



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Congregation,

Two years of interim ministry with you have gone fast! It was just about this time in August 2008 that I drove into the Point Place UCC parking lot for the first time, excited to see the church I'd agreed to serve sight unseen. I was really looking forward to meeting you all and starting ministry together. Because I was called as an Interim Pastor, I realized from the beginning that our time together would be limited, and hoped and prayed that it would be good and meaningful for all of us. I am happy to report to you that, from my perspective at least, that has been the case!

We have worshipped together, communed together, shared meetings together, and prayed together. We have laughed together, and sometimes cried together. You have invited me into your lives in times of sorrow and joy. I feel privileged to have spent this time here with you. Thank you for having me, and thank you for your many kindnesses to me.

I have been impressed with the deep love for God and this church demonstrated by so many (cont. on p. 2)



### Inside this issue:

Letter/Congregation	4
Name Game	25
Ordination	15
Polish Dinner	11
SCRIP	16
Tea Party	23

### Weekly Schedule:

- Sun, 9:30am —Worship Service
- Sun, 10:30am—Coffee Hour
- Wed, 12:00pm—Bible Study
- Thurs, 8pm—AA Meeting

**Pastor, cont.**

of you. You are a hard-working, caring congregation full of God-given gifts that you share generously. I will continue to keep you and PPUCC in my prayers in the future. May God bless your ministry with Pastor Jon Komperda.

As I shared with you in a recent sermon, I am “stepping out in faith,” trusting that God still has work for me to do. At this point, my plan is to move to Columbus over Labor Day week-end, where I will live with my son and young grandsons for a while as I await my next call.

May God continue to bless each of you and Point Place UCC.

In Christ’s love.

Pastor Candy

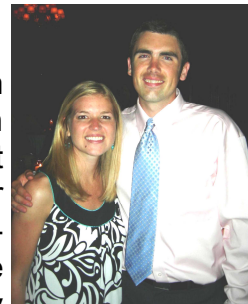
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## From the Pastor’s Desk, II

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### Saying “Goodbye”...and “Hello”

In the French language, the most common way to say “goodbye” is “au revoir,” which basically translates “see you later.” But you are probably also familiar with another French term for “goodbye” that is used primarily when the separation has a bit more finality, “Adieu.” This farewell word literally means “to God,” almost a send-off prayer. I think it is a lovely way to say goodbye to someone (at least someone who knows French). Though you will be separated, you are entrusting that person to the care of our good, loving, and faithful God. As I leave the congregation I have served for the past three years, this trust is the hope that cuts through the sadness of losing the daily interaction with people whom I have grown to know, appreciate, and love. You



## **Pastor II, cont.**

have your own “Adieus” to say. I can only imagine how difficult it must be to come into a congregation, lead them wisely through a transition period, and share life with people knowing that you will be leaving in just a short time as Pastor Candy has done. So I hope that before we say “bonjour” to each other, you will take some time to reflect on the ways Pastor Candy has led and loved you over the past couple years, to express your appreciation for her, and say a heartfelt “Adieu,” asking Jesus to care for her and lead her on the good paths he has prepared for her.

On another note, Lauren and I want to say “merci” (thank you) to those who have come by to help with transforming our new house into what we hope will be a place for hospitality and rest. We are looking forward to opening up our doors to you once we are settled so you can see how it all turns out!

### **From Church Council:**

An emergency meeting of the church council regarding financial issues of the church resulted in the recommendation of the formation of an ad hoc PPUCC Financial Committee to look at the immediate fiscal responsibilities of the church. This committee brought forth a proposal to recommend a change in bylaws regarding spending from the Endowment Fund. After much discussion, the recommendation received a favorable vote from a majority of the members of the church council. The recommendation will be brought to the congregation for a congregational vote in the near future.

## Letter to the Congregation

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Dear Congregation of Point Place United Church of Christ,

Please read this notice carefully and join us on Sunday, October 3, 2010 for the congregational meeting immediately after service. This matter is of extreme importance to the life of our church.

