



from the desk of Howie Tobak, Transition Minister

In the last days, it will be, God declares, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions, and your old people shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days, I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. . . . And it shall be, every person who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Joel 2:28-29, 32a

In the church we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, which this year is June 12. Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church. And, interestingly, the word *Spirit* not only refers to the ethereal power of God to guide, comfort and awaken us; it is also the power of God to breathe into us and to offer us life. Like breath, spirit is not something that simply resides in us; but it also issues from us. We not only breathe in and out; but we each have the capacity to breathe God's life-giving spirit into others -- to offer them love, peace and healing, confidence, joy and hope. And that capacity is literally the power to "inspire" or to "breathe into." And because that power is both invisible and intangible, it is perhaps one of the least

understood of all our human capacities. And yet, it is also one of the greatest. There are times when the spirit emanating from an individual is so full of life that we can feel their presence as they enter a room. And while we do not all exhibit that power overtly, we all have the potential. And so, how we go about our lives is of some importance.

There is a story about a man of wealth and generosity who, on meeting a beggar walking the long road to a village in Lithuania, stopped his carriage and invited the beggar to get in. After listening to the generous offer, the beggar politely refused saying, "I

(Continued on page 2)



It's not too early to mark your calendars to join us at Compo Beach this summer at 8:30 a.m. by the cannons. Participating churches will be Saugatuck, Greens Farms, Norfield, United Methodist and Wilton Congregational. All are invited. It's a BYOC event "bring your own chair."

Everyone can park for free (even if you don't have a beach sticker— just say you're there for the beach service.)

- July 3 - Wilton (communion)
- July 10 - Norfield
- July 17 - Green's Farms
- July 24 - United Methodist
- July 31 - Green's Farms

- August 7 - Saugatuck (communion)
- August 14 - Norfield
- August 21 - United Methodist
- August 28 - Saugatuck
- September 5 - Wilton (breakfast following)

Dear Friends of Saugatuck Congregational Church,

It has been my great pleasure to serve you as Moderator these last few months. The experience of Moderator has given me new appreciation for what congregationalism means and for the collaborative energy of our church membership. I have enjoyed the opportunity to help shape the direction of our church. However, recent events have suggested to me that my gifts and talents can be better used outside of Council. After much prayer and careful consideration, I am stepping down from my role as Moderator.

Council will continue to convene under the leadership of Jeff Boak until succession plans have been finalized. Please keep him and the rest of our Council members in your prayers as they guide our church through this transitional period.

I would be remiss if I did not offer a special word of thanks to John Walsh, our Chair of Trustees, whose wise counsel and unflinching support were immensely helpful.

As this verse from Ecclesiastes states so beautifully, "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens." Now is the time for new leaders to step forward and for new ideas to emerge that can revitalize our church.

May God continue to bless our congregation in the weeks and months ahead.

In Christ,

Shelly Coppola Ames

(Continued from page 1) from the desk of Howie Tobak

haven't earned any money yet today." "Well, how much might you have earned?" came the wealthy man's reply. "A lot," said the beggar. "Twenty-five ducats maybe." The wealthy man persisted, "Well, I'll simply give it to you. Now do come along." Still the beggar stood his ground, "I cannot." All the good that the wealthy man had intended was beginning to fade, and so he tried one last time. "Do come along. I cannot bear to see you walk all the way to the village. Why not let me take you? You won't lose anything." To the renewed invitation the beggar replied, "True; but I must think of all the people who each week open their doors and their hearts to me. If they don't see me today they will begin to worry. And for their sake I cannot accept your offer."

By the power of the spirit given us by God, we each have something to give -- something to contribute. We might empower someone in faith, or enable them to do something they may not have been able to accomplish on their own. We can use the power of that spirit to breathe new life into the church, and into situations that would otherwise remain devoid of meaning -- times of distress and illness, loneliness or fear; poverty, war, death, the unknown -- each of these, awaiting the breath of life, awaiting the Spirit of God to be breathed into lives that may be on the verge of despair. For, even the miracles that only God's Spirit within us can work; even these require our active participation. After all, we are not uninvolved in our own future. Rather, if we do our

part, we are promised God's life-giving Spirit to help us through. But we must do our part.

So let us live our lives in faithful obedience to God, by breathing in the gifts of God's electrifying and transforming power -- the power to inspire us. And let us breathe that power into others, and into Christ's Church. For, God's own Spirit has been given us as a gift to be with us for all time. It is through the gift of that Spirit that we have each been empowered for life, life ever in the service of God and God's people. Truly, let us be an inspired people, a generous people, a people who live and breathe God's powerfully evocative love, peace, hope, and joy into others. Thanks be to God!



