

The Spire

Congregational Church of Somersville
United Church of Christ

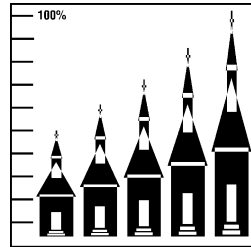
October, 2011



Capital Campaign Update (submitted by Ray Foster, moderator)

We've been making some progress on our capital campaign projects, but we still don't have all the funding we were seeking. Our campaign goal was \$14,795; our pledges total \$11,500 and \$10,400 has been paid to date. We are about \$3000 short of our goal and we are all encouraged to "find the joy in giving". It's not too late to pledge – or increase your pledge – or simply make a donation to the church earmarked "capital campaign".

- The handicap ramp has been repaired.
- The parsonage exterior painting is complete and sealed with a protectorate.
- The gutters have not been started but the project has been authorized by the trustees; we're also suggesting the gutter near the ramp have a cover added to it.
- The parking lot cracks, filling and sealing still needs to be done as does the striping and signage – available to be determined
- The carpeting of the stairs and Gowdy Room is on hold due to a shortfall in pledges.
- The door replacement will cost more than we anticipated. The Ladies Aide pledged \$2000 toward the cost; however the cost may be up to \$4000. We'll proceed with the front doors if the \$2000 pledge will cover that expense.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Trustees/Deacons Meeting

There will be a combined Trustees/Deacons meeting on Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. Ms. Patsy Bjorling, of the CT Conference, will address various spiritual questions surrounding the endowment.

From the Pastor



Reformation Sunday

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the approaching worship festivals in our church is Reformation Sunday, which is traditionally held on the last Sunday of October. Reformation Sunday celebrates the Protestant Reformation that swept much of Europe in the 16th century following the lead of Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, and other brave reformers.

The contemporary Christian scholar Phyllis Tickle argues that the Christian church has historically experienced profound reformations about every five hundred years. If that pattern were to hold, it would mean we are due for a reformation more or less around now. With the explosion of non-western Christianity in Africa and Asia (note: far more Christians are now African or Asian than European or North American), we may truly be on the cusp of seeing dramatic transformations in the way the majority of our brothers and sisters in Christ practice the Christian faith.

That brings to mind an interesting thought exercise for us to try. If you were to take responsibility for reforming our church so that it became a more faithful expression of the Body of Christ as you understand it, how would you do so? Would we continue to meet in a church building, or would we take turns meeting in people's houses? Would we have called professional pastors and other church leaders or would we pray for the Spirit to fall on someone different each week who would provide us with an interpretation and application of the Word? Would the Christian education program be totally revamped, or would it still rely on a classroom model with appointed teachers? Would you deemphasize some parts of our current worship service and highlight others? Let your imagination run!

As far as I can tell, I don't think we're feeling called to a radical reformation of how we engage in our ministry here, but it never hurts to try to imagine things differently. If you come up with some really exciting ideas, approach the Deacons at their "Meet the Deacons" event on October 2nd. I promise we'll carefully and prayerfully take up your thoughts in our next official monthly meeting scheduled for October 4th.

In the meantime, please join me in giving thanks for all those who strive to make the church as faithful to Jesus Christ as it can be. May you be blessed with your own reformation of spirit and, in so doing, be drawn ever closer in your walk with God.

Faithfully yours,
Graham Van Keuren

More from the Moderator (submitted by Ray Foster)

October Cabinet

Everyone is welcome to attend the October 16 meeting of the cabinet; it's held in the social room following worship and a brief time of coffee fellowship. At that time we will set a date for our "prior to the end of the year" budget meeting. Any other individual, board or committee having business to bring before the group at that meeting should speak with me or Pastor Graham by October 9.

Thanks to ..

- .. everyone who volunteered to participate in the service opportunities for September.
- .. those who donated to, and helped at, the Sept. roast pork supper.
- .. all who made donations to the 2nd Mile Missions collection to benefit Heifer International this past month.
- .. those who assisted at Cornerstone Soup Kitchen.
- .. everyone who is supporting the Blacksmith Shoppe this fall season.



