

***Pancake
Breakfast*** 
September 12

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Our mission statement
 We celebrate the presence
 of the Holy Spirit;
 being and making disciples of Christ
 by sharing God's gifts
 through word and deed.

The Messenger
 THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 12 COMMERCE STREET
 CLINTON, CT 06413-2017
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The Messenger
September 2010



The United Methodist Church, Clinton, CT
 Pastor M. Craig Fitzsimmons



**A church in the mountains of
 Mullens, West Virginia**



FROM THE PASTOR

It seems as though all I have been writing about in the past few months is mission trips! How wonderful it is to be able to be part of a church that supports mission outreach not only by prayers and contributions but also personal commitment and hard physical work. I don't want to take away the "thunder" of the youth who traveled to Mullens, WV to participate in the Appalachia Service Project (ASP). You will hear their stories and see some of the hundreds of pictures that were taken during the "Shareholders' Dinner" at the end of the month. I hope everyone will try to attend, whether or not you bought "stock." It will be a wonderful time. *(Please reserve your place at the table.)*

What I do want to say about the trip is how proud I was to be associated with our youth and adults from our church. Now I realize that pride is one of the seven deadly sins, so I will obviously have to ask for forgiveness, but I don't think I have ever had a more cooperative, fun, hard-working, eager to assist group of first-time volunteers. It seemed whenever something needed to be done at the "center" for ASP, our group stepped up cheerfully (I think it has a lot to do with Jill's attitude and leadership). Other youth were drawn into our circle even though it seemed we had matching shirts almost every day of the week! There was a bonding beyond the shirts that took place and I could sense the Spirit's presence in the entire experience.

As with any mission experience, each person reacts differently. However, I think it is safe to say that everyone who has the experience is changed in some way because of it. I know you may hear some of this from the group on September 26th. I also think that for the majority of persons who participate in such a "hands-on" project, it empowers them to want to do more. It is my hope that this will be the first of a yearly mission experience for our youth. It is possible that we might be looking at doing the same for the adults in the congregation (since the Mississippi trip was such a success.)

You might have heard that just over two years ago when I was introduced to the Staff Parish Relations Committee, I made a statement that I needed to do a Volunteer in Mission trip at least once a year for my spiritual growth. I think some who have experienced these trips can relate to what I am saying since there is a strong connection with God and one's faith as we go in the name of Christ to be his hands and feet, and witness to his love and grace. As long as we can all sense God's

Our family reunions have historically consisted of eating, playing baseball and visiting.

This August our family reunion consisted of eating, boating, swimming and visiting from Saturday morning until Sunday brunch. But the nine people from Connecticut arrived at our motel in Connersville, Indiana on Friday around 2 pm - hungry and eager to attend the free Fayette County Fair.

The fair was a little disappointing since many of the booths and the midway rides didn't open until 4 pm, most of the farm animals had been taken away and some of the usual attractions had gone to the Indiana State Fair. We did find food - BBQ brisket, corn dogs and a stand that was making delicious ice cream in two large "pails" stirred by a gasoline engine which regularly backfired.

We could have gone to the farm and harassed our hosts, but decided to attend the 7 PM attraction on the outdoor track - a demolition derby. We had seen these on television, but without the crowds and the noise. This event was enclosed in a rather small area by huge cement blocks. All afternoon numbered and battered cars had been trailered in and when the derby began, groups of 5 to 8 cars were admitted; then they proceeded to ram each other until 1 to 3 were left; then another group was driven in. We left a little after 9 pm although



it was announced that this would go until "the wee small hours." We agreed we were glad we saw the derby and we would never need to see one again! *SAA*

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Editor Sue Alexander
 Staff Roy Alexander
 Photo credits: ASP folks, Roy and Sue

Deadline for the October Issue: Sunday, September 19

Enjoy the fellowship, contribute your talent

You are invited to join the **Clever Crafters** each Monday in Fellowship Hall at 11 o'clock to create items for nursing homes, the Holly Fair, and various other colorful projects. Please bring a sandwich; beverages and dessert are provided.

Every Tuesday evening, the **Holly Crafters** meet. Recently they have shared knitting techniques and learned to make woven bracelets. Individuals have crocheted, embroidered and/or worked on their own craft projects. The company is good, so please join us from 7 to 9.

Church family notes

UMC of Clinton,

Thank you so much for your hard work and contributions to ASP this summer! We enjoyed having you and hope to see you next summer!

Although the words are short and few,
This brings the warmest thanks to you.

Mullens Staff 2010

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to celebrate Ed's life with our former church friends. We were members for 35 years and our children grew up in this church. Linda and Peter especially have been planning on this for months.

It was great to see everyone after seven years away even if it was for a memorial service.

