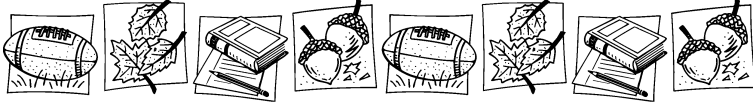


# The Spire

Congregational Church of Somersville  
United Church of Christ

September, 2011



## From the Moderator (submitted by Ray Foster)

### *Meeting*

Now that the summer vacation season is past, and hurricane Irene is gone, it seems appropriate that we turn attention to the opening of the church's program year.

We will be having our first Cabinet meeting on Sunday, September 18 following worship. I hope we will hear reports from several boards – those who will be presenting should contact myself or Graham by Sept. 8 so you can be put on the agenda. I also would like the Cabinet to set a date for the new annual congregational budget meeting. You will recall that we decided to begin adopting our yearly budget before the end of each calendar year so that the new budget will be in place when the new year begins.

With regard to the Congregational Budget Meeting, I believe that we should elect church officers (Moderator, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk) at the same meeting. It seems to make sense that these officers be elected to coincide with our budget year. The program staff (chairs and members of Boards and Committees) would be elected at a meeting to be held later when we hear reports, engage in a congregation roll call, eat, and otherwise celebrate our life together.

All members and friends are invited and encouraged to attend the Cabinet. See you soon.

### *Trustees*

The Trustees will meet at the church on Thursday, Sept. 8, at 12 noon.



## From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

A married couple in the church has requested that they be able to renew their wedding vows during worship on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The deacons and I were given the opportunity over the summer to consider the request and we believe that such an act could be an appropriate part of our worship life together. (In fact, you may recall that we celebrated a wedding in one of our Sunday services a couple years ago.)

In our Christian tradition, a wedding is not understood to be a private contract between two parties – a contract that others may or may not be invited to witness. Rather, a wedding is a community affair, one that the church is called upon to uphold and support since the gift of marriage has been given to us to be an earthly reflection of the divine love between God and creation as well as between Christ and the church. It is proper that the gift of marriage be celebrated in the midst of the worshipping community.

That said, a wedding (or renewal of vows) never takes the place of a Service of the Lord's Day, but is done in response to the proclaimed Word, as is typically the case with the sacraments and rites of the church. Consequently, the renewal of vows on September 18<sup>th</sup> will be a brief ritual of affirmation that will follow the scripture and sermon.



If you are interested in renewing your vows on 9/18, please call or email me. There is no reason why we can't have more than one couple affirm their marriage covenant at the same time. If you have a compelling reason for renewing your vows at another time, please contact me to discuss another date. And please know that there is no expectation by myself or the deacons that couples would or should seek to publicly renew their vows. If it will be a meaningful exercise for you, know that you are invited to participate. If it does not seem like it meets your spiritual need right now, that's perfectly fine, too.

And most of all, please know that whether you are married or single... no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey... you are welcome here. Thank you for being a part of our community of faith!

Yours in Christ,

Graham Van Keuren

**Thanks to ..**

- .. everyone who volunteered to take on the various summer service opportunities.
- .. all who helped at the ice cream social hosted by Missions.
- .. those who donated to, and helped at, the two summer fundraising suppers.
- .. our Vacation Bible School leaders, assistants and participants.
- .. those volunteers who continue to care for the church property and grounds.



**Thanks from ..**

the family of Don Graham .. “The Graham, Gonzales, Sheiber and Atkins families would like to thank everyone at the Somersville Congregational Church for all of the prayers, support, cards, and food at the passing of Don Graham. That meant so much to our family. May God bless you all.”

*“Being happy doesn’t mean everything’s perfect .... it means you decide to see beyond the imperfections.”*  
 (- shared by Ardie Carey)

**Christian Education**

***Sunday School***

Sunday school classes will begin on September 11. Parents, grandparents, guardians are encouraged to bring youngsters to church.



***Sunday School Teachers Wanted***

Christian Education is looking for more teachers for Sunday School. I think any new teacher could expect to teach once every 4-6 weeks – depending on the age group. No experience required – just a love of God and children! Speak with Pat Scully, Marj Butler or Pastor Graham.

***Wednesday Bible Study***

Wednesday morning Bible study meets weekly in the social room from 9:30-11:15 AM. All are invited as we begin our study of the Gospel of Luke on September 7.

**Opportunities in September**

As you can see from this chart, there are plenty of open opportunities for September .... please offer your services by signing up in the social room.