Thanks from ..

Martha Baker – "Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers & cards."

Christian Education

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday morning Bible study continues to meet weekly in the social room from 9:30-11:15 AM. All are invited as we continue our study of Luke.



Annual Halloween Party

(submitted by Pat Scully)

This year's Halloween party, sponsored by Christian Education, is scheduled for either October 28 or 30. All members and

family/friends are invited. Please let Marj or Pat know if you'd like to attend. Details to follow.

Opportunities in October

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Fellowship Hosts</u>
10/02	Donna Pendleton Elma Fletcher	Bill Moran Patrick Forbes	Ulysses Orduz	Rich & Ardie Carey
10/09	Chuck & Laura Elwood	Donna Pendleton	Elaine Hancock	Tom & Elaine Hancock
10/16	Donna Pendleton Elma Fletcher	Rich & Ardie Carey	Mavis Collins	Bert & Mae Chillson
10/23		Donna Pendleton Patrick Forbes	Art Lachance	
10/30	Donna Pendleton Elma Fletcher	Mae Chillson Patrick Forbes	Al Andrews	

Report of the Treasurer (submitted by Sydney Cohen)

"No" is one of the few words that can never be misunderstood.
But let your statement be "yes, yes" or "no, no". Matt 5:37.

	August 2011	Monthly Budget	YTD	Annual Budget
Pledges	\$4,818.00	\$ 6,737.50	\$53,416.00	\$ 80,850.00
Income	\$11,400.25	\$ 9,404.56	\$80,865.18	\$ 112,855
Expenses	\$10,827.70	\$10,494.41	\$90,005.99	\$ 125,933

Collections for August

Fund Raiser Pork Roast Dinner- 2,029.00-
net income

Flow through Items- Income

Monthly Mission Giving

Loaves & Fishes- 25.00- YTD 227.00

Capital Campaign 2011- 4,435.00- YTD Total 10,435.00

Flow through Items- Expense

Small Church Grant- 441.72- for the tents used on the green.

August was a slow month income wise. I borrowed 3000.00 from the Endowment Fund to help with expenses. While the income from the dinners is always a welcome sight and the Endowment Fund is a blessing, if we did not have these, or even one of these available to us,



we would not meet our monthly expenses, such as payroll and utilities, and our committees, all of them, would not be able to provide the programs and events we have all become accustomed to. Pledges are not just a number we need to reach, but a commitment to God and his people of this church. Let's not become complacent in our giving and expect someone else like a supper attendee to fill in our faith giving commitments.

Finance Request

All boards/committees having budgets should submit budget requests for 2012 to Finance prior to their meeting on October 11. Please review your current and past budgets to see how you've spent the funds – use the current budget to make comparisons.

Budget\$Planning

Historian's Corner (submitted by Johanna Karbonic)

Who Am I?

I was born in Mansfield, Connecticut. I became a member and was married in the Mansfield Congregational Church. After I got married, I moved to Somers. Because my husband and his family were prominent members of the Congregational Church of Somersville, I also became a member of the church in 1959. My parents remained in Mansfield and attended the Mansfield Congregational Church. I was a nurse for many years at Johnson Memorial Hospital. I have three children who attended the Congregational Church of Somersville.

The reason I continue to come to this church is because of the inspirational music, sermons, and the "feelings of family". "When people are part of a small church, they become involved with everyone in the church."



I enjoy working at the Blacksmith Shoppe, but wish I had more time to be involved in the church. Because of my short church year at Somersville, I do what I can do to help the church. My fondest memory of the church is my daughter's wedding in the church. (She probably has more memories in her 52 years, but was not given enough time to think about them.) I've been collector, a Sunday school teacher and

an assistant leader (with her husband) of a wonderful Senior PF group when Gordon Vought was minister (1968 – 1974). At that time, the PF was a very active group with many trips, Sunday night meetings, middle of the week planning meetings, special dinners, weekend retreats, and even put on the musical "Godspell".