Whereas the general fund savings account of PPUCC in July, 2010, contains only \$15,000, and whereas the current operating expenses of PPUCC total approximately \$12,000 per month, and whereas the monthly income of PPUCC pledges and contributions is approximately \$7,000, it is necessary to take action to balance the budget (currently at a \$28,000 deficit) and thrive as a community of faith in God.

As such, the PPUCC Church Council recommends:

eliminate “ordinary operating expenses of said church” from #7 of the Endowment Fund By-Laws:

#7. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this document, all or any part of the principal of said Endowment Fund may be expended for said church purpose in the nature of an emergency, other than for ordinary operating expenses of said church. Such expenditures shall be approved by the voting members of said church in the following fashion: in such case, the principal may be used if, at a Special Meeting of the congregation called in the manner prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of Point Place United Church of Christ, Toledo, Ohio to consider the matter, twenty-five percent (25%) of the members of the congregation as reported in the most recent official denominational statistics shall be present and two-thirds (2/3) of those members present and voting shall vote to use the principal for said emergency.

And

vote on the following recommendation:

When the general fund savings is depleted to \$10,000, we would automatically borrow \$10,000 from the Endowment

### Letter, cont.

Fund principal in order to meet ordinary operating expenses. A maximum amount of \$100,000 could be borrowed before returning to the congregation for another vote. The definition of “borrow” is to use the Endowment Fund principal with the intent to repay, but without obligation. The church treasurer will keep the congregation informed as each \$10,000 is borrowed. The Endowment Fund interest will still be available for special grants, i.e., contemporary music, director of discipleship, etc.

Sincerely,

Church Council

## Moment with the Moderator

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Please permit me the opportunity to change the title of my article this month to **Concerns and Comments of Church Council**, for I am writing on their behalf. We are at a very difficult time in the life of our church. On one hand we are excited about the calling of Jon Komperda as our new pastor, and on the other hand we are extremely nervous about our financial situation. On one hand we feel secure that we have been blessed with a sizable Endowment Fund, and on the other hand we are nervous about dipping into the principal of that fund, for once it is gone, it is gone. On one hand we have kicked into high gear to volunteer to serve meals at St. Paul’s or here at our church for Feed My Sheep once a month, or volunteer at VBS, or give to Feed Your Neighbor, or participate in Helping Hands projects, and, on the other hand, we are so afraid to talk about our own day-to-day operating expenses. Sometimes, when you aren’t on a Board or at the church during the week, you aren’t aware of these issues. And they have now reached a point of grave concern. So we HAVE to talk money, before it’s too late.

(cont. on p. 6)

**Moderator, cont.**

Here are the current facts:

The congregation voted to approve a budget for 2010 of \$134,236. However, only 31 pledge cards were returned for this year, amounting to \$52,104. Yikes!

To date we have received \$49,061 in income, but we have spent \$76,483. (Remember that salaries and benefits make up 85% of the budget.)

We are currently \$28,000 in the red. At this year's rate of income versus expenses, we could have a deficit of \$60,000 by year's end.

This is a congregation that generously supports special needs. Our budget includes 12% for missions. HOWEVER, that 12% is taken out of income from pledges and contributions. It is NOT taken out when we have to cash in CDs or take money out of our savings or when members and friends give "second mile" donations. It is only calculated when money comes in via monthly pledges and contributions.

We only have \$15,000 in our savings at this point. We have had to cash in CDs two times this past year (\$10,000 in April and \$5,000 in July).

According to the By-Laws of the Endowment Fund, we cannot take out monies from the principal for normal operating expenses. We can use the interest from the Endowment Fund for special grant requests and we have been doing that for opportunities such as the contemporary music, the director of discipleship, trade show expenses, youth group trips, General Synod attendance, worship planning materials, and RECESS.

So, what do we need to do?

We need to pray! We are members of this church because we love God, want a place to teach our children and grandchildren about the life of Christ, and know that we can make a greater dent in the world together as a community of faith.