	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Fellowship Hosts</u>
9/04		Donna Pendleton		Tom & Elaine Hancock
9/11	Donna Pendleton	Marge Morgan	Art Lachance	
9/18	Dan Dunn Art Lachance	Donna Pendleton	Ardie Carey	Tom & Elaine Hancock
9/25	Donna Pendleton	Dan Dunn Art Lachance		



**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.

	<b>July 2011</b>	<b>Monthly Budget</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
Pledges	\$4,032.00	\$ 6,737.50	\$48,748.00	\$ 80,850.00
Income	\$7,219.08	\$ 9,404.56	\$69,614.93	\$ 112,855.00
Expenses	\$8,393.05	\$10,494.41	\$79,178.29	\$125,933.00

**Collections for July**

Fund Raiser Chicken BBQ Dinner- 1,870.85- net income

**Flow through Items- Income**

Monthly Mission Giving Loaves & Fishes- 55.00

Capital Campaign 2011- 1,250.00- YTD Total 5,850.00

## Flow through Items- Expense

Capital Campaign 2011- 35.00

Due to summer activities, our pledges were well under budget for July, though on the bright side, our expenses were well under budget also. There was not a lot of financial activity in the church in July as reflected in the flow through income and expense. The chicken bbq dinner income was an added bonus. The total so far for the capital campaign 2011 is 5,850.00. So far, the only disbursement has been for the measuring cost for the carpet in the church.



## Missions Outreach

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Missions* (submitted by Geneva Farnham)

Long ago, God gave the world a second chance – human corruption was destroying the earth – Noah obeyed God’s call – built an ark and when the rains of judgment came, one family and a few animals carried God’s promise to preserve the world.

Today, a new “flood” of hunger, poverty and environmental destruction threatens to destroy the earth and its creatures. The poorest and most vulnerable are ignored – the earth suffers.



In partnership with congregations, Heifer International is an ark for today’s world – a refuge for people in need. Through gifts of livestock, fish, honeybees, seedlings, Heifer offers struggling families the means to feed themselves, breeding programs to ensure food for future generations and learning how to care for their environment.

**HEIFER** is everywhere! The Americas, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Asia/South Pacific.

Last year we collected \$688.03 for Heifer. Let’s try to reach that goal plus one dollar.

God’s blessings on one and all.

### *Cornerstone Soup Kitchen* (submitted by Johanna Karbonic)

As it stands right now, we are planning to prepare and serve a meal at Cornerstone in Rockville on Tuesday, September 20. Those interested and willing to assist should speak with me ~ for those preparing the meal, we will leave from the church at 2:30; servers should arrive at Cornerstone by 4:30 and we’ll return by 6:30.

## Ladies Aide Society

### *Monthly Meeting*

ALL women of the church are invited to “go to lunch” on Tuesday, September 13, to the Golden Corral in Springfield. We can carpool from the church – meeting at 12 noon. Join us, won’t you?

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

The group will try a new meeting date and time this month .. we will meet at the church at 2 PM on Thursday, September 22. New and experienced knitters are welcome.

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

The Blacksmith Shoppe will be open each Saturday (beginning September 3<sup>rd</sup>) in September and October from 10-3 PM. Inventory at the Shoppe includes Avon collectibles, old books, baskets, frames, linens, toys/puzzles, tools, kitchen items and glassware, small furniture and a whole lot more. Please remember to bake often – folks always flock to that table to see what we’ve been cooking.



There are two shifts or opportunities for help at the Shoppe each Saturday: 9 AM – 12:15 and 12:15-3:30. If you can spare a few hours on any given Saturday to assist, please sign up in the social room. Or, help is always appreciated at 9 AM to assist in bringing items outside for display or at 3 PM to bring merchandise back in.

We can always use donations of new or gently used household items, but please NO clothing, tv’s or electronics. Contact Barbara Abbe, Marge Morgan or Joan Lange to arrange drop off.

*"Your attitude toward life defines not only who you are,  
but the quality of life you will have."  
(-shared by Ardie Carey)*



**Men's Group** (submitted by Pastor Graham)

Calling all men! Now that autumn is fast approaching, it's a good time to resume our informal men's group activities. Through conversations with several of you, I've heard some good ideas this summer. As in the past, these ideas have included service activities, fellowship activities and discipleship activities. How is this for a small sampling of what has been proposed?