JUNE 2011



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu		
Worship Services: June 5th, 10 am Service only; Confirmation Sunday June 12th, 10 am Service only; Story Tent & Ice Cream Social June 19th, 8 & 10 am Services; Betsy Tobak preaching, Father's Day June 26th, 8 & 10 am Services			1 9:30 Bible Study 1:30 Healing Prayers 6pm Earthcare 6pm Confirmation	2 8:15 Men's Group 7:30 Membership 7:30 Sanctuary C	3	4 4 pm Story Tent Rehearsal
5 <i>Communion</i> 9 Children's Choir 9 Youth Choir 9 Confirmation Breakfast 10 Worship Service Confirmation Sunday 11:15 Fellowship Hour Noon Story Tent Setup	6 7:30 Story Tent Rehearsal 7:30 Boy Scouts	7 9:30 Crafters 6:30 Yoga 7 Personnel 7:30 Missions	8 1:30 Healing Prayers	9 8:15 Men's Group 7:30 Sanctuary C.	10 Middle School End-of-Year Party 4 pm Story Tent Rehearsal	11 4 pm Story Tent Rehearsal
12 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> 9 Children's Choir 10 Worship Service & Story Tent Recognize Graduates 11:15 Ice Cream Social & Fellowship Hour Farmers' Market	13 7:30 Boy Scouts	14 9:30 Crafters 6:30 Yoga 7:30 Deacons	15 1:30 Healing Prayers	16 8:15 Men's Group 6pm Saugatuck Nursery School Picnic 7:30 Sanctuary C. 7:30 Trustees	17	18 Barbara Watson Memorial Service Evergreen Cemetery 12 Noon
19 <i>Fathers' Day</i> 8 am Worship Service 9 Children's Choir 9 Youth Choir 10 Worship Service 11:15 Fellowship Hour 11:45 H.S. Youth Mission Trip Farmers' Market Eagle Scout Court of Honor	20 <i>Herald Deadline</i> 7:30 Boy Scouts	21 9:30 Crafters 6:30 Yoga 7:30 Christian Ed.	22 1:30 Healing Prayers	23 8:15 Men's Group 7:30 Sanctuary C.	24	25 11am Thelma Lubarsky Memorial Service
26 8 am Worship Service 9 Children's Choir 9 Youth Choir 10 Worship Service 11:15 Fellowship Hour H.S. Youth leave for Tennessee Farmers' Market	27 7:30 Boy Scouts 7:30 Hygeia	28 9:30 Crafters 6:30 Yoga 6:30 Nominating C. 7:30 Church Council	29 1:30 Healing Prayers	30 8:15 Men's Group 7:30 Sanctuary C.		

An Update from the Pastor Search Committee:

**Elizabeth Baldwin, Russ Brenneman, Russ Bulkeley, Andrea Cross, Mark Gray,
Mary Jean Koster, Larry Robinson, Sara Walsh.**

The Pastor Search Committee has completed the Church Profile and advertised our Pastor position on the UCC website. We are entering the next phase of reading profiles of candidates and meeting with ones we deem qualified to be Pastor at our church. We thank all of you for your thoughts, input and especially prayers that have gotten us to this point. Moreover, we thank you for putting your trust in us to help find a permanent Pastor for Saugatuck. We share with you a 'Reflection and Prayer' written by Russ Brenneman at our last meeting.

Who are we? Working on the Church Profile makes us think about that. For some reason that set me thinking about the passage in Mark where Jesus turns to the disciples and asks them who people around them were saying that He is, and then he asked them more pointedly just who did they the disciples say He is. And according to Mark Peter then spoke up and said: You are the Christ. Jesus and Peter as Jews knew exactly what that meant, but we Christians have been reflecting on what that means ever since the Resurrection. Paul might have answered: You are my savior and the savior of all. UCC modernists might say: You have rescued us from that aimless separation from God that some call sin. Jesus says: just follow Me.

Turn the figure a tad and ask of our Saugatuck family: Who do people say we are? And who do we ourselves say we are? The survey on which the Church Profile is based helps us answer some of those questions. And we have formally declared ourselves to be "A community of Christ welcoming all people learning to love and serve God and neighbor." Is that what people say we are? Is that who we really are?

