

# The Spire

Congregational Church of Somersville  
United Church of Christ

October, 2010



## Missions

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Missions = Solar Cooker** (submitted by Allison Matczak)

The Bethesda Evangelical Mission is just getting their Solar Cooker project off the ground. They need funding to get supplies to Haiti. The cost of one Solar cooker is \$10.00 which will be made and assembled by the Haitians themselves. The solar cookers are needed to help the Haitians become less dependent on charcoal for cooking. Because Haiti is becoming deforested, people are literally dying because they are shot while crossing the border to steal firewood. Solar cookers are being used effectively around the world and need to be used in Haiti. One Solar Cooker can last 15 years. They have no moving parts and need very little maintenance. They are very versatile, easily transportable and are environmentally friendly. The Solar cookers are being used in over 25 countries all over the world.



**Let's take advantage of this opportunity to serve the Lord and give generously to this project**

## From the Pastor

Dear Saints,

As we enter October, we can't help but see around us the many trappings of Halloween. The origins of the holiday are in dispute, but there are clearly some influences from an end-of-the-summer Celtic holiday known as Samhein and a Welsh start-of-the-winter holiday known Galen-gaeof. The ancient residents of the British Isles believed that the buffer between the living and the dead was especially thin during the change from summer to winter. Consequently, it was believed people were susceptible to both friendly and unfriendly spirits during Samhein and Galen-gaeof.

By the sixteenth century, these Welsh and Irish traditions had fully integrated with the Christian celebration of All Saints Day, also known as All Hallows Day or Halloween. On All Saints Day, the church celebrates all the faithful – those who have died in Christ (sometimes called the “Church Triumphant”) as well as those who presently live for Christ (sometimes called the “Church Militant”) – though most of the emphasis historically has gone to celebrating with thanksgiving those who have died in Christ. The night before All Saints Day is known as All Hallows Eve, or Halloween for short.



Today, most of the Celtic, Welsh and Christian origins of Halloween are lost on us. Instead, Halloween has become a seven billion dollar mid-autumn marketing juggernaut. Most people will mark the day by eating too much candy and dressing up as Barack Obama for the neighborhood party. And what could be wrong with that?

Personally, I don't find too much wrong with candy and costumes; it's harmless fun. At the same time, we have a perfectly good church calendar that will guide our worship. Halloween Day, October 31<sup>st</sup>, falls on a Sunday this year. This last Sunday in October is, in our church calendar, Reformation Sunday. It is day our church celebrates those who have prophetically reformed the church over the years, striving tirelessly to keep it faithful. The first Sunday in November will serve as our All Saints Sunday; we will give thanks for each other and all the saints that day.

Of course, Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday don't have quite the contemporary cultural or financial impact that Halloween does, but that's okay. The church is, after all, a

countercultural organization. The ways of the world are not going to be our ways. So as you dress up in a bizarre guise this Halloween, let it remind you of all the ways society tries to get you to live a fake and meaningless existence. Then in our worship celebrations remember with thanksgiving the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life and who has called you to follow.

I hope that idea isn't too spooky for you this Halloween!

Faithfully yours,

Graham Van Keuren

**New Student Pastor for 2010-2011 Academic Year**

(submitted by Graham Van Keuren)

When the last school year drew to a close, Yale Divinity School told us they were unable to match us with another pastoral intern. They just did not have enough students to send one this far away from New Haven.

But things change .. one thing led to another and in early September we were quickly paired with Kate Carlisle, a third year Yale Divinity student from Louisville, KY. It is a surprising and joyful gift to be matched so long after the matching process has concluded. Thanks be to God!

If you have not introduced yourself to Kate, please do so at the next opportunity. Let's make her feel welcome!

**Thanks to ..**

.. all who volunteered to take on "service opportunities" during September.

.. everyone who contributed to the great success of the Roast Pork Supper.



.. those who gave to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Missions collections to support Heifer International. We met our goal of \$500 and that is enough to purchase a cow!!

.. the volunteers who gave of their time and talent at Cornerstone Soup Kitchen.

.. all who continue to support the Blacksmith

Shope via purchases or donations.

**Thanks from ..**

*Les & Donna Sheiber* [Don & Ruth Graham's daughter and son-in-law] "I wanted to thank you for the take out pork dinners; they were so delicious. My parents ate them Saturday night and had their Sunday dinner too with them. The servings are more than generous. My parents love each dinner so much. It was so great because we could all eat together, and having Kathie here, too and no one had to cook! Somersville Church always means so much to my parents. You're all so thoughtful and caring."

**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.

***Halloween Party***

Our annual Halloween party is scheduled for October 29. ALL children are welcome and adult volunteers are needed. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.