Each of us needs to look at our own commitment to the operating expenses, whether we have made donations or pledged

**Moderator, cont.**

or tithed. Have we each stayed true to that commitment? Can we each sacrifice one less meal out and give that amount weekly to our church? Maybe one less video rental or one less pair of shoes?

We need to face reality. We don't need to blame the economy, for we already know and feel the pressure of these uneasy times on our personal budgets. These are not easy times. But we can't call a new pastor and expect him to work for free. We can't vote to hire a custodian again (as we did in November after a two year hiatus) and expect him to work for free. Again, salaries and benefits make up to 85% of our budget.

We need to keep the fundraising ideas coming. And we need to spread the word about them so others enter our doors and give us some financial support, too! Read the Parish Paragraphs carefully. There are all sorts of activities for this fall!

We can't take the attitude that "someone else" will fill in the gap. We ALL need to pull together and give what we can. God doesn't expect us to give more than we can, but we will be blessed when we give cheerfully. "Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." (Deuteronomy 16:17)

This article follows the announcement about the congregational meeting notice on October 3, 2010. We, the congregation of Point Place United Church of Christ, will discuss our finances frankly, openly, and lovingly. Then we will vote to use monies from the principal of the Endowment Fund. We want you to be there. This is too important to miss! Meanwhile, if you have questions, feel free to contact a member of Council. We are here for you.

As Christians who love God,  
Church Council  
Lori Winne, moderator  
Leslie Geletzke, assistant moderator



## **COMMUNAL LAMENT FOR POINT PLACE UCC**

(based on Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19)

God, you're great and awesome. You've always been on the throne and always will be. Please hear our prayer.

Thank you for Point Place United Church of Christ, and for the wisdom and sacrifice of our ancestors in faith who built this church. We know that you are the only one we can turn to for help.

We are worried about:

1. Our financial situation
2. Low worship attendance - People seems to have displaced priorities. They need to put you in first place.
3. Former members' worship life and spiritual health
4. The transition from our Interim Minister to our Called Minister
5. Evangelism and outreach
6. Social justice

Open peoples' eyes and ears to your word and help them accept Jesus Christ and their Lord and Savior.

We know you can help us! Give us the foresight and insight to do your will. We know you can do it!

\*\* Written by the Wednesday Bible Study group - David Browning, Evelyn and Dick Berkhoudt, Doris Towers, and Pastor Candy

When we studied verses from Psalm 80 on August 11<sup>th</sup>, we learned that this psalm is a "community lament." In it the grief and/or complaint of a community is raised to God honestly trusting that God hears and will respond. According to John Indermark, "Lament asserts the community's pain to God precisely because God is the One trusted to hold the possibility of renewal. If that trust were not there, there would be no need to bother with lament—for who would be expected to hear? Lament, even in its anger and sorrow trusts God to hear. And that is our hope."

## Elizabethan News

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**ATTENTION          ATTENTION          ATTENTION**

**CALLING ALL LADIES,  
YOUNG and NOT SO YOUNG**

**WE NEED YOU**

Many years ago, Elizabeth Paterson, wife of beloved pastor John Paterson, founded the Elizabethans. Her plan was to bring together the young women of the congregation for fellowship and support for those in need during war-time.

As time passed members moved, some passed on, but most just aged. Originally, the group was a young, vibrant organization that met with joy, love and dedication to each other and the community. Though we are still dedicated to the original purpose of the Elizabethans, we find ourselves turning into a “granny group”.

It is our hope to rekindle the same spirit Elizabeth Paterson instilled in those first Elizabethans. We pray that we have encouraged our non-members to join us. We know they will add some fresh and new ideas to this fine organization.

Our first meeting of the season after summer break is September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Please come for an enjoyable and informative evening.

### **A Big Thank You !!**

A big thank you to Bill McCord for his work as the "Head Usher" of the month for several years. Due to other commitments Bill has had to resign from this job as Head Usher for a Month. He has always done a great job and we will miss him. Thanks, Bill, for your service.

