

The George Whitefield ROCK

George Whitefield
UMC

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Goodbye's are difficult for me, and probably for many of you. I've been struggling with what I want to say to you in my last newsletter article before leaving for my new appointment. And it seems that the Lord prompted me to look to scripture for the right words. The apostle Paul wrote many letters to the churches under his oversight, and it's obvious in these letters how deeply he loved these churches and how concerned he was that they remain faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Christian lifestyle. His words reflect my wishes and my prayers for you as you continue to witness to the gospel in the weeks and months and years to come.

Romans 12: 9-17. "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Ephesians 3: 16-19 and 4: 1-6. "I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have to power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.... I therefore... beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

Thank you for all you have taught me about the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to create unity in the church. When I was appointed to be your pastor, you were a newborn church, having just completed a merger. It has been a joy to see you work together to become truly one. When I first came here, there were only a few children in our midst. Now, children fill the front pews. Seeing them every Sunday has been one of the most gratifying parts of my ministry. Thank you for welcoming the children and their families into your midst.

Our church has gained a reputation for hospitality, according to District Lay Leader George Button. Many people who come into the church say "It feels so welcoming and peaceful here!" And so I know that you will welcome your new pastor, Kathy Whitman, with the hospitality you show so freely to all. You will be in my prayers. Please keep me in yours as well.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Mary Jane

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The Church and You

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND NEWLY BAPTIZED

Pentecost Sunday, May 19, was a glorious day in our church as we celebrated the birth of the Christian church with some celebrations of our own. The four McCann children – Samantha, Jessica, Rebeca, and Zachary – received the Sacrament of Christian Baptism, surrounded by their parents Christy and Tom, grandparents and friends. Christy renewed her baptismal vows, and three people joined the church: Hilda Russell (transferring from Pilgrim Baptist Church), Terri Paquette (transferring from the UMC in Natural Bridge, NY), and Nancy Cook (transferring from Carter Memorial UMC in Needham, MA). We welcome all of these people who have been a regular part of our congregation for many months, but who have now become “official” members of the George Whitefield UMC.

NEW ADDRESS FOR PASTORS ANNE AND MATT

Former pastor Rev. Anne Roberts is moving from Belchertown to a new appointment in East Bridgewater. Her new home address is 33 Morse Avenue, East Bridgewater, MA 02333. (508) 350-0001. E-mail: acyroberts@aol.com Former pastor Rev. Matthew Wissell is moving from Franklin to a new appointment in Byfield, MA. His new address is P.O. Box 261, Byfield, MA 01922. We wish them many blessings in their new appointments.

BING SCHERER IS RETIRING

The Rev. Dr. Henry J. “Bing” Scherer, Jr., a former pastor of our church, is retiring after 40 years in the ministry. He will be honored at an open house/reception on Sunday, June 16th, from 3-6 p.m. at Hazardville UMC, 330 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT. If you have a card, letter, photos, or other mementos you wish to give to Bing, please send them to Bev Kirby at the Hazardville church, or take them with you to the reception to place them in a memory scrapbook.

Bing and his wife Cora Sue will be moving to West Brookfield upon retirement. They have had a home here for many years, on John Gilbert Road. We look forward to welcoming them back to West Brookfield!

COFFEE HOSTS FOR JUNE

6/2--Gloria Reid & Neata Campbell
 6/9--Pam & Ray Andrews
 6/16--Staff Parish Relations Committee
 6/23--John & Judy Bartlett
 6/30--Estalene Buzzell & Evelyn Armitage

List is also posted on bulletin board in hall between sanctuary & fellowship hall.

If you cannot serve coffee the day you are listed please make arrangements to swap days with someone. Coffee, cream and punch will be supplied, the rest is up to you. Refreshments can be home baked or from the store or doughnut shop. Choice is yours. Thanks for your cooperation.