- **Act of Service:** Coordinate a one-time coffee house at our church featuring a few types of coffees and teas, sweet and savory treats, and live performances from some of our talented church members and friends. One person suggested we could hold an event like this on a Friday evening around 7:30. Any money raised through food sales or through donations would go to a worthy cause or project.
- **Act of Fellowship:** Plan a trip for all interested guys to a Springfield Falcons ice hockey home game at the MassMutual Center on a Saturday evening.
- **Act of Discipleship:** Have a Thursday evening study on Biblical examples of being a good father, a good husband, and a good son. Then think through together what these examples can mean for us today.



And there are lots more ideas where those came from! So let's get together after church on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. We'll meet in the library/meeting room in order to set a calendar of fall activities. Bring your refreshments from coffee hour with you; most of all, though, bring your ideas and enthusiasm.

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

***Recap of July and August Suppers***

Folks must have been away on July 16 because our chicken barbecue was not sold out. There were plenty of open seats for the 2<sup>nd</sup> sitting. The dinner brought in \$2088 and the bake sale brought in \$131.50; our expenses for the evening were \$283.14.

Our pot roast supper, on the other hand, was full by reservation in a day and a half and we also set up close to 30 take out dinners. Because "help" was so hard to come by for the August 13 supper, those who were on site really worked hard. Special thanks to those folks who aren't usually here during the supper but took on the task. It was a long, hot, grueling day and evening. We took in \$2422 which included some cash donations. The meat cost us \$393.00.

***Sept. 10 Supper***

Help and donations are needed in order to make the September 10 roast pork supper a success. Nick will season and cook the pork for us. But, we do need a lot of other ingredients and assistance. Some of the items needed are:

20 heads of lettuce	10 pints grape tomatoes
12 cucumbers	10 peppers
3 lb. red onions	2 lb. croutons
homemade breads	30 lb. frozen peas
3 gal. vanilla ice cream	



We could also use assistance both Friday and Saturday mornings peeling potatoes, making peach cobbler, prepare salad fixings, setting the dining room, etc. And help is needed Saturday night during the supper – both in the kitchen and dining area. Please check out the opportunities posted on the sign up sheet in the social room or give me a call at the church office (860-749-7741).

## 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.

### **Norway's churches at center of country's efforts to heal after attacks**

August 1, 2011 Ecumenical News International by Oivind Ostang  
TRONDHEIM

A Norwegian bishop addressing the recent bombing and shooting attacks in his country said Norway has "countered this insane terrorism by demonstrating love and solidarity."

"We have brought out a social capital we maybe even did not know was there. We must rebuild our trust in human beings as fellow human beings," said Church of Norway Bishop Tor Singsaas of Nidaros at the opening of the annual St. Olav Festival in Trondheim on July 28.

In the days since the attacks, Norwegian priests and church workers have joined in caring for the survivors and the victims' families, with churches opened for people seeking comfort and community. Oslo's Lutheran Cathedral, situated a few blocks from the damaged government buildings, has become a center for mourners to light candles. Outside the cathedral, flowers cover large areas and also the street.

As Norwegian police finish the complex task of identifying victims, burials will begin to take place all over the country, most of them in Church of Norway churches and chapels.

On July 24 Oslo Cathedral changed its regular Sunday service into a televised "mass of grief and hope."

"We will not let fear paralyze us," said Church of Norway Presiding Bishop Helga Haugland Byfuglien in her homily.

Preaching to a packed cathedral, and with Norway's royal family and political leaders present, Byfuglien said that "in the midst of the gruesome, something beautiful is emerging: the God-given ability of

every human being to show goodness and charity. This makes us see glimpses of God."

Acts and messages of ecclesial condolences and support have been numerous since the attacks on July 22. Pope Benedict XVI expressed his compassion in a message to Norway's King Harald V.

On July 27 Denmark's Queen and Prime Minister participated in a memorial service in Copenhagen's Lutheran Cathedral. Lutheran Bishop Emeritus of Oslo Gunnar Staalsett told the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation that Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist leaders have sent their messages of support via the World Council of Religious Leaders.

After officially opening the St. Olav Festival in Trondheim on July 28, Norway's minister of foreign affairs, Jonas Gahr Stoere, presented Nidaros Cathedral with an icon created by monks in an Orthodox monastery in Dekani, Kosovo. Depicting St. Olav of Norway and St. Stephen of Dekani, the icon was presented to Stoere during his visit to Kosovo this Easter.

In his speech Stoere said the old ecclesial center of Nidaros underlines Norway's broad European Christian heritage.