Jim Armstrong, Head Usher Coordinator



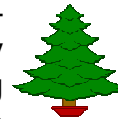
## Mission Board Updates

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As a Board, we can't help but notice how we all tend to sit in the same seats, same pews, Sunday after Sunday. Well, for the month of September the Feed Your Neighbor theme will be a competition between the "Alter Side" and the "Lectern Side" – you all know who you are! Let's see who represents their side of the sanctuary the strongest by bringing in the most non-perishable food items to donate to Feed Your Neighbor.



The Giving Tree focus for September will be collecting items/supplies needed for the upcoming Sunday School year. Please remember to visit the Giving Tree table in Patterson Hall for the list of items we will be collecting to give to the Board of Christian Education.



The Mission Board is looking to update the Servicemen Board in Patterson Hall. If you have an update on a family member or friend who is currently serving our country please contact Chuck Geletzke ([dtslman@verizon.net](mailto:dtslman@verizon.net)).



Helping Hands is looking for our next project! If you have a mission project in mind please let someone from the Mission Board know.

Upcoming dates to remember, more information to come:

Sunday, October 3, 2010 – 2010 CROP Hunger Walk @Ottawa Park

Sunday, October 3, 2010 – *Neighbors In Need* special offering (part of our UCC 5 for 5 giving commitment)

October 29-31, 2010 – Tent City, 1Matters. Visit [1Matters.org](http://1Matters.org) for additional information. Volunteers can start registering September 1!

Ericka Winne

## **POLISH DINNER/SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER**



Friday, Oct. 1, 2010

5:00pm - 8:00pm



\$10.00 In Advance - \$12.00 At Door

Children 8-12 - \$8.00

Children's menu (7 & under) \$3.00

Macaroni & Cheese, Hot dog, Vegetable,  
Dessert, Beverage

Tickets available at the church after worship

The church office 419-726-7390

Kathy Placzkiewicz 419-726-5509

### **MENU**

Golabki (Stuffed Cabbage) - Kielbasa (Polish Sausage)

Pierogi - Kapusta (Cabbage) - Mashed Potatoes

Vegetable, Rye Bread, Dessert, Beverage

**Point Place UCC  
4920—297th Street  
Toledo, OH 43611  
419-726-7390**

## Fall Rummage Sale

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Dear Members and Friends,

Our thanks go out to you for your generous donations to our past rummage sales. With your support, we have been able to help our church financially. Now our Fall rummage sale is nearing, on Friday and Saturday, October 15th & 16th. We will be accepting donations starting Sunday, October 10th, or during office hours, Tuesday through Thursday, 9 am to 1 pm. Deadline for donations will be Thursday, October 14th. Anyone who is able to help with setting up and pricing can come to the church Monday through Thursday, 9 am to ??? Help is also needed on the sale days. Any amount of time you are able to help during that week is greatly appreciated. For additional information see Donna or Jim Armstrong or Kathy Placzkiewicz. THANKS, AGAIN.

### Did You Know?



Each year, over 500 families stay at the Ronald McDonald House while their children receive medical care in Toledo. Thanks to friends in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, RMHC collected nearly **29,000 pounds of pop tabs in 2009** from schools, churches, libraries, factories, hospitals, service organizations, and local communities! With the money earned by recycling the tabs, RMHC is able to provide meals to all their guests at no charge! A container has been placed on the Mission Board table in Patterson Hall to collect pop tabs.

*Point Place UCC.....we aspire to be like:*



*A lighthouse.....a solid, established, comforting spiritual landmark and beacon of hope that casts a light over the whole community – brightest in the darkest hours, available rain or shine – helping all people find their way.*



*A helping hand.....inclusive and without judgment, reaching out, sharing, welcoming, feeding, supporting, risking, encouraging – showing children that God is in the world.*



*A pathway.....a challenging up-and-down journey to God with many choices – attractive, well-traveled, cleared by those who have gone before, well maintained – where life can be shared with other travelers.*



*A bridge..... connecting generations and providing a safe passage over dangerous or rough water.*



*A smile and a song.....contagiously friendly, joyful, thankful, fun, harmonious, happy, lively, way of life that puts seemingly big problems in perspective.*

## WEB NEWS!!!

Did you know we have a new website? Come on, check it out! Just type in [pointplaceucc.com](http://pointplaceucc.com) or [pointplaceucc.org](http://pointplaceucc.org) and you will be there. Look around, click on anything a little hand pops up on. If there is something you might like to see on there call me at church or at home 419-726-0940. If I misspelled something you can let me know that also. If there is something that needs to be on the church calendar let me know. I hope you will visit the new website.



