

# The Spire

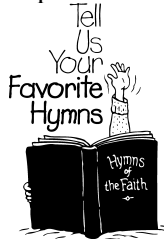
Congregational Church of Somersville  
United Church of Christ

March, 2010



## Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord

Celebrating the role of music in our life as a community of faith. Join us for the interactive, informative and inspiring program. Music is an important part of the way we worship, understand our faith and express our faith in our church. You are all invited to take part in this



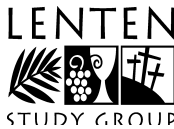
half day retreat as a church where we cherish and celebrate some of our favorite music, think about the role music plays in worship and consider how different forms of music might be helpful in our own faith practices. Come, let us sing together, learn together and grow in faith together.

The retreat is being held at the Somers Congregational Church from 9:30 AM -1:30 PM. An optional continental breakfast will be held at 9 AM.

Please RSVP by Sunday, February 28.

## Lenten Services

All are invited to our ½ hour mid-week Lenten services on Wednesdays at 7 PM. This year we are using the words of institution to the communion service as our springboard for contemplation and meditation. As part of each service, we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Please note that during Holy Week, the Maundy Thursday service will replace the Wednesday evening service.



## From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you may know, we have passed from one church season to another. During the recently concluded season of Epiphany, we celebrated the gifts we offer to God in response to God's gift of Jesus Christ to us. Just as the magi followed a star to present gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, so we also share out of our own gifts and graces. We wrote our gifts on stars and posted them on a bulletin board in the church's second floor hallway.

When I took down our Epiphany bulletin board, I reviewed the various gifts written on the stars. Several people listed "generosity" or "charity" as their gift; while two listed "compassion" and another two chose "helpfulness." Two more people wrote "love" and another two wrote "creativity". One person each chose "testifying to God's grace", "passion", "meditation", "being a good listener", "making music", "patience" and "support animal rescue". I see all these gifts among our congregation – and many more!

Now with Epiphany's end has come Lent's beginning. The *sharing of gifts* as our organizing theme for the Epiphany season fades away and the Lenten idea of *engaging in disciplined preparation* so that we may be spiritually ready for the death and resurrection of Jesus moves front and center. I pray you may observe a holy and disciplined Lent so that you may also receive the grace of repentance and be guided in the way of righteousness.



In order to assist you this season and give greater glory to God, our church provides special ½ hour Lenten services every Wednesday in March except for Holy Week (March 31<sup>st</sup>). During that week we will share in a Maundy Thursday service on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please come and join in our worship.

Yours in Christ,

*Graham Van Keuren*

## Thanks to ..

.. all who volunteered to take on “service opportunities” during February.  
.. those who gave to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Missions during February to benefit local food pantries and the Souper Bowl collection  
.. everyone who contributed to the success of the Valentine baked stuffed shrimp supper.  
.. the volunteers who helped to serve the meal at Cornerstone on February 16.



## Opportunities in March

|      | <u>Greeters</u>                  | <u>Ushers</u>                 | <u>Reader</u> | <u>Fellowship Hosts</u> |
|------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 3/07 | Dan Dunn<br>Art Lachance         | Joan Lange<br>Donna Pendleton | Bert Chillson |                         |
| 3/14 | Genny Farnham<br>Donna Pendleton | Art Lachance<br>Dan Dunn      | Dave Pinney   |                         |
| 3/21 |                                  |                               | Art Lachance  |                         |
| 3/28 | Dan Dunn<br>Donna Pendleton      | Marge Morgan<br>Art Lachance  | Dan Scully    | T & E Hancock           |

## From the Moderator (submitted by Ray Foster)

Any individual or Board having business to bring before the March 21 **Cabinet** should notify Graham, Ray Foster or Ruth Bruch by Thursday, March 11.

### **Trustees**

The Board of Trustees is planning a meeting for 12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. The plans for a new parking area have met with the approval of the Town of Somers engineer and the building and zoning departments (with a couple of minor caveats.) Thus, we are ready to make some decisions and to come to consensus on a plan to present to the congregation. The plan will include our concept as approved by the Somers officials, and an estimate of cost. Please note that we have NOT submitted an application to begin



construction. We cannot do so until after the congregation has approved the project and has found means to pay for the costs.