We thank all those that had a part in it, particularly Dick and Carol Bell for setting up and planning for the fellowship time after the service. Thanks again for so many friends that came to remember Ed. It was much appreciated especially right in the middle of the summer heat.

Love to all,

Barbara and the Merry family

Thank you to...

Dick Bell for work on the restrooms of the Kathy Fell Building.

John Pope for supervising 18 Commerce improvements.

Gerald Cotter for moving ahead on the renovation of the parking lot.

Carol Bell for refreshing Nursery Room 202.

Pastor Craig for repairing the K. Fell Bldg. wall, a casualty of VBS.

Dick and Carol for painting walls in the Kathy Fell Building.

Your church family

presence in everything we do in the name of the church, then we will have a wonderful program beginning in September.

Thank you for all your support for our ASP team. We felt your love and care throughout.

Shalom,

Craig

Sunday School begins September 12!

The traditional Pancake Breakfast, Sunday School registration and introduction of teachers will start at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, September 12. There will be several classes based on age and interest. Come to the breakfast and find a class for you!

Regular classes will begin on September 19 at 9 and 10:20..



Appalachian Service Project Stockholders' Dinner

Sunday, September 26
5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

*The Youth Group invites all stockholders
and members of the church family who supported
our mission with your gifts and your prayers.*

*Please R.S.V.P. with the number of persons
who will attend to the church office, 860-669-8396.
Thank you.*

Month of Sundays

September 5	15th Sunday after Pentecost
Greeter	Ginny Burr
Ushers	Watch your mail for a new schedule.
Infant/toddler care	Linda Symmes
Acolytes	Raegen Riley, Alaina Attanasio
Sound coordinator	Tammy Drena
Camera operator	Dan Attanasio
Worship leader	Mickey Brown
Lectionary scriptures	Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33
Sermon	Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons
Communion steward	Linda Symmes
Fellowship host	Jackie Blomberg

September 12	16th Sunday after Pentecost
Greeter	Dottie Capece
Ushers	Watch your mail for a new schedule.
Infant/toddler care	Linda Symmes
Acolytes	Emma Boey, Alex Attanasio
Sound coordinator	Ally Gates
Camera operator	Mickey Brown
Worship leader	Carolyn Hale
Lectionary scriptures	Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
Sermon	Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons
Fellowship hosts	Deb Anderson

Come to church on Monday!

The Mission Committee will have a workshop Monday, September 13 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. to make outer covers (shells) in preparation for the Ugly Quilt sleeping bag assemblage in October.

Donations of medium weight fabric are appreciated. You are also invited to join in making the shells. Lunch will be provided.

Thank you.

Carol Martens

Prayers

Often when I want to write a prayer, I turn to the hymnal or a devotional book to jumpstart my thoughts. One book I have used for many years is a paperback collection of prayers written during World War II. After I glean a prayer or theme, I toss the page, so I no longer have the cover or most of the book. Some prayers were written by saints of the church such as Pope Clement XI or Augustine. The following poetic prayer was written by Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman of Congregation Beth Israel in Hartford:

O Thou who givest meaning to the strivings of men,
attune our hearts for communion with Thee.

How often, when everything else fails us,
do we yearn for Thee.

In the stillness of the night, in the press of the crowd,
in the agony of inner conflict, we bow our heads, and lo,
Thou art in our hearts and we are at peace.

We know not, O Lord, whether the gifts for which we ask
are for our good, whether our trials and tribulations
may not be blessings in disguise,
whether even the fragment of our shattered hopes and love
may not minister to the upbuilding of other lives
and the fulfillment of Thine unfathomable plan.

So we do not pray unto Thee to make our lives easy,
to give us happiness without alloy.

Rather do we pray Thee to aid us to be
uncomplaining and unafraid.

Teach us to face life with faith and courage
that we may see the blessings hidden away
even in the discords and struggles.

Help us to wrest victory from the discipline of pain.

May we realize the life calls us not merely to enjoy
the fatness of the earth but to exult in heights attained
after the toil of climbing.

Thus will our darkness be illumined by Thy light
and our weakness made strong by Thy strength,
lifting us above fear and defeat, and sustaining our steps
with an immortal hope.

Praised be Thou, O Lord, the stay and trust of the righteous.
Amen.

Sue Alexander

Fall Archives Workshops

Come and learn about the mission and ministry of the Commission on Archives and History by participating in a workshop! So that everyone might participate fully, each workshop is limited to 25 participants. A \$10 donation will cover the costs for the materials, a light lunch and a tote bag.

Saturday, October 16 from noon to 4:00

The Commission will hold a **church records and archives management workshop**. This workshop is intended to support and assist pastors, administrative assistants, trustees and local church historians. Lunch is provided at noon, workshop begins at 1:00.