Peace to you,  
Director of Discipleship  
Susan Korecki

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

This amazing ministry is a wonderful way we can all be a part of God's work in caring and praying for those in need, whatever that need may be. We thank everyone for his or her on-going support of this ministry. We would also like to remind the whole congregation that **this ministry includes you**. We are a small group and cannot be aware of every need. Therefore we rely on the members of the congregation to let us know or distribute the shawls as they are needed. Please remember to check the list in the notebook that stays with the bin downstairs to see if someone has already received a shawl or not. So many of you have contributed beautiful shawls and so many have already been shared. Anyone can be part of this ministry. You can make a shawl, donate yarn, make cards to give along with the shawls, and pray for those making the shawls and those who receive them. There is a box downstairs in the church marked "Prayer Shawl Ministry" to place finished shawls. Please attach your name somewhere to the shawl as many of those receiving them love to know whose hands made them. A book is there to note who has been given one. The reason for writing down who receives one is so as not to duplicate that caring thought. If you have any questions, ideas to share, or other ways you wish to be apart of this ministry please call Susan Korecki at the church or at 419-726-0940.

## “Minute to Win It!”

Have you watched the game show on NBC? Have you wanted to test your skills at the games yourself? Or maybe you would like to watch your friends and fellow church members make fools of themselves trying? GT2 (Group Therapy 2 for ages 21 and up) invites you to a Minute to Win It party



on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Patterson Hall. Cost is \$5.00 per person and all money raised will go towards the General Fund. Senior High Youth and up are welcome! Snacks and beverages will be provided. Start practicing your technique by going to [www.nbc.com/minute-to-win-it/](http://www.nbc.com/minute-to-win-it/) for a list of games and tips. Come to play, come to compete, come to watch and enjoy the fun! More information to come. See Lori or Ericka Winne for details. Mark your calendars now!

### Jon's Ordination

Jon's ordination will be Sunday, September 26, at Lakewood Congregational Church, at 4:00pm. Lakewood is near Cleveland. The address is 1375 West Clifton Blvd, Lakewood, Oh 44107. Please mark this important date on your calendar. All are welcome to attend. We will leave after service and will car pool. If you are interested in going and need a ride, please contact a member of the search committee. We will make sure that everyone has transportation. Search committee members are Donna Serviss, Lori Winne, Ericka Winne, Maynard Johnson, and Chuck Geletzke. We are excited to be able to share this important event with Jon and Lauren, and know that they want to share it with us as well.



## Major Retailers Offer Money to Church

Dear Congregation and Friends,

We're pleased to share some exciting news about a new fundraising program for our church. It's called "**SCRIP**" and it's the fundraising program that works while you shop. **SCRIP** is simply a word that means "substitute money" – in other words, **SCRIP** is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They're the **same** gift certificates that you buy at the store. Many popular retailers participate in our **SCRIP** program including Kohl's, Walmart, JC Penney, The Gap, Speedway, Pizza Hut, Red Lobster and many, many others.

You're probably asking yourself how these stores help us raise money. It's simple -- **SCRIP** participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our church at a discount. Member families like yours buy the certificates for **full face value**, they redeem them for **full face value**, and our church **keeps the difference as revenue**. And **SCRIP** is exciting, because everybody wins:

- The retailer gets cash up front and repeat business...
- You get a powerful fundraising alternative that involves *no selling*...
- Our church gets a regular source of revenue.