**Opportunities in September**

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Fellowship Hosts</u>
10/03		Jack Collins	Mavis Collins	
10/10	Barbara Bagniet Gen Farnham	Patrick Forbes	Al Andrews	
10/17	Rich & Ardie Carey	Patrick Forbes	Dave Pinney	Bill Moran Ulysses Orduz
10/24	Gen Farnham	Linda Longueuil	Art Lachance	Barbara Abbe
10/31	Ray & Jean Foster	George Liberty	Judy Liberty	Ed & Lois Sharpless



*As you can see, there are plenty of open opportunities just waiting for your participation.*

**From the Moderator** (submitted by Ray Foster)

Many years ago, a southern gospel choir, whose director I know from college, had an album on which there was a song, "If the Church Ain't The Church, (whatchya gonna do?)" It was a humorous song, and I don't remember much of it. But one of the verses asked, "If the Deacons don't deack, whatchya gonna do? I don't remember the answer. Take away their fried chicken, or some such foolishness.

Well, at the Congregational Church of Somersville, we have a Deacons Board that deacks. But what do the Deacons do when they are deackin'? There has been curiosity about the work of the Deacons. Of course, the duties of the Deacons are covered in the By-laws of the church that are available to everyone. But recently I spoke with Pastor Graham and Yvonne (Deacon Chair), and together we thought it a good idea to include a Deacon's report on the agenda of every Cabinet Meeting (usually 3rd Sunday of each month.) So, I invite you to attend our Cabinet Meetings. After all, *everyone is welcome*. That way, you will know what the Deacons are doing. And get in on what else is happening. And ask questions. And have your ideas listened to.



See you at the next Cabinet meeting. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in October (the 17<sup>th</sup>) after worship and refreshments.

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

**Conscience is God's built-in warning system.**

**Be very happy when it hurts you. Be worried when it doesn't.**

**"And so I do my best always to have a clear conscience before God and people." – Acts 24:16**

	Aug. 2010	YTD 2010	Budget 2010
Pledges	\$5,179.00	\$54,063.00	\$ 77,000.00
Income	\$8,433.15	\$89,179.40	\$118,210.00
Expenses	\$7,419.90	\$83,853.41	\$128,441.00

Collections for August  
Fundraisers

August supper \$2375.00

YTD net income for fundraisers \$15,456.18



**Parking Lot Update**

YTD Total disbursed \$19,261.12 (through 9/24/2010)

Out YTD pledges are slightly lower than budgeted as we enter the last quarter of this year. Our income remains steady and surprisingly, our expenses are lower than budgeted for this third quarter. However, there were no missions disbursement for August, but we will probably catch up for the fourth quarter.

**Financial Request** (submitted by Al Andrews)

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.



**Parking Lot Update & Stewardship Plans** (submitted by Linda McEwen)

To date we have received a total of \$19,692.00 in pledges toward our goal of \$25,000 for the parking lot. We are asking for your continued support or a payment on your pledge so that we can keep the bills paid as they come in for the work.

**Fundraising Ideas – Parking Lot Raffle**

During the October supper, the Stewardship Committee will hold another raffle, with proceeds going toward the parking lot. An afghan, a fall centerpiece and 2 houseplants, (all donated by me) will be raffled. Tickets will be \$1 for 1 or \$5 for six. If you can donate an item for a prize or would like to participate in the raffle, call Linda McEwen at 860-749-8861.

Some suggestions for other prizes are \$25 or \$50 gift certificates to local businesses or restaurants such as Frankie's, the Plaza, Ike's, a Chinese restaurant or one of the little stores in Somersville. Please help with this request to help make the raffle a profitable success.

### ***Pies and Cookie Baskets***

The Stewardship Committee is exploring the idea of a pie baking venture for Thanksgiving and a cookie basket venture for Christmas. If there is sufficient interest, we will take orders for pies (apple, pumpkin, maybe pecan) for delivery on or around November 20<sup>th</sup>. We would then take orders for cookie baskets for Christmas. We are in the planning stages and would like your input. Please let us know what you think, if you would be able to help us bake pies (at the church kitchen), etc. Speak with your Stewardship Committee: Mavis Collins, or Linda McEwen or to Pastor Graham.

Other fundraising ideas are being considered and welcomed. If you have anything, please let one of us know.

