

From the Pastor

50 Years Bold! was the slogan for the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ held in Hartford last week. **Let it Shine!** was the theme – and oh boy, did we shine! The opening session on Friday featured guests as varied as Governor M. Jodi Rell to Spongbob Square Pants. “Synod in the City” on Saturday spread out all over downtown Hartford with 57 speakers and performers, including Bill Moyer, Barack Obama, and biblical scholar, Walter Bruggeman, to Bubblemania. The topics ranged from the personal to the political, from the faith journey of Lynn Redgrave, a member of the Kent, CT. Congregational Church, to Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children’s Defense League.

With over 9,000 people registered on the first day, this was the largest UCC Synod ever held! It was also the largest convention hosted by Hartford and possibly the entire state according to Governor Rell. What a birthday party it was! Although the denomination is only 50 years old, the roots of the four churches that make up the UCC go back 400 years. We have much to celebrate, and celebrate we did! I wish every one of you could experience the feeling of sitting in the Civic Center surrounded by over 9,000 members of our church from all over the country, and the world. We are an amazing group! The diversity, talent, and most especially, the extravagant welcome of everyone was astounding. One gentleman, a veteran of many synods, told the Hospitality Team that this was the most welcoming synod he ever attended. He began to walk away and came back to add, “That includes the ones held in southern states, too!” We welcomed guests with over 1,000 volunteers from Connecticut churches; I was at the Welcome Table Friday and Monday. We welcomed them with cookies! 14,000 dozen cookies piled up and filling an entire room was quite a sight! More impressive was the amount of cookies consumed over 5 days! Cookies welcomed everyone at the Welcome Table in the lobby, in plenary sessions, in the exhibition hall, in workshops and even worship.

I wish everyone could have the experience of gathering for worship with fabulous music, liturgical dancers, wonderful visual displays, and articulate preachers. What a feeling to gather with over 8,000 people in worship! On Friday, Liz, Tracy, and Brandon Yoho, and myself helped to begin the worship as part of the African Drumming Circle. The stadium was in darkness when the first beat of 40 drums exploded, filling the space with sound. The drum beats built to a peak and then grew quieter, until the last almost silent beat. There was a moment of silence and then applause. The enthusiastic crowd cheered and applauded the preacher, started a “wave” around the stands, and jumped to a standing ovation at the end of the message – it wasn’t your typical Sunday morning in New Fairfield! On Sunday, we celebrated communion passing large loaves of bread and ceramic chalices of juice from person to person in the Coliseum.

At **50 Years Bold!** we have a lot to celebrate, but there was more to Synod than just a celebration. A great deal of work was done in those 5 days. Meetings and discussions on church business was conducted. Resolutions were approved and rejected. UCC president, the Rev. John Thomas, challenged us to go forward, to continue on the path set by our ancestors, a path of welcome, and inclusion. He asked us to ask more of ourselves. He urged us to go back home to our own churches and continue to follow in the traditions of the United Church of Christ of standing for justice and speaking out for those who can’t speak for themselves. We have much more light to shine on our world. We have the job of speaking the gospel, in love through our words and actions right here in New Fairfield. The next 50 years stretch before us - it’s now up to us to **Let It Shine!**

Blessings

Moderator's Report – July-August 2007

As it is every year, June 2007 was a time of seasonal transition. It officially marks the end of spring and the beginning of summer. We wrapped up the Sunday school year and got ready for summer activities. We ramped up for Music Sunday, then cut the choir loose for the summer and held auditions for this summer's musical theater production, Camelot. We weeded, watered and watched all the plantings around the church grounds spring to life and begin to bloom, and planned for holding worship services in the Jack Grant Memorial outdoor chapel. We put away our winter coats and installed fans and air conditioners. We finished training and fundraising for this year's Appalachia Service Project mission trip and watched the 21 volunteers pack 3 maxivans and drive off toward West Virginia. We purchased a whole drum set for one local youngster who truly deserved and appreciates it, and we are starting a Dress-for-Success campaign for another. We completed significant upgrades to our rental property and have an agreement with a new tenant to move in July 1st. And, we welcomed new members into the congregation (both infant baptisms and youth confirmations) and fresh volunteers into new roles on various teams and committees. "We" are an awesome community!