The beauty of **SCRIP** is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for our church without spending a single additional penny. Just spend your regular shopping dollars with **SCRIP** at the stores that participate in the **SCRIP** program! And **SCRIP** can be used for just about any



## Pakistan Flood Relief

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### How You Can Help

Pray for the people of Pakistan, their leaders, and all emergency response workers.

Please help the people of Pakistan by giving gifts payable to "Point Place UCC" marked for "International Disaster Relief-Pakistan Flooding."

OR

Send gifts made out to Wider Church Ministries and marked in the memo portion "International Disaster Relief-Pakistan Flooding" to Wider Church Ministries, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.

OR

Make a secure online donation to the International Disaster Relief Fund, indicating "Pakistan Flooding" in the Comments box.

Thank you for your compassion and support.



**FALL BACK INTO WORSHIP**  
**SEPT. 12<sup>TH</sup> WORSHIP BEGINS AT**  
**10:30 A.M.**

As summer winds down we return to our fall worship schedule of Worship at 10:30 a.m.. Sunday School will be back in session with children's Sunday school held during worship, Adult and Sr. High Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. Join us as things cool down in the sanctuary and "cozy up" to the Good Book with us on Sundays at 10:30!

### **Extraordinary Women Conference Oct. 8-9**

Come join us! I am getting a group of women together to go to this Extraordinary Women Conference in Fort Wayne Indiana on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$59 per person for the conference and by sharing the cost of our hotel another \$25 per person. Please let me know by September 12th if you would like to be a part of this group. Payment is due at this time also so I can finalize accommodations and tickets to the conference. This should be a wonderful time for everyone who takes part.

Call Susan Korecki with any questions at 419-726-0940 or email her at [sdkorecki@ameritech.net](mailto:sdkorecki@ameritech.net) . We will meet here at the church and leave by 3:30pm on Friday October 8<sup>th</sup> and will return around 7pm on Saturday evening. To find out more about the conference go to [www.ewomen.net](http://www.ewomen.net)



### **Pound Auction a Success!**

A “pound” auction was held during the outdoor worship on July 11th . A wide variety of items, each weighing a pound and very artfully disguised, were auctioned after service. Spirited bidding took place and when the gavel fell for the final time proceeds of the auction donated \$435 to the General Fund! Thanks to all who provided auction items and all of our bidders!

### **COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS NEEDED**

As we return to our fall schedules please volunteer to host a coffee hour. Simply provide regular and decaf coffee, tea and punch, (baked goods are optional) after worship. Sign up on the poster in Paterson Hall to talk to Tina Mockbee 419 276 0637 or Andrea Arrichi



# Rummage Sale

Fri - Oct. 15th, 9-5

Sat - Oct. 16th, 9-1



## Sat. Bag Day

1st Bag - \$2

2nd Bag - \$1

3rd Bag - FREE



Point Place United Church of Christ

4920 - 297th & 117th

Across from the library

Enter from side door on 117th St.



## Polish Dinner and Silent Auction



**Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 5:00pm-8:00pm.**

Mark your calendars for a Polish Feast with traditional Polish cooking (Placzkiewicz family recipes).

### **MENU**

Homemade Kielbasa (Polish Sausage)

Golabki (stuffed cabbage),

Kapusta (cabbage)

Pierogi (stuffed pocket- noodle)

potatoes, vegetable, rye bread

dessert and beverage

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at door.

Children 8-12 are \$8.

We also have a children's menu (7 & under) for \$3 (macaroni & cheese, hot dog, vegetable, dessert, beverage).

Tickets are available at the church office 419-726-7390 or Kathy Placzkiewicz 419-726-5509.

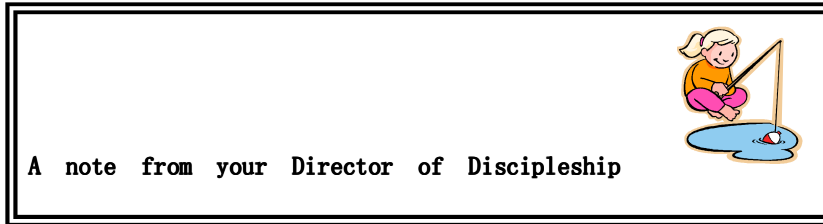
This FUNDRAISER is to benefit the church's general fund.

