

## From the Pastor



*The one who says it can't be done should get out  
of the way of the one who is doing it.*

Ancient Proverb

*Make your life a mission- not an intermission.*

Arnold Glasgow

*If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is  
"Thank you," that would suffice.*

Meister Eckhart

Stewardship and Thanksgiving. In the life of the Church these two words go together. If our United Church is going to continue to be a place where gratitude is nurtured and encouraged, gratitude for God, life and each other, then we all need to practice good stewardship of the financial resources with which we are blessed and therefore give as much as we can give to the Church. Each and every pledge, promise and amount given is different, I know that. Some people give over \$30,000. Some people give \$52. And there are a number of people in between. How blessed we are. Each and every dollar given is received and used with great thanks. Yes! Every dollar counts!

Along with other sources of income the Church's needs, programs and daily expenses are paid for with the money we give to the Church. It costs us about \$550,000 to keep our doors open, including what we are able to give away to others through outreach. Other sources of income total about \$150,000. Do the math. This leaves about \$400,000 for us. The people representing us on our boards and committees and our staff do their best to keep expenses as low as possible, however, as you know living in Fairfield County is expensive and every year some things do increase. Last

year no one on our staff received a raise. I support giving at least a cost of living raise for the staff for 2011. Year after year they work with a program budget that has not increased for several years and they continue to offer quality and meaningful ministry. The bottom line - the more money we raise for 2011, the more we'll be able to do, the more we'll be able to help others and our ministry will continue to be effective and meaningful.

As always, some people in our Church are pessimistic and some are optimistic. That's just how life is. The pessimist sees only obstacles. The optimist sees only opportunities. I believe there is another perspective - be a realist. The realist sees the possibilities between the two. And that is who I challenge us to be. We must be people of the possible, believing it is possible for us to reach our Stewardship goal and therefore be a people of gratitude for the ministry we share.

Finally, here is a Bible verse to ponder. "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20) You may think that these words of Jesus are just an exaggeration that he was making in order to make a point about the power of faith. We can't literally move mountains....can we? But, how about seeing it in a different way? What if Jesus meant for millions of his followers to each put their faith into action by grabbing a shovel and challenging the mountain one shovelful at a time? Any mountain can be moved if we have enough people "shoveling."

Mother Teresa said, "*We can do no great things, only small things with great love.*" Stewardship

and Thanksgiving. It all starts with you and me. God calls us to be faithful to the things God is calling us to do. Through the Church we can pray, serve, give, learn, help, care, sing, educate, we can do "small things with great love." When I sit down to write my next Newsletter article for December and express my thoughts on the gifts and blessings and challenges of the first 24 years of my being the Pastor of this United Church, I want to be able to write to you, the people of the possible, "Thank you for helping to make this our best Stewardship Drive EVER!!" Will I be able to write those words? Well....it's up to us. It's time to give. It's time to be thankful. It's time to shovel!

*With Love,*



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## Worship Themes and Scripture

- Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> World Communion Sunday  
Message: Free to Grieve  
Scripture: Psalm 137
- Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> Message: Planting Life  
Scripture: Jeremiah 29:1
- Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> Message: Ask Boldly, Live Justly  
Scripture: Luke 18:1-8
- Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> Message: Just Worship  
Scripture: Luke 18:9-14
- Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Intergenerational Worship  
Message: Transforming Love
- Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Communion  
Message: Hold on to Faith  
Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
- Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> Message: Infinite Possibilities  
Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25
- Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> Message: Together in Christ  
Scripture: Colossians 1:11-20
- Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> Intergenerational Worship  
First Sunday of Advent  
Message: Ready and Waiting

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## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

**Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.



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## New Member Gatherings

On Mondays, November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup> 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 two-evening class will be like a "mini" confirmation class for adults and will be held from 7:30 - 9:00pm.



Welcome  
Our New  
Members

On Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup>

TELLABRATION, a worldwide storytelling event for grown ups, will be held Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm in The United Church Sanctuary. This popular annual story event has called The United Church of Rowayton its home for eighteen of its twenty-two year history.

Eshu and Motoko, a nationally known mime, story and musician team will be featured along with several local tellers: Judy Peterson, Marianne McShane and Connie Rockman. A reception will follow. Come early for a good seat and bring all the people you love the most!

Tickets are \$10 if purchased in advance, \$8 each for groups of six or more and \$12 if bought at the door. For tickets call Peg O'Sullivan at 203-838-4178. Tickets will also be for sale during Fellowship Hour at The United Church on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

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## Thursday Bible Study- 12 Noon to 1pm

All are invited to Bible Study at noon on Thursdays beginning October 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Meeting House.





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## Associate Pastor's Study

The start of our Christian Education Program has been sensational! Rally Day was such fun and we thank our Board of Christian Education for making it such a success. Christian Education has some significant changes!

### Please note:

Our current BOCE roster is: Fouad Onbargi, Chair, George Close, Treasurer, Garrett Friedrichsen, Roxanne Gall, Pam Skidmore, Craig Stansbury.

This creative, dynamic group is not only involved with Church School, but diligently developing adult and youth educational programs that our Church can offer to the wider community. Please talk to one of the Board members if you have an idea or subject you would like to offer or be present for.

We have intentionally combined classes this year: PreK/Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Middle School. With more students in each class we also have more teachers and it makes for an exciting learning experience.

### Sunday Morning Bible Study

This class will meet at 9:00am beginning October 10<sup>th</sup>. We have books available and all are welcome! We meet upstairs in the Meeting House in Room 3.

