

The Spirit

January 2009

THOMPSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS/ SOLUTIONS

What things are essential to me? How can I experience more harmony in terms of my spiritual life and my relationships with others?

Although there are always a lot of jokes about making and breaking them - I still think the New Year is a natural time for us to make some resolutions as we look back and plan for the future. However, I don't know that I had ever taken the time to see how the dictionary defines "resolution." According to my edition, the first one that Webster lists is: "The act or process of reducing to simpler form." My Oxford music dictionary defines it as: "The satisfactory following of a discordant chord (or the discordant note in such a chord) with a chord or less acute discord."


I'm sure there are many others, but both of these interested me and helped me in thinking about my resolutions. There is no question that everything seems to be becoming more complex, and so it is increasingly important for me to remember to simplify things by re-examining and deciding what is really essential and what is not. Also, in a discordant world - I have to make a commitment to finding and experiencing more harmony in terms of inner peace and improved inter-personal relationships.

I intentionally have been using "I" and "me" because resolutions only have a chance of resulting in solutions when I admit that I am a part of the problem and, therefore, begin changing myself by allowing God to change me. I believe that must be the attitude of everyone in our society if there is any hope for our nation and world.

Fundamentally, it is what Jesus lived and died to reveal and what no one as ever expressed more succinctly than Paul when he wrote: "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor. 13:13)

In the church we have heard and said that so many times, but only when we resolve to be more Christ-like in our love can we expect to be a part of God's solution for the world Christ came to save.

Yours in Christ's service,


Stan Possell

Coffee hour hosts for 2009

JAN. 4 Rawson, Barbara
11 Elliott/Newcombe
18 Lunch
25 Macomber, Lorraine

FEB. 1 Foshay, Cheryl
8 Rothwell, Norma
15 Lunch
22 Sasso, Kathie

MAR. 1 Sevigny, Kristin
8 Tinti/Messier
15 Lunch
22 Fontaine, Mary Anne
29 Rondeau, Judy

APR. 5 Tillen, Gwyneth
12 Austin, Jane & Ray
19 Lunch
26 Eichner/DaVia

MAY 3 Smith, Carol
10 Ballard, Georgia
17 Lunch
24 Thompson, Lois
31 Gleason, Jane

JUNE 7 Abbott, Barbara
14 Woodward, Jean
21 Lunch
28 Ballard-Ross, Pam

JULY 5 Rothwell, Norma
12 Barks, Ruth
19 Lunch
26 Foshay, Cheryl

AUG. 2 Elliott/Newcombe
9 Cole/Charbonneau
16 Lunch
23 Ballard, Georgia
30 Tillen, Gwyneth

SEPT. 6 Eichner/DaVia
13 Macombe, Lorraine
20 Lunch
27 Cole, Jean & Floyd

OCT. 4 Tinti/Messier
11 Sevigny, Kristin
18 Lunch
25 Rondeau, Judy

NOV. 1 Thompson, Lois
8 Fontaine, Mary Anne
15 Lunch
22 Cambridge, Nancy
29 Austin, Jane & Ray

DEC. 6 Ballard-Ross, Pam
13 Smith, Carol
20 Lunch
27 Barks, Ruth

Please call 928-0882 if unable to serve



Thanks to Marjorie Woodward for always getting the coffee ready and all the others who have worked so hard providing refreshments this last year.
Special thanks to Norma Rothwell for doing the scheduling.

The Eastern district fellowship is a journey of Faith



Barbara Rawson reports that 22 women, representing ten area churches gathered on December 1st. at the Coventry Church for a “Day of Renewal”

The theme was the importance of sheep at the birth of Jesus. The worship leader had collected much interesting information including sixteen unfamiliar hymns. The Church pianist led the group in joyful song. Two hundred and fifty dollars was collected and this will be given to the “Heifer Project” in Rutland, Massachusetts.

Previously in November at North Stonington the collection was given to Bernadette’s Medical Center in Uganda.

“Our mission is to serve”

Christmas Holiday Fair



Our Holiday Fair was a huge success! Fellowship Hall was beautifully decorated and the tables were filled with lovely items generously donated by our Church family members. There was custom made jewelry, knitted goods, crystal and china, all of fine quality. Our newest venture, selling cookies by the pound was a great success. We sold 50 lbs. making \$250 ! The Cole Family served a delicious lunch of soup, rolls, brownies and ice cream with coffee and soda. Some soup was left over and taken to some of our shut-ins. The Ladies’ Parlor was transformed into a delightful lunchroom with soft Christmas music in the background. We also had Child Care and our volunteers helped the children to make Christmas ornaments. The Fair netted over \$1,600. People we so generous even the advertising was donated. One name must be mentioned, that of Jane Gleason, who coordinated the whole affair. Well done Jane and thanks to all the others who helped.

ACTS 20: 24

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help others, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said “ It is more blessed to give than to receive”.

Prayers of Hope and Healing for...