WINGS & HANDS

The Wings and Hands Bazaar Crafts will meet June 3, 2002, under the direction of Marge Reim and Marie King; June 24 Dell Marona and Julie Blouin; July 29 under Millie Silverberg, Elsa Bates, and Judy Bartlett; August 26 under Karen Farrell and Marion Hunt; October 28 under Beth Olson and Cindy DiSanto. We welcome any newcomers to our group. The meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

CHOIR NOTES:

A sign up sheet is posted on the table in the fellowship hall for anyone who is interested in helping on Sunday mornings during the summer months. The Chancel Choir is on vacation during the summer and the music program is filled by volunteers, either singing or instrumental presentations, groups are also invited!

PHOTO-DIRECTORY NEWS

Pictures for the new Photo Directory will be taken on Sunday June 2nd and June 9 right after church. If you are not able to make one of these dates please contact Paul Chicoine or Betsy Cloutier to arrange for a photo session. Also if you prefer you can submit your own photos to be included in the directory. We are also looking for any candid shots around the church or any church activities that you might like to share with the directory.



Summer Supper Dates---

June 22--Ham & Baked Beans--Strawberry Shortcake
 July 20--Smorgasbord
 August--17---??
 September--21---??
 October 19--Turkey Dinner
 All suppers are at 6:00pm
 More news about suppers each month.

June 2002

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July 2002						
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Calendar for June

- ?? **Sunday, June 2** – Children’s Sunday: A Celebration of Children’s Ministries – 9:30 a.m.
- ?? **Monday, June 3** – Wings & Hands Craft Group at church, 7 p.m.
- ?? **Tuesday, June 4** – United Methodist Men at church, 6:33 p.m.
- ?? **Wednesday-Saturday, June 5-8** – New England Annual Conference at Gordon College
- ?? **Monday, June 10** – Committee on Lay Leadership at church, 7 p.m.
- ?? **Sunday, June 16** – Open House for Pastor Mary Jane at church, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ?? **Saturday, June 22** – Strawberry Supper at church, 6 p.m.
- ?? **Sunday, June 23** – Pastor Mary Jane’s last Sunday
- ?? **Sunday, June 30** – Hymn Sing at 9:15; Paul Chicoine preaching; Children’s “Fifth Sunday” worship

CALENDAR – REGULARLY SCHEDULED

- Every week (unless otherwise noted):
- ?? Sunday at 9:30 a.m. - Worship with Sunday School
 - ?? Wednesdays at 10 a.m. – Women’s Bible study at the home of Annalee Collins
 - ?? Thursdays at 6:33 p.m. – Men’s Bible study (at homes during winter months)

The Church and Beyond

MISSION SUPPORT NEEDED

Here is a letter, dated 4/15/02, received from Rev. Esaho Kipuke, formerly the pastor at the Spencer and Southbridge UMC's, who is now serving as a missionary with the United Methodist Church in Cameroon through the General Board of Global Ministries.

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus from Cameroon. In November 2001 we wrote you about our plans to undertake mission work in Cameroon under the direction of the General Board of Global Ministries.... We arrived in Cameroon January 10, 2002. Since then we have established and organized four churches, beginning the process of bringing them under affiliation with the United Methodist Church. This is the first time that the UMC has had a presence in Cameroon. The enthusiasm with which our message has been received has nourished us, as we see evidence of hearts prepared to receive Christ, of those already committed living their faith, and of so many ready to build the UMC in Cameroon. However, the needs are also overwhelming. Beatrice has been attending a month-long seminar in Cameroon with women church leaders from throughout all Africa French speaking countries. Now that we are actually in Cameroon we are even more cognizant of the need for a comprehensive Methodist initiative. In addition to church development and renewal, we have begun work on the nutritional, educational and self-support components of our ministry. Our success is dependent to a large degree on church support in the States. Should you wish to send supplies or materials, our new address is:

The Rev. Esaho and Mrs. Beatrice Kipuke
B.O. Box 12604
Yaounde, Cameroon, Africa

Any financial donations should be sent directly to the General Board of Global Ministries where they will be credited to our missionary accounts. From time to time, we will be on speaking tours in the United States. Beatrice also looks forward to coming back to sing in churches. We eagerly await the opportunity to share in person details of our Cameroonian work.

We are very grateful for the support which New England churches have given us thus far. Whether it be prayers, words of encouragement and concern for our well-being, or financial and material support, you've contributed in a very big way to the work which God is allowing us to do in Cameroon.

