



October 2008

Volume 3, Issue 7

Healthy Kid, Healthy Churches, Healthy Communities

Dear Members and Friends,

September 27, 2008

We are on the cutting edge of a new program in our area. The program "Healthy Kids, Healthy Churches, Healthy Communities," a project of the Strategy and Action Commission of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, is coming to our church on October 5, 2008, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. As "Living Faith," a program which has run for the past several years during Lent started with the First United Methodist Church of Southbridge, so now "Healthy Kids, Healthy Churches, and Healthy Communities" which is taking the place of "Living Faith" has its kickoff in our church. It has been named Living Faithfully in our Environments.

Training sessions have been scheduled for later dates in October, but we are the first area to have the program for real. Our areas of focus will be "Creation, Environmental Pollution, and Community" and "Healthy Kids: Protecting the Most Vulnerable in Our Homes". The sessions are broken down in two main parts. One is a framework for understanding environmental health and environmental justice from a faith perspective, and the other addresses the question: what can we do?

This event is being sponsored by the Ecumenical Fellowship Community of our area but it is for us, our churches, our families, and our communities.

The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt, a Healthy Churches Consultant, will be presenting the program to us. She has given us a list of 10 reasons to come to the program.

10. It's free - but contains priceless resources
9. It's first - a unique church curriculum on environmental health and justice
8. It's timely - environmental issues are hot, and the church needs to be there
7. It's ecumenical adaptable for your church or other gathered churches
6. It's faith-based - using prayer, Scripture, and the gifts of the community
5. It's science based - summarizing research about health and toxic chemicals
4. It's action oriented - so that we are not paralyzed by fear but energized to act
3. It mobilizes for advocacy - to help pass the Safer Alternatives to Toxics Bill
2. It's evangelical - how to engage non- church goers about an issue that affects everyone
1. It reaches beyond the Church - bringing the prophetic witness of the Church and the hope of the Gospel into the public sphere when they are most needed.

The ecumenical group from Southbridge (that's us) is used as an example.

The other dates and places are January 4, 2009 at Sturbridge Federated Church, March 1, 2009 Brimfield Congregational Church, and May 3, 2009 at St. Anne's St Patrick's R.C. Church in Sturbridge.

I hope to see you at our church on October 5th at 2:30 p.m.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. (Pastor) Paul Samuelson

INSPIRATIONAL WORSHIP TEAM

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

Psalm 98:4-6

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and
spiritual songs.

Sing and make music in your heart to the LORD,
always giving

Thanks to God the Father for everything, in the
name of our LORD Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:19-20

Is the time spent in worship on Sunday morning
very special to you?

Does the closeness of God touch your heart?

The Worship Committee would like to form an
Inspirational Worship Team, to discuss different
ways we can use the talents and gifts God has
provided us in our church family to enhance
Sunday worship.

Prayerfully ask God if this is something you should
do. Contact Jean Anderson for further
information.

Pie Making

Supplies are needed for our
annual pie making event. We
are looking for donations of
**butter, flour, sugar, heavy
duty large foil and more.**



Sign up sheets at the church. We will be
making the pies on Wednesday October 29th and
finishing up on Saturday, November 1st. There will
also be a crust and slicing party on Tuesday,
October 28th. All are invited, we can always find
something for you to do. Pies will be \$8.00 each
and due to requests we are adding no sugar pies
for those that have health issues. We will once
again be offering frozen and baked pies.
Apple Pie Committee

Church School

Sunday School started September 7th. with
42 children enrolled. We are using a new
curriculum from Cokesbury called "Rock Solid." We
are still in need of teachers. We have 3 classes
that only have 1 teacher, and I am teaching the
5th/6th grade class.

If anyone is looking to be amazed or needs
that extra spark in their lives, see Karenlee Hickey.

Here is a brief calendar of upcoming events.

October

Collect candy after Halloween for the
Friendly House.

November

Operation Christmas Child—a shoe box is
filled with goodies for a child in a foreign
country.

December

December 14th will be the Christmas
Pageant with a snow date of December 21st.
Keep your eyes out for more details.

Singers Wanted

Jennifer Hickey, Katrina Ellis and Tiffany
Gerrard have stepped up to help lead the
music for Junior Choir, which performs the
second Sunday during the offering.
Practices are after Sunday School from
10:00-10:15 in the last room on the right in
the Sunday school wing.

This is open to boys and girls of all ages.

Please join this energetic group.



**The 2008 School of Congregational Development
for The United Methodist Church of New England (and beyond)**

**The adventure awaits.
It's time to walk on water!
Are you ready to step out of the boat?**

Plan now to be part of this exciting gathering

- **Be renewed by uplifting worship!**
- **Be inspired by dynamic speakers!**
- **Be challenged by relevant workshops!**
- **Be encouraged by new opportunities for transformational ministry!**

Thursday-Saturday, November 6-8 (begins Thursday evening; concludes mid-day on Saturday)
at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield, Connecticut

POT ROAST DINNER

October 11th

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.

Job description:

Searching for someone who loves children and wants to share the message of God's love. Training and curriculum will be provided.

Openings:

5th-6th grade combined

Co-teacher for all the other grades.



KICKOFF MEETING IN OUR CHURCH

Living Faithfully in our Environments

October 5, 2008, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.
sponsored by the Ecumenical Fellowship Community



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

Dates to Remember

October

5	Sunday	2:30—5 pm	Healthy Kids, Healthy....workshop
6	Monday	10—noon	Tending the Fire—Deepening Day
7	Tuesday	7 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
8	Wednesday	7 pm	Trustees
9	Thursday	7 pm	Men’s Fellowship
11	Saturday	5:30—7	Pot Roast Supper
13	Monday	7 pm	Administrative Council
21	Tuesday	7 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
22	Wednesday		Newsletter deadline
23	Thursday	6 pm	Finance Committee
24	Tuesday	7 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
	Tuesday		Crust and Apple Slicing
29	Wednesday	all day	Pie Making

November

1	Saturday		Pie completion day
3	Monday		Charge Conference

Annual Reports DUE NOW

(financial reports when complete)

Next Newsletter deadline: October 22