When asked what difference she would like to see in the church she responded she would like to see more ladies involved in Ladies Aid and the Blacksmith Shoppe. In the past, Ladies Aid was a more active group with many programs. (Of course at that time, more women were home and available.) Because the Blacksmith Shoppe has become such an important shopping place for many people in the area, she is afraid that in the future more involvement of church people will be needed to keep it maintained.

She greatly admires Mavis Collins, who is so thoughtful, always has a smile and nice things to say about everyone. She would like to be more like her.

Our mystery lady of the month is a quiet person with a big heart and a desire to do what she can for the church and for others. If you can't recognize this woman, the answer is in the "About Members and Friends" section toward the back of this issue.

Missions Outreach

2nd Mile Missions (submitted by Geneva Farnham)

The 2nd Mile Missions collection for October will go to the United Nations Children's Fund Trick or Treat for UNICEF. These collections teach us many things – compassion, caring and respect. Just pennies can buy so much:

- .32 can buy 4 boxes of crayons
 - .93 can immunize 2 children against polio
 - .72 can immunize 2 boys or girls against measles
 - 2.04 can buy 4 packets of ready-to-eat supplements for children who are ill from lack of food
 - 4.37 can buy a water filter
- Once a child is well \$1.65 will buy 2 jump ropes or \$3.54 will buy a basketball.



Collections from UNICEF are used in so many ways and in so many nations including North and South America – better sanitation facilities to promote cleanliness and better health.

Make Halloween count – let us each and every one take a UNICEF box and see what we can do with one month's collection of coins.

Ladies Aide Society



Women of the Church

Monthly Meeting

ALL women of the church are invited to attend the fellowship and business meeting on Tuesday, October 11 at 1 PM in the social room. Barbara Abbe and Marge Morgan will be our hostesses.

Prayer Shawl Ministry (submitted by Lois Sharpless)

The group will meet at the church at 2 PM on Thursday, October 20. All new and experienced knitters are welcome.

Blacksmith Shoppe (submitted by Barbara Abbe)

Three nice Saturdays so far in September and we have done very well. Each week we price and put out different items which keeps our clients coming to shop. We have had an amazing number of people coming in.

Every week we need baked goods which give us a better profit. Right now is the season for pies but anything you bake will be sold. The Shoppe looks really good on the outside as Nick Wood keeps the grass mowed and Millie & Everett Morrill have kept the flowers watered and looking beautiful. Dan and Art have been a big help almost every week. Every Saturday when the sun is shining *we need help putting items outside at 9 AM and bringing them in at 3 PM. Please stop at the Shoppe if you can help.*

All money earned by the Ladies Aid is used to benefit our church.



Notes from the Men's Group (submitted by Pastor Graham)

The men's group met for a planning session on Sunday, September 25th after coffee fellowship. We decided to continue mixing up our activities so that some would be in service to others, some would be activities of Christian fellowship, and some would be specifically designed to be spiritually enriching.



To that end, the group decided to take on some significant home maintenance work that can help out one of our local families. We'll also head to a Springfield Falcons game later this year for fun and fellowship, inviting our biological family members as well as anyone else who is a member or friend of our church family. Then in February, the men will gather one evening for dinner and Bible study. Later that spring, we plan to go canoeing, hiking, fishing and picnicking at Bigelow Hollow in Union.

As you can see, we've got a number of great activities in store. If you're interested in learning more about our men's group or want to express your interest, please speak with Graham and he'll make sure you get plugged in to our activities.

Property Update (submitted by Patrick Forbes & Everett Morrill)

Our Fall clean up day is scheduled for October 29th beginning at 9 AM. We're putting together a list of items necessary to spruce up and improve the buildings and grounds such as leaf pick-up, installing storm windows, etc. Put the date on your calendar and plan to come get a little dirty as we clean things up!



Fundraising Suppers (submitted by Ruth Bruch)

Recap of September Supper

We've really been put to the test the past few months – as far as assistance is concerned. We've had a skeleton crew in food preparation, serving and cleaning – it's been a tough summer!