May God bless you and your church as you keep the flames of evangelical outreach alive. As you feed a child, or build a church, or teach a widow the skills for self-support, you revitalize the worldwide Church of Christ, our Savior, and give the gift of hope where desolation and emptiness once reigned. Let us also move toward an Africa rich in the promises of God's abundance, His love, and everlasting life.

Some of you may remember the Kipuke family and their great enthusiasm for the Lord, their joyful singing, and Rev. Esaho's powerful preaching. They offer us an invitation to share in their very important ministry through financial and material support. How shall we respond?

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

The West Brookfield Ecumenical Council, of which our church is a member, is seriously considering becoming a participant in the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a nationwide program that provides temporary housing for homeless families in churches and other houses of worship. Some of you have asked for more information before making a decision whether or not to support this ministry. Here are some answers to questions you may have.

Who makes use of the IHN? Families (one or two parents and their children, or couples) who find themselves homeless. Some participants are working but cannot find affordable housing. They are required to be drug- and alcohol-free. They are carefully screened and are being helped to find jobs and housing through a human services agency in Southbridge, MA.

How long do the families remain in the program? Most families only need IHN services for a few weeks. About 90% find jobs and/or affordable housing while in the program.

How does the program work? Churches participating in the IHN provide hospitality for families (12-15 individuals) for a week at a time, approximately four times a year. Guests arrive by van (provided by the program) in the late afternoon and have their evening meal together. Each family is provided with private space for sleeping. Beds are provided by the program. Some hosts provide a TV/VCR, games, or other entertainment for the children. In the morning, the host church provides breakfast and a bag lunch. The van transports families to the YMCA in Southbridge where they use the showers. Children go to school during the day, while the adults work with the agency to find jobs and housing.

What are the responsibilities of the host church(es)?

provide a driver for the van, to pick up families in late afternoon and take them to Southbridge in the morning;
 provide a pick-up truck to transport the folding beds to the next site at the end of the week;
 provide supper, breakfast, and bag lunches for the week;
 provide bed linens, towels, etc. (including laundering the linens); at the present time, the Southbridge YMCA is providing towels and laundry service for the towels;
 provide private space for several families (if separate rooms are not available, many churches create temporary "rooms" using curtains or room dividers);
 two volunteers each night are needed to stay overnight in the building;
 a coordinator is needed to oversee volunteers and make sure that meals are covered;
 people are needed to prepare meals each night during the week;
 volunteers are needed to wash bed linens.

What are the guests' responsibilities?

guests wash dishes after the evening meal, prepare their own breakfast from food provided by the host church, and clean up after themselves;
 guests are not allowed to leave children in the care of others; they must have their children with them;
 guests are not allowed to have their friends come and "hang out";
 guests must be drug- and alcohol- free;
 guests must take part in ongoing vocational counseling (and other counseling, if necessary).

What do host churches say about the program? Members of the West Brookfield Ecumenical Council visited the IHN site at the Brimfield Congregational Church and saw the program in action. Rev. Pat Glore, interim at First Congregational Church in West Brookfield, is very familiar with the program which has been hosted by the church at which she was a pastor before retirement. The comments from churches which have been IHN hosts are all positive. They commend the program's organization. They report that the guests (especially the children) are wonderful. They say that they have not had any problems recruiting volunteers, and in fact have found people from the larger community (not just the church) wanting to volunteer.

How would this work in West Brookfield? The approach we are considering (subject to approval by each participant) is to house the program at First Congregational Church, since they have separate rooms downstairs for family privacy. We (i.e., each church) would recruit volunteers to coordinate, provide linens, do laundry, drive the van, prepare and serve meals, and stay overnight. Volunteers would be recruited from the George Whitefield UMC, First Congregational Church, Emanuel Charismatic Episcopal Church, and Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, as well as from West Brookfield and neighboring communities. No one church would carry more than its share of responsibility. A great deal of interest and support has already been shown by a number of people from local churches.

The Church Council at its May meeting recommended that we have more information on the program before voting whether or not to support it. If you need any more information beyond what has been provided here, please call our Ecumenical Council representatives (Marge Reim, Barbara Smith, and Claire Wirf) or Rev. Pat Glore or Jane Fountain at First Congregational Church. You may also call Pastor Mary Jane until June 25th with questions.

