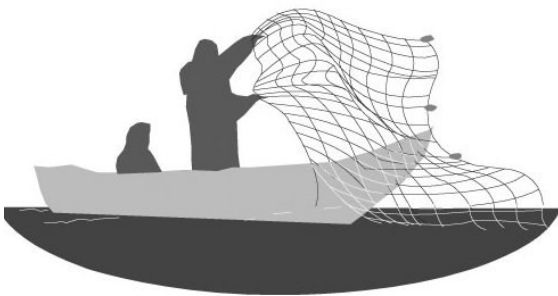
October 17, 2008

I almost had a heart attack as I thought that the newsletter articles were due tomorrow. Whew! I still have a few more days.

But I just seemed to have a little extra time today (I don't know how that happened), so I think that I will start this article. And what better title can we have than “Living the NET- Work.” This was our Annual Conference theme and it is our Charge Conference theme this year. And what is our charge conference? Our charge conference is our main connecting link with our annual conference, which is the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Simply put, it is our annual meeting with our district superintendent, Ron Wilson. He will come about 6:30 p.m. on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, meet with the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and then will meet with the rest of us and will convene the Charge Conference at Charlton City United Methodist Church. He brings greetings from Bishop Peter Weaver, our resident bishop, and will tell us some of what is going on in the Annual Conference. Ron will hear reports, vote on the Lay Leadership Report and the Budget for 2009, and will be engaging in a conversation about how we are living the NET-Work in Charlton City United Methodist Church and how we are making disciples of Jesus Christ in our church.

## Discipleship



~ Called to Lead and Serve ~

As United Methodists, we are part of a larger network. We are a connectional system and have an Episcopal form of government where the Bishop is the authority. We are connected to the Annual Conference (which meets every June), the Northeastern Jurisdiction (which meets every four years), and to the General Conference (which meets every four years, also). As a connectional church, we are required to pay apportionments (mission shares) which are our part of the financial connectional system.

As a United Methodist Pastor, I am a member of the Annual Conference as an ordained elder. I am not a member of the local church, but my wife and children are. I am appointed a year at a time by the bishop. My clergy colleagues make up my network, and we meet every so often for Bishop's Days, conference meetings, or district meetings. I am connected to

the conference staff in Lawrence as well as my brother and sister clergy in our conference and in other conferences. The annual conference is made up of clergy and laity who serve on various committees and boards in addition to the conference staff in Lawrence. So, the annual conference is not they, but us. The annual conference meeting in June is something to behold and every United Methodist should have the chance to attend to see all of the other United Methodists, about 1,000 in our conference.

I believe that it is both easier and harder to live the NET- Work today. It is easier because of all of the technology that we have like cell phones, computers, e mail, the Internet, in addition to the old

fashioned land phones and answer phones. It is harder because people seem to be busier than ever before, and may actually have devices to screen their calls like caller i.d. If a person wants to get in touch with you if you have called them, it is pretty easy for them to return your call, and even leave a message on an answer phone. If they don't want to talk with you, they won't return your call, and you may have to call them multiple times.

Once you have reached people, then you will have to set up times to meet with them for an initial visit or even a new member class. That is always a challenge, but if people are interested, there is usually a way to set something up. Of course, once they become members, then they will have to grow in their discipleship which means continuing to come to worship and get involved in a small group or another part of the church.

Having been in this area for now 8 years, and having been here for about 15 years prior to my last appointment, I find that people will seek me out for a funeral, wedding, or even a baptism. It's always a start, and maybe it will lead to a relationship with Jesus Christ and the church. It is for that particular event, and it may even go farther. It is always time to put out into the deep water, and to tread unknown paths to continue to be in ministry and to truly Live the NET-Work, both here and in the entire world which as John Wesley said, "The world is my parish."

Sincerely in Christ,

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

## **TURKEY DINNER**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8TH**

Come and enjoy food and fellowship with friends and neighbors.



Adults \$9.00

Children 6 – 12 \$6.00

Children 5 and under free.

Family maximum: \$35.00.

## **WITNESS WORDS**

We have come to the time of year when our annual meeting will be held, Nov.3rd, with the District Superintendent...Ron Wilson.

The church secretary and I, along with the Witness committee are looking at three different letters to be mailed to the members that we have not had contact with for 1, 2, and 3 years. As part of the bylaws in the Discipline of the UMC, we are required to contact these folks to see what their intentions concerning their membership will be.

We have also come across a list of members that we have lost contact with because of address changes, new locations and so on. Many thanks to Bev Bergin and Claudia Blauvelt for helping Hannah, the Pastor and me in some adventuresome tracking. We will make an attempt to reach out to our church family to let them know they are missed and needed.

*Diane Samuelson*



*Searching for lost members*

## **STEWARDSHIP..... FINANCIAL PROGRAMMING**

Do you know why most churches hold their financial campaigns in the fall??? Yep!! It is Harvest Time. A time to give thanks for all that we have. Think about the many Blessings we have been given and make prayerful, thoughtful decisions on our church giving for the coming year.

This year Pastor Paul and I will be presenting a program from the UMC Foundation...FAITH and FINANCE....We are hoping to create a year round model integrating Stewardship into the Worship service, every so often and presenting our own church budget in a Narrative form. Looking forward - staying positive - being accountable.

*Diane Samuelson*

# 2008 ALL-CHURCH HOLIDAY FAIR

December 6, 2008

9 am – 3 pm



Yes! It's that time of year again. Many of you have already been working on your items for the fair (thank you so much!). All of the money made at this annual fair goes to pay items in the church's general budget, so a church-wide effort is needed and greatly appreciated. This year we have a Fair Committee (see below), so come and join us and help out wherever you can. You will have lots of fun and be helping your church in the process!