If you are interested in donating an item (theme basket, craft item, etc.) for the silent auction please contact me.

Dziękuję (Thank you),

Kathy Placzkiewicz





As we head into a new season of the year, we also enter a new season of the church. Together, let us take time to share, learn, grow, and enjoy this season together.

RECESS is a great opportunity to share, worship, and grow in our faith together. “Recess” means to relax, renew, take a break, hiatus, rest period, and revitalize. We start again September 1<sup>st</sup> with a Hymn Sing-a-long/Ice Cream Social at 6:30 pm. All are invited. Bring a friend, and come even if you don’t sing, just to share this time together and have some ice cream.

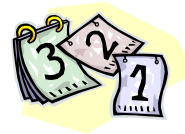
On Wednesday September 15<sup>th</sup> we will be having our “drum circle” back by popular demand. Curious? Come join us in experiencing working together, listening, and having an incredible time. The evening begins at 6 pm with a simple supper followed by the Drum Circle at 6:30 pm

***Recess Schedule –***

***Each Wednesday Evening***

***6:00 pm Simple Supper***

***6:30 pm Worship***



\*September 1st – Hymn Sing-a-long/Ice Cream Social  
6:30pm

\*September 15<sup>th</sup>-“Drum Circle”- supper 6pm-drum circle  
6:30pm

## **GERMANY – THROUGH THE BACK DOOR**

Includes ‘The Passion Play’ of Oberammergau

Mark your calendar today so as not to miss the exciting pictures and commentary of Gene Finnegan and John Rainey as they travel nearly 2000 miles on the back roads of Germany – once a divided nation but now showing the way for the new, embracing Europe of today.

Also, we’ll dip into “The Passion Play” – an experience only possible every decade.

The Elizabethan sponsored evening is for all –

Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>  
Patterson Hall  
7:30 p.m.

### ***Ladies***

#### ***Mark the Date***

***Sunday, October 17***

*We will be having a tea party to welcome and get to know our new pastor’s wife, Lauren.*

*More information will be coming soon. If you would like to be on the “Tea Party Committee” please see Linda Woodall or Cindy Trudeau. A planning meeting will be held soon.*



## Stewardship Message

### Catch Fire

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



*Rekindle the gift of God that is within you...*

*2 Timothy 1:6*

The second week of September in our church is “Rally Sunday.” It’s meant to be the day we get all revved up for the new program year of the church. The energy level in the congregation rises that day, as people who have been away for the summer return and greet friends and visitors. As September begins again in the church, everything seems possible!

The start of a new program year is a good time to take Paul’s advice and “rekindle” all the gifts of God within, not just individual Christians, but the church as a whole. Stoke the fire, is what the word means, take the small flames and find ways to add a little tinder here or a little air there and bring warmth and light. To make a fire strong usually requires adding small things regularly, and sometimes large pieces of wood as other large pieces burn away.

What does your church need to really catch fire this September? What gifts, small or large, do you have to contribute to that fire? Are there people around you who have gifts to give that need your encouragement to step up to the fire? Sometimes, as the old church camp song says, it really does “only take a spark.” Is that spark you?

*Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.*

**September 2010**

God is still speaking,

This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church’s Wider Mission.

## REMEMBER A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE ON ALL SAINTS DAY

On Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> during worship we will celebrate All Saints Day by remembering those friends and relatives who have passed away during the last year. A candle will be lit in their memory as names are read and a pictorial tribute is planned. If you would like to include a friend or relative who has passed away in the last year please contact Tina Mockbee at 419 276 0637 or the church office with the information. Pictures for the tribute may be dropped off with the church secretary for scanning and return.