Anyone from the congregation is welcome to attend the meeting.

## Christian Education

### **Wednesday Bible Study**

Wednesday morning Bible study continues to meet each week from 9:30-11 AM in the social room. All are welcome.

## From the Student Minister

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ.

There are a couple of upcoming opportunities for growth and fellowship of which I would like to make you aware. The first of these will be a Bible study on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. We will gather to do a close study of the sermon text that I will use to preach from on the following Sunday. From past experience these sessions have been helpful both for myself and for those in attendance and so I hope you may be able to attend and share. Given Lenten worship and choir



rehearsal, we will gather at 5:45 PM for a one hour discussion. I will have a simple soup prepared for those who wish to share in a light meal during our discussion. Please let me know if you plan to attend and if you have any dietary restrictions so that I may be prepared. You may contact me by e-mail at [brent.damrow@yale.edu](mailto:brent.damrow@yale.edu) or by phone at 617-513-0185.

Secondly, I wanted to announce what I think will be an exciting three week study in April. On Thursday, April 15, 22, and 29<sup>th</sup> I will lead a study on the United Church of Christ. The first week we will consider the larger reformed tradition out of which Congregational churches emerged, the second week we will look at the theology of the contemporary UCC and in the final week we will look at the way it tries to live out that theology today. I think that this will be a rich opportunity to look at the history and tradition of our denomination and consider how it might impact our own life as a faith community. Much more information will follow – but save the dates for what should be a fun and interesting time together.

Peace,  
Brent

**Report of the Treasurer** (submitted by Sydney Cohen)

**It's not the outlook but the uplook that counts.**

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. Hebrews 12:2.

|          | January 2010 | YTD 2010     | Budget 2010   |
|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Pledges  | \$ 9,375.00  | \$ 9,375.00  | \$ 77,000.00  |
| Income   | \$ 12,802.28 | \$ 12,802.28 | \$ 118,210.00 |
| Expenses | \$ 14,146.26 | \$ 14,146.26 | \$ 128,441.00 |

January Collections

- Fundraiser Supper- \$ 2,217.13
- YTD Fundraiser Net Total - \$ 1,910.13
- Monthly Mission Collections
- Christmas Fund - \$285.00
- Haiti Relief- \$ 200.00



January started the church off in a positive direction. Despite pledges being higher than budgeted, our expenses still exceeded our income. But this was not necessarily a bad thing. The missions committee disbursed \$750.00 in addition to the \$200.00 collected for a total of \$950.00 being sent for Haiti Relief. Also \$700.00 went out for the Solar Cooker Project and \$688.00 for Heifer Project International. Whenever we exceed our income because of supporting missions, I consider that a blessing.

**Missions** (submitted by Jean Foster)

**Second Mile Mission One Great Hour of Sharing**

The theme for the offering is (John 21:15-17), If you love me, feed my sheep. Remember the feeding of the 5,000? The disciples thought their resources could never meet the peoples' great need. Yet the followers of Jesus gave sacrificially from what they had - and through God's blessing their gifts created a miracle for all.



Today, we tend to have the same thought as the disciples, when a disaster such as the recent earthquake in Haiti happens. Yet, if we give generously, our gifts multiplied by those of many others, and blessed by God creates a miracle.

The present is the ideal time to give to One Great Hour of Sharing, so when a disaster does happen, resources are readily available.

**Cornerstone** (submitted by Barbara Baugniet)

Another opportunity is offered to help cook and/or serve a meal at Cornerstone Soup Kitchen in Rockville on Tuesday, March 16. We can carpool from the church leaving at 2:30 PM (for those willing to help prepare the meal). Those able to help serve only should arrive at Cornerstone by 4:30. We'll return about 6:30. Anyone with questions or willing to assist should speak with Barbara Baugniet or Johanna Karbonic.



**Hygiene/Health Kits**

In conjunction with the Ladies Aide, supplies for hygiene kits continue to be collected. These kits are sent, via Church World Service, to areas of the world hit by devastation. Items needed to fill each kit include: 1 16x28 hand towel; 1 wash cloth, 1 wide tooth comb, 1 nail clipper, 1 wrapped bath size bar or soap, 1 toothbrush in orig. package, 6 3/4" bandages. All items can be put in a 1 gallon baggie. Individual items are also most welcome.