Reservations come in well for our suppers each month, but during September, there were very few on the wait list so there were some open seats at the 5 o'clock sitting and a few last minute cancellations at 6:15. We ended up serving 180 in the dining area and 29 meals were put up for take outs – plus the “help”. Thanks to Nick Wood for seasoning and cooking the pork; it was tasty and tender. Thanks, also, to Syd Cohen for donating 6 of her beautiful huge mums that were “raffled” to our diners. By the end of the evening, we took in \$2205 and paid the market \$242 for the meat.



Roast Beef Dinner

Roast Beef Supper Next

The date of our next fundraising supper has been changed to October 15; it seems a number of potential workers will be unavailable on Columbus Day weekend this year. The menu will be roast beef with gravy, baked potato, mixed vegetables, salad, homemade breads, beverage and apple crisp. A sign up sheet for help/donations is posted in the social room.

Some of the open opportunities are:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 5 heads lettuce | 4 pints grape tomatoes |
| 3 lb. red onions | homemade breads – your choice |
| d-caf coffee | apple crisp (recipe on board) |
| frozen mixed veggies (19 1 lb bags or equiv.) | |
| \$ for potatoes | serve in dining room |
| help in kitchen | help clean up |
| help Sat. AM | etc., etc., etc. |

This & That

- **Fellowship hosts** are needed for the remainder for the year. Anyone willing to provide a light snack following worship on any given Sunday is encouraged to sign up in the social room
- **Meeting minutes** are to be filed with the office. Copies will also be posted on the bulletin board on the south wall of the social room.



In Indonesia, church runs afoul of Islamic street name

September 20, 2011 Ecumenical News International David Crampton
WELLINGTON, New Zealand

In a test case of religious intolerance in the world’s largest Muslim-majority country, an Indonesian mayor is defying court rulings by pushing for a decree to block Christians from opening churches on streets with Islamic names.

Members of the Taman Yasmin Indonesian Christian Church in the West Java town of Bogor are, after three years, still forced to worship on the sidewalk outside their building, protected by police.

The administration of Bogor mayor Diani Budiarto revoked the church’s building permit and sealed the building as the street had an Islamic name. The mayor’s office also alleged that church leaders had falsified signatures when obtaining the permit.

Local Muslim cleric Muhammad Mustofa, whose father is the street’s namesake, has publicly stated that he has no objection to the church. “Islam in Indonesia ... has always interacted with Buddhism, and Christianity. We are ready to live side by side with anyone,” he told the Al Jazeera news network.

Although a verdict from Indonesia’s highest court in December, backed by the National Ombudsman Commission, favored the church, Bogor has defied the order. Church spokesperson Bona Sigalingging said the mayor’s defiance was dangerous and unlawful.

“There are many churches built on streets with Islamic names, and mosques on streets with Christian names,” he told Al Jazeera on Sept. 3. “This is dangerous for the unity of Indonesia ... The mayor promised that he would abide by whatever decision was handed down by the Supreme Court.”

The United Nations has written to the Indonesian government expressing concern about increasing violence against religious minorities, specifically mentioning this case. Last year at least 30 churches were attacked or forced to close. Some were burned, and church members attacked.

Ombudsman Commission chairman Danang Girindrawardana reportedly instructed Budiarto to annul the decision to revoke the permit in two weeks, or President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono may move to end the standoff.

However, Yudhoyono is said to be reluctant to challenge the issue of increasingly violent Islamic intolerance as he depends on Islamic support in Parliament. The Jakarta Post, in an Aug. 21 editorial, said if Bogor was to

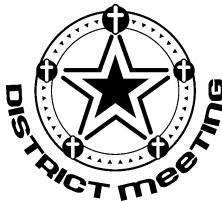
prevail, Indonesia risks sliding into anarchy. "We pray that the mayor will soon obey the law for the good of the nation," the newspaper said.