But looking ahead there is another question that is even more germane as we look for new pastoral leadership: Who do we aspire to be? A harder question and a more personal one. Before all kinds of individual notions, predilections, biases, personal histories and special agendas creep in, let us reflect on what Jesus as the risen One is always saying to us if we stop to pay attention: Follow me.

Prayer

Lord, we thank you for all the help and guidance you have given us as we complete the first phase of our work, and we are thankful for the wise counsel of Sarah Verasco, Howie and Russ Crabtree, our survey consultant. We thank you for your inspiration as the Profile presents a clear eyed and truthful picture of your Saugatuck family. Take our hands, O Lord, as we move forward in the hope that candidates will appear who fully appreciate this unique church family and our sincere desire to learn better to love and serve God and our neighbor through new inspired leadership.

***In Jesus name,
Amen.***



RELAY FOR LIFE

On May 13 our Confirmation Class participated in the RELAY FOR LIFE as their group project. The RELAY event was held at the Weston HS track, and our

team S.T.O.M.P (Saugatuck Teens Offer Means to Prevent) Cancer was one of 43 teams that participated. Our teens relayed all night long, keeping someone on the track at all times. Hours were long, but spirits were high and the kids and mentors were fantastic! Special thanks to the parents and mentors for providing food, tents, company and support for the kids. PATTY DOOLITTLE stayed up ALL NIGHT with our young people...WOW....AMAZING! Oh...did I mention that the kids raised over \$3,200.00 for the American Cancer Society? Yep...they are amazing kids!

STORY TENT and YOUTH SUNDAY will be on June 12th. This is traditionally a fantastic and lively service! This year our seventh and eighth graders and teachers Michael Hendricks, Betsy Gillespie, Mary Ellen Hendricks and Kathy Ross have outdone themselves. Come see a very 'TIMELY' Story Tent production.

Our YOUTH SUNDAY worship leaders will be the 5th and 6th graders. They plan to lead worship using an interactive strategy.

Come and enjoy this lively service and then stay for our annual ICE CREAM SOCIAL as we end an amazing church school year.

From the Director:

It has been a challenging year...not going to lie. BUT...and this is big...WE MADE IT!

We have accomplished so much of what we set out to do...now we just need to fill these beautiful classrooms back up with our students, and their families. The last of the renovation begins in 2 weeks (at the time of this writing). We will be fully renovated by September. Come on back! Don't think we don't miss you! We do!

Any concerns or questions call me- 203-226-3272 .

With love, Abby

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY will be on June 5th.

This year our confirmation class will say YES to the 6 core themes of the UCC and to membership at SCC. Even members of our church may still be unfamiliar with the 6 core themes. This service will introduce the themes as they have been built into the service. 14 young people, both 8th and 9th graders will be confirming on the 5th.

Come celebrate our newest members!!!!

THANK YOU TO THE PARENTS OF THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2011 Our year was so amazing...and we owe so much to our incredible confirmation parents and mentors that opened their homes each Sunday night to serve us dinner and provide a meeting space for our classes. What began as a necessity due to lack of church space ended up as a wonderful, warm, and loving experience for all of our confirmation students and their teachers. Thanks to all! Feeding 30 people quickly is quite a challenge!

THANK YOU TO THE MENTORS OF THE

CONFIRMATION CLASS! Thank you for committing to the confirmation process and saying yes to our students this year. Your involvement with your confirmation student is only just beginning! Thank you for your devoted service and giving them a great example of discipleship!

Of course there were so many more things we could have done this year....but we blazed a new trail together and for that we are grateful. Abby and Brad

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

COMMISSIONING We wish to honor our high school senior class on June 12, Youth Sunday. Please join us for worship as we wish you well wherever you may go. Your faith at SCC is solid and we hope to remind you that we will always care for you. See you June 12th.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT WILL BEGIN IN JUNE

We will be forming the teaching team for 2011-2012 in June. If you wish to join the teaching team or would like to learn more about the commitment I urge you to contact me- bepeter-son@optonline.net or 203-226-3272.

The rewards really do exceed the tasks.

TEACHERS ARE AMAZING Thank you to this year's teaching team for the constantly changing room environs, for the incredible flexibility they have show all year, for their understanding in light of the lack of communication and notice for varying reasons.

Our SCC teaching team really does ROCK!