St. Olav Festival takes place in and around Trondheim's medieval Nidaros Cathedral, grave church of Norway's patron saint Olav II Haraldsson (995-1030). The festival has in recent decades grown into a forceful reminder of Christianity's long lineage in Norway and other Nordic countries — which many people feel has been gravely exploited by last week's terrorist attacks.

### 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.

### ***Tolland Association***

The Ecclesiastical Council of the Tolland Association will meet on Sunday, September 11 at 3 PM at the Bolton Congregational Church to consider Ms. Chris Davies for pastoral ministry. Ms. Davies will present her ordination paper, "Enacting Theology" prior to questions and a vote.

### **About our Members and Friends**



### ***Birthdays***

Birthdays are being celebrated this month by: Eric Elley, Everett Baker (80+), Yvonne Wood, Pat Eastwood, Sean Farnham, Mark Ceppetelli, Erica St. John, Ed Sharpless, Bert Chillson

### ***Anniversaries***

Couples observing anniversaries in September include: Darren & Melanie Stevens, Roger & Nancy Pease, George & Judy Liberty (58<sup>th</sup>), John & Ashley Collins, Graham Van Keuren & Eric Elley, Everett & Millie Morrill (51<sup>st</sup>)

### ***In Sympathy***

Donald Graham, a member of this church since March 3, 1957, passed away on July 12, 2011. Don was a Navy veteran of World War II and served on a LCI 948 boat, as part of an underwater demolition team. He had been a member of the DAV Chapter #52 for over 10 years. He was a member of the



Scantic Valley Engine Club for the past 20 years and lifetime member of the Enfield Grange. Donald is survived by his wife Ruth of 64 years; and his children, Donna Sheiber and her husband Les of Windsor, and Kathie Gonzales and her husband Frank of Clearwater, FL; two grandchildren, Rick Sheiber and his girlfriend Amy Groszyk, and Lindsey Atkins and her husband William F. III; his great grandsons William F. IV, and Graham T. due in September; and his nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held July 15 at the church with military honors. Memorial donations may be made to the Somersville Congregational Church, 22 Maple Street, Somersville, CT 06072 or to the DAV, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301

Condolences also go to Marj Butler and her family on the passing of her mother, Marjorie Harmon, on August 30. The funeral service will be held at our church on September 9.

### ***New Baby***

John and Ashley Collins are the proud parents of a bouncing baby boy, Levi John Collins, born August 17. Paternal grandparents are Jack & Mavis Collins. Congratulations!

### ***Baptized***

Grant Willard Francis Pinney, son of Tracie & Sam Pinney was baptized on July 17, 2011. Grant has two older sisters, Kate & Sydney. Godparents are Nick & Carlese Wood.

### **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 '11	As of June 30' 11	June 30' 11	As of June 30' 11	As of June 30' 11	As of June 30' 11
					Amount	Amount				
<b>Savings Accounts:</b>										
Holcomb School Aid MM					\$ 4,186.23	\$ 4,187.13				
Jr. Pilgrim Fellow.					\$ 862.57	\$ 863.52				
Sunday School					\$ 27.85	\$ 27.89				
Rockville Bank Acct.					\$ 9,835.79	\$ 8,683.20				
<b>Total Savings Account &amp; Money Market</b>					<b>\$ 14,912.44</b>	<b>\$ 13,761.74</b>				
<b>Stocks:</b>								<b>Year to Date</b>		<b>Year to Date</b>
Company	Net Unit Change	Y-T-D Units	\$/s @ Jan. 1 '11	\$/s@ June 30' 11	Value @ Jan 1 '11	Value @ June 30' 11	Realized Gain/Loss	Realized Gain/Loss	Unrealized Gain/Loss	Unrealized Gain/Loss
Miss. Soc. Of Conn.		1,118.79	89.56	93.87	\$ 100,193.91	\$ 105,021.59	\$ 17.00	\$ 2,729.22	\$ (1,290.11)	\$ 2,098.46
Miss Soc. Restricted		262.74	89.56	93.87	\$ 23,529.98	\$ 24,663.74	\$ 3.99	\$ 640.94	\$ (302.97)	\$ 492.82
<b>Total for Endowment Calculation</b>					<b>\$ 123,723.89</b>	<b>\$ 129,685.33</b>				
Miss. Soc. Pastor's	1.5924	747.29	89.56	93.87	\$ 70,161.32	\$ 70,148.21	\$ 11.33	\$ 1,832.35	\$ (859.88)	\$ 1,492.14
<b>Unit Change /Month</b>	1.5745									
<b>YTD Unit Change</b>	(36.1533)									
<b>Total YTD -Units</b>		2,128.83			\$ 193,885.21	\$ 199,833.54	\$ 32.32	\$ 5,202.51	\$ (2,452.96)	\$ 4,083.42
<b>Checking Accounts: Operating Acct:</b>					\$ 1,935.16	\$ 436.16				
<b>Total Assets, not including property.</b>					<b>\$ 210,732.81</b>	<b>\$ 214,031.44</b>				
<b>Net Change</b>					<b>\$ 3,298.63</b>	<b>1.57</b>				
<b>Investment Earnings/Month</b>					\$ 509.25		<b>Investment Expenses/Month</b>	\$ (82.84)		
<b>Investment Earnings/YTD</b>					\$ 2,497.76		<b>Investment Expenses/YTD</b>	\$ (620.25)		
								<b>Ending Book Value</b>		\$ 172,541.66
								(Purchase Cost of Securities.)		
<b>Pastor Account = Value as of 1 June 30' 11</b>						\$ 70,148.21				
<b>Value of net earnings: as of 06/30/2011:</b>						\$ (3,258.60)				
<b>Net Value as of 06/30/2011</b>						\$ 66,889.61				

