



NEWSLETTER

Of The United Church of Rowayton

October/November 2011

Vol. 42, No. 5

From the Pastor



"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. **Gratitude** makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." by Melody Beattie

"A soldier's little girl, whose father was being moved to a distant post, was sitting at the airport among her family's meager belongings. The girl was sleepy. She leaned against the packs and duffel bags. A lady came by, stopped, and patted her on the head. 'Poor child' she said. 'You haven't got a **home**.' The child looked up in surprise. 'But we do have a **home**,' she said. 'We just don't have a house to put it in.'"

from "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom

If our United Church is going to continue to be the **spiritual home** I believe it is, for so many, and a place where **gratitude** is nurtured, gratitude for God, life and each other, then we, members and friends of the Church, need to practice better stewardship of the personal financial resources with which we are blessed. We need to give as much as we can to the Church. Each and every pledge, promise, amount given varies from person to person, from personal circumstance to personal circumstance. Some people are able to give over \$30,000 annually. Others can only give \$52 annually. And there are a number of people in between. The point is - every dollar given is received and used with much **gratitude** and purposefulness. Every dollar counts! The Church's programs and daily expenses are paid for with the money we give to the Church and other sources of income. It costs about \$550,000 to run the Church, including

fulfilling our outreach to help others. Other sources of income total \$150,000. This leaves \$400,000 from our pledged contributions. Over the past few years we have not reached that number and it's beginning to have an effect on the life of the Church. But quite honestly, for a church our size and resourcefulness, we should not struggle to pledge and raise this amount. If we all sacrificed and gave as much as we possibly could it would be the best way to express our **gratitude for our spiritual home**. I believe we can raise that amount and perhaps more. We all need to take time to really think and pray about our personal financial commitment. If you are not currently pledging and yet participate in some aspect of the Church's activities such as Church School, Youth Group or Confirmation, the financial leaders urge you to make a contribution to the Church so that these vital programs can continue. Again, do what you can do. Give what you can. But do and give something! I know these are hard economic times. However, do what you can so that we, your Church, can do what we can do to help you and others get through these tough times of emotional stress, financial hardship and personal need. Give with **gratitude** to keep our **spiritual home** open being a warm and compassionate and caring place where all people are welcomed and nurtured for the journey of life! Together we can create a vision for tomorrow!

With Love,

Worship Themes and Scripture

- Oct. 2nd World Communion Sunday
Message: God's Loving Wisdom
Scripture: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
- Oct. 9th Message: God Matters
Scripture: Exodus 32:1-14
- Oct. 16th Message: Willing Relationships
Scripture: Exodus 33:12-23
- Oct. 23rd Caregiving Ministry Sunday
Message: God's Story, Our Stories
Scripture: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
- Oct. 30th Celebrating John Livingston's
25 Years as Pastor at
The United Church of Rowayton
Intergenerational Worship
Message: God With Us
Scripture: Joshua 3:7-17
- Nov. 6th Communion
Message: Ready to Shine
Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13
- Nov. 13th New Member Sunday
Message: Abundant Possibilities
Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov. 20st Thanksgiving Sunday
Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46
- Nov. 27th Intergenerational Worship
First Sunday of Advent
Message: Longing
Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, November 22nd at St. Matthew Church – 7:30pm

We will have the wonderful opportunity again to gather with the West Norwalk Congregational Church, St. Matthew Church and Temple Shalom for this festive Thanksgiving event. The service will include participation by all clergy and choirs. Join the excitement of this wonderful service at St. Matthew Church, 216 Scribner Avenue, Norwalk.



Thursday Bible Study- 12 Noon to 1pm



All are invited to Bible Study at noon on Thursdays beginning October 6th. The program will be led by our Pastor, John Livingston, and will study the appointed lectionary readings. Bring a sandwich, and come nourish your mind, soul and body. We will meet on the 2nd floor of the Meeting House.

New Member Gathering

On Monday, October 24th, Pastor John Livingston will be offering an opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about our Church and denomination, the United Church of Christ, as well as other theological and biblical information related to what it means to be part of a Family of Faith. This class will be held from 7:30 - 9:00pm.



On Sunday, November 13th, the Board of Deacons will host a breakfast for all those joining our Church and following, during worship, new members will be warmly welcomed into our Family of Faith.