### Other dates to put on the calendar

- Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> Communion Sunday  
PreK-4th Grade Church School only
- Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> 2nd Youth Group Wednesday  
7:00pm-8:00pm in the Meeting House
- Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Church School  
9:00am Sunday Morning Bible Study
- Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Church School
- Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Church School
- Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Intergenerational Worship – all children and adults Worship in the Sanctuary together. No Church School classes
- Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Communion Sunday  
PreK-4th Grade Church School only
- Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Church School
- Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Church School
- Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> First Sunday in Advent  
Intergenerational Worship – all children and adults worship in the sanctuary. No Church School classes.

Our Wednesday Night worship at 8:00pm last year was so enjoyable. If you would like to participate in please let me know so we can set up dates for the next six week series.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you. I look forward to praying, worshipping and teaching with you all again as I begin my 9<sup>th</sup> year!

Your friend in Christ,  
Rev. Carla Dietz Carroll

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## Rethinking Christianity - New Adult Education Experience!

You are invited by our Senior Pastor John Livingston and Associate Pastor Carla Dietz Carroll to be a part of a new and 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 - 7pm on Sundays throughout the year. We will watch the DVD for that session and then take time to discuss, learn and share. These two hours, 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 24<sup>th</sup> and will continue on November 21<sup>st</sup>, January 16<sup>th</sup>, February 20<sup>th</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>. Come and join us.

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## Message from Your Lay Delegate

Hi, a little known connection, but I am UCR's lay delegate to the state conference which holds meetings every fall and spring. Why don't you join me this October 22 and/or 23 in attending the 143<sup>rd</sup> Fall Annual Conference at Middletown High School, Middletown Connecticut.

2010 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), America's first foreign mission society, whose charter was signed in Noah Porter's study in Farmington, Connecticut. The conference will commemorate this bold initiative and consider the next 200 years of mission and ministry.

State Conferences are not just for ministers and lay delegates. Anyone can attend, participate in worship, workshops and "working the crowd" . . . it is wonderful! For more information go to [www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org) or talk with me at Church.

John Carroll

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## Dementia: Understanding It, Living With It and Being a Caregiver - Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Dementia is caused by many illnesses, most often by Alzheimer's Disease. With an aging population, dementia is becoming increasingly prevalent and important to understand so that symptoms can be recognized (and acknowledged), diagnosed and treated early on. This conversation will explain dementia, especially Alzheimer's Disease, in its physical and behavioral stages, and discuss the many ways in which we, as caregivers, can respond during these stages in loving, supportive ways.

All are welcome to join the Caregiving Ministry team as we learn more about this disease and the caregiver's role. The Reverend Holly Adams will be heading this presentation. Holly is the Pastor and Chaplain leading the spiritual care and services for the residents, their families, the Dementia Units and the staff at Greenwich Woods, The Greens, Connecticut Health Group and Greenwich Adult Day Care Center. So grab a cup of coffee and a "goodie" right after Church service and meet us in Room 2, upstairs in the Meeting House. Thank you.

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## Board of Christian Outreach

### Backpack Drive

The Board thanks everyone who participated in the August Backpack Drive. We collected 29 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 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Thanksgiving Dinner Drive

Help Provide Thanksgiving Dinner – We need your help in providing families in need 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 14<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 the Christmas for those in need. Doves are due back no later than December 6<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:palminct@optonline.net)

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## 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.



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## 2x4s New Season beginning on October 12<sup>th</sup>

October 12	John Livingston accompanied by Joy Hetherington
October 26	The Hoot Owls
November 9	Park Street Singers
November 23	TBA

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## Flu Shots - October 26<sup>th</sup>

On Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 12 noon Preventa Health LLC will be here in our Meeting House providing flu and pneumonia shots. There is no charge for those with Medicare B. For all others the cost of a flu shot is \$25.00. Cash or check is accepted. No private insurance, but a receipt will be provided for reimbursement.

For any flu-related questions please call 203-274-7896.



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## Trunk Show



The United Church Nursery School (UCNS), founded in 1966, will hold their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trunk Show on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5 - 8 pm and Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am - 4pm. The proceeds directly benefit the Nursery School and the development of their new playground. There will be a variety of home accessories and giftware, handbags, jewelry, children's clothing and much more! Some of the vendors included are Trish Becker Jewelry, Chickiddie, Little Follies, Johnnie-O apparel, Orange and Pear, Seaside Delights and SoLuxe. Please join us to do some holiday shopping and support our local Nursery School.

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## "For Everything there is a Season. . ."

Ecclesiastes 3.1

### BIRTH

-- A daughter, Grace Lindsay Eleck, to Brooks and Don Eleck Jr., granddaughter of Dianne and Don Eleck

### BAPTISMS

-- Kevin Michael Zampese son of Emma and David Zampese

### MARRIAGES

-- Anne Dayton to Charles (Sandy) Campbell Jr.  
-- Jennifer Bryan Peltz to Brian Thomas Curley

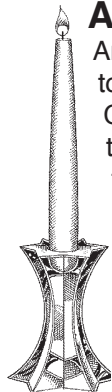
### DEATHS

-- William Dwiggins  
-- Roland DiLeone

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## Acolyte Registration



Any child entering 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade is welcome to register as an acolyte for the 2010 - 2011 Church School year. Acolytes light candles at the beginning of the service, allowing them to feel more involved in our worship services. A formal meeting explaining the acolyte program will be held on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:15am in the Sanctuary after the Church service. You may register your child with Julie Begos by calling 866-2091.

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## 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 Hours between Thanksgiving and Christmas.



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## Knitting Hands, Healing Hearts

Anyone interested in learning about this project is welcome to attend. No knitting experience necessary. We will meet on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the parsonage and on November 29<sup>th</sup> at the home of Heather Hopkins. For more information call Judi Livingston at 866-8793.

