

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

"It is in solitude that inner freedom can grow...
In solitude we can slowly unmask the illusion of
our possessiveness and discover in the center
of our own self that we are not what we can
conquer, but what is given to us" (Henri Nouwen).

Once again we enter the season of Lent. But before we begin it, let's understand it. Lent began in the 4th century of the church. It is a season of 40 days (Sundays are not included) beginning Ash Wednesday, climaxing during Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter Sunday. Lent used to be about preparation for baptism, a time of study and prayer before baptism at the Easter vigil. It included the whole church community as a living community of faith. Today Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. The color for Lent is purple—it symbolizes pain and suffering, but it is also the color of royalty, and the anticipation of the coming resurrection and hope of newness celebrated Easter morning. The mood is one of repentance and prayer.

There are many ways we mark this journey beginning with worship Ash Wednesday. Within this newsletter you will find opportunities for Morning Prayer, evening vespers, Bible study and regular Sunday worship. There is the Lenten Cross below the lectern with seven lighted candles—each candle will be extinguished as we journey through Lent, the last one on Maundy Thursday. Good Friday the Confirmation Class will nail our prayers to the wooden cross that will stand in front of the church building on Easter Sunday morning symbolizing hope for the world.

Lent is a time for reflection and prayer. Through prayer we open ourselves up to receive God, to once again hear the words, "Come unto me!" This can be a time of spiritual pilgrimage, a time of opening ourselves up for the 1st time, the 2nd time, or the nth time for spiritual renewal. This can be done in solitude as Henri Nouwen suggests in the above quote—when we place ourselves in grace-filled solitude, we find that space to hear God. The English mystic Caryl Houselander puts it, "It is for me that God awaits, with open hands, a beggar at the locked gates of my soul." Lent is a time for us, a time we can deliberately establish, in quiet and solitude, with God. I encourage all of us to enter into this journey God has given us.

In Christ,

Phyllis

Come Worship God Through the Season of Lent

Worship

March 1, 10:00 AM Worship and Communion
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship and Communion
March 8, 10:00 AM Worship
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship and Communion
March 15, 10:00 AM Worship
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship and Communion
March 22, 10:00 AM Worship and Mission's OGHS
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship and Communion
March 29, 10:00 AM Worship and Baptism
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship and Communion

Fellowship and Celebration

Annual Silver Lake Dinner and Auction 6:00 PM March 7
Breakfast Hosted by the Men's Assoc., 8:30 AM March 8
St Patrick's Day Dinner, 5:00 PM March 14
Evening Women's Assoc., 6:30 PM March 18
Monthly Dinner March 21, 5:00 PM
Annual Youth Fellowship Chili Cook-off March 22, 6:00 PM
Flea Market Hosted by Evening Women 9-2 March 28

Children's Chapel

Communion Sunday March 1 during Worship

Spiritual Enrichment During Lent

Lenten Bible Study, Conversation with God, March 1, 6:15 PM
Morning Prayer March 4, 7:00 AM @ St. Anthony's
Evening Vespers March 4, 7:00 PM (here)
Lenten Bible Study, Conversation with Jesus, March 8, 6:15 PM
Morning Prayer March 11, 7:00 AM @ PCC
Evening Vespers March 11, 7:00 PM (here)
Lenten Bible Study, Conversation with Sarayu, March 15, 6:15 PM
Morning Prayer March 18, 7:00 AM @ St. Anthony's
Evening Vespers March 18, 7:00 PM (here)
Morning Prayer March 25, 7:00 AM @ PCC
Evening Vespers March 25, 7:00 PM (here)
Lenten Bible Study, Conversation with Wisdom March 29, 6:15 PM

Mission Opportunities

Adopt-a-Grandparent program @ Marathon Healthcare Center March 1
Casserole Sunday March 15 during Coffee Hour
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering March 22
Healthcare4every1 Second Hour March 29, 11:30 AM

Christian Education

Confirmation March 12, 3:00 - 5:00 PM
Confirmands and Mentors to B'nai Israel (Bridgeport) March 20, 4:00 PM
Confirmands and Mentors to St Michael's (New Haven) March 22, 8:40 AM

Discipleship

EVERYDAY!