On April 29, nine energetic Middle School Youth Group members and three chaperones drove to Rutland, Massachusetts, home of Heifer International's Overlook Farm. Friday rush hour traffic and three accidents along the way made for a tedious drive, but once we arrived, a look at the baby goats in their pen filled us with eager anticipation. Please be sure to read 7th grader Kate Koster's report on the trip (Pages 8 & 9). Many thanks go to Mark Mathias and Mary Ellen Rose, who not only chaperoned but prepared pictures and text for local news releases.

As requested by the youth themselves, the High School Youth Group spent time getting to know a few older members of our congregation. On May 2, we met with Russ and Freddie Brenneman, hearing stories of their past and of their careers. On May 9, our guest was Emily duVoisin, who made history come alive as she recounted what life was like during the Great Depression.

In less than a month, thirteen of the high school youth and four chaperones will be traveling to Nashville, Tennessee to help rebuild homes destroyed by last year's floods. There is much to see and do in the Nashville area, but one activity is sure to be memorable: Don and Sue O'Guin will be hosting us one evening for a swim and BBQ party at their new home. Don also says "hi" to all of you!

Georgette Huie

Saugatuck Nursery School

As we approach this bittersweet time of year, we delight in the major development each individual child has made but are saddened to see them move on. But just as proud parents, we know that the children have been given the tools to be successful and self-confident during the transition to the next stage of their lives.

We will celebrate our students' achievements at our annual **End-of-the-year Picnic on Thursday, June 16 from 6-7:30 p.m. on our playground.** This year SNS will supply pizza pies, sweet treats from the old-fashioned Good Humor Truck and some magical entertainment. The rain location will be in Hoskins Hall.

We welcome our two delightful Staples High School Seniors, Abigail Russ and Avery Vogt, as they intern with us through mid-June. They will be spending time in the classrooms in addition to experiencing the various facets of a pre-school. The children have already made them feel at home!

Put on your red SNS t-shirt and join us on the **Saugatuck Memorial Day Float.** We will leave the school parking lot no later than 7:45 and head to the parade line-up on Riverside Avenue. Please come help us set up around 7:00.

Our last day of school is Friday, June 17. **A Wild, Wild West Vacation Program** will immediately follow from June 20 – 24. **Summer Camp** runs for eight weeks, from June 27 – August 19. Our campers will enjoy themes like Wonders of the Sea; Blast Off; What's Cooking? Send in the Clowns; Get up and Go; Ridiculous Reptiles and Marvelous Melodies. Weekly in-house and off campus field trips will add excitement to this carefully crafted camp! Limited space is still available.

Our future looks bright with the introduction of a third classroom. **The Purple Room** will be located upstairs in the Daniel's Room and will house the five-day 4's program. The existing Blue Room will see a transformation that will welcome the brand new Two-day 2's and Three-day 4's. We are very thankful that the Church gave us the opportunity and support necessary for our school to add additional programming space and remain competitive. This partnership will also benefit the Church by offering additional renovated space for evening meetings and Sunday School. The Church will also receive additional revenue through increased maintenance contributions. Our new 2's class is fully enrolled, but we do have space available in our three-day 4's.

I will be happily buzzing around this summer overseeing camp and the construction of our new classroom and playground additions.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy summer!

Ellen DeHuff

BOOK TALK by Marta Campbell



Memoirs are autobiographical, but vary widely in factual content. Memoirs give the writer's point of view about the events of his or her life. The emotional content enhances the facts. The illness or death of a family member or the struggle with addiction and despair is lightened by the philosophical attitudes needed to move forward.



FALL TO GRACE: A REVOLUTION TO GOD, SELF AND SOCIETY

by Jay Bakker

The son of Jim & Tammy Faye, Jay was eleven years old when his parents global PTL ministry came crashing down. Disillusioned, Bakker turned to drugs and became engulfed in addiction and despair. Eventually, the grace of God prevailed and Bakker's faith was renewed. With his tattoos and motorcycle, he takes the challenge to reconsider Jesus' salvation message to the people... in bars and other unlikely places. Where does God's grace reveal itself?

ONE HUNDRED NAMES FOR LOVE: A STROKE, A MARRIAGE, AND THE LANGUAGE OF HEALING

by Diane Ackerman

Ackerman is a superb writer. Most of her books are about the natural world; you want to immerse yourself in her lush descriptions and indulge all your senses. In this memoir, she writes of her husband's stroke. He is the author Paul West. The poignancy of his loss of words is heartbreaking. Ackerman's account of their challenging conversations and his gradual recovery of some of his vocabulary is fascinating. His new endearments for her make up the One Hundred Names of the title - many quirky combinations emerge from his stroke-addled brain. This is a touching love story which does not shrink from vulnerability, while it celebrates resilience.