Saturday, November 6 from noon to 4:00

A **genealogy workshop** with Audrey Klinkenberg, author, historian and genealogist. She says, "We will be focusing on genealogy at the beginning. Come prepared to ask questions and be ready to find new avenues for research."

Both workshops are at the United Methodist Center of the New York Annual Conference, 20 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY. Please contact Mary Robison, Conference Archivist to register for these events at archives@nyac.com or 1-888-696-6922, ext. 128, toll free.

Basic Lay Speaking Ministries Course

The District Lay Speaking Course prepares laity to provide a ministry of caring, leading and communicating God's word. Not everyone is called to preach from a pulpit, but everyone can benefit from learning how a worship service evolves. For more information or to register go to nyac.com and click on CT District Basic Lay Speaking Course.

The Connecticut Hospice, Inc. Regatta Race

'Round Faulkner's Island

Saturday, September 25, 2010 Regatta and Parade of Sails

Noon - Branford Harbor

Sunday, September 26, 2010 Lobster Bake

Noon - 3:00 pm \$35 per person

Silent Auction Noon - 2:00 pm

100 Double Beach Road, Branford

For Race details: Eric Treu (203-483-9262)

For Event details: Pat Corradino (203-315-7510)

September 19

Greeter
Ushers
Infant/toddler care
Acolytes
Sound coordinator
Camera operator
Worship leader
Lectionary scriptures

Sermon
Fellowship host

September 26

Greeter
Ushers
Infant/toddler care
Acolytes
Sound coordinator
Camera operator
Worship leader
Lectionary scriptures

Sermon
Fellowship host

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Carolyn Berlepsch
Watch your mail for a new schedule.
Linda Symmes
Gabby Dollahite, Skylar Riley
Jonas Thelin
Lisa Sutherland
Tammy Drena
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79;
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons
Ellen Hoyt

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Lisa Sutherland
Watch your mail for a new schedule.
Linda Symmes
Rebecca Dollahite, Nicholas Dollahite
Lisa Sutherland
Dan Attanasio
Don Shogren
Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15; Psalm 91;
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31
Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons
Ginny Burr

What God has done for you

God helps us to recall the times we have witnessed God's interventions in our lives. God wants us not only to remember but to tell others. When we are alert, we can see opportunities to tell others about God's help, healing and peace and how loving and powerful God is. We encourage others and glorify God when we make known what God has done for us. We also become more mindful of and thankful for our own blessings.

Cindy Rooy

in The Upper Room, June, 2010

Stewardship note from Vera Smith

When I enter Church on Sundays I often attempt to say a prayer, but most times I find I just look, almost studying the stained glass windows wishing I had known the donors during the era in which they were presented to the Church.

I continue to look and I see the thankful work which is done and how prepared everything is: the hymn numbers are there; the flowers are on the chancel; the banners made by our members are hung; flowers have been planted outside. Seems like magic in a way.

I think about the anonymous gestures people do. During the preparation for our Holly Fair, I remember arthritic hands working diligently knitting and crocheting items and preparing food, which of course continues.

When there is a significant occasion, such as a wedding or memorial service, there is a lovely buffet prepared with many contributing their homemade goodies. On Communion Sundays the table is ready for us to partake. Members show their love and thanks constantly and it does seem like magic in a way.

But it isn't magic, it's Stewardship in the most beautiful way.

High school students!

There will be a Sunday School Class for you in Room 201 each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Teachers are Carolyn and Jill Hale.

Youth group news

In the past year we attended plays and musicals, hosted dinners, played board games, went apple picking, worked at the Bluefish Festival, went on mission trips and closed with a trip to Six Flags!

We now have several new members - those entering the Sixth Grade - and are looking forward to getting to know them.

Our fall schedule includes the Pancake Breakfast at 9 AM and a planning meeting at 6:00 PM on September 12. On September 26 we will host a dinner for those who purchased stocks in the Appalachian Service Project.

Jill Hale



Camp Meeting 2010

7 to 9 PM

Friday - September 17

Saturday - September 18

Sunday - September 19

Renowned Preaching for Today's People at the United Methodist Church, 811 East Main Street, Branford.

The Rev. Joseph C. Chan: missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries assigned to Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer: District Superintendent of the Connecticut District, New York Annual Conference

The Rev. Marjorie Elaine Nunes: Pastor of Summerfield United Methodist Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Sponsored by the eight churches in the New Haven Cluster of UMCs - Branford; Clinton; Hamden Plains; First & Summerfield, St. Andrew's, and The United Church of Westville in New Haven; First and Wesley of West Haven; and Faith Church in North Haven.

