

SPIRIT SONG

Back To School

Dear Members and Friends,

September 21, 2009

This letter finds everyone back in school as I write. Some children began a couple of weeks ago. Some colleges began about a week ago. But everyone is back in school.

Some children are going to school for the very first time. Others are going away from home for the very first time. And still others have gone off to college for the very first time. About this time, they might be starting to miss their parents. Or their parents might be missing them.

I was talking with someone whose sixth-grader went to Boundedale this week. It is a camp like Nature's Classroom, where children go off with their schools for about a week of classroom and outdoor instruction. He was saying that his son went off, big as life. He was with his friends at school. He said that his wife would start to miss their son by the end of the week. He said that his younger daughter wouldn't miss her older brother because she wouldn't have to share the computer with him.

Many professions encourage and even require their members to take continuing education courses. All teachers are required to either have a master's degree or be working on one. And once they get their masters they have to take more courses to maintain their certification and keep up with new developments in their fields. Other professional like doctors, nurses, lawyers, social workers, and others have to take continuing education courses. Even clergy have to take continuing education courses to keep up with new developments in helping people come to Jesus Christ and grow in their faith as well as to help them deal with issues in life. And the annual conference has voted that United Methodist clergy should do continuing education on an ongoing basis.

We are never too old to learn something new about ourselves, our world, or our faith in Jesus Christ. One of my colleagues said something a long time ago that has stayed with me. He said, "The biggest room that I have is room for improvement."

We have all come back to church school this month. We started on September 13th with classes from adult to pre- school. We had a special presentation on that Sunday from Teen Challenge of New England. Several of the members told their story of how they found Jesus Christ and he helped them get off drugs. Hopefully that will help some of our children and young people to stay off of drugs or get off them if they get on them.

But, we need to continually come back to school, even church school and learn and relearn the basics of the Christian Faith. Even the disciples had to learn and relearn the teachings of Jesus from time to time. And Jesus never seemed to tire of teaching them to become better disciples.

Jesus would test them from time to time. In Matthew 8:27 and following, Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They gave the answers that they had heard. They were John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets. But then Jesus asks the disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said, "You are the Messiah." Peter got it right. However, Peter did not like what he heard Jesus say after that.

Jesus explained that he was to have to undergo much suffering, be rejected by the elders, be killed, and three days later be raised again. This did not sit well with Peter, and he began to take matters in his own hands, and began to reprimand Jesus. Jesus put Peter in his place, and said that he had his mind not on divine things but human things. It was a hard pill for Peter to swallow, but it was necessary for Jesus to endure the Passion in order for God to complete his plan of salvation for the world.

So, we are back to school, in church school and in church. I invite you to come to church if you have not been coming. I invite you to church school if you have not been coming. We have an adult class that we have run out of books for but we are ordering more. What a good problem to have!

Keep learning! Keep growing! Keep spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in and out of church!

Sincerely in Christ,

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

Come be a blessing to God and to others!

The CCUMC Adult Choir and Youth Choir seasons have begun and we are looking forward to a wonderful time together making music. Our purpose is to lift up the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ as well as enhance our worship and encourage our fellow believers. If you would like to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" and God is calling you to share the gifts that He's given you, please join us! The Adult Choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm and the Youth Choir rehearses before Youth Group on Sunday evenings at 5:30pm.



Musically Yours,

Cheryl Koskaowski

Thank You!



We wish to thank the church for the most perfect tree which was dedicated in the name of our father and husband, Ralph Reinhold, on Sunday, September 20, 2009.

Ralph lived plainly, and loved the outdoors. He never required a lot of possessions. The tree, selected and planted by John Hunt, along with the plaque, finished by Steve Ashton, add even more meaning to this special memorial, as Ralph thought the world of both John and Steve. Ralph had a large (huge!) pine tree planted right outside his kitchen window so we're sure he would be honored to think he was being remembered in this way, with something he loved so much.

We truly appreciate this special memorial.

Yvonne, Linda and Ruth

Thank you to the Reinhold family for the flowers on the altar last Sunday and the refreshments after the dedication of the tree.

Worship

Change isn't easy, but it occurs in order to keep the story alive!!! In various periods of history, political and social circumstances have affected worship forms. We will be bringing some new changes to our worship on Sunday mornings. It will not happen overnight, but slowly as we try to implement some of the changes you have indicated you want. One thing we have to remember is worship is the "work of the people".

During the month of October we will be focusing on the different aspects of worship. We gather on Sunday to thank God for the things He has given us. One of those things are gifts and talents to be used for Him on Sunday during our time of praise. We need creative people who like to decorate, to sew, to do creative writing, take part in drama or dance, play instruments, want to learn how to do Powerpoint, do Children's Sermons or serve in an Altar Guild. We want to change but we need your help, so ask God what you can do to help with worship on Sunday morning and then let us know. When we give of ourselves, we gain more from our worship time.

What can I do to help with worship on Sunday morning?

Dinner and Concert

On October 10th after the men's supper, we are looking forward to listening to the Stafford Springs Gospel Quartet. Please plan to support the singers and join them in some good old fashioned sing-a-long music.