An Obituary



Today we mourn the passing of an old friend by the name of Common Sense. Common Sense lived a long life but finally died of heart failure. No one really knows how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He selflessly devoted his life to service in schools, hospitals, homes, factories and offices. He helped folks get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness. For decades, petty rules, silly laws and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense.



He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as to know when to come in out of the rain, the early bird gets the worm, and life isn't always fair. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies such as "don't spend more than you earn", reliable parenting strategies, and the idea that it's okay to come in second sometimes.

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, and the Technological Revolution, Common Sense survived cultural and educational trends, including body piercing, whole language, ebonics and new math. His health declined when he became infected with the "If it only helps one person it's worth it" bug.



In recent decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of overbearing federal regulation. He watched in pain as good people became ruled by self-seeking lawyers and enlightened auditors. Common Sense knew the end was near when schools endlessly implemented zero tolerance policies, reports of six-year-old boys charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, a teen suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, when schools had to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student but could not inform the parent when the female student is pregnant or wants an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and federal judges stuck their noses in everything from Boy Scouts to professional sports.



Common Sense drifted in and out of consciousness but was kept informed of developments regarding questionable regulations for asbestos, low-flow toilets, smart guns, the nurturing of Prohibition laws and mandatory air bags. Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason.

Not many attended his funeral, unfortunately, because so few realize he is gone.



Scripture Readings: Notice

Each month I will publish the readers for each weeks scripture lessons. It is requested that you read from the Lectern Bible. If you can not be in church on the week that you are scheduled to read, please arrange for someone else to read in your place or contact Paul Chicoine.

Also if you are interesting in being included in the readers list please notify Paul Chicoine at 436-7744.



Bible Readings for the Month

June Scripture Readings:

2 nd	-	Genesis 6:11-22; 7:24; 8:14-19
Paul		Psalm 46 (UMH 780)
Chicoine		Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28 (29-31)
		Matthew 7:21-29
9 th	-	Genesis 12:1-9
Charlie		Psalm 33:1-12 (UMH 767)
Reim		Romans 4:13-25
		Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
16 th	-	Genesis 18:1-15
Gail		Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (UMH 837)
Sledziewski		Romans 5:1-8
		Matthew 9:35—10:8 (9-23)
23 rd	-	Genesis 21:8-21
Liz		Psalm 17 (UMH 749)
Sanford		Romans 6:1b-11
		Matthew 10:24-39
30 th	-	Genesis 22:1-14
Children		Psalm 13 (UMH 746)
Fifth		Romans 6:12-23
Sunday		Matthew 10:40-42

Need a ride to Church???

If anyone in the local area needs a ride to church on Sundays or to any church function or meeting, please call the church office at 867-3667 for help in making arrangements.

Also, if you are willing to give anyone a ride, please have your name put on the driver's list in the church office.

THANKS !!!

**Happy June Birthdays**

Adam Gerhard	6/1	Kane Willamson	6/2
June Theberge	6/3	Micheal Chicoine	6/4
Eric Gerhard	6/7	Daniel Bartlett	6/9
Kristen Cloutier	6/14	Danielle Cloutier	6/14
Evelyn Armitage	6/15	Phyllis Adams	6/17
Isabel Carpenter	6/22	Marge Reim	6/28
Ardell Marona	6/28		

Celebrating Anniversaries in June

Pam & Ray Andrews	6/7
Stew & Marie King	6/21
June & Al Theberge	6/30

**The Grief and Loss Support Group**

“YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE IN YOUR BEREAVEMENT”

The last Wednesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. Sponsored by the **WEST BROOKFIELD COUNCIL on AGING** at the Senior Center, 27 Front St. Everyone is welcome. For more information call Frank Halloran 867-2497.

AN OPEN INVITATION

The George Whitefield Rock welcomes any and all submissions. We reserve the right to edit or reject any material. This is your newsletter, please feel free to make any suggestions to the pastor or the editors. Also if you would like to share your loved ones birthdays and anniversaries please send them for submission to the editor.

Have you visited our web site lately?

www.gbgm-umc.org/whitefield