Our June Executive Council meeting was held on Tuesday the 12th. New team members (old friends) were welcomed with strawberry shortcake and ice cream, thanks to Rev. Pat and me. (I just bought the ice cream.) We reviewed reports on church finances, rental property, Missions Team projects, UCC Fairfield East meeting, Outdoor Ministries committee activities, Service Club, and Christian Education. We discussed the need to appeal to the congregation for more money due to the continued increasing cost of doing business (oil, electricity, gas, paper, salaries, etc.) and some shortcomings on the income side of the balance sheet (mostly lost rent). We just don't know if the member pledges, plus usual proceeds from this summer play, plus chicken barbecue and ham dinners, plus interest from investments will generate enough to carry us through the year. We also talked about having each team and committee scour their sections of our by-laws for final "restructuring" changes before a vote by the congregation in September.

We still need a fourth person to help as a Trustee, and an assistant to the Treasurer. These don't have to be one in the same person, so if you would like to know more about how you can help in either or both of these roles, please speak to Rev. Pat or me.

I look forward to seeing you this summer . . . in West Virginia . . . in the outdoor chapel . . . in Camelot. . . in and around town.

Andy Wells, Moderator
moderator@nfcongregational.org



Our Summer Fun program has gotten off to a great start for children in preschool through grade 4. We meet downstairs in the Tree room for a story, craft, song and playtime. Children can be brought downstairs prior to the start of the 9:30 worship or at anytime during worship. Youth in grade 5 and up are invited to help in the class. This summer we are focusing on Bible stories that relate to water. There is a wonderful CD available for anyone who would like to take home a copy of the songs that we are learning. Also, there are still a few weeks that we need adult leaders to help out. Please sign up.



Our nursery will be staffed this summer for infants and toddlers during the worship service.

Childcare Available

Rotation Workshops Sign up-

The sign ups are filling in to lead next year's workshops for grades 1st - 6th grade. This is a fun way to learn the stories and messages of the Bible and to share your time with the children of the church. Workshop materials can involve a variety of activities depending on your interests as a leader including cooking, puppets, art, drama, video, missions, games, science and storytelling. The schedule is listed below. Please see where you might be able to help out the program. We are especially interested in rounding out our workshops for the fall. The sign up board is in Pilgrim Hall or you can speak with Liz. Training and the materials for the workshops are provided.



Sept 9	Kick off- Rally Day & Covenants
Sept 16 - Oct 7	Abraham & Sarah
Oct 14 - Nov 4	Healing Parables
Nov 11	Mission Day
Nov 18 - Dec 2	Advent / Christmas rotation
Dec 9 & 16	Pageant practice & Pageant
Dec 23	Christmas Activities
Jan 6 - 20	Ruth & Naomi
Jan 27 - Feb 17	23 rd Psalm & Good Shepherd
Feb 24 - Mar 9	Lent / Easter rotation
Mar 16	Walk Through Holy Week, Egg Hun
Mar 30 - Apr 20	Miracles of Jesus
Apr 27	Mission Day
May 4 - 25	Beatitudes
June 1 & 8	Children's Sunday & practice day

Foundations Class Teachers



Our children ages 3 - kindergarten meet each week of the church school year beginning on Sept 9th. We are looking for a team of teachers to lead them in learning and playing. The class is an opportunity to learn some favorite bible stories and about the special times of the church year. They will practice prayer and explore what it means to be one of God's children. If you would like to discuss participating in this time with our children, please speak with Liz Yoho.

Middle School Youth Group

The Middle School Youth Group had an awesome time at the Wet & Wild Welcome for the upcoming 6th graders on June 3rd. Water balloons and 'snow' balls were just the ticket to a fun afternoon. Watch for our kick off picnic in September.

Senior High Youth Group

We are off to Wyoming County, WV! Our three ASP crews will be leaving early on Saturday, June 30th and returning on the afternoon of July 8th. Please keep us, the families we will be serving and the ASP staff in your prayers. We will look forward to briefly sharing some of the highlights of our trip during worship on July 15th.



ASP Stock Sales We are happy to report that we have received over \$4000 in stock sales to date. If you have not yet purchased your share, you can still do so upon our return, please speak with any ASP crew member. We will be more than happy to help you become one of our generous contributors. Current stockholders are anticipating a fantastic return on their investment and will receive a progress report postcard while we are on the trip, our newsletter upon our return and an invitation to our year-end stockholders dinner in September.



Cans and Bottles are still being accepted for redemption by the SHYG to pay for our mission trip. Please leave your 'nickels' next to the shed in the back of the church parking lot. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed. We have returned 937 cans/bottles so far this spring! Phew!

CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS! On Sunday, June 8th eight teens culminated the year long confirmation process by claiming for themselves the commitment their parents made at their baptisms. In celebration, we received them into full membership in the Congregational Church of New Fairfield in a Service of Confirmation.