Healthcare4every1 Update

The state legislature's Public Health Committee officially raised *SustiNet* as a bill. (SustiNet is Healthcare4every1's proposal to provide quality, affordable health care to everyone in Connecticut.)

SustiNet is the most complete Connecticut-specific proposal for universal health care to be put before the legislature—it offers an opportunity to lead the nation.

The Board of Missions and Outreach will host a Healthcare4every1 information gathering Sunday March 29 following morning worship.

What's Going on at GWIM?

(Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries)

SOUP KITCHEN REPORT FOR JANUARY, 2009

4,524 meals were provided for an average of 190 people per day for the 24 days the soup kitchen was open. (Barbara Dublin, Executive Director)

FOOD PANTRY REPORT

359 individuals were given a three-day supply of groceries. 110 of these people were unduplicated. 65% of the food came from sources other than the CT Food Bank.

(John West, Pantry Coordinator)

SOCIAL SERVICE REPORT

“The major highlight of the month was the placement of 10 homeless clients into subsidized housing. The majority of the new residents are soup kitchen clients who have waited considerable time for this opportunity.” 28 clients were case-managed. Services ranged from Food Stamp Program to applying for medical assistance. There were 7 new cases. (Rick Povilaitis MSW, LCSW)

"Called to Care" Chronicles

Health Concerns

Gloria Benson
Louise Beach
Carmen Cavallaro
Jane Chatfield
Ruby DeCosta
Helen Donovan
Shoshe Drapin
Gayle Gourley
Ruth Hansen
Rev. Doreen Horstman
Philip Jeannin
Joyce Kathan
Alfred Peach, Jr.
Ann Raven
Tina Sierra
Joan Slapikas
Linda Stewart
Andrew Vilardo
Kim Wadhams
Bernice Wilson
Margaret Worden

Prayers for our Military, including

Gerard Boulay, England
A1C Joshua Campbell, Nebraska
Christopher Chucta, Biloxi, Mississippi
A1C Johnny De, Germany
Darren Hale, Jr., Korea
Edward Hall, Iraq
Robert Holley, Iran
Jim Jackson, Marines
PFC James Kabusk, Cherry Point, NC
Lcpl Alex Theil, Ft. Leonardwood, MO
PFC Victor Tomaino, Iraq
Robert Tuohy, Bagdad

The Village at East Farms

Roy Schellhardt
Myrtle Hintz

Highlands Healthcare Center

Nancy Robinson

Glendale

Jo Collins

Condolences to

Ruby DeCosta on the recent death of her sister Edna Clock

Congratulations to

Bernice Wilson on the occasion of her 80th birthday February 21st.

Alan Koch, Jr. having achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at the Eagle Scout Honor Court February 22nd.

Wendy and Rob Genova on the baptism of their son Alexei Carmen February 8th.

Lucas Colaci, son of Joe and Deb Colaci, having earned the "God and Me" badge presented to him during worship February 15th.

Arrol Drew on the occasion of her 100th birthday February 9th.

Prayers of Concern for our Extended Family

Kevin (Donna Dzubak's son)
Yves Allard (Erik Soderberg's Uncle)
Frank Anderson (Babette Strumpf's brother)