**Historian's Corner** (submitted by Johanna Karbonic)

**Who Are We?**

We were not married in the Congregational Church of Somersville. Instead, we were married in the Somersville All Saints Church on May 21, 1955. (55 years ago) She was 17 and he was 20 years old. He and his parents joined the church in 1949 and she joined in 1956. He started attending church or Sunday school when he was five years old (in 1939 - the same time he started Somersville Grade School).



They remember earlier ministers such as Ernest Spinney (1936-1942), Fred D. Thayer (1942-1946), Paul Ross Lynn (1946-1951), Kenneth Croze (1951-1955), and Arthur Fitzgerald (1955-1959). Nick Wood was one of his closest friends while growing up. They had 5 biological children and took in 31 foster children. The reason he kept coming to the church is because he was brought up in the church and she kept coming to be with her husband. ("Coming to church together has made us closer.") He is most noted for his music and landscaping business. For years he would cut the church and parsonage lawn at no charge. She is noted most for being a wonderful wife, mother, and homemaker. Unfortunately, their attendance through the years has been sporadic – in the past because of his work – "When I go to church, I take my lawnmower." family, traveling, and now because of illness. They both hope to become more involved when they are feeling better.

What they both like about the church is the music, family atmosphere and gatherings in the social room. They are happy with the way the church is going and can't think of anything to make it different. Whom he admires most are Ruth Bruch, Graham, Jason, Jack and Mavis Collins. She admired Ginny Longueuil.

They are both a big part of our church history.

If you haven't guessed who they are, the answer is on a later page of this Spire.

**Ladies Aide Society** (submitted by Barbara Baugniet)

### **Senior Luncheon**

The Ladies Aide will be hosting the Somers' Seniors Luncheon at our church on Tuesday, March 23 at 12 noon. Reservations for this baked ham dinner should be called in to Arlene Yarnes at 860-749-7387. Menu will include fresh fruit cup, baked ham, ranch potatoes, hot vegetables, rolls, beverage and fresh homemade cookies with ice cream. Cost is \$5 per person.



### **Family Favorites**

Our cookbook has arrived and sales have begun. The cookbook is packed with 295 favorite recipes of a number of our church members and friends (some of these recipes are used at our monthly suppers). There are also several pages of helpful cooking hints. Books are available for



only \$12 each; \$2 from each sale will be going toward the cost of the church's new parking lot. At the present time, "Family Favorites" can be purchased after worship on Sunday mornings or through the church office. Buy more than 1 copy; they'd make great gifts!

**All Women Welcome** (submitted by Linda McEwen)

The next meeting of the Ladies Aide Society will be held at 1PM on Tuesday, March 9, in the Church social room. ALL women of the church are invited. Millie Hare will offer devotions; Genny Farnham and Linda McEwen will be our hostesses.



Our regular meeting will be followed by a Beading Extravaganza. Well, maybe not an extravaganza - but I choose to call it that. What we will be doing is beading. Debbie Robidoux and I will be assisting those who would like to learn and do some simple beading. We will have supplies available to make bracelets and earrings and perhaps other small items so you will be able to work on several pieces. We are hoping that you will be able to make an item for yourself and a few items to put away for Holiday Treasures.

If you would like to purchase some beads for the bead stash - feel free to do so - but it is not required. We will have activities available for children as well - so mothers are certainly invited to participate. Any questions, contact Linda McEwen at 860-749-8861.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** (submitted by Lois Sharpless)

Anyone who loves to knit or crochet, or always wanted to learn, is welcome to join the "Prayer Shawl Ministry" group. Our next get together is at the Sharpless home on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm til 9pm. Please call Lois at 749-1350 or 749-1901 if you are interested or would like to know more about the group.



## Fundraising Suppers (submitted by Ruth Bruch)



*Annual  
Beef*

### *Corned Supper*

This supper is very popular and reservations usually fill up quickly –most of our suppers fill up in 2 ½ days! If you plan to attend the supper on March 13, make your reservations with Ruth (860-749-7741 or email [somcong@aol.com](mailto:somcong@aol.com)). If you can contribute, sign up in the social room.