Nicholas Schenck, Devin Haack, Christopher Schretzenmayer, Elizabeth Irwin, Timothy Bishop, Louis Rogowski, Eli Novicky, Matthew Dohan



ON SUNDAY, JULY 1ST THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2ND, WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30 a.m. outside in the Martha Fairchild Garden (weather permitting). Come and enjoy the beauty of the garden and worship in

the midst of God's good creation. There is childcare every Sunday and a "Summer Fun" Sunday school program. Begin your week with worship, and still have time to enjoy the day!

Assistance in moving the piano and equipment is needed. Helpers need to be at the church at 8:45 a.m., ready to have set-up completed by 9:15 a.m. Please look for the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall and add your name. Of course . . . this includes the commitment to move the equipment back indoors, after the Service.

SERVICE CLUB

CHICKEN BARBECUE

SAVE THIS DATE: The annual Chicken Barbecue sponsored by the Service Club will be held on Saturday, August 11th, with dinner being served between 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The dinner menu includes delicious grilled chicken, homemade potato and three bean salads, rolls, coffee or tea and fruit pie to end the meal. The price for this popular family style dinner is \$11.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. Tickets are available at the door or from Service Club members. Take-out dinners can be ordered by calling the church kitchen at 746-9954 after 4:30 p.m. that day. Hope to see everyone there!

THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee, Dot Bass, Mary Lou Wallace, and Janice Zackeo, would like to congratulate the recipient of the Congregational Church of New Fairfield Scholarship Fund Award, Victoria Leigh Rama.

Victoria has been involved in Sunday School, Junior Choir and Bell Choir. It is nice to know she feels she has benefited from these experiences.

She has a sincere interest in Business, specifically a program of Tourism and Management.

She will be attending James Madison.

We wish Victoria much success with her new adventures in education. She has our continued love, support and prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Zackeo, Chairman



Thank You Notes

So many people deserve thanks for all that they do for the church. It is impossible to name everyone, but here are a few special thanks this month: **Thanks** to all the people who stepped forward to take a position on a Ministry

Team.

Thanks to all the people who finished serving terms on Ministry Teams this year.

Thanks to Donald Busse and Pat Sacco for the beautiful railing in the Garden.

Thanks to the Outdoor Ministry Team for their continued care of the garden for providing a blacktop path for the keyboard in the chapel, and having the sidewalk into Pilgrim Hall repaired.

Thanks to Dale Baird and numerous volunteers for cleaning, painting, and doing repairs in the parsonage.

Thanks to everyone who baked cookies for Synod and for those who donated containers. You helped provide an extravagant welcome to the world!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

PRAY HARD, DIG DEEP LOGO

“Americans Set New Mark for Giving”

This week the Associated Press reports that “Americans gave nearly \$300 billion to charitable causes last year, setting a new record and besting the 2005 total that had been boosted by a surge in aid to victims of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma -- and the Asian tsunami.” The article* highlights that in 2006:



- Americans gave twice as much as next most charitable country
- **Individuals** gave 83.4 percent of the total
- Biggest chunk of donations went to religious organizations
- 65 percent of households with incomes less than \$100,000 gave

It doesn't come as any surprise that Americans give twice as much as the second-most charitable country (Great Britain) – generosity is a hallmark of our culture. Or that the biggest percentage of donations (\$96.82 billion) went to religious organizations. What jumps out is that **individuals** are responsible for a whopping 75.6% of total giving – and counting individual bequests that percentage rises to 83.4%. It's not corporations or their foundations that are the biggest givers; in 2006 their contributions *declined* by over 10 percent.

What makes a difference in our world is the action of the individual; the individual commitment we each make to use our blessings from God to bless the lives of others. Each one of us can and does make a big difference in our church.

Within the next week or so you will receive a mailing about giving at the Congregational Church of New Fairfield. We are ambitious and our need is great. Please, consider how important your individual action is to the work of our church in gratitude of God's abundance.

Give like it's all up to you, and thanks to God who calls you to action. Thank you for setting your own new mark in giving.

* AP article posted on cnn.com

The Stewardship Committee:

Donna Pierpont, Laura Kimble and Mary Bevan

WORSHIP & MINISTRY TEAM

Summer has officially arrived! The well-tended Memorial Garden is in bloom and ready for outside summer services.

New additions to the garden include a railing on the entry path for safety, and a walkway to the organ pad for convenience.

The Summer Worship Schedule begins with services on July 1 and continues through September 2, at 9:30 a.m.

Communion Services are on July 1, August 5, and September 2. For the September 2nd service, communion will be by intinction. We look forward to the July 15th service, when the returning ASP crews will share their experiences during their special service.