Norman Anderson (Babette Strumpf's brother)
Edna Beach (Tim Beach's mother)
The Bielek family (friends of the Vitkos)
Harriet Blakeslee (Charlie Blakeslee's sister-in-law)
Susan Boyle (Pete Creasey's sister)
Joe Cavallaro (father of Carmen Cavallaro)
Alyssa Casson (young Prospect girl)
June Chucta (Tom Chucta's Mom)
Arthur Compton (Alice Palen's brother)
Beth Creasey (Peter Creasey's sister)
John Curtis (Dave Curtis' brother)
Judy Czarkowsky (neighbor of Charles Peach)
Arlene DeCosta (Ruby DeCosta's daughter-in-law)
Kevin Delaney (Bev Allen's son-in-law)
Lloyd Hannula (Diana Trumbley's father)
Sean Healy (Ruby DeCosta's step-grandson)
Robert Kathan (son of Joyce and Barney Kathan)
Irene Kamila (Diana Trumbley's grandmother)
Benjamin LeBlanc (Edna Talmadge's grandson and Gwenn Fischer's nephew)
Jeff Malm (Sue Wilson's brother)
Benny Mazzucco (Kelly Shaffer's dad)
Hank Pavlowski (Sandi Pavolwski's Dad)
Dorothy Plankey (mother of Paul Plankey)
Jared Price (Pete and Chris Creasey's nephew)
Marion Raven (Kim Palmerie's Sister-in-law)
Hulda Risdon (mother of Marge Biercevicz)
Sally Dunnigan Scott (Joan Slapikas' sister-in-law)
Grace Sederquest (mother of Barbara Rowe)
Kathy Sigetti (friend of Ron Peach)
Yvonne Theriault (Linda Theriault's father-in-law)
Arthur Wood (Christine Creasey's Dad)
Betsey Wypychuski (Mary Ellen Pearce's cousin)

MORNING PRAYER SERVICES HOSTED BY
ST. ANTHONY'S & PROSPECT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Last year Father Mark and Rev. Phyllis offered an opportunity for both our congregations to walk the Lenten journey together. We offered Morning Prayer services during the Lenten season. Once again we will offer this time to begin one day a week in prayer and scripture. Morning prayer will be as follows:

Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 AM @ St. Anthony's Church
Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 AM @ Prospect Cong. Church
Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 AM @ St. Anthony's Church
Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 AM @ Prospect Cong. Church
Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 AM @ St. Anthony's Church
Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 AM @ Prospect Cong. Church

The service is about 20 minutes long and offers a litany appropriate to Lent which helps to "walk our day in peace" during this time.

PREPARATIONS FOR LENTEN STUDY

During Advent a group of us spent an evening discussing our experiences reading William Paul Young's The Shack. Many of you expressed a desire to read the book while others talked about rereading it. If you have ever asked the question: *Where is God when bad things happen?* you will want to read this book. Rev. Phyllis will facilitate a group discussion during Lent designed around Mac's conversations with the Trinity and Wisdom. They will be as follows:

March 1, 6:15 PM: God

March 8, 6:15 PM: Jesus

March 15, 6:15 PM: Holy Spirit/Sarayu

March 29, 6:15 PM: Wisdom/Sophia

Circle the dates, read and/or reread the book, and join us for some beautiful, theological reflections.

Once again Sandy Plankey and Rev. Phyllis are offering "Evening Prayer" during Lent, 7 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning March 4 and ending April 1.

COVENANT

I am using some not-so-new language lately, but far more frequently than you are used to. "Covenant" is a biblical word used in the beginning with Noah (*Genesis 9*) and the rainbow covenant, Abraham, blessed as a great nation (*Genesis 12:1-3*), Moses on Mount Sinai (*Genesis 19:5*), to Jesus and the new covenant made with us at the Last Supper (*1 Co 11:25*).

Covenant has great meaning in the United Church of Christ; it is a denomination of covenant with one another, with the church, and with God. New members covenant with one another and God when joining our church. We covenant to be in relationship with one another in the one body of Christ.

As we move forward in discipling we will use this language more and more, so it is good that we understand what it means. Covenant is promise—in the secular world covenant is a binding agreement between two or more people; a formal, sealed contract. Biblically, covenant comes from the Hebrew word "berit" and it is used 280 times in the Hebrew Scriptures. Covenant always involves God—God's covenants are made in two parts: terms and duration. They are unilateral—God alone determines the terms and conditions; we humans simply choose to accept them. For example, God made a covenant with Israel where God clearly defined all aspects of it and the way in which Israel would be blessed for honoring it, and punished if they did not. Both parties, God and Israel, agreed. Through this process God and Israel entered into covenant relationship, a binding agreement to honor their respective roles.