### ***Making Up One's Mind***

*When St. Paul was seeking to encourage the church members of Corinth to participate in a church offering, he wrote: "Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for god loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)*

*Where the stewardship of giving is concerned, each must make up his mind freely and approach the matter with a cheerful attitude. It is prayer and commitment that lead us to the mindset we should have about the matter.*  
- from the Newsletter

### **News from your Property Coordinators**

#### ***New Sexton***

Property announces the hire of a new sexton, Lisa Salvador. Lisa will work with us just two hours per week, so she obviously can't clean the whole church every week. But she is making an important contribution in the impression our building gives visitors. When we have clean restrooms and hallways, we tell people that we care for the facility and keep it looking good. If you happen to see Lisa one day when you are in the building, please greet her warmly. If you have any concerns or suggestions about the work she is doing, please speak with one of the Property Coordinators (Nick Wood and Patrick Forbes) or with Pastor Graham.

#### ***Fall Clean Up***

Our Fall Clean-Up Day is scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> with a rain date of October 30<sup>th</sup>. We've got a long list of items necessary to spruce up and improve the building and grounds, such as leaf pick-up, installing storm windows, repairing the wheelchair ramp, cleaning around the



garage and much more. Put the date on your calendar and plan to come get a little dirty as we clean things up!

### **Ladies Aide Society**

#### ***Monthly Meeting*** (submitted by Barbara Baugnet)

Calling all women!!! You're welcome to attend the monthly meeting of the Ladies Aide Society being held Tuesday, October 12 at 1 PM in the social room. Following the business meeting we'll have a crafting demonstration and opportunity to make candles and soap. Hostesses will be Barbara Abbe and Marge Morgan.

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



This group will meet at 7:30 PM at the Sharpless home on Thursday, October 14. Everyone is welcome; even if you don't know how to knit – a quick lesson will be given.

#### ***Blacksmith Shoppe*** (submitted by Barbara Abbe)

The Blacksmith Shoppe continues to be open each Saturday through October from 10 AM – 3 PM. There is still one open shift (Oct. 16 from 12:15-3:30) to lend a hand at the Shoppe. Help is appreciated at 9 AM to assist in putting items outside for display and again at 3 PM to return unsold items back into the Shoppe. We continue to get community support with numerous donations and purchases. Please continue to bake and contribute to the Shoppe; income benefits church activities.

#### ***Holiday Treasures Fair*** (submitted by Linda Pease-McEwen)

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

We have a few items made for the holiday bazaar, but more work needs to be done. If you have a particular craft that you want to work on for the bazaar, let me know. We also have people donating preserved items such as pickles and jams and we will need baked items as well.

Volunteers will be needed to help set up on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> for the fair. We'll also need help on the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### *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.

### **Men, join us for our next gathering of the Congregational Church's Men's Group!** (submitted by Graham Van Keuren)

On Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> we will enjoy fellowship and football when we cheer the UFL Hartford Colonials as they take on the Omaha Nighthawks at Rentschler Field. Tickets to the 3 p.m. game will cost about \$20 including parking and should be reserved through Graham by October 10<sup>th</sup>. Are you interested in a tailgate lunch beforehand? Let Graham know that, too.



For more information, contact Graham in the church office or at [grahamvk@aol.com](mailto:grahamvk@aol.com).

### **Fundraising Suppers** (submitted by Ruth Bruch)

#### ***Harvest Supper***

A family style Harvest Supper consisting of pot roast with gravy, carrots, onions, homemade breads/rolls, tossed salad, beverage and cake will be held on Saturday, October 9. Sittings will be at 5 & 6:15 PM. As of this writing, we are already full by reservation, but there is a wait list in the event cancellations are receiving. Call 860-749-7741 or emailing [somcong@aol.com](mailto:somcong@aol.com) to inquire. Cost is \$11 for adults and \$5 for children (5-10). Take out orders can be placed and picked up between 5:30-6 and 6:45-7 PM.

As always, there is a lot to do to make these suppers the success they have become. There are several items/talents we would like to have donated including:

- 4 gallons vanilla ice cream
- 6 loaves seasonal breads (ie pumpkin, apple, zucchini, date)
- 16 9x13" pans yellow cake (frosted) – including 3 reduced sugar
- cash donations to pay for potatoes, carrots & onions
- a few volunteers to work in the kitchen
- a few volunteers to help wait on tables [dinner is served family style so you'd just have to pick up serving platters and bowls from the kitchen counter and take to the tables, fill/refill water pitcher and carafes, etc.],



- a few volunteers to assist with clean up (7:30-8 PM) ~ that would be great!

Help will be needed on Friday, Oct. 8 (beginning at 8:30 AM) to peel and cut vegetables

### ***Recap of Sept. Supper***

Once again we had a few no-shows or late cancellations and were unable to fill the seats this time. We ended up with 167 diners and 30 take out orders. There was good response to cash donations so that money was available for the potatoes and vegetables, and other items needed that were not contributed via sign up. By the end of the evening, we took in \$2263 and paid the market \$228.27.