MAKING TOAST: A FAMILY STORY by Roger Rosenblatt

Rosenblatt's thirty-eight year old daughter died from an asymptomatic heart condition. Her grief-stricken parents move in with their son-in-law and their three young grandchildren. In this unsentimental memoir, Rosenblatt describes the myriad of daily details of life with very young children, who are learning to accept the permanent absence of their mother. Grief pervades every day, yet does not prevent moments of pleasure and silliness. Cautious optimism and inner strength carry the family through the raw moments. Rosenblatt is a disciplined writer- restrained and precise. Unforgettable.

TOLSTOY AND THE PURPLE CHAIR: MY YEAR OF MAGICAL READING by Nina Sankovitch

After her sister died, Sankovitch indulged in frantic activity running away from grief, until she realized what had been the strongest link between them: Books! Sankovitch set out to read one book each day. After writing a review of the book she had just read, she moved on to the next one. Eventually she created a website (readallday.org) and turned her despair into a bridge connecting readers near and far. In her memoir, Sankovitch reveals her own life story, as she comments on the 365 books she read that first year. A meditation on family, grief and the healing power of books, this is also a reminder to slow down and consider what is happening in your life. It is also a wonderful source of reading suggestions. Nina Sankovitch lives in Westport and will be speaking at the Library on Wednesday June 8 at noon.

*These books are available at the Westport Library.



The Music Ministry Team welcomes all volunteers in the Saugatuck Church family -- both nuclear and extended -- to enrich our summer worship services by sharing your musical talents with us. Whether you sing, play a musical instrument, or both, please speak with a member of the Music Ministry Team.

Susie Benton, Team Leader; Doug Johnston; John Canning; Gayle Martin Henry

Our Trip To Heifer Overlook Farm

By Kate Koster

Heifer Overlook Farm was an experience that changed my view (and I bet everyone else who went there's view) on the global poverty issues that we face today. Heifer is an organization which takes donated money and, in turn, will donate an animal or a group of animals to countries that need them. The choice of the animal depends on the donations and the country's needs. For instance, if you give only twenty dollars, you can provide a flock of chicks, ducks, or geese to a family in need. These things could change someone's life. To know that you have made a difference in someone's life really makes you feel good. You can give things from trees to cows, and every single one can make a difference.

This was my second year at Heifer Overlook Farm with Saugatuck Middle School Youth Group, and it was just as fun. The first day you get there you sleep in regular bunk beds or A-Frames, and on the second day, you learn about the world. You do a mapping project where you learn about what percent of its own produce each continent consumes and what percent of the world's population is in that continent. Then you eat lunch at one of the global village houses, eating what they would eat on a daily basis. This year and last year we ate lunch at Guatemala. We made our own black bean soup and corn tortillas. Then, we learned about the nutrients that have gone into this meal. After that, we take a tour of the global village which consists of 9 (and will soon be 10) different houses. Each house is a



Guatemala

replica of what a house in poverty in these countries would look like. Each one also has their own set of animals that the family would use. These are the following countries: Guatemala (Goats & Chickens), Peru: (Alpaca & Guinea Pigs), Thailand (Water Buffalo), Ghana (Honey Bees), Kenya, Poland, Kentucky, Mexico, Tibet (Bulls), {Coming Soon: China!}. Some countries' houses are no more than a small square of dirt surrounded by stone and metal (Peru), and some are trailers with no means of moving, running water or electricity.



Peru

Last year I stayed in the country of Poland. Most people want to end up staying in Poland because it is nicely furnished and big. But in reality this house could be shared with two families and tons of pigs and sheep! This year I stayed in Guatemala. Here, they do have bunk beds, but in a very small, tight

room, and then there is another room for cooking and family gathering. Each house was built for its environment. Thailand looks like a large tree house, and this suits the warm climate and the bamboo resources.

Ghana is made of cement and stone, which would keep the house cool, and has three separate bedrooms with a large wooden frame and some rice sacks on top. Peru has very little windows and is very sturdy so that it can survive the cold wind in the mountains.

Tibet is very simplistic, just a tent of thick animal hair that you can carry from place to place.

Ghana



Thailand



(Continued from page 8)

And in Kentucky, there is a cheap old construction trailer turned into a small little home. While you are there, you go to market and buy food and cook your own meal. You live like those who live in poverty, which gives you a different perspective of the poverty issue. You are not allowed all of the fancy giz- and gadgets that you may have brought, not even books, because you have to experience like they do and see it from their perspective.