November 19th, 8:00PM

Join us for the 24th annual Tellabration! – the worldwide story event for grownups. Once again this popular event will take place at The United Church of Rowayton on Saturday, November 19th, at 8:00pm. Featured teller will be Jennifer Munro who has appeared at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesboro, Tennessee. Back by popular demand is Eddie Pleasant reprising his hilarious version of Cinderella. In addition, for the first time, Connecticut Troubadour Lara Herscovitch and Slash Coleman, comedian/ storyteller, will take the stage. A reception follows. Come early for a good seat. Bring all the people you love the most!! Tickets purchased in advance \$10; at the door \$15. For information or to reserve tickets, please contact Judi Billick, 203-846-1092 jabillick@yahoo.com or Elise Donahue 203-854-9353 elisedonahue@yahoo.com

steward.ship [stoo-erd-ship]

noun - the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.

At The United Church in Rowayton all of us are stewards. Our pledges and donations are just one of many ways we oversee and preserve this institution. However, at this moment, we are behind in our pledge payments more than in past years after a summer lull. Please take time to make your pledges current. Thank you.

Your Board of Household Concerns and
Stewardship Committee



Associate Pastor's Study

Probably my second favorite month of the year, October brims with autumnal color, fragrance and brisk air. What could be lovelier than Connecticut in October? Of course when you're talking about delicious fragrances, nothing can beat Thanksgiving, what with pumpkin pie, roast turkey (unless you are vegan) and all the fabulous harvest vegetables at the table. October and November are months when we settle into our Church activities and families near and far take on enhanced significance. This can be a time of great warmth and joy for some but for others, it can be a sadder time, a reminder of the loss of loved ones and can even be quite lonely. As a Church concerned for all of our members, let's remember to reach out to those who might be experiencing a sense of sadness during these fall holiday times. Phone calls, e-mails, a cup of coffee or invitations into our homes are simple ways we can help one another to feel a part of God's great family of faith. Should you need a friend or someone to whom you can speak, please feel free to contact us here at the Church, or touch base with one of our wonderful Caregivers. We want to be here for you.

Sarah Sykes has graciously agreed to join us as our Youth Group Leader this year (yay Sarah!). Please come to meet Sarah, Wednesday, October 5th at 7:00pm when PARENTS and Youth (6th, 7th and 8th graders) are invited to Youth GROUP Orientation. Please RSVP to Carla if you can attend.

My prayer would be that you have many joyous walks in the bright air and crunchy leaves of fall. God is with us everywhere we walk and you can rest assured that you are loved.
In peace,

New Monthly Bible Study !

On Wednesdays, October 12th and November 9th from 7:30-8:30 a new Bible Study entitled "The Book of Acts. A God Is Still Speaking Bible Study" and is written by Anthony B. Robinson will be offered. "The purpose of this class is to study the Book of Acts of the Apostles and by doing so to grow in our knowledge and understanding of scripture, to hear God's word for us and for our Church today and to grow in our friendship with one another." Please do join us for the first two lessons Oct. 12th and Nov. 9th at 7:30pm. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT Carla@ucwayton.org so I can send you the first lesson ahead of time.



October Calendar

- Oct. 2nd Communion Sunday
PreK-4th Grade Church School only
- Oct. 5th Youth Group ORIENTATION
7:00pm-8:00pm in the Meeting House
- Oct. 9th Regular Church School
- Oct. 12th Bible Study "The Book of Acts"
Lesson 1 at 7:30pm
- Oct. 16th Regular Church School
- Oct. 19th Youth Group 7:00pm-8:00pm
- Oct. 23rd Regular Church School
- Oct. 30th Intergenerational Worship – all children and adults worship in the sanctuary together. No Church School classes

November Calendar

- Nov. 2nd Youth Group 7:00pm-8:00pm
- Nov. 6th Communion Sunday
PreK-4th Grade Church School only
- Nov. 9th Bible Study "The Book of Acts"
Lesson 2 at 7:30pm
- Nov. 13th Regular Church School
- Nov. 16th Youth Group 7:00pm-8:00pm
- Nov. 20th Regular Church School
- Nov. 27th First Sunday in Advent
Intergenerational Worship –
all children and adults worship in the sanctuary. No Church School classes.

Rethinking Christianity - Adult Education Experience Continues!