As a sponsoring church our help is requested in ushering and providing finger foods. Please call the Church Office if you will help.



Three costly projects

Because you give...the trustees have been able to make several improvements to our property. Some are very obvious, others in the Kathy Fell Building restrooms or 18 Commerce Street house, you may never see.

However we have not yet reached the goal for the **Steeple Fund**, the **parking lot** is worthy of your support and we need more funds to erect a **gazebo** to protect the McNeely Bell.

Please add something to your regular offering if possible. You may designate the project you wish to support.

The ASP Trip

Everyone who comes to the Shareholders' Dinner on September 26 will hear about the Appalachian Service Project trip to Mullens, West Virginia. To explain a little about the pictures in this Messenger: They all stayed at Mullens Middle School, which is next door to the church on the cover; they worked in two groups on different houses; Chase was the most photogenic of the people they aided.



Those who went are Left to right: Jill Hale, Bob Hale, Jonas Thelin, Megan Lohutko, Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons, Alex Attanasio, Haley Parent, Johnna Sternberg, Rachel Benisvy, Leslie Parent, Ally Gates, Carolyn Hale and Sarah Luft.

Book discussion September 27

The Methodist Book Readers are off to China with Larry and his cousin, Daniel Asa Rose to search for a kidney and perhaps a wife for Larry. The trip provided inspiration for this book by Mr. Rose as he is bullied, tricked and entertained by his ailing cousin and their patient Chinese hosts.

If you have read *Larry's Kidney*, please join us on Monday evening, September 27 at 7 for discussion and refreshments.

September Birthdays

Kiley McKinnon	1	Johanna Thelin	10
Andrea Scaglione	1	Chelsea Griswold	12
Peter Snyder	1	Amy Nickois	12
Jody Gorecki	3	Kristen Desrosiers	14
Dan Attanasio	4	Ellen Hoyt	16
Joan Johnson	4	Virginia Burr	22
Tawni Robinson	5	Jonas Thelin	23
Lynn Sellers	7	Kimberly Parker	28
PJ Brockett	8	Jill Hale	29

Deborah Circle

If you are interested in an evening bible study, you will find a warm welcome in the Deborah Circle for women, meeting September 21 at 7 pm at Ginny Burr's home, 27 Neck Road, Clinton.

Our Soup Kitchen Closet needs fruit. Please bring cans of applesauce, peaches, pears or the fruit of your choice and fill the basket in Fellowship Hall



Food Collection

The ASP travelers



Bob



Haley



Jill



Megan



One of our families

No more lakes and pot holes!



Stevens Excavating Incorporated



More pictures from Appalachia



Ally finishing the ceiling



Johnna and new friend, Chase



Ally and Alex, preparing the floor

Entering West Virginia



Carolyn



Ally



Alex resting and at work





September 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 30			1 9:00 T. O. P. S. 5:00 Soup Kitchen host Congregational Ch. 7:00 Trustees	2 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Worship Committee	3 5:30 A.A. Meeting	4
5 9:30 Organ concert 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship time	6  LABOR DAY	7 9:00 W. I. C. 7:00 Holly Crafters 7:00 SPRC Committee	8 9:00 T. O. P. S. 5:00 Soup Kitchen host United Methodist Ch. 7:00 Church Council	9 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Adult Choir	10 5:30 A.A. Meeting 7:00 ASP meeting	11
12 9:00 Pancake breakfast 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship time 6:00 UM Youth Group	13 10 to 3 Mission workshop 11:00 Clever Crafters 5:30 Second Home Providers	14 7:00 Holly Crafters	15 9:00 T. O. P. S. 5:00 Soup Kitchen host Cornerstone Church	16 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Adult Choir	17 5:30 A.A. Meeting District Camp Meeting, Branford UMC	18
19 9:00 High School & Adult Church school 10:00 Worship 10:20 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship time District Camp Meeting @ Branford United Methodist	20 11:00 Clever Crafters	21 7:00 Holly Crafters 7:30 Deborah Circle at Ginny Burr's home	22 9:00 T. O. P. S. 5:00 Soup Kitchen host St. Mary's Church	23 9:00 W. I. C. 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Adult Choir	24 5:30 A.A. Meeting	25
26 9:00 High School & Adult Church school 10:00 Worship 10:20 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship time 5:00 ASP Dinner, see Page 3	27 11:00 Clever Crafters 4 to 9 Kidz Konnection 7:30 Book discussion	28 4 to 9 Kidz Konnection 7:00 Mission committee 7:00 Holly Crafters	29 4 to 9 Kidz Konnection 9:00 T. O. P. S. 5:00 Soup Kitchen host Congregational Ch.	30 4 to 9 Kidz Konnection 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Adult Choir	OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	