Poland mos it

The whole Heifer experience was really worthwhile. When you know that all the money you donate will help raise an animal for a country in need of that animal, you feel great. Knowing that you are helping others less fortunate than you really has a gratifying feeling that comes along with it. To know you have made a difference in some ones life feels really good. I am glad I got to see the world from a different perspective, one that changed my way of thinking and maybe now I can help the world, and so can you.

-Kate Koster,

age 13



A goat from Guatemala



Me milking a goat

“A couple of weekends ago, an excited group of middle school children from Saugatuck Congregational Church took a field trip — literally.” Dan Woog’s Blog



For more information plus a video go to the following website:

<http://06880danwoog.com/2011/05/20/heifer/>



Music Notes by Charlotte Stacey (Former) Director of Music



I just want to thank everyone for a lovely send off on May 15th. I enjoyed the cake and musical presentation by the choir of "Hello Dolly" with Janet Canning's terrific lyrics. It was just great. If you weren't there, here are the lyrics:

It's true, Charlotte
We'll miss you, Charlotte
You could match our anthem to the liturgy.
You always knew, Charlotte
Through and through, Charlotte
That each service has a focus
You brought u-ni-ty.

But your commute, Charlotte
Was a brut~~e~~. Charlotte,
You braved ice and snow all winter, you're the best!

Now play mahjongg, Charlotte
Lift up your voice in song, Charlotte.
Do those woodwork projects-Get some rest!

I certainly won't miss the bad weather commutes, but I will try to attend as much as I can at the 10 AM service when I'm not travelling around! I intend on keeping my membership active and will try to participate as much as I can.

I cannot thank both choirs- bell and sanctuary members- enough for their dedication to providing the church with music. Most of the members have been long time members.

One of the ways you all can help this church, our church, is to consider joining one of these choirs in the fall for whatever time you can commit. Maybe it is just one Sunday a month, maybe two, maybe for just some of the special holidays. At Easter, we must have had 60 people in the choir loft singing the "Hallelujah Chorus" and it was just glorious. Yes, some of them were out of town family members who love to sing, but most were members of this church. Could you imagine how much better the choir could be if 20 of those people joined the choir for 1 Sunday a month! Wouldn't that be fabulous! Anyway, just think about it, pray about it and remember "Every time we sing, we pray twice!"

Blessings to you all and see you soon.

Charlotte

Congregational Meeting—May 8, 2011

On May 8th the congregation voted to approve three resolutions proposed by the Church Council.

Based on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees and of the Building Renovation Committee, authorize Saugatuck Congregational Church to return Saugatuck Nursery School's \$10,000 donation to the Capital Campaign so the school may use it toward renovating the Daniels Room into a Saugatuck Nursery School classroom, and authorize SCC to spend up to \$20,000 so that the renovations to the Daniels Room shall be of similar quality to the renovations in the East Wing and to take care of asbestos removal. (By a vote of 54 yes and 1 no, the resolution passed.)

As recommended by the Board of Trustees and the Building Renovation Committee, to complete Phase III of the building renovation in 2011, and to authorize withdrawing from the endowment an amount not to exceed \$275,000 for costs related to renovation work. (This required approval by 2/3 of members present. 53 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention. The resolution passed.)

To authorize a withdrawal from the endowment, not to exceed \$140,000, to cover operating deficits through 2012. (This also required approval by 2/3 of members present. 50 voted yes, 4 no, and 1 abstained. The resolution passed.)

Voting was by written ballots following a presentation of the proposals and time for discussion. The endowment is currently just under \$2.3 million, the highest it has ever been, and will still be in a healthy position after these approved withdrawals. This is due in large part to a magnificent gift from the estate of Nikki Stone, longtime member of the church who died in 2009.

Work on the Daniels Room and the back stairwell on the driveway side has already begun. By the time you read this, work on the remaining classrooms and offices in the East Wing will probably be under way. Thanks to all who have been working for years on the Capital Campaign and building renovation—and to our congregation for its participation!