How can you help?? We need volunteers to:

- Contribute to the cost of the potatoes, carrots, onions & cabbage. I will order all and have them delivered.
- Help peel veggies on Friday, March 12.
- Bake a cake (recipe posted on bulletin board)
- Offer to help wait on tables during the supper
- Make Irish soda bread (there are recipes in “Family Favorites” or one is posted on the bulletin board)
- Clean up after the supper
- Bake for our bake sale

We will also be offering a **bake sale** during the supper. The Cabinet voted to allocate money brought in from supper bake sales to go toward the highly anticipated new church parking lot. Please, please bake!! .. cookies, pies, breads, bars, small cakes, muffins, candy ~ simple items sell quite well.

### *Stuffed Shrimp Recap*

We had an enthusiastic response to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Baked Stuffed Shrimp dinner. A good crew worked diligently on Friday, February 12 to peel, de-vein and butterfly the shrimp; another group stuffed the shrimp on Saturday as we also prepared the potatoes and salad ingredients. A small bake sale was offered that brought in \$90. (At our Feb. 21 Cabinet meeting, a vote approved allocating supper bake sale money to our future parking lot). Even though the cost of the shrimp rose \$1.30/lb., the supper was successful. We took in \$2856 on the dinner and our proceeds were \$2208. Again, thanks to all who supported the supper and bake sale.

## This & That

- An **updated directory of members and friends** of the church is in the making and we’d like to include **cell phone numbers**, with permission. Please let Ruth know your cell number if this plan meets with your approval.
- In general, all **board meetings are open** for anyone to attend. The exception would be if a personal or confidential matter is on the agenda ~ attendees would then be asked to leave.
- **Fellowship hosts** are needed. Light refreshment (a beverage - coffee, punch, cider, etc - and a light snack will suffice). Please sign up in the social room if you are willing to take on this opportunity. Anyone who stays for fellowship time is urged to take advantage of this



opportunity.

- Boards are reminded to be sure the office gets a copy of **meeting minutes**; office staff will be responsible for posting a copy on the board in the social room.
- We’d still like to communicate via **email** with our church members and friends. If you have an email address, please share it with us at [somcong@aol.com](mailto:somcong@aol.com).
- The Spire is being posted on our church website [www.somersvilleucc.org](http://www.somersvilleucc.org) by the Hancocks and emailed to church members and friends.

## CT Conference UCC

### *From the Conference Minister*

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ who unites and inspires us for faithfulness in all the times of our lives!

With that poignant mixture of joy and sadness that such a moment carries, I write to tell you of my plan to retire this May as your Conference Minister. The events of the past two years in my personal and family life have made it abundantly clear to me that now is the time for this transition.

When I was called to this position in 1996, I accepted with great joy for it was the Connecticut Conference that had made it possible at Silver Lake in 1959 for a girl from a tiny church in the rural Litchfield Hills to imagine herself an ordained minister some day. It was this Conference that inspired my commitment to parish ministry and to justice ministries. It was this Conference that led me into a far wider vision of God’s world than I could have ever had without its ministry. Coming home to serve you and to serve with you has been deeply meaningful for me.

Over these years, we have together sought to know the mind of Christ for our



day. We've overcome the strains that were present in 1996, and have probably found some new ones. We developed a new staffing model with deployed Regional Ministers, trying to get as close to the churches as possible so we could assist you as much as possible. Together we strengthened the partnership with the Kyung-ki Presbytery in South Korea and established a second partnership with the Iglesia Menonita de Colombia. We set up strong processes for safe churches and for dealing with misconduct by authorized ministers and we developed resources for the spiritual and pastoral care of clergy. We supported the mission of *Amistad America*, and were present at her launch. We responded to the horrific events of September 11, 2001 with prayer and healing ministries. We withstood the after-effects economically and psychologically. We launched the Now for the Future Campaign: the Churches' Campaign for Silver Lake Conference Center, and have accomplished much to renew that sacred space even though the goal remains unmet. We hosted General Synod for the 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ, and what a glorious week that was!