It is this aspect of covenant: relationship, we are building on in this church. We will use covenant rather than pledge when we speak of stewardship/discipling. We are in relationship with one another and God as we use our time, talent, and treasure to support our church and its mission in the community and the world. Therefore covenant is a key word in our ministry and relationship here. -- Rev. Phyllis

SABBATICAL

You may have heard talk recently about Rev. Phyllis taking a sabbatical this year. What is a "sabbatical"? Sabbatical is a term that dates back to the 16th century. It is a period of leave from work for research, study, or travel usually granted to clergy and professors every six to nine years. Sabbatical comes from the Jewish tradition of leaving the land fallow—that is, allowing the land to rest every seven years.

Rev. Phyllis came to us August 1, 2001 and signed a contract with us that included a sabbatical after six years with the church. She put it off for two years so the time could be used to write her Doctor of Ministry Project after the project was completed. We have worked together on the stewardship/discipling project since September, 2008. It will be completed mid-June.

June 17th Rev. Phyllis will begin her sabbatical with husband Carl in tow. Much of the time will be spent in their Deposit, NY home writing. However, all work and no play make the Normans dull people, so they will travel to Michigan City, IN to pick up little brother Joe, and work their way to Coffeerville, KS for the Annual Rogers Family Reunion. She will be back in the pulpit October 10th.

There will be coverage in her absence, and a wonderful opportunity for this congregation to use your gifts and talents to preach, teach, visit, and continue playing.


And what about the Doctor of Ministry degree? When it finally happens (which should be this fall), it will be bestowed upon her during our regular morning worship service because this congregation has been the project—you are the ones working diligently on discipleship so the achievement belongs to everyone!



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Meeting On Our Investments

UBS will meet with all those who are interested to discuss our endowment portfolios on Sunday March 1st at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall.





ANNUAL SILVER LAKE AUCTION- This is to benefit our fund which helps to send our children and youth to a Silver Lake Summer Conference. We are looking for donations of items and/or services to auction off at the March 7th Dinner/Auction. Please see Mark Wilson, Jan Snyder or any member of our Board of Christian Ed with your donations. You can also drop off your donation to the church office during regular office hours (Monday-Thursday 8:30-1:30. If you need to have your item(s) picked up, please contact any of the above or call the office at 758-4872.

Reserve March 7 at 6:00 pm to join in on a great night of fun with this action-packed auction, picnic style dinner (which will include: hot dogs, mac & cheese, baked beans, coleslaw, a variety of desserts, coffee, tea, soft drinks) is being provided by our wonderful Men's Club.



The Board of Christian Education would like to welcome our newest members
- Susan White and Kathy Hartnett!

Anyone wishing to help out with Nursery Care, please see Jan Snyder or Kelly Shaffer to sign up. As always, your help is very much appreciated, we could always use a hand.

Reminder to all those whose child/children will be attending a Silver Lake Conference this Summer -- please be sure to submit your "invoice" to the office as soon as you get them so that your balance can be taken care of before the date you child is to attend. It is not too early, we've already begun to send in payments.

The Board of Christian Education has once again begun the intergenerational (kids and adults) Foster Grandparent Program at the Marathon Health Center here in Prospect. Visits are planned for the first Sunday of the month, provided the residents are well enough, from approx. 10:30a to 11:30a. Rides are available. Please see Jan Snyder during Coffee Hour.



Habitat for Humanity would like to thank you for your support, and ask for your continued assistance with our 2009 Raffle Ticket Sales Drive. We need volunteers to HELP with these ticket sales.