## VETERANS TO BE HONORED

The Board of Diaconate is seeking pictures of veterans for a Veterans Day honorary service. If you have a veteran or current service member in the family please send a picture to the church office and we will scan the picture and return it to you. Electronic pictures are great too! Please include the individual's name, approximate year of the photo, branch of the service and relationship to the sender. Photos of all veterans, either living or deceased, peacetime or wartime are encouraged. Electronic files can be sent to [tmockbee@mcanwo.org](mailto:tmockbee@mcanwo.org) Thank you for your service and your pictures!

## IT'S THE NAME GAME...

Let's help our new Pastor Jon and his wife Lauren learn our names a bit quicker by picking up our name tag in the vestibule before worship and return it after worship to the basket downstairs during coffee hour or the name tag holder. Help the new Pastor feel more welcome by making this a place where everyone's name is known to not just the Lord but the Pastor also! Stop and get that name tag this Sunday!



## Devotional from UCC.com

### **I'll Just Say "Amen" to That**

Excerpt from [Ephesians 4:20-29](#)

"Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear."

### **Reflection by Martin B. Copenhaver**

Early in my ministry I served on the staff of First Congregational Church (UCC) in Burlington, Vermont, with Thelma Norton, the long-time Parish Visitor. She was almost three times my age when I came to the church. In my nine years there she taught me a great deal by her example. For instance, she would never utter a word of complaint about a parishioner. If she approached doing anything like that, she would stop herself—sometimes in mid-sentence—and say, "Well, I'll just say 'Amen' to that." Then she would change the subject.

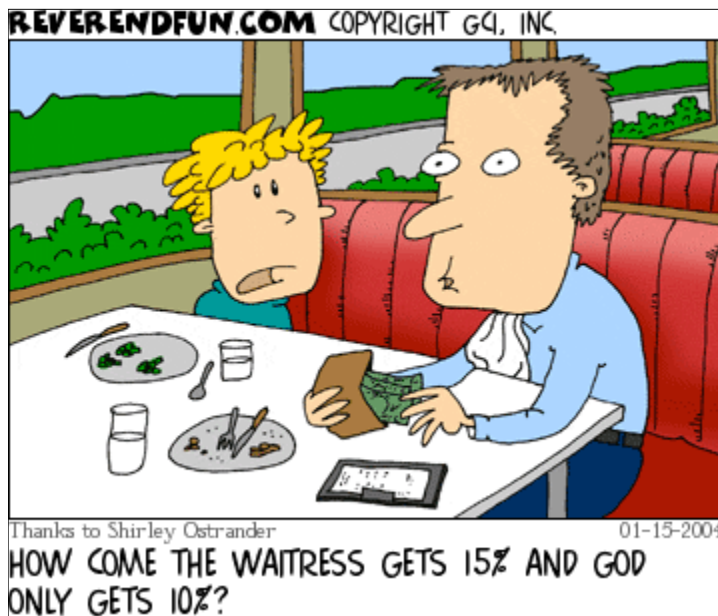
Once during a staff meeting of the church I currently serve we were wrestling with some complaints from a few particularly grumpy parishioners. That made us rather grumpy ourselves. We even started to complain about the complainers. Somewhere in that conversation I reminded myself and my colleagues about Thelma's catchphrase (I have a tendency to repeat myself and I needed the reminder, too). We were able to move on. The next week someone brought to the meeting bright yellow cards with the words, "Well, I'll just say 'Amen to that,'" printed on them. They are posted in our offices to this day, just in case we need the reminder.

It is much the same reminder offered to the Ephesians: "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is

useful for building up." It is so simple: Say those things that build up. Don't say those things that tear down. It is said that in successful marriages two or three things are left unsaid each day. And it is true of other relationships, as well. Thank you, Thelma.

### Prayer

O God, help me to hold my tongue when I about to tear someone down. And when I need to be critical of another, may it only be in ways that, in the end, build up. Amen to that.



#### *Flooding in Pakistan:*

*The United Church of Christ has sent an initial \$15,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing emergency funds to CWS (Church World Service) with a pledge to raise additional donations from members and friends.*

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*To care for one another  
as God cares for us.*