Congregational Church of Somersville

Memorial Funds

As of June 30, 2011

	Value 6/30/2011 \$	Value @ Donation* \$
<b>MISSIONARY SOCIETY FUND:</b>		
<b>UNRESTRICTED:</b>		
Belbruno	\$504.64	220.00
Butler	\$791.06	624.24
Blain	\$1,904.01	1070.00
Chism	\$1,412.98	1115.00
Chouinard	\$36,413.00	22677.00
Cooley	\$509.42	255.00
Cowan	\$1,285.86	1014.69
Daniels	\$295.97	145.00
Follansbee	\$709.23	364.00
General Memorial	\$5,241.48	2946.00
Hartwick	\$469.18	232.00
Hastings	\$247.11	195.00
Holcolm	\$12,672.45	10000.00
Luddy	\$4,960.52	1000.00
Pease	\$470.54	287.00
Persson	\$1,091.10	861.00
Pinney	\$941.91	410.00
Schnare	\$2,377.28	1035.00
Smith	\$31,592.10	15216.00
Trimmer	\$201.56	100.00
Unas	\$930.18	500.00
Total	\$105,021.59	60266.93
<b>RESTRICTED:</b>		
(1) Brink	\$3,671.75	2500.00
(1) Collins	\$2,460.62	1675.00
(1) Gowdy	\$2,306.29	1570.00
(1) Griswold	\$734.44	500.00
(1) Henry	\$1,468.79	1000.00
(1) Keeney	\$2,637.63	1795.00
(1) Liberty	\$3,635.13	3300.00
(1) Meacham	\$7,344.03	5000.00
(1) Wood, E.	\$405.07	500.00
(1) Holcomb Scholarship	\$4,187.13	3000.00
(1) restricted - use earnings only	\$28,850.87	20840.00
Total	\$133,872.46	81106.93

Choir start to be announced by Jason

# September 2011

the Rev. Graham Van Keuren, Pastor  
 Ray Foster, Moderator  
 Sydney Cohen, Treasurer  
 Ruth Bruch, Office Administrator/Clerk  
 Jason Stefanik, Organist/Choir Director

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., 8:15-11:30 AM				1	2	3
4 Communion	5 Labor Day	6 Evergreen worship 11 AA 6:15-8:30 Deacons 7	7 Bible Study 9:30-11:15	8 Cabinet Agenda Requests Due Trustees 12 PM	9 Memorial service  Supper Prep ?	10 Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3 Pork Supper 5 & 6:15
11 1st Day of Sunday School Tolland Assn. Ecclesiastical Council 3 PM - Bolton	12	13 Finance 11:30 Ladies Aide to lunch at Golden Coral 12 PM AA 6:15-8:30	14 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Missions 1 PM	15	16	17 Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3
18 Renewal of Vows Cabinet	19	20 Cornerstone 2:30/4:30-6:30 AA 6:15-8:30	21 Bible Study 9:30-11:15	22 Prayer Shawl Ministry 2 PM at church	23 1st Day of Autumn	24 Blacksmith Shoppe 10-3
25 Men's Group meets after worship Spire Deadline	26	27 Blair worship 10:30 AA 6:15-8:30	28 Bible Study 9:30-11:15	29 Rosh Hashanah	30	Please support the Blacksmith Shoppe with donations, purchases, physical help, and baking. Money earned at the Shoppe benefits church activities.

# Hidden Pictures "The Way It Was"