Habitat for Humanity
of Greater Waterbury
P.O. Box 1881
Waterbury, CT 06722-1881
PHONE: 203-596-0014

EMAIL: <http://waterburyhabitat.org>

Each weekend, Feb through April, we will have two different areas selling tickets, one at a designated Local Grocery Store, and the other at the Brass City Mall, each Saturday and Sunday. The times we'll need help with are: Grocery Store times: 10:00-2:00, 2:00 – 6:00, Mall Times: 12:00- 3:00, 3:00 – 7:00. Here are some of the raffle prizes: *Plasma 50" screen TV and Home Theater System (\$1219), Timeshare Kissimmee FL (\$2,500), NY Yankee game – 4 box seats (\$600, Wii Gaming Station (\$249.99, Holiday Inn overnight and unlimited use of water park-gift certificate (\$200)*. Any amount of time you can give would be most appreciated- We're looking to build in the Spring '09. Please contact Sue Wilson – sue.wilson@infor.com or 203 558 4200- Also, there are sign-up sheets downstairs at Coffee Hour, after Sunday Service.

March Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|
| 2 | Stacy Jacobson | 13 | Ron Peach |
| 3 | Tom McGarvey, Jr. | 15 | Jessica Patrick |
| 6 | Larry Holt | | Jessica D'Aniello |
| | Tom Wright | 18 | Emma Smith |
| 8 | Tom Einhorn | 25 | Stewart Wilson |
| | Debra Holt | | Howard Jacobson |
| 9 | Ashley Jacobson | 26 | Michael Normand |
| 11 | Allyson Czarsty | 28 | William Edwards, Sr |
| 12 | Jane Chatfield | 31 | Reyna Powe |
| | Sherie Wilson | | |

Anyone wishing to post a birthday/anniversary on our Newsletter list, please email to rickliz@aol.com or leave a note in the Newsletter mailbox in the coatroom.

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Matthew 6:21

This is the theme of this year's **One Great Hour of Sharing** campaign. When you give to OGHS through the United Church of Christ, you participate in a world wide ministry of helping people change their lives. A ministry that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. Through OGHS we reach out in the name of Christ to;

* Build sustainable communities; supporting self-help programs in more than 80 nations.

* Respond to disaster; providing emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of hurricanes, tornados, floods, tidal waves, civil strife, and other natural or human caused events. On average OGHS responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days!

* Minister to refugees; with advocacy and help, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

On Sunday March 22nd we will participate in the **One Great Hour of Sharing** campaign with our offerings during the worship service. Please give generously to this important world-wide mission project.

Thank you!

The Mission Board

CASSEROLE MINISTRY UPDATE—Next Casserole Sunday is March 15!

February represented our 2-year Anniversary of making casseroles, salads, buttered bread and loaves of sandwiches for the GWIM Soup Kitchen. What an amazing accomplishment for all of us.

As we head into the spring, we have decided to make a change to our monthly casserole schedule. We are going to add chicken to our mix and will be rotating the 4 casseroles throughout the year. The chicken casserole will be made up of cooked, diced chicken, pasta, a vegetable and cream soup. To get us started for March, we are looking for bags of cooked chicken broken up into bite size pieces. This can be brought to the kitchen and stored in the freezer like we do the ground beef.

To keep the pantry stocked, we are always in need of the following items: creamed soups (we will now be using them in 2 of the 4 casseroles we are preparing), canned beans (not baked), olives, Italian dressing, peas, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter and jelly. Scheduled below is our casserole rotation and what is used each month.

January, May, September—Ziti with Sauce (Ziti, sauce, cooked ground beef)