Recent research by the Pew Research Centre found Indonesia was one of two countries that had recorded significant increases in religious restrictions, while the Associated Press reported 64 incidents of violence involving religious intolerance in Indonesia last year, up from 18 in 2009.

Connecticut Conference, UCC

The Fall Session of the Conference Annual Meeting will be held October 22, from 8 AM – 5 PM at the First Congregational Church in Guilford.

The Rev. Charles Wildman will deliver the Interim Conference Minister's address. He will offer some insights he has gleaned about the transition of the CT conference. The Conference Minister Search Committee will be in conversation with delegates and visitors. They will be seeking issues, concerns, joys and ideas as they work to identify the Connecticut Conference profile and identity. Some time will spent in reflection of who we are and who do we want to be.



There will be business conducted during this meeting. The 2012 budget will be on the agenda for approval. The Living Waters Award will be presented to Marilyn Graham, Executive Director of HOPE, Inc. and a member of the Mystic Congregational Church. There is a Resolution of Implementation to be considered, reports to be given and recognitions to be celebrated.

Anyone interested in attending as a delegate (with Rev. Van Keuren) should speak with him.

Silver Lake Invitation (Tim and Anne Hughes
Co-Directors Silver Lake Conference Center)

Don't miss these upcoming Silver Lake retreats for adults:

Women's Yoga, Music and Spirituality Retreat, Oct. 14th-16th: come away and treat yourself to this sacred time away at Silver Lake for Yoga, singing, relaxing, refreshing and prayer, and creativity, and cuisine..... Rejuvenate, enjoy and bring a friend to this popular, 5th annual Fall Women's Retreat.... No matter where you are on your faith, self-care, or Yoga practice, you



are welcome here! Register now at:

<http://silverlake.ctucc.org/events.php?event=2746>

Men's Spirituality Retreat, Nov. 18th-20th. 'On the Edge of Fire': Rev. Dr. Mark Heilshorn (formerly of First Congregational Church of Woodbury) and the Rev. Dr. Peter Allen (formerly of Monroe Congregational Church) will guide a weekend of activities, workshops, and speakers to discuss the value of the masculine spirit. Joining us will be Jody Grose (American Indian Spirituality acclaim) and MJ Durkin (nationally recognized speaker and writer) for a spirit-lifting weekend at Silver Lake! Finally, a weekend for Men! Register online at: <http://silverlake.ctucc.org/events.php?event=2689>

And as always, last weekend in Oct: Fall Action Work Weekend!

Come help camp close up summer cabins for the summer, restock the woodbins, fix buildings, rake the leaves and enjoy a chance to work alongside tomorrow's leaders for the church and for the world! Bring your work gloves, get ready to roll up your sleeves and sweat your heart out!

About our Members and Friends

Birthdays

Birthdays are being celebrated this month by: Greg Forbes, Jack Bruch, Jeff Eldridge, Rose Petkis, Brooke Stevens, Jillian Farnham, Ben Carriere, Marie Worthington



Anniversaries

Couples observing anniversaries in October include: Tony & Michele Bellafronte, Josh & Tracey Clague, Patrick & Dotty Forbes

New Baby

Lindsey & Bill Atkins were blessed by God on September 6 with the birth of their son, Graham Theodore. He weighed 8 lb. 7 oz. and was 20" long. His big brother is Will. Les & Donna Sheiber are the proud grandparents; his very special great-grandmothers are Ruth Graham and Guiftina Sheiber. Congratulations!

Who Am I??

I am Barbara
Abbe!!