## Help Make Our Fair a Success

The tables and their chairpersons are listed below, so if you have skills or ideas in that area, or if you want to know how you can participate, please contact me, (Cindy Ertsgard) the proper liaison, or the chairperson for that table.

**APPLE PIES:** Lynne Ellis                      - Karenlee Hickey                      - Priscilla Walker

**BAKED GOODS:** Judy Crowley                      - Hannah Gunnell

**COOKIES:** Karenlee Hickey

**COFFEE/PASTRIES:** Priscilla Walker

**CRAFTS:** Jean Anderson                      - Marion Sergel

**JEWELRY:** Marilyn Gerrard

**LUNCHEON:** Bruce Guardiani

**PLANTS:** Lois Grimwade                      - Vicki Foskett

**SILENT AUCTION:** Lynne Ellis

**WHITE ELEPHANT:** Diane Samuelson

## Ways that you can help make this the most productive fair ever:

- 👉 Perhaps your workplace or someone you know could donate an item or service for the silent auction table.
- 👉 \*Perhaps you have a contact that can provide donated items for any part of the fair.
- 👉 \*Perhaps you love to cook or bake, and can donate items to be sold at the bake table.
- 👉 \*Perhaps you are very crafty, you could make items to be sold at the craft table.
- 👉 \*Perhaps you have a few hours to spare on that day to work a table at the fair, or for the set-up or clean-up crews. Sign-up sheets will be available in November.
- 👉 \*Perhaps you have a new idea we haven't even thought of! Please bring your ideas forward, we would love to hear them and use them if possible!

***Thank you, Cindy***

## Help Needed

Volunteers needed to bring the clothing now in narthex to Epworth Methodist Church in Worcester on November 22, at 9:00 A.M.

Please see Jean Anderson if you are able to help.

Some minds are like concrete  
thoroughly mixed up and  
permanently set

I don't know why some people  
change churches; what difference  
does it make which one you stay  
home from?!

**DECEMBER 9TH - 7:00 P.M.**  
**THE BRIMFIELD AREA MASTER SINGERS**

The Brimfield Area Master Singers will be performing their Christmas Concert "Gifts" at the Charlton City United Methodist Church.

Please come and invite your neighbors celebrating this wonderful time of the year. We all enjoyed these talented musicians at their spring concert.

There is no charge, a free will offering will be taken.

Handicapped accessible.



**CHURCH SCHOOL**

The Sunday School is up and running and a lot is going on. We are fully staffed now, thank you for stepping up and helping out, there were a couple of weeks that were crazy. Below are some upcoming events and happenings.

- ☺ Our Christmas play has been selected and practices will begin during Sunday school. There will be some Saturday practices also at the end of November. The pageant is set for 10:30 December 14th with a snow date of December 21st
- ☺ We are collecting Halloween candy for the Friendly House in Worcester. We are asking the kids to donate at least 5 pieces of their favorite candy and then whatever else they want. The Friendly House uses these candies as rewards and incentives for their after school program.
- ☺ Operation Christmas Child is due November 16<sup>th</sup>. Some of the classes are doing shoeboxes. Please ask their teacher if they are participating and what your child was asked to donate. This is such a worthwhile cause, to bring a little something during the holidays to someone who won't get anything.
- ☺ Cookies, Cookies, Cookies-The Church craft fair is not that far away and the Sunday School has a cookie table for the fair. You may ask what is a cookie table. Well, people donate cookies of different kind and patrons fill a can with a variety. So, please sign up and bake some cookies with your children or grandchildren and start a tradition that will last for years to come. We ask that you please list your ingredients on your donation due to the increase of allergies. The sign up sheet will be on the table in the narthex.
- ☺ We are going to try something new for coffee hour. Each group within the church is being asked to sponsor a week during the month. The Sunday school has the 3rd Sundays of the month. Each class has signed for a month so please again ask your child's teacher what you can do.

Thank you to Hannah Gunnell, Bethany Olsen, Krisanne Koebe, Claudia Blauvelt, Kim Constanine, Sharon Johnson, Marilyn Gerrard, Andy Samuelson, Sandy Dam, and Pastor Paul for teaching.

In God's grace,  
Karenlee Hickey, Sunday School Superintendent.



## Charlton City United Methodist

74 Stafford Street  
Charlton, MA 01507

phone: 508 248-7379

Fax: 508 248-7124

email:

[charltoncityumc@verizon.net](mailto:charltoncityumc@verizon.net)

Web page:

[www.charltoncityumc.com](http://www.charltoncityumc.com)

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

## Dates to Remember

### November

|    |           |          |                          |
|----|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| 5  | Wednesday | 7 pm     | Church Health Team       |
| 8  | Saturday  | 5:30 pm  | Men's Turkey Supper      |
| 9  | Sunday    | 8 am     | Worship                  |
|    |           | 9 am     | Children & Adult Classes |
|    |           | 10:30 am | Worship                  |
|    |           | 6 pm     | Youth                    |
| 10 | Monday    | 6:30 pm  | Girl Scouts              |
|    |           | 7 pm     | Council                  |
| 11 | Tuesday   | 7 pm     | Adult Choir              |
| 12 | Wednesday | 7 pm     | Men's Group              |
| 14 | Friday    | 9 am—6pm | Girl Scouts              |

**SIHN Hosting – November 16<sup>th</sup> through November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Next Newsletter deadline: November 18**