Sign up now to help with ushering, communion serving, and setting up of outdoor audio equipment. All sign up sheets are in Pilgrim Hall. All help is greatly appreciated and needed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Church Office or Betsy Schalkham at 746-9424. Janice Donnelly

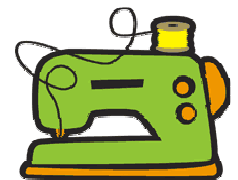
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPCOMING EVENTS

The annual Habitat Friendship Breakfast will be held on Thursday, September 6th at the Stonyhill Inn. Anyone who is interested in learning more about Habitat for Humanities mission and their work in our community is welcome to attend. There will be a signup sheet in Pilgrim hall. The cost of the breakfast is \$17.

CCNF will host a workday on Saturday, September 22nd starting at 8:30 a.m. We are looking for six members who would like to help out on that day. No construction skills are needed. A signup sheet is in Pilgrim hall.

Natalie Koehler

GOT THE SUMMER BLUES, PINKS, PURPLES, OR GREEN'S?



We'll grab a pair of scissors and come join us at Church cutting out costumes for Camelot!

If you are a novice or a seamstress, have we got a job for you!

Help needed cutting out and sewing costumes over the next few weeks.

So if you have an hour or two, and like to laugh, please call Dale Baird at 860 210-1972

for dates/times or simply to pick up a costume to sew. Thank you!

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

The lazy hazy days of summer are finally here and summer services have begun. As you look around, you will notice many changes in our outdoor sanctuary this year. Around the arbor are new rose bushes. Attached to the arbor is a box containing informative brochures about the gardens. Immediately to the left, a beautiful handrail has been built for easier access. At the top of the entrance path, you will notice a wooden post. A plaque displaying the names of loved ones will be subsequently affixed to this post. The extension of the Memorial Wall has been seamlessly completed. The chapel path has been extended and a platform has been paved for the piano. New and beautiful rose bushes have been planted along the stonewall. Below the stonewall, a drain has been installed to rid the church of the lake that previously formed with each rainfall. Last, but not least, the handicapped accessible ramp has been paved and graded. We would like to acknowledge the many dedicated hands, which have made these visions a reality. Don Busse built and installed the brochure box, handrail, and post. We appreciate his time and skill! Thanks to Pat Sacco for helping him. Mary Lou Wallace and Jane Seaman planted all of the new rose bushes. Our Sunday School children, planted the colorful Children's Garden. All committee members, including Betty Swan, Jean Ann Strilowich, Shirley Retallick, Lynn Raymond, Dan Gerow, Debbie Gardiner, Linda Heintz, Janice Zackeo, Laura Baird, Billy York (our youngest member!), Marcia Semchyshen, Christine Haack and others, have dedicated their time and muscles to weatherproof, weed, mulch, clean, and nurture these gardens. Thank you!!!!!!!!!!!!!! What began as a plan on paper in 1998, is now a beautiful sanctuary. We marvel at how the trees and plants have matured. Each addition enhances the beauty of this space. The Outdoor Ministries Committee is grateful to all who make this a special place. We appreciate the offerings and donations that support the maintenance of these hallowed grounds. We especially appreciate those of you who work hard to make each summer service possible. We thank God for each one of you. "For in fact the body is not one member but many." (1 Cor.12:14). Have a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing you at the Tony DeBlois concert on October 7th and 8th.

Christine Haack Secretary



MISSION TEAM MOMENTS

This morning as I sat on my front porch, listening to the birds sing, I felt a sense of serenity as I reflected back on the Music Sunday Service. From start to finish I thought it was remarkable. As Carl said, it is not every day that you see the Minister of Music

give the sermon, Rev. Pat baptize Margaret Rose Anderson, and Betsy Anderson sing the Amen Solo. It was truly a family affair.

The Choir and Congregation were energized, and I also saw a few tears shed as Rev. Pat introduced Margaret Rose as our newest addition to our church family. What a wonderful blessing to be part of this church.

The months of July and August are our quiet months in Missions but we are meeting on July 10th for dinner and to discuss our future service projects. Have a wonderful summer and we hope to see you all at the outdoor services to be held in the Martha Fairchild Gardens.

God Bless,

Sue Webb
Three years ago
Jim Kile began a
Doctor of
Professional
Studies Computing



program. This June, Jim successfully completed all the requirements for the degree. Besides the two years of course work, the requirements included writing and defending his dissertation. After passing his defense, he is now officially, Dr. Jim Kile – Congratulations!!!