You are invited by our Senior Pastor John Livingston and Associate Pastor Carla Dietz to once again be a part of this exciting adult education experience. **Rethinking Christianity - Living the Questions** is a DVD series featuring premier voices of our day, exploring an open, inclusive, broad-minded Christianity. This series brings together thirty-five acclaimed scholars, theologians and best-selling authors. The experience is simple - it will be offered from 5 - 6pm on Sundays throughout the year. We will watch the DVD for that session and then take time to discuss, learn and share. This one hour, once a month, might just change your life and renew your faith and be just what you are looking for. You can come on as many Sundays as you are able. One or each and every one. Rethinking Christianity begins on Sunday, October 23rd, then November 13th and will continue in 2012.

Caregiving



Ministry

Keep Us Informed

So often someone in our Church Family is going into the hospital, has had a new baby or is in need of someone to be a good listener. The Caregiving Ministry would like to be there to listen, send a card or note, or pay a visit. However, we can't if we do not have the information. So if you are that person in need of us or know someone who is (with their permission, of course!), please let us know. As our mission statement says "Caregivers are caring Christian friends who listen, understand, accept, and pray for and with care receivers who are experiencing the joys and sorrows of life". All of our work is strictly confidential. You may contact either Joanne Brown, 655-3713 email auntjo@optonline.net or Ann DiLeone, 838-3169 email amdileone@gmail.com. Thank you for your help!

Board of Christian Outreach

Backpack Drive

The Board thanks everyone who participated in the August Backpack Drive. We collected 15 backpacks full of school supplies for our social worker to distribute to local school children, giving those students a good start to their school year.

Fall Food Drive

Our Board of Christian Outreach is now conducting a Fall Food Drive for the Christian Community Action Food Pantry in South Norwalk to help them restock their shelves. Items desperately needed include: nonperishable foods such as peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned/bottled fruit juice, canned dinners (pasta dishes and stews), rice, dry beans, baby food, coffee, tea, powdered milk and cereal. Please bring food bags (**DOUBLE PAPER BAGS, PLEASE**) to the Meeting House from October 2nd - 9th.



Thanksgiving Dinner Drive

Help Provide Thanksgiving Dinner – We need your help in providing families in need of Thanksgiving dinner.

The Board of Christian Outreach will donate gift certificates for turkeys, so all you need to do is supply the accompaniments (NON-PERISHABLE). On Sunday, November 6th during Fellowship Hour, the Board of Christian Outreach members will be on hand to sign you up to adopt a family. If you would like to volunteer for this outreach project before the 6th, please call Bob Green at 203-855-1310.



Basket Suggestions:

- *Plan for a family of five
 - *Some type of potato (fresh, instant or canned)
 - *Stuffing mix
 - *Cranberry sauce
 - *Vegetables (fresh or canned)
 - *Gravy
 - *Dinner rolls
 - *Juice
 - *Pumpkin pie (or any other type)
 - *Anything else you feel the family would enjoy.
 - *If you feel ambitious you may provide breakfast.
- All baskets should be brought back to the Meeting House by November 13th.

White Doves Are Flying In!

Our Board of Christian Outreach is asking our help to get together and select a Dove listing the gift wishes of children in need during the holiday season. On each Dove suggested gift items are listed for a child. Doves will be available on Sundays November 27th and December 4th. All gifts should be new and UNWRAPPED and



marked with the child's name, age and family number, e.g., Mike, 12-year-old boy, Dove #23. Please include gift wrap and ribbon with your gifts. Christmas cookies and candy canes are also always appreciated. All packages should be put in a **LARGE PAPER LAWN/LEAF BAG** and tied at the top. Please mark the Dove number on the outside of the bag. Make this a joyful activity in the true spirit of Christmas for those in need. Doves are due back no later than December 11th. For more information or if you are unable to pick up a Dove on the above dates please call Patti Palmer at 203-227-9843 or email at palminct@optonline.net

Blessing of the Animals Saint Francis Sunday

Our Blessing of the Animals is an invitation and celebration for all to enjoy! In honor of St. Francis, the blessing will be held on Sunday, October 16th at 2:00pm on the terrace of the Meeting House. Bring your pet, either live or plush. As this can be a very exciting celebration for all who attend, please have your pet leashed, boxed or caged.



2x4s Tuesday Luncheon

The 2x4s meet the **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Tuesdays of the month in the Meeting House behind The United Church of Rowayton Sanctuary. The social hour starts at 11:30am and lunch follows at 12:00 noon. Lunch is provided on the **SECOND** Tuesday. Bring your own lunch on the **FOURTH** Tuesday. Coffee and dessert are always provided. Donations are most welcome to help defray our expenses. Come and make some new friends. Everyone is welcome. 2x4s new season begins on October 11th with entertainment by John Livingston.