Thanks to everyone who contributed, but I extend special thanks to the great group in the kitchen on Friday, 9/10, for preparing the apple crisp, to Nick Wood for seasoning and cooking the roasts, to Irish Bend Farm for donating all the apples, to Syd Cohen for her donation of 6 huge chrysanthemums that were given as door prizes.

### **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.

### **CT Conference UCC**

143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Part II—*October 22 & 23*

Please join us as we “Journey with Jesus – 400 Years of Transforming Mission” at Middletown High School! It promises to be an exciting day to experience the breadth of overseas mission work. Two hundred years ago the first international society in the United States was founded at pastor Noah Porter’s house in Farmington. What, we wonder, will mission look like two hundred years from now?

The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Robert Orr, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination since 2004, and the highest ranking U.S. citizen at the UN. Workshops will be held on a variety of topics relating to Global

Ministries and other informative topics. Conference business will also be conducted in plenary sessions.

Speak with Graham if you’re interested in attending.

### **Study says religious hospitals more efficient, provide better care**

August 26, 2010 Religion News Service by Daniel Burke

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Catholic and other church-run health care systems in the U.S. are more efficient and provide higher quality care than their secular counterparts, according to a new Thomson Reuters study.

The study looked at 255 health care systems and found that Catholic and other church-owned systems are “significantly more likely to provide higher quality care and efficiency” than both investor-owned and nonprofit health systems.

There was no statistical difference between Catholic and other church-run health systems, according to the study, which built on information gleaned from Reuters’ “Top 100 Hospitals” report.

“Our data suggest that the leadership teams ... of health systems owned by churches may be the most active in aligning quality goals and monitoring achievement across the system,” the report stated.

The report was short on specific reasons for religious hospitals’ success, saying that further study will be required to understand the differences. The performance measures included mortality rates, the number of medical complications, readmission rates, lengths of stay, profitability, and other factors.

The Catholic church in the U.S. runs 624 hospitals and 499 long-term health care facilities, according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“When your mission is rooted in Jesus who healed the sick, only top quality care will do,” said Sister Mary Ann Walsh, a spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops. “This study confirms what many take for granted. The church leads in providing quality health care efficiently.”

Thomson Reuters provides “information solutions” and data to businesses and executives in the health care, finance, legal and media industries.

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

### ***Birthdays***

Happy birthday greetings this month go to: Greg Forbes, Jack Bruch, Tom Gelineau, Jeff Eldridge, Ryan Unger, Collin Kenney, Rose Petkis, Brooke Stevens, Jillian Farnham, Kasey Peters, Kelly Dooley,



Stacy Seibert, Ben Carriere, Caitlyn Stevens,  
Lauren Carlo

### ***Anniversaries***

Those celebrating

anniversaries in October

include: Tony & Michele Bellafronte, Josh & Tracey Clague and  
Patrick & Dotty Forbes

### ***Condolences***

Our sympathies are extended to Marilyn Roberts and Allison Matczak on the passing of Allison's dad, Chet.

### ***Married***

Brent Damrow and Jon Geldert were joined in marriage at  
South Church in Boston on October 2. Congratulations!

## **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.

# October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 (web site) Worship 10 AM					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Worship at Evergreen 11 AM AA 6:15-8:30 Deacons 7 PM	Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir 7 PM	Cabinet Agenda Requests Due	Supper Prep beginning 8:30 AM	Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3 Harvest Supper 5 & 6:15 PM
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Communion Men's Group Reply Deadline		Ladies Aide 1 PM AA 6:15-8:30	Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Nominating 6 PM Christian Ed 7 PM Choir 7 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 PM at Sharpless'	Missions 2 PM	Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3 Men's Group to Rentschler Field
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Cabinet following worship		Finance 12 PM AA 6:15-8:30	Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir 7 PM		CT Conference Fall Meeting in Middletown	Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3 Fall Clean Up CT Conf. Fall Meeting in Middletown
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Spire Deadline		Worship at Blair Manor 10:30 AM Crafts 10:30 AM AA 6:15-8:30	Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir 7 PM		Halloween Party	Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3 Rain Date for Fall Clean Up
31	Halloween Graham Van Keuren, Pastor Kate Carlisle, Student Intern    Ruth Bruch, Church Administrator/Clerk Ray Foster, Moderator            Jason Stefanik, Organist/Choir Director Sydney Cohen, Treasurer         Tom & Elaine Hancock, Webmasters					

Hidden Pictures for the Young at Heart - Apple Picking