THANK YOU!!! Many thanks to all the Congregation members and youth who have spent countless hours repairing and updating the parsonage over the past three months. This huge task could not have been accomplished without the help and devotion of the many generous people. I am truly grateful for those who gave an hour or 10 hours!! It lightened the load tremendously. The following incredible people have gone above and beyond in their efforts (spending ~25-60 hours), these include: Andy Wells, Liz Yoho, Tracy Yoho, Laura Baird, Ruby Baird-Smith, & Eric Baird.

With heartfelt thanks,
Dale Baird

***Congregational Church of New Fairfield
United Church of Christ
20 Gillotti Road
New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812
(203) 746-2865***



2007

JULY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service – Communion Sunday 6:15 p.m. – Junior Cast Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. – Senior Cast Rehearsal	2 7:00 p.m. – Principal Cast Rehearsal	3 7:30 p.m. – Drumming Circle	4 8:45 a.m. – Cast of “Camelot” to march in the 4 th of July Parade	5 6:30 p.m. – Junior Cast Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. – Senior Cast Rehearsal	6	7 1:00 p.m. – Thrift Shop Open
8 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service 1:00 p.m. – ASP Crew returns home 7:00 p.m. – Senior Cast Rehearsal	9 6:00 p.m. – Service Club Picnic	10 12:00 p.m. – Women’s Church Club Picnic 6:30 p.m. – Mission Team Dinner 7:00 p.m. – Principal Cast Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. – Drumming Circle	11	12 6:30 p.m. – Junior Cast Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. – Senior Cast Rehearsal	13	14
15 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service 7:00 p.m. – Junior & Senior Cast Run Through	16	17 7:00 p.m. – Junior & Senior Cast Run Through 7:30 p.m. – Drumming Circle	18 7:00 p.m. – Junior & Senior Cast Run Through 7:00 p.m. –	19 7:00 p.m. – Junior & Senior Cast Run Through	20	21 9:00 a.m. – Tech Set Up for “Camelot”
22 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service 5:00 p.m. – Junior & Senior Cast Run Through	23 6:30 p.m. – Junior & Senior Cast Run Through	24 6:30 p.m. – Junior & Senior Cast Run Through	25 6:30 p.m. – Junior & Senior Cast Run Through	26 6:30 p.m. – Dress Rehearsal for “Camelot”	27 6:15 p.m. – OPENING NIGHT for “Camelot”	28 6:15 p.m. – Cast arrive for “Camelot”
29 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service 1:45 p.m. – Cast arrive for “Camelot”	30	31 Reverend Pat on Vacation				

AUGUST 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Reverend Pat on Vacation	2 Reverend Pat on Vacation	3 6:15 p.m. – Cast arrive for “Camelot”	4 1:00 p.m. – Thrift Shop Open 6:15 p.m. – Cast arrive for “Camelot”
5 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service Communion Sunday 1:45 p.m. – Cast arrive for “Camelot” Cast Picnic to Follow	6 Reverend Pat on Vacation	7 Reverend Pat on Vacation	8 Reverend Pat on Vacation	9 Reverend Pat on Vacation	10 6:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal for Garufi/Anastasia Wedding 7:00 p.m. – Set up for Chicken Barbecue	11 10:00 a.m. – Garufi/Anastasia Wedding 5:00 p.m. – Chicken Barbecue
12 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service	13 Reverend Pat on Vacation	14 7:30 p.m. – Executive Team Meeting	15 7:00 p.m. – Worship Team Meeting	16	17	18
19 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service	27	28	29	30	31	

CHICKEN BARBECUE

Saturday, August 11th

Serving 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Congregational Church of New Fairfield

20 Gillotti Road

New Fairfield, CT

Adults - \$11.00 Children Under 12 - \$5.00

Tickets (available at the door)



Menu

Half Chicken (Adults)

Quarter Chicken (Children Under 12)

Homemade Potato Salad and Three Bean Salad

A Variety of Fruit Pie Desserts

Rolls, Iced Tea, and Coffee

Sponsored by the Congregational Church Service Club

CAMELOT

Directed by Carl Anderson

July 27th and 28th
&
August 3rd and 4th
At 7:30 p.m.

July 29th and August 5th
At 3:00 p.m.

Tickets: No refunds or exchanges

Rows 1 through 6

\$14 - Adults

\$11 – Seniors, Students, and Children

Rows 7 through 12

\$13 – Adults

\$10 Seniors, Students, and Children

July 29th – Matinee Reserved Seating

Rows 7 through 12 ONLY \$8 – Seniors

FOR TICKET INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS

CALL DOT BASS 203-746-2855

(DEADLINE FOR ADS – SUNDAY, JULY 1ST)