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

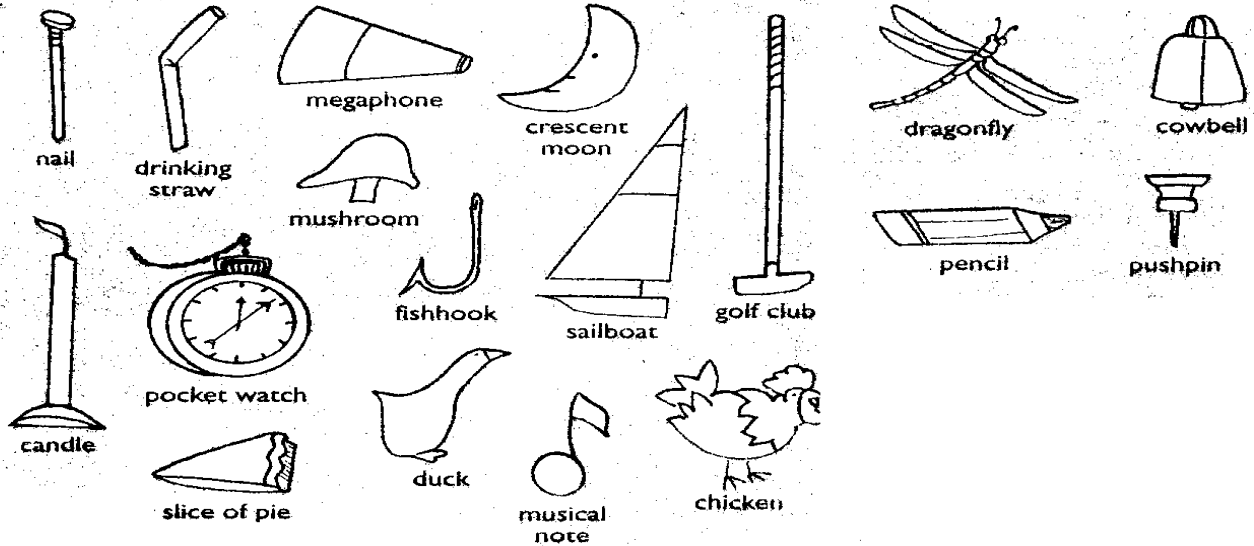
- We will follow a process that includes unconditional listening and time to collect thought, enabling all individuals to comfortably express their opinions.
- Our actions and demeanor will support and empower all participants
- All opinions will be welcomed, reflectively considered and respected.
- 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 2011

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 Office Hours: Tues-Fri. 8:15-11:15 AM						1 Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3
2 Communion Meet the Deacons	3	4 Evergreen worship 11 AA 6:15-8:30 Deacons 7	5 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir	6	7	8 Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3
9 Cabinet Agenda & Budget Requests Due	10 Columbus Day	11 Finance 11:30 Ladies Aide 1 PM AA 6:15-8:30	12 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir	13 Trustees & Deacons 7 PM	14	15 Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3 Roast Beef Supper 5 & 6:15
16 Cabinet	17	18 AA 6:15-8:30	19 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir	20 Missions 1 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 2 PM at church	21	22 Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3 UCC Annual Meeting in Guilford
23 Spire Deadline	24	25 Blair Manor worship 10:30 AA 6:15-8:30	26 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir	27	28 Halloween Party (or 10/30)	29 Fall Clean Up 9 AM Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3
30 Alternate Date for Halloween Party	31 Halloween	the Rev. Graham Van Keuren, Pastor Ray Foster, Moderator Sydney Cohen, Treasurer Ruth Bruch, Church Administrator/Clerk Jason Stefanik, Organist/Choir Director				

*Support the Blacksmith Shoppe ...
 Donate, Purchase,
 Bake,
 Sign up to Work a Shift*

Hidden Pictures - For the Young at Heart





FEMA

Need help after Irene?

Register with FEMA

It's easy to get started

Call 800-621-3362 (FEMA)

TTY: 800-462-7585

Online: www.disasterassistance.gov or smart phone: m.fema.gov

You'll be asked for

Your phone number for callback, Social Security number, current mailing address, the address of damaged property, brief description of damages, insurance information (if insured).

You're registered!

You'll be issued a FEMA application ID # for all your future contact with FEMA. A FEMA disaster housing inspector may call to set up an appointment to view damages.

Assistance may include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-interest loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help recover from the effects of the disaster.

Disaster assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621 FEMA (3362). For TTY, call 800-462-7585.