2 x 4s
Lunch

Acolyte Registration

ACOLYTES



Any child entering 4th, 5th or 6th grade is welcome to register as an acolyte for the 2010 - 2011 Church School year. Lighting Altar candles at the beginning of the service, acolytes thus feel more involved in our worship services. A formal meeting explaining the acolyte program will be held on Sunday, October 2nd at 11:15am in the Sanctuary after the Church service. You may register your child with Julie Begos by calling 866-2091.

Boy Scout Troop 2

Troop 2 has been selling wreaths as an annual fundraiser for over 50 years. The sale provides funding for additional equipment and supplies as well as providing camp scholarships for scouts in need. They appreciate the support of the Church. Please look for them in the Rowayton Center and during Fellowship Hour Thanksgiving weekend.



"For Everything there is a Season. . ."

Ecclesiastes 3.1

BIRTH

-- A daughter, Georgia Loomis, to Scott and Nancy Loomis

BAPTISMS

-- Luke Robert Cummings, son of Justin and Danielle Cummings
-- Emilia Bieliauskaite, daughter of Gintautas Bieliauskas and Rasa Bieliauskiene

Knitting Hands, Healing Hearts

Anyone interested in learning about this project is welcome to attend. No knitting experience necessary. We will meet on October 25th and November 29th at 7:30pm. Place to be announced. For more information call Judi Livingston at 866-8793.



Trunk Show

The United Church Nursery School (UCNS), founded in 1966, will hold their 4th Annual Trunk Show on Thursday, December 1st from 5 - 8 pm and Friday, December 2nd from 9am - 4pm. The proceeds directly benefit the Nursery School. There will be a variety of home accessories and giftware, handbags, jewelry, children's clothing and much more! Please join us to do some holiday shopping and support our local Nursery School.

UCNS Registration

Preliminary registration for the 2011-2012 school year at United Church Nursery School (UCNS) will begin on October 1, 2011. The School offers several programs including Pre-K (Fives), Fours, Threes and Twos classes. To be eligible for our programs, children must have turned the appropriate age for the program they are applying for by December 31, 2011. Pre-K applicants must have also completed a Fours program. Priority will be given to members of The United Church of Rowayton, and siblings of children who have previously attended UCNS. UCNS is open to all children regardless of race, religion or creed. If your child is not currently enrolled at UCNS and you would like him/her to be put on our waitlist for the coming year, please call Paula Keller, UCNS Director, at 203-853-3554 on or after October 1, 2011.

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 14TH**

**DEAR PARENTS OF YOUTH GROUP!
PLEASE CONSIDER THIS YOUR OFFICIAL INVITATION
TO HAVE YOUR STUDENT(S) COME WITH YOU TO
YOUTH GROUP ORIENTATION
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5, 2011 AT 7:00PM**

YOUTH GROUP IS FOR ALL 6TH, 7TH & 8TH GRADERS

WE WILL BE:

- **EXPLORING YOUTH GROUP'S PLAN FOR THIS YEAR!**
- **MEETING OUR EXCITING NEW YOUTH GROUP LEADER, SARAH SYKES!**
- **SIGNING A COVENANT (AGREEMENT) OF BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS!**
- **HAVING A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!**



**PLEASE RSVP TO CARLA@UCROWAYTON.ORG
HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL ON OCTOBER 5TH AT 7:00PM!**

Silent Auction

Gala Evening – Saturday, March 31, 2012

Save the date! This is going to be a night to remember as well as a wonderful fundraiser for our Church! Two years ago we had a terrific Silent Auction and we anticipate history will repeat itself!

We are hoping members of our Family of Faith will contribute what they can. We are looking for antiques, jewelry, china and collectibles in mint condition. In addition, we would love to be able to auction vacation rentals, sports, concert or theatre tickets. Perhaps, you patronize the same restaurant, salon or other retail establishment that you could solicit a donation or purchase a gift certificate from. Maybe, you yourself, could provide a service: financial planning, interior design, catering, sky diving, picnics, etc. Theme baskets (movie night, bath essentials, etc.) are also a great idea.

Financial donations are also greatly appreciated for purchasing gift certificates.

Please fill out the form below and return it to the Church Office if you can contribute to our Gala Fundraiser.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell: _____

Town/Zip: _____ Email: _____

Description (Please give details): _____