Over these years, through times of challenge and times of rejoicing, we have together been privileged to have each other. Your prayers for me in 2008-2009 and for my husband, David, now in 2009-2010, have lifted us into the healing grace of God. If I have any wish in this moment, it would be that you would pray for your Conference and for its churches as powerfully and as passionately as you have prayed for us. There is power in that prayer, to bind you together and to create new life and possibility.

I give thanks to God for each of the staff with whom I have been privileged to work over these fourteen years. They are deeply dedicated to your wellbeing and to your future. And I give thanks for all those who have led this Conference as Moderators and Board chairs, as committee and ministry team members, as deans and counselors at Silver Lake and delegates to Annual Meetings. Together you are strong and resilient.

I have great confidence in you as the Connecticut Conference, and in the leadership that is in place. You will have a good experience in your search for a new Conference Minister and in reshaping your identity and your future. The Holy Spirit will truly guide you through this time – may it be adventurous and full of faithful creativity!

I will miss you all, for in my retirement I will, of course, observe the ethical guidelines. I will no longer be your Conference Minister and you will no longer turn to me for guidance or leadership. I will give only support to my successors, as I have been privileged to receive from my predecessors. I will pray for you regularly.

On May 15, my last day of work, I will hold you before God in prayer and commend you to one another, for you are the Connecticut Conference, a loving, generous, faithful and amazing sign of God's hope for the world!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, Conference Minister

### **Tech-savvy outreach: New UCC commercial set to 'spiral' on April 16**

Written by Staff Reports February 8, 2010

The United Church of Christ will launch its next "God is Still Speaking" commercial on April 16, utilizing the church's best broadcasting arsenal: its own members.

"Yes, a new Stillspeaking ad is coming," says the Rev. Felix Carrion, coordinator of the UCC's Stillspeaking Ministry, "and what makes this debut so significant is that we are counting on the moxy of our million-plus supporters to spiral this viral message around the world."

"We're asking people to set aside that morning — April 16 — for unparalleled texting, Twittering, Facebooking and emailing of this new spot," he says.

Called "Language of God," the 60-second video message is being produced by Think Media, a national advertising firm known for its edgy, innovative video work. Its household-name clients include the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Cleveland Clinic, Progressive Insurance and Nestle, among others.

The new message will be kept under close wraps until introduced at 9 a.m. (ET) sharp on launch day via email, Facebook and ucc.org. A 30-second version of the commercial will also be available for churches that want to purchase air time on local TV stations.

Carrion says the new message will explore and unpack the UCC's "God is Still Speaking" phrase in evocative ways. "It has to be an engaging, thought-provoking message if it's going to catch on virally," he insists. "We're coming out with something that will invite people to take a new look at God and pique their curiosity about the UCC."

"The power of this roll-out will be our coordinated, yet spontaneous launch," says the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, the UCC's director of communications. "We realize this approach is risky, but it's also fun, innovative and different. From this point on, 'April 16' needs to become a common refrain in our churches and among our people."

Success, Guess says, will depend on broad buy-in.

"Even if we can enlist our committed core on Facebook, this Stillspeaking message will reach 2,000,000 viewers in seconds," he says. "That doesn't count the tweets, texts and emails that every UCC member can utilize to pass this message along. We're asking people to become tech-savvy evangelists."

The UCC also plans to purchase targeted ads — touting the video message — on Facebook and the most widely trafficked blogs.

"Marketing data now shows that our target audience is now more likely to be found sitting in front of a computer screen instead of a TV screen," Guess says. "Just as we found it important to take to TV in 2004 and 2005, we're taking to the internet on April 16 like no denomination has ever done before."



### **About our Members & Friends**

#### ***Sympathy***

Our sincere sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Denise Hannan who tragically lost her life in a house fire on Feb. 11. Denise joined our church family on June 4, 1995.

#### ***Birthdays***

Happy birthday greetings this month go to Mckenzie Tishon, Will Penhall, Liam Forbes, Aidan Pinney, Erin Gately, Lillian Carriere, Sue Comparetto, Steve Twitchell, Parker Salvas, Barbara Baugniet, Barbara Abbe, Johnny Bellafronte



#### ***Who Are We??***

Charlie & Janet  
Foxe



## **Congregational Church of Somersville**

### **Vision Statement**

We will be a faith-based church welcoming diversity, empowering the individual, growing in faith and doing God's work in the global community in unity and love.