Janet Canning, Clerk

SPRING STORMS APPEAL

The United Church of Christ is issuing a \$250,000 US Spring Storms Appeal in response to severe flooding and worst-single stretch of tornadoes in more than four decades. Over 200 deaths have been reported. **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

1. Pray for those impacted by natural disasters & emergency response personnel
2. Make gifts payable to SCC marked "US Spring Storms Appeal" which will be sent to the CT Conference.
3. Send gifts, made out to Missionary Society of Connecticut and marked "US Spring Storms Appeal" to CT Conference, UCC, United Church Center, 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105.
4. Make a secure on-line donation at: <http://www.ctucc.org/donate/>
5. Assemble Church World Service clean up and hygiene kits which are urgently needed. More information is available at:

http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kits_main



Interview with Craig Matheson (Part II)

Edited by Michelle Coppola Ames

Q: Can you remember any moments that turned you around or made you aware in a different way about some kind of an issue and enlarged your sensitivities or your consciousness?

CRAIG: There are so many needs in the world, and I remember that we had a pastor and his wife who were in the Philippines, and our church sponsored them. Their name was VanVactor, Maizie and Lloyd VanVactor, and I remember one Sunday morning Gibson Daniels telling us that there had been an uprising, and Maizie and Lloyd were incarcerated in the Philippines, and what were we to do about this? These were our ministers, our missionaries from our church, and they were incarcerated. Maizie died as a result of the incarceration, and Lloyd returned to the United States and to New York, and we saw him again. But I've never forgotten. The local paper headline that week was "Saugatuck Minister Incarcerated in the Philippines." It was a very moving time for us.

Q: Tell me what you think some of the greatest challenges are that the church is facing now, and what is it going to require from everyone to meet them? What kind of collective energy or spirit will it take?

CRAIG: We are in a period of growth and a period of transition. Right now our church is, like other churches in the country, trying to maintain its position in the

community. I'd like to think that we are a growing church, and I think that we have to remain abreast of all of the problems of our society and do what we can do to help people, as I said, who are less fortunate than we. I think we have an obligation and a responsibility, a social responsibility, to our community, and to the wider community.

Q: Do you think that the spirit and the energy in the church now is up to the task of meeting the challenges, or would you say something else has to—you know, that people need to pull deeper, from a deeper place, or do you think it's there, just needs to be harnessed in some way?

CRAIG: If we can't do it, nobody can. I look around at that congregation and the energy and the power that is within our community; yes, we have the ability, we have the creativity, we have the talent to help and to do—it's just a very, very special group of people. Yes, we can; there's no limit to what we could do if we choose to do it.

Q: Great. What would you like church members to value most about this period, to remember in ten years time or twenty years time, or to pass down to the next generation about what's going on now within the church? What's the most wonderful parts of what defines it?

CRAIG: Well, the Saugatuck Church faces a great problem at this time. We are in transition. Having had such wonderful leadership, and I go back again to Gibson Daniels and Ted Hoskins, to Martie McMane and Allan Johnson, and then John Danner; all of them were wonderful leaders and an inspiration to us during the transition period; very difficult to maintain that level of energy and so forth. But it's important for us to know that there is a leader out there somewhere, and it is up to us to find that leader, to bring him into the church to continue the pattern that we have established these 175 years, and I know we will find him, or her, and that that person will continue to lead this special congregation into the next century.

Q: What would you say to that person on his or her first day? What advice would you give?

CRAIG: Whoever is the choice to lead this congregation will come with gifts, with talents, and will see what needs to be done. I don't think we're going to have to give a lot of direction. I think if the leader will come, he will recognize what the congregation has to offer, and I think he'll find his way in leading us forward.

Received by the Editor:

Jane... your mention of the Missionary Roast brought back about a million memories I continue to enjoy all that you write!

Hello to all...

Peace,

Ted

Ted Hoskins

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The “Connecticut Sponsoring Committee” is now CONECT!

Frank Basler and Dave Boule attended the May 12 Assembly of the CT Sponsoring Committee. Here is what happened:

- The organization has a new name: "CONECT" -- Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut.
- The 150 or so attendees from 30 member congregations ratified a working version of a mission statement for CONECT:

We are 15,000 people from 30 religious institutions: urban and suburban, multi-faith, and ethnically diverse, living in communities from Norwalk to East Haven. We discover, research, analyze, and articulate a powerful moral voice to negotiate with business and government leaders regarding social, economic, and political issues that affect our members.

- Two new congregations have joined and are paying dues: *The Unitarian Church of Westport* and a new church start in Bridgeport: Joseph's Coat of Many Colors Lutheran Church.
- Preparations for the Founding Assembly in November were announced and people moved to different sections of the room to sign up to help with things like Location and Logistics, Communications/Media, Agenda, and Relations with Special Guests (like Governor Malloy, who has committed to attend). Three Issue Teams were described, and participants were invited to join: Health Care, Educational Equity, and Predatory Lending.

