

The Spire

Congregational Church of Somersville
United Church of Christ

November, 2010



Community Thanksgiving Service

All are welcome to attend the community Thanksgiving service being held at All Saints Church on School Street this year on Sunday, November 21, at 7 PM. Clergy from All Saints Roman Catholic Church, Somers Congregational Church and the Congregational Church of Somersville will be participating as will a combined choir from the three churches. This service is a great opportunity to gather together to hear the words of the pastors, sing hymns together, hear the Somers Year in Review and enjoy community fellowship.



Holiday Treasures Fair

The annual Holiday Treasures Fair will be held in the church social room on Saturday, November 20 from 9 AM – 2 PM. There will be decorations, crafts, knit/crocheted items, bake sale, country kitchen, white elephant goods and more. A luncheon will also be offered.



More details and needs from Linda can be found in this issue of the Spire.



On Veterans Day, remember the sign at the Veterans Cemetery which reads:
"All gave some and some gave their all."

From the Pastor

Friends in Christ,

Several of you have been taking advantage of the increased space made available by the new parking lot. Please know that you are invited to park there on Sunday mornings, for church dinners, and for any other time we expect our lot to be crowded, especially if you have a few minutes to spare before the worship service or activity. By doing so, you may allow room for new visitors to park close to the church building.

We have very little left to do before we declare that the parking lot is fully finished. We need to add some screening with woody perennials, install a simple, modest fence along the tree line separating the lot from the parsonage, and add some posts. Thanks to all who have contributed their labor and their money in order to make this project a success.

Even though the work is almost done, our financial commitment to pay for it is not. We need to raise approximately \$6000 to finish paying our bills and retire the loan that was offered to us by congregants. We can do it!

As of this writing, I promise to increase my parking lot pledge by \$600, thus covering 10% of what we still need to raise. I don't believe this will be hard for me to do; it boils down to an extra \$25/month for the next two years. I can surely come up with \$25/month! I bet most of us can.

Won't you join me? Nine other people, pledging \$25/month over the course of two years, will complete our fundraising. As Jesus reminds us in Matthew's Gospel, "With God, all things are possible." So let us have confidence in the goodness of God. With God's help, we can do it!

Faithfully yours,
Graham Van Keuren



Thanks to ..

- .. all who volunteered to take on “service opportunities” during October.
- .. everyone who contributed to the great success of the Pot Roast Supper.
- .. those who gave to the 2nd Mile Missions collections to help purchase solar cookers for Haiti.
- .. all who supported the Blacksmith Shoppe this season.
- .. those who collected for UNICEF

Christian Education (submitted by Graham Van Keuren)

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday morning Bible study meets weekly in the social room from 9:30-11:15 AM. All are invited.

Evening Study Offered



Please join me as we take a prayerful look at the most famous sermon ever .. Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Spreading over chapters 5-7 of Matthew’s gospel, the Sermon on the Mount includes many of Jesus’ most well-known and beloved teachings. On November 4, 11 and 18, we will look at three key segments of Jesus’ sermon:

- Nov. 4 – The Beatitudes, Mt. 5:1-12
- Nov. 11 – Teaching about Prayer, Mt. 6:5-15
- Nov. 18 – Teaching about financial Anxiety, Mt. 6:19-34

Each week, the class will begin at 7 PM and last until about 8:30 PM. Light refreshments will be provided. NO RSVP is necessary; just join us!

Advent Services Planned

Join us for our annual Wednesday evening Advent services on December 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 7 PM. These contemplative services set a wonderful tone of preparation for the coming of Christ. Please note that choir practice and board/committee meetings will begin at 7:30 on those Wednesdays.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday evenings in December.

Opportunities in November

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Fellowship Hosts</u>
11/07	Donna Pendleton Patrick Forbes	Art Lachance Dan Dunn	Bert Chillson	Bert & Mae Chillson
11/14	Chuck & Laura Elwood	Donna Pendleton Bill Orduz	Ray Foster	
11/21	Donna Pendleton Everett Baker	Dan Dunn Art Lachance	Al Andrews	
11/28	George Liberty	Donna Pendleton Patrick Forbes	Yvonne Wood	Tom & Elaine Hancock

From the Moderator (submitted by Ray Foster)

The November Cabinet meeting will be held following worship on the 21st. Any individual or Board wanting to be included on the agenda should speak with Graham or me by Thursday, November 11.