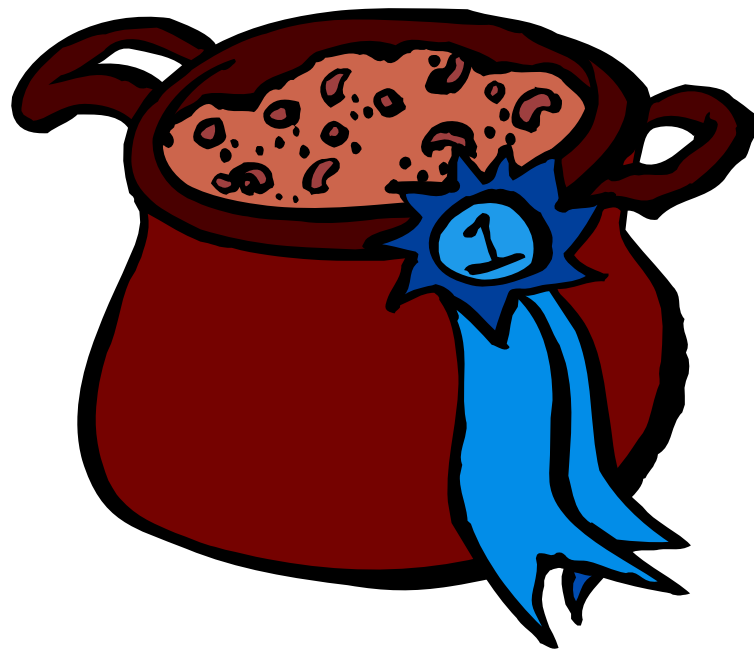
February, June, October—Tuna Casserole (Egg noodles, peas, tuna, cream soup)

March, July, November—Chicken Casserole (Pasta, cooked chicken, cream soup)—We are going to add broccoli in March

April, August, December—Macaroni and Cheese (elbows, cheese sauce, hot dogs)

We always need monetary donations to purchase the lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and cheese for the salads—This costs approx \$75/month. Thank you again for all your continued support. TOGETHER we continue to make a difference. Any questions please see Diana Trumbley.

Chili Cook-Off



Sunday , March 22nd
6:00 pm

Join us for a night of Friendly Competition

Men Cook – Women Judge!

Raffle to benefit Summer Mission Trip to
Project Hospitality in Staten Island, New York

Sponsored by the Senior High Youth Group

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 11:30a Investment Mtg with UBS Rep 5p Contemporary Service 6:15 Lenten Bible Study—<i>God</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>7p Deacons' Mtg</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7a Morning Prayer @ St. Anthony's 10:30a Memorial Serv Marathon Health Cntr 7p Evening Prayer</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30p Evening Women—February Make Up 7:30p Sr. Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00p Silver Lake Auction</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30a Pancake Brkfst 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 5p Contemporary Service 6pn Sr. High Youth 6:15 Lenten Bible Study—<i>Jesus</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>7p Committee Night</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7p BOT Mtg</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7a Morning Prayer - here 7p Evening Prayer</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3p Confirmation Class 7:30 p Sr. Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:00 p St. Patrick's Dinner sponsored by Men's Club</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour/ Casserole 5p Contemporary Service 6:15p Lenten Bible Study—<i>Holy Spirit</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>11a Worship— Village at East Farms 7p Council Mtg</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7a Morning Prayer @ St. Anthony's 6:30p Evening Women 7p Evening Prayer</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30a Worship Marathon Health Cntr 7:30 Sr Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>4p Confirmation Class to B'nai Israel</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:00 p Monthly Dinner</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:40a Confirmation Class to St. Michael's 10 a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 5p Contemporary Service 6p Chili Cook-off</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7a Morning Prayer—here 7p Evening Prayer</p>	<p>26</p> <p>3p Confirmation Class 7:30 p Sr. Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5p Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9a—2p Annual Flea Market 5p Wedding Smegielski/Brady</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10a Worship Baptism Tyler Patkofsky 11a Coffee Hour 11:30 Healthcare 4 Everyone 5p Contemporary Service 6:15p Lenten Bible Study—<i>Wisdom</i></p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		<p>Deacon On Call: Rick Normand</p>		

The Prospectus

MARCH 2009



CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Phyllis A. Norman, Pastor
The Rev. Doreen Horstman, Minister of Visitation
Stewart W. Crouse, Director Of Music Ministry
Mark Wilson, Sunday School Administrator
Tina Soderberg, Office Administrator

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Prospectus Editors, Rick and Liz Normand

Articles can be left in the mailbox in the coatroom or e-mailed to rickliz@aol.com or pccucc@snet.net. Deadline for the newsletter is the third Wednesday of the month.

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