### **Behavioral Covenant**

- We will follow a process that includes unconditional listening and time to collect thought, enabling all individuals to comfortably express their opinions.
- Our actions and demeanor will support and empower all participants
- All opinions will be welcomed, reflectively considered and respected.
- Opinions will be expressed with humility, self-control, gentleness, and kindness.
- We will look for common ground as we search for consensus, and we will respect that consensus.
- We will affirm by our works and actions our common goal to serve God.

**Easter Plants**

Easter plants “in memory of” or “in honor of” loved ones will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 4. A listing will be included in the bulletin on that day. The cost is \$5 each; orders should be placed through the church office by Sunday, March 21.



.....

Number of lilies ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate below how you would like the listing to appear in the bulletin:

Given in loving memory of:

---

---

Given in honor of:

---

---

Given by:

---

Graham Van Keuren, Pastor  
 Brent Damrow, Student Minister  
 Ray Foster, Moderator

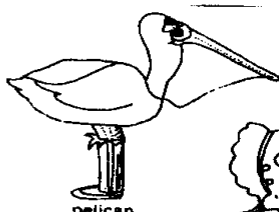












# March 2010

Sydney Cohen, Treasurer  
 Ruth Bruch, Clerk/Office Administrator  
 Jason Stefanik, Organist/Choir Director

| Sun                                   | Mon                              | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|
|                                       | 1                                | 2<br>Trustees 12 PM<br>Deacons 7 PM<br><br>AA 6:15 PM                      | 3<br>Bible Study 9:30-11:15<br>Lenten Service 7 PM<br>Choir 7:30 PM                           | 4  | 5  | 6<br>Music Retreat<br>9:30-1:30 at<br>Somers Cong'l   |
| 7<br>Communion                        | 8<br>Confirmation Class<br>5:30  | 9<br>Ladies Aide 1 PM<br><br>AA 6:15 PM                                    | 10<br>Bible Study 9:30-11:15<br>Lenten Service 7 PM<br>Choir 7:30 PM                          | 11<br>Finance 12 PM<br>Cabinet Agenda<br>Requests Due  | 12<br>Supper Prep. 9 AM<br><br>Missions 2 PM | 13<br>Corned Beef Supper<br>5 & 6:15<br>AND Bake Sale |
| 14<br>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS<br>TIME BEGINS | 15                               | 16<br>Cornerstone Soup<br>Kitchen 2:30/4:30-6:30<br><br>AA 6:15 PM         | 17<br>Bible Study 9:30-11:15<br>Lenten Service 7 PM<br>Choir 7:30 PM<br><br>ST. PATRICK'S DAY | 18<br>Prayer Shawl Ministry<br>7 PM<br>at Sharpless'   | 19   | 20<br>1ST DAY OF SPRING                               |
| 21<br>Cabinet<br><br>Lily Orders Due  | 22<br>Confirmation Class<br>5:30 | 23<br>Blair Manor Worship<br>10:30<br>Sr. Luncheon 12 PM<br><br>AA 6:15 PM | 24<br>Bible Study 9:30 AM<br>Study w/Brent 5:45<br>Lenten Service 7 PM<br>Choir 7:30 PM       | 25<br>April Spire Deadline   | 26   | 27  |
| 28<br>PALM SUNDAY                     | 29                               | 30<br>AA 6:15 PM   | 31<br>Bible Study 9:30-11:15  | Congregational Church of Somersville<br>22 Maple St., PO Box I, Somersville, CT 06072<br>Worship 10 AM Nursery Care Provided<br>860-749-7741 860-749-5132 (fax)<br>somcong@aol.com (email)<br>www.somersvilleucc.org (website) |  |   |

Hidden Pictures for the Young at Heart - Butterfly Painter



-  pelican
-  baby bonnet
-  flute
-  lyre
-  oilcan
-  top
-  steam iron
-  glasses
-  zipper
-  wishbone
-  duck
-  wooden shoe
-  cheese cutter