We have invited groups to sing in October, November and March. This is a trial program to bring us family type entertainment on a monthly basis. See you there.

Jean Anderson

News From The Men's Fellowship

Where were all of you last month? We missed you at our meeting. We need your ideas and your voices as we were not able to sing last month.

The following is an update of what's been happening in the Men's Fellowship: The men are busy with their suppers on the second Saturday of the month; the tree in memory of Ralph Reinhold was dedicated on Sunday, September 20th; and the granite bench in memory of Don Hutchinson has been completed and is ready to be installed. In addition, we have made a large donation for a young lady going on a mission trip to India and we are hopeful that she will be in Church on October 18th.

Thanks to all of you for your support of our suppers; this enables us to help our Church and its missions in some way, so please come and join us and help in anyway you can!.

God Bless, *John Hunt*





Winter Coat Drive

C.C.U.M.C.'s winter coat drive for the Southbridge Community Coat Closet is now in progress. Please bring *gently used washable winter coats* for this important ministry. Holy Trinity Church on Hamilton St. hosts a winter coat closet ministry each Saturday morning from October through December-or longer if needed. Donations accepted in our Narthex. Children's coats are especially welcome.

Thank you! *Mission/Outreach Committee*

Share Your Blessings

God has blessed us with so much. Once a month bring a can of food to church to share with some one who is not so fortunate, families struggling to get by on one income or perhaps a family that has lost their job due to circumstances beyond their control. Soups, stew, pasta meals with protein, and canned meats are especially needed right now. The food you bring goes to the food pantry promptly. Currently we are bringing food to CHIP IN, St.Mary's and Catholic Charities.



Christmas Gift

Coming soon- the option to buy Christmas presents will soon be made simpler. Several people have suggested we have a uniform shirt that represents our church when we are working at suppers, mission projects and other activities. The opportunity to purchase a **good quality polo shirt with our church logo embroidered** on it for **adults** and a more "contemporary" tee shirt with a silk screen logo for children and youth will be available for order in October. More information will be coming your way. The shirts will be sold at cost, with no additional dollars added into the price.

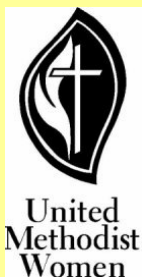


Bible Study

We will be offering a daytime Women's Bible Study beginning in mid-October. If you are interested, please contact Jean Anderson.

Apple Baking Time

The aromas of fall bring the nicest memories to mind...the smell of wood fires, crunching leaves underfoot and the baking of apple pies. You too can make the fine memories of baking apple pies one of your fondest memories by ...why of course-baking apple pies with UMW, UMM and UMY (Youth Group) as we all join together to bake 450 apple pies this year. Our Karenlee won't let us bake any less than that because last year we kept running out of pies after we had made well over 400. So mark your calendars for apple pie baking October 28th and any of the days before and after that date. Roll up your sleeves, put on your hat, wash those hands and join your church family and friends as we come together to make those famous CCUMC apple pies. Coordinating this grand event are apple pie maker extraordinaires Priscilla Walker, Karenlee Hickey and Lynne Ellis. Look for sign ups in the narthex to buy ingredients and donate your time.



UMW

October 4th UMW will have a brief luncheon after church then go to our Fall District UMW Meeting in Ashland. We will carpool. Immigration is the topic that will be featured and there will be some very interesting aha moments I am sure. We will leave at 12:30 and be home by 5:00. See Marilyn Gerrard if you are interested in going.

Sunday School Happenings

We are off to an awesome start. Teen Challenge from Boston came and performed and talked to the kids about their mission and how they found their way through the Lord. It was a great lesson for all of us. We are using a new curriculum this year. I hope you will look at, there are some interesting lessons and analogies. Keep an eye open on the white board for any messages or upcoming events/projects.

I would like to introduce Susan Hunt and Melissa Porter to our staff, please say hello to them and make them feel welcome. Thank you very much for stepping up to the plate and helping out. We are still in need of a few more teachers. We have some wonderful kids and you will learn just as much as they do. Won't you consider trying it?

Karenlee Hickey

Helpful 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>

September

25	7:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
26	9:00 am	Worship Team
26	4:00 pm	Wedding
27	10:30 am	Worship
27	5:30 pm	Youth Choir
28	6:30 pm	Girl Scouts
29	6:30 pm	SPRC
29	7:00 pm	Charge Conference

October

4	10:30 am	Worship
4	5:30 pm	Youth Choir
5	6:30 pm	Girl Scouts
8	7:00 pm	Men's Fellowship
10	5:30 pm	Men's Supper
10	7:00 pm	Stafford Springs Gospel Quartet
11	10:30 am	Worship
11	5:30 pm	Youth Choir
12	6:30 pm	Girl Scouts
13	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
18	10:30 am	Worship
18	5:30 pm	Youth Choir

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

www.charltoncityumc.com
charltoncityumc@verizon.net
email:

phone: 508 248-7379
fax: 508 248-7124

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

Charlton, MA 01507
74 Stafford Street
Charlton City United Methodist

Sundays
9:00 am Church School
10:30 a.m. Worship