Marion Howard who is recovering from Pneumonia

Art MacComber who is healing well

Barbara Kress, Mother of David

Geneva and Sally White

Barbara Spahl and her caregiver Ted Reynolds

Pastor Stan and his wife Elaine

Jane Johnson and family

Barbara Loy

Lynn Landry

Natalie Habercross

Jane and Ray Austin who are caring for Ray's sister

Prayers of Condolence...

For the family of Albert Bushey

For the family of Theodore C. Coolidge brother of Georgia Ballard

Prayers of Thanks...

To all who contributed to our Stewardship Drive in our struggle to keep our church open

To all who made the Holiday Fair such a success

For a beautiful and meaningful Advent Program

For generous people who never let us down

For all the beautiful children in our church who bring us such joy

For all those mittens!

Prayers for Peace...



For our leaders national and local

For our troops wherever they are, especially John Fleming in Afghanistan

For people of war ravaged countries

Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group

A letter of appreciation from Donna Grant, the Director of TEEG states that “ *Your past contributions have allowed TEEG to serve our neighbors in times of need. Your contribution may have provided an emergency delivery of fuel to young families with cold children. Perhaps it helped to feed to feed our senior citizens, or may it allowed us to send a child to Summer Camp. Thank you for providing us with the means to help*” On February 13, 2009 TEEG will hold its ninth annual “Have a heart” fund raising auction. Please save the date

News for Missions: Community Kitchens Program

We will be serving lunch at the Methodist Church in North Grosvenordale on December 29, 2008. Menu- pizzas, salad and dessert. Nancy Cambridge, Chair Missions Board.

Christmas Food Basket Collection

A measure of your generosity was expressed in the \$312 that was donated to TEEG. Thanks to you, some needy families had a good Christmas meal. Bless you for your kindness and great response to our Mission Outreach Work.

Food for the Pantry

Don't forget that the first Sunday of the month is Pantry Collection Day for TEEG. Canned soups, peanut butter, tuna and noodles are always popular. Low sugar items are appreciated too.

DEUTERONOMY 15: 7-11 and 15

If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tight fisted towards your poor brother. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open handed towards your brothers and towards the poor and needy in your land.

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Stewardship News

Your Stewardship Committee is very appreciative of the many faithful who continue to care for our house of worship and most of all for the Mission work and returned their "Intention to give" cards. Even in tough times doing the work of God is such a part of our lives. Together we will always work hard to continue the Mission here in Thompson & beyond plus provide for the care of God's house where we worship and work.

If you are reading this, especially if you are a member, and haven't joined us in providing funds that help support Mission work, anything you can share is welcome, anytime. Also, if you haven't found time to join us in worship in a while, if not Christmas Eve, perhaps in the New year there will be time to come and hear Dr. Stan Possell lead us in worship. Member or not, you are welcome and will feel blessed!

With gratitude,
The Stewardship Committee

Well done John Abbott and family

John's Thanksgiving Breakfast was a successful event. Over thirty people came and enjoyed his cooking. We are a nourishing Church.

Tommy Kaspar, Leah Abbott's husband has kindly consented to do the shoveling this winter. Many thanks to the Ballard family; Clarence, Georgia and Pam have previously helped out.

Annual Report time

Don't forget to get your Committee's contributions to the Annual Report in by the deadline of December 28.

Yearly Calendar of Events

Pastor Stan and the Executive Committee have compiled a calendar of events for the year. It will be revised and updated as needed and will be posted in the Fellowship Hall in the near future. Stay tuned!

Angels are abroad

- Thanks to the angel who keeps the wooden tub at the rear entrance of the Education Building filled with seasonal arrangements.
- Thanks to the angel who quietly gets the trash to the Transfer Station

HEBREWS 13:2

Do not to forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

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Our mitten tree

Thanks to all who donated to our mitten tree, we collected many mittens, hats and gloves. They will be delivered to TEEG before Christmas. We appreciate the gift of many pairs of mittens by Lorraine McComber's sister, Mrs. McCann of Florida. She has helped us for over ten years. If you have any 4-ply yarn Lorraine would be happy to send it on to her sister. A collection marked *yarn for mittens* will be in the Fellowship Hall through January

Community News

Owen William Fleming was born in Sicily on December 16, and weighed in at 6 lbs. 14 oz. Proud parents are Amy (Eichner) and John Fleming. Grandma Judy was there for the birth. Congratulations to all.

David and Joan DaVia have moved to 10 Lake View Drive, Woodstock CT 06281. They may be reached at

Tel: (860) 315-7260

Fax: (860) 315-7261

E mail: Dpdavia@charter.net

Storm cancellations

Due to the pre-Christmas Storms our Church Service for Sunday December 21 was cancelled. It had been decided at the last Executive Meeting to announce cancellations on WINY radio. Volunteers are needed to make up a telephone network to spread news like this in future. Please contact the Board of Trustees if you would like to help. What a shame that we had to have a trial run the Sunday before Christmas!!!