The Health Care team is working to support a bill in the Legislature requiring the Insurance Commissioner to hold public hearings on health insurance rate increase requests; Education is supporting legislation to enable undocumented students to attend State supported colleges/universities at the in-state tuition rate. Predatory Lending is investigating stories from CONECT congregation members that Bank of America is increasing escrow accounts to cover future *possible* tax increases.

Finally **there will be another opportunity for you to observe in early September**: a (hopefully) 500 person Assembly to prepare for the Founding. Each church will be asked to commit to a quota -- the number of congregation members they will bring to the Founding to ensure there are at least 2000 in attendance. Frank will let you know when a date and place is announced.

The May 12 Assembly began with a one-on-one "relational" meeting (following the Welcome by Rabbi Orkand of Westport's Temple Israel, and the invocation by Frank Hall, pastor of our local Unitarian Church). As usual, this opportunity to build new relationships energized the meeting.

Please try to attend and observe in September. You will have a palpable experience of the Holy Spirit!

Howie's Weekly Schedule

Generally, Howie is available Sunday through Thursday for appointments mid-late mornings, afternoons, and early evenings. Specific in-office hours vary depending on weekly commitments. (Please call to schedule an appointment.)

Thursdays are devoted to preparing Sunday's worship services. Friday is Howie's definitive day off. In an effort to keep a clear boundary between church and home, Howie will not check e-mail and voice mail messages on his days off. However, if someone has become hospitalized or has died, or the church is on fire, please call Howie directly at home regardless of the day.

If Howie is not home, please contact the *Deacon-on-Call*.
(Phone numbers are on the church voice mail system.)



To fulfill our mission at the Gillespie Center. We are responsible for making a meal once or twice a month on Wednesdays for the 30 to 35 residents who depend on the churches for their daily evening meal. We are in need of cooks for the following dates: *July 27th. / August 24 and 31st / Sept. 28th. and Oct, 26th.*

Your help will be greatly appreciated. Call Vonnie Spies for details- 203 -226- 5513



FARMERS' Market

Come after church on Sunday Mornings 10:00AM-1:00PM

Please welcome our returning favorites and new vendors who will supply us with fresh Connecticut grown produce, home-made items, baked goods, plants & flowers, eggs, beef & pork, honey and so much more.

Guests include music, chefs, authors and nutritionists.

Once again, they will be selling shares (\$200) for the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) offered the customers at the Sunday Farmers Market. The customers have been very positive with the weekly boxes received. We felt that this was a very positive aspect of our market and it allowed us to stand out from the rest of the other markets. The program is simply a prepaid

subscription for 1 box of market items, 8 items per week for 10 weeks beginning mid- July thru mid- September. Look for a sign up form in the bulletin shortly.

Also uniquely Sunday Farmer's Market at Saugatuck Church is the after market donation program where vendors donate more than 1,000 pounds of produce and market goods per week to Bridgeport's Park City Initiative, who turn around the donation and help support 65 families, the Family Re-Entry program and Bridgeport Rescue Mission,

For more information please contact Mary Ann West, mwestwrites@gmail.com or 203-554-3964

**Successful
Supper
For
Seven
At The
Koster
Home**



SHARING AND CARING

A Graveside Service at Evergreen Cemetery for Barbara Watson will be held on **Saturday, June 18th at noon**. All are invited to share in celebrating her life.

Ongoing prayers for Andrew Accardi, Christine Allen, David Bell, Elwood Betts, Hazel Baldwin, Valerie Burman (Carla Bowden's sister), Tommy Conforti, Elmer Crager, Molly Dearborn (Dick and Pat Harris's daughter-in-law), Austen and Pat Doolittle's grandchildren, Christie and Ryan, Paul Fletcher, Tom Flood (Tracy Flood's father), Louise Fraboni, Rita Lazaroni, Bill Lindenmuth, Jenna Miller, Kathi Mitchell, Sue Neilly, Charles and Eileen Parrelli (Lisa Gray's father and mother), Susan Pearlman (Kim Mathias' boss), Colleen Plantinga, Chiyoko Quasius, Dave Rendleman, Lucy Roth, Kris Schwindeman-Flandreau, Florence James Shook, Bob Steele, Marty Watson, and Rubi Wentzel (Carla Bowden's mother).

Please hold them in God's presence and in the light of Christ.