Report of the Treasurer (submitted by Sydney Cohen)

Your words are windows to your heart.

For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. – Mt. 12:34

	Sept. 2010	YTD 2010	Budget 2010
Pledges	\$ 4,564.00	\$ 58,627.00	\$ 77,000.00
Income	\$ 7,575.37	\$ 94,486.77	\$118,210.00
Expenses	\$11,546.04	\$113,899.12	\$128,441.00

Collections for September

Fundraisers

September supper = \$2,263.00
YTD net income for fundraisers = \$17,459.91

Missions

Fishers House = \$100.00 Total \$251.00
Heifer International = \$561.62



Parking Lot Update

YTD Total disbursed = \$23,054,.89 through October 23, 2010

Our YTD pledges continue to be below budget, which reflects on our income being behind as well. The expenses were higher due to quarterly insurance, pension payments, missions outreach, as well as the repair of the lift. The parking lot expenses are up to date and will probably remain so until next year.

Financial Request (submitted by Al Andrews)

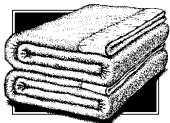
Last Call! Any Board or Committee having a budget request for 2011 should submit it to the Board of Finance by Tuesday, November 2. Requests can be put in the "Finance" mail slot at the north end of the social room or handed to Ed Sharpless, Al Andrews or Bert Chillson.



Missions Outreach (submitted by Genny Farnham)

Prepared to Care ... Church World Service has learned that lesson well over its more than 60-year history of responding to disasters and other humanitarian crises around the world and here at home.

When we are preparing for a trip in our cars, we make sure that we carry a spare tire – just in case - . Likewise, Church World Service has partnered with churches around the world and social services of any given area to distribute blankets to those affected by disaster. This would be the first thing given because blankets provide so much – warmth, comfort and sometimes even shelter. But as needs change, other things are required ~ tents, water and tools and materials to rebuild. CWS will have pre-positioned these materials prior to disasters striking.



Church World Service is always there to assist the local social services and their partnered churches helping with clean up, providing food, clothes, hygiene kits, drinking water, mattresses and medical care. When we see the results of a disaster, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless. But, through *Church World Service Blankets and*, our contributions add up and enable CWS to respond effectively when people need help. Together we can do a lot.

Nominating (submitted by Yvonne Wood)

The Nominating Committee received few responses to the Interest Survey and still has positions to fill. Anyone with an interest in serving, especially on Missions, the Board of Deacons, or Property, should speak with a member of the committee (Yvonne Wood, Mae Chillson, George Liberty, Barbara Bagniet, Al Andrews or Marj Butler)

A Thanksgiving Blessing

We are grateful for our bountiful and innumerable blessings. We are thankful that God has brought us to this very day, this very hour, this very minute. And we are hopeful that God's providential care will enable us to see the unbounded possibilities of the future.

Ladies Aide Society

Monthly Meeting (submitted by Barbara Bagniet)

Calling all women!!! You're welcome to attend the monthly meeting of the Ladies Aide Society being held Tuesday, November 9 at 1 PM in the social room. Following the business meeting we'll discuss and make final plans for Holiday Treasures. Refreshments will be provided by Graham Van Keuren and Ruth Bruch.

The group voted to ..

Again this year, the Ladies Aide will be providing complete dinner baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas to two local families.



Those women attending the October 12 meeting voted to allocate up to \$500 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for the remainder of 2010. Pastor Graham informed us that he has had numerous requests for assistance for food or gas and that his allotment from the church budget had run out. They also voted to fund Kate Carlisle's professional expenses for the spring semester.

Prayer Shawl Ministry (submitted by Lois Sharpless)



The Prayer Shawl Group will be trying something different on October 31 and November 21. We will get together after the church fellowship time to knit for about 30 minutes to an hour. All are welcome to join us. No experience necessary.

Holiday Treasures Fair (submitted by Linda Pease-McEwen)

This year's Holiday Treasures will be held on November 20th from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Volunteers will be needed to help set up on Friday, November 19th for the fair. We'll also need help on the 20th after the fair to help clean up and put items away. Again, please see me to sign up to help.

Vendors Needed ~ If you would like to rent a table during the bazaar, or know of a vendor that you would recommend, please contact Linda Pease McEwen at (860) 749-8861. We have a few slots available. Rental fees are \$20 for outside vendors; \$15 for church members.

Craft Supplies Needed

Evergreen wreaths
Silk poinsettias
Holiday picks
Other items for ornaments or decorations
Yarn and ribbon (Christmas themed)
Wooden candlesticks to paint and decorate
Candles and votives



Completed Craft Items Needed

Do you have special projects you are already working on? If so, wonderful! Please let Linda know so we'll have room to display and sell them.

Gift Basket Supplies Needed

Hat boxes or baskets to decorate
Pet supplies (toys, brushes, small bed, snacks, etc)
Kids' movie night supplies (dvd's, fleece blanket, pillow, popcorn, etc)
Kids' toiletries supplies (bubble bath, towel, lotions, children's shampoo, etc.)
Princess basket supplies (Disney princess items, etc)
Aromatherapy basket supplies

Can You Sew?

We have some sewing projects that we need completed. Let us know if you are willing to take on a few of these items.

If you want to help, but are not sure what you can do, check with Linda McEwen and she will let you know how you can help. This is open to all members of the church.

Fundraising Suppers (submitted by Ruth Bruch)

Recap of October Supper

Once again, we served another delicious meal; the meat was nice and tender and fell apart when served. Many people commented on the décor this month; we used cute green cloth tablecloths featuring scarecrows, pumpkins, etc and gold-tone napkins with scarecrows on them. We had a number of gourds, donated by a couple who comes to the dinners, that were used on the tables along with mini pumpkins donated by Syd Cohen. Linda Pease-McEwen fixed up bud vases with fall silk flowers.

The dinner brought in \$2352 (including some cash donations to help defray expenses); and our expenses were \$327.92. Thanks, as always, to everyone who contributed to the dinner's success.

Turkey Supper

Reservations are now being accepted for our November 13 Turkey Supper. Sittings are at 5 & 6:15 PM. Cost is \$11 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-10. Menu includes turkey, mashed potato, dressing, gravy, tossed salad, winter squash, homemade breads and rolls, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie and beverage.

A sign up sheet for help/donations to this supper is posted in the social room. Among the items/help still needed are:

- 2 # 10 can cranberry sauce (can be found at Arnold's in E. Longmeadow)
- 3 loaves of cranberry or date nut bread
- 24 pkg. stuffing mix (small box) **OR**
- 11 pkg. stuffing mix (double box)
- 8 16 oz bottles Italian dressing
- 4 pumpkin pies



Or, cash donations to help defray the cost of the turkey or to buy items not donated.

Your continued support of these monthly dinners is appreciated.

December 4 Ham Supper

The December 4 Ham Supper will benefit a Missions Outreach project or two. A sign up sheet for your assistance/contributions will be posted the middle of November. A \$1 discount from the dinner price will be given to each person bringing in a non-perishable food item.

This & That



- **Fellowship hosts** are needed. Light refreshment (a beverage - coffee, punch, lemonade, 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.

- Christmas cards

As you may recall, back in 2006 we began selling beautiful Christmas cards showing our church sanctuary at Christmastime. These cards are again available for purchase; there are 18 cards per box at \$10 per box. They are available during coffee fellowship on Sundays, in the church office weekday mornings or at the Holiday Treasures Fair.

CT Conference UCC

Tolland Association (submitted by Everett Baker)

At the request of the Second Congregational Church of Stafford and upon the recommendation of the Committee on Church and Ministry of the Tolland Association, the Association was called into Ecclesiastical Council to install the Rev. Judy Medeiros as Associate Pastor of the United Congregational Church of Tolland on Sunday, October 17. The Council met at 3 PM and the service was held at 4 PM. This Council and service was held at the United Congregational Church of Tolland. Following the Ecclesiastical council that received the report of the Committee on Church and Ministry, a report was presented by Rev. Judy Medeiros in which she shared her views on ministry, then engaged in dialog with the council. A service of installation was held at 4 PM with clergy wearing their red stoles. This part of the service of installation provided a combination of ecclesiastical music by the full choir of the church followed by appropriate readings from the Old and New Testaments. Rev. Dr. Donald Remick offered a sermon titled, "Take off your shoes" with a slight amount of humor while impressing the congregation with the seriousness of this service of installation of a new associate minister. Following the service, all were invited to the reception hall to greet each other and enjoy refreshments.

Annual CT Fall Conference (submitted by Al Andrews)

The 143rd Annual fall meeting of the CT Conference UCC was held at the large Middletown High School complex. I accompanied Pastor Van Keuren, as our Church's lay representative, for the Saturday, October 23rd sessions. Following the Keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Orr, United Nations Secretary General for Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination, we selected separate workshops of personal interest. I chose two related to my personal experiences:



1 Refugee Resettlement Ministry led by representatives of the IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services). A refugee from Iraq, Bassma Janabi, spoke of her fleeing Iraq, due to our war, via four years in Jordan, before arriving in Connecticut 16 months ago. Now she is a kindergarten teacher full time, plus three hours evenings of American language instruction, while her brother has become a baker. This IRIS personnel explained the current US/UN procedure for refugee resettlement here, which reminded me of my chairmanship of the committee at the former Stafford Springs UCC in 1999 that successfully established a Croatia family of four, via Kosovo, during that war. Three of the four are now US citizens, employed and the parents own a house.

2 Sacred Journey 2010: Korean Partnership Youth Exchange, led by a Korean-American woman, who explained the 15 year (to date) US/Korean venture, which has just made arrangements for an additional five year extension of exchangees. My interest here was due to my having lived and worked in southern South Korea throughout 1962 and 1963, mostly with local people and some US missionaries and being a co-chairperson with wife, Charlotte, at the Lansdale, PA UCC between 1978-1981, for their two way ICYE (International Christian Youth Exchange) exchangee projects. This missionary effort might be a future project for the Somersville UCC???

It was a pleasure and privilege to attend this conference again. The first time was five years ago.

(submitted by Graham Van Keuren)

I, too, enjoyed my experience at this year's Annual Fall Conference. Not only was the keynote speaker engaging, but the two missions-themed workshops I attended were well-run and informative. I look forward to making a complete report about them to our Mission Outreach Board at this month's meeting.

In other business, the Conference heard committee reports and approved a budget for 2011. The Conference voted to increase the per capital apportionment for local churches by \$2/member. Overall, the financial health of the Conference remains strong.

Please consider representing our church as a lay delegate at the next meeting of the Connecticut Conference, scheduled for May, 2011 in Naugatuck. It's a wonderful learning experience.

Zacchaeus' tree now a top tourist destination

October 22, 2010 by Michele Chabin Religion News Service

JERUSALEM

A huge sycamore tree that some believe was climbed by Zacchaeus the tax collector to get a better view of Jesus is the centerpiece of a new tourism campaign by the Palestinian government.

The tree is located in Jericho, the first city conquered by Joshua when the Israelites crossed into Canaan. The city, sometimes touted as the world's oldest town, is a rich oasis of greenery in a desert landscape.

Once the winter home of the wealthy elite thanks to its balmy winter weather, Jericho has seen hard times in recent years, especially since the start of the first Palestinian uprising in the late 1980s.

The West Bank city has been subject to Israeli security closures and subsequently high unemployment. An ultra-modern casino, popular with Israelis during quieter times, was shut down years ago.

The current Palestinian administration, which has brought greater economic stability and security to the troubled territory, is working to reestablish Jericho as a tourism destination. It is placing the Zacchaeus tree at the core of the town's 10,000 birthday celebrations, part of a year-long series of events that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas kicked off on Oct. 10.

In addition to a museum complex, the tourism authority hopes to build a resort on the shores of the Dead Sea, a popular spot for sick travelers.

Tourism officials hope to take advantage of a sharp increase in tourism since the second Palestinian uprising ended about four years ago. Although Israeli citizens are prohibited from entering Palestinian-ruled areas over security concerns, about a million other tourists visited the West Bank in the past year.

Although no one can say for certain whether the gnarled old tree is the very one cited in the New Testament — the local Greek Orthodox church venerates the remnant of another ancient tree, for example — experts who have examined it say it may very well date back to the time of Jesus.

About our Members & Friends

Birthdays

Happy birthday greetings this month go to: Syd Cohen, Eva Cohen, Ben Unger, Tricia Foster, Jeninne Petkis, Cindy Heagie, Michael Eldridge, Jacob Cohen, Doug Miller, Natalie Hannan, Logan Nunez, Roger Carlo, Linda Longueuil, Elaine Hancock, Tom Hancock, John Collins, Rachael Gately, Judy Liberty and Don Graham

Anniversaries

Those celebrating anniversaries in November include: Bert & Mae Chillson (54th), Mark & Diane Farnham, Michael & Lori Arnone, Sandy & Syd Cohen, Dave & Pat Pinney, Karen & Renee Blondibn



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.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOMERSVILLE

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

					As of Jan 1 '10	As of August 31' 10	As of Aug. 31' 10	As of Aug. 31' 10	As of Aug. 31' 10	As of Aug. 31' 10
					Amount	Amount				
Savings Accounts:										
Holcomb School Aid MM					\$ 4,273.96	\$ 4,275.49				
Jr. Pilgrim Fellow.					\$ 860.07	\$ 861.79				
Sunday School					\$ 27.77	\$ 27.83				
Total Savings Account & Money Market					\$ 5,161.80	\$ 5,165.11				
Stocks:								Year to Date		Year to Date
Company	Net Unit Change	Y-T-D Units	\$/s @ Jan 1 '10	\$/s@ Aug. 31' 10	Value @ Jan 1 '10	Value @ Aug. 31' 10	Realized Gain/Loss	Realized Gain/Loss	Unrealized Gain/Loss	Unrealized Gain/Loss
Miss. Soc. Of Conn.		1,141.87	81.06	79.67	\$ 96,575.03	\$ 90,969.41	\$ 216.04	\$ 3,462.58	\$ (2,774.55)	\$ (5,068.19)
Miss. Soc. Pastor's	1.8419	800.65	81.06	79.67	\$ 64,039.64	\$ 63,785.59	\$ 151.14	\$ 2,329.89	\$ (1,940.98)	\$ (3,439.48)
Miss Soc. Restricted		262.74	81.06	79.67	\$ 21,296.90	\$ 20,931.98	\$ 49.71	\$ 771.24	\$ (638.43)	\$ (1,136.19)
Unit Change /Month	1.8419									
YTD Unit Change	(39.0063)									
Total YTD -Units		2,205.26			\$ 181,911.57	\$ 175,686.98	\$ 416.89	\$ 6,563.71	\$ (5,353.96)	\$ (9,643.86)
Checking Accounts: Operating Acct:					\$ 13,857.42	\$ 4,591.71				
Total Assets, not including property.					\$ 200,930.79	\$ 185,443.80				
Net Change					\$ (15,486.99)	-7.71				
Investment Earnings/Month		\$ 474.16			Investment Expenses/Month		\$ (69.39)			
Investment Earnings/YTD		\$ 3,257.83			Investment Expenses/YTD		\$ (856.50)			

the Rev. Graham Van Keuren, Pastor

Kate Carlise, Intern

Ray Foster, Moderator

Jason Stefanik, Organist/Choir Director

Sydney Cohen, Treasurer

Ruth Bruch, Church Administrator/Clerk

Tom & Elaine Hancock, Webmasters

November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	Election Day 2 Budget Requests Due Worship at Evergreen AA 6:15 - 8:30 Deacons 7 PM	3 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir 7 PM	4 Adult Study 7-8:30 PM	5	6
Daylight Savings 7 Time Ends Communion Tolland Assn. Fall Meeting - Mansfield	8	9 Finance - 12 PM Ladies Aide - 1 PM AA 6:15-8:30	10 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir 7 PM	11 Veterans Day Cabinet Agenda Requests Due Adult Study 7-8:30 PM	12 Supper Prep. (potatoes/pies) Missions 1:30 PM	13 Turkey Supper 5 & 6:15
14	15	16 AA 6:15-8:30	17 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir 7 PM	18 Adult Study 7-8:30 PM	19 Holiday Treasures Set-up	20 Holiday Treasures Fair & Luncheon 9 AM - 2 PM
Cabinet 21 Prayer Shawl - following worship Community Thanksgiving Service - All Saints Church	22 December Spire Deadline	23 Worship at Blair Manor 10:30 AA 6:15-8:30	24 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir 7 PM	25 Thanksgiving	26 Office Closed	27
28 1st Sunday in Advent	29	30 AA 6:15-8:30	Congregational Church of Somersville 22 Maple St., PO Box I, Somersville, CT 06072 860-749-7741 860-749-5132 (fax) somcong@aol.com (email) www.somersvilleucc.org (website) Worship 10 AM Office Hours: Tues. - Fri. 8:15-11:30 AM			

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART - HIDDEN PICTURES - SCARECROW

