

The Spirit

THOMPSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

October 2009

TRANSITIONS!

Transitions are exciting and, perhaps, somewhat frightening because they mean change. Change is always needed if there is to be growth and new life. It requires passage from one stage or style to another.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the fourteen months we will have worshiped and served together. If everything is on schedule my last Sunday with you will be October 25th and what I suppose I celebrate the most is the change in spirit or attitude from what seemed to prevail when I appeared on the scene. Gradually, I have felt hope and enthusiasm increasing and, of course, now the positive anticipation of calling a new, full-time pastor. At her request I met with her and share the Search Committee's confidence in her gifts and sense of calling to pastoral ministry. We discussed a number of changes that might be helpful administratively which I resisted pursuing because they really had more long-term implications than I would be able to see accomplished.

My only caution to all of you who have provided leadership during this lengthy interim period (including the two years before I came) is to stay involved because you are the ones who have kept the faith and will be invaluable to a new pastor.

I remember the somewhat hesitancy I felt when I was invited to come on board. I came to understand why and why you really didn't know what title to give me since I was only going to be part-time. We settled on "transitional pastor" and, from my point of view, I think that was an accurate description. However, now is the time for both of us to transition and you know that those of you whom I have come to know will especially be in my prayers, as well as the health of the entire congregation.

Although the context is entirely different – I decided to close with some of the most comforting and empowering words John records that Jesus said to his disciples. (John 14:12) "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do, and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father."

May the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Christ-like God, be with you and guide you as you do "greater works!"

Faithfully yours,


Stan Possell

Committee News

The Stewardship Drive is just around the corner and we are in great need of help in forming a committee. Here is your chance to help lead our church through the next year. Please think prayerfully about this and step forward. Call the church office if you can help and your name will be sent to the Executive Council. (more thoughts on the drive located on page 5 of the Spirit)

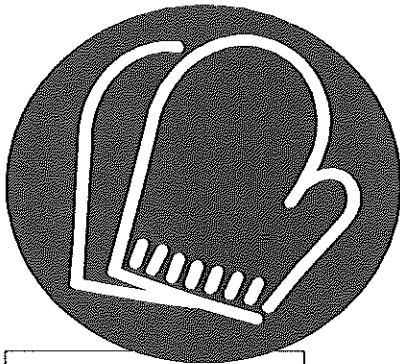
We are also looking for a new Church Clerk. Speak with Marj Woodward and she will inform you of the specifics duties. Again, prayerfully consider helping your church.

Sunday School will begin October 11th and is open to ages 3 and up. Confirmation classes will also begin on the 11th. Everyone is welcome! There will be a multi-age class lead by Mary Anne Fontaine and Barbara Abbott. Contact Mary Anne with any questions at 963-1121.

The Committee on Education will sponsor a Breakfast on October 11th, at 9:00 AM to celebrate the beginning of the Church School Year. Back by popular demand, our own John Abbott, Chef extraordinaire and his able assistants will be doing the cooking. Mark your calendars and bring your appetite!

We are extremely grateful to Marjorie Chapman for her very handsome donation to the Church. It comes at a critical time for us as we look to the future. Bless you Marjorie for your faithfulness and generosity.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE



THE YARN AND MITTENS PROJECT

Thanks so much for the great response to the request for 4 ply knitting yarn to send to our favorite mitten knitter, Mrs. McCahn in Florida. (Lorraine MacComber's sister) We will ship this first lot out and will be happy for any more donations that may be forthcoming.

We are all having fun either learning to knit or just knitting mittens for our Mitten Tree in December. We shall be accepting yarn until the end of October and Mittens may be donated from now until Christmas. We want lots of local children to have nice warm hands when the cold winds blow. Bless you all for

"I CAN DO ALL
THE THINGS
THROUGH HIM
WHO
STRENGTHENS
ME".

PHILLIPIANS
4:10-20

Community Kitchen

Missions will be providing lunch at the Community Kitchen at the Methodist Church in No. Grosvenordale on Monday, November 30th. Menu planning is in progress.

Donation to Missions

The committee became the beneficiary of a \$50.00 donation made by the Niantic Community Church who recently borrowed our Labyrinth and had a very successful outdoor Day of Meditation.

PREPARE THE WAY

As you have been informed by the letter mailed to you from the Pastoral Search Committee, which included the biography of Rev. Dr. Jennifer Cook and the Call for a congregational meeting, our church is on the threshold of a new phase in its life.

The Pastoral Search Committee urges you to drop in to meet Pastor Jenny at the reception being held at the church, Saturday October 3rd from 2PM—4PM. Please make plans to attend the church service on

Sunday, October 4th at 10AM, which she will lead. After the service, we ask you to remain for the congregational meeting and to elect her pastor of the historic Thompson Congregational Church.

As a congregation and individually, you have been generous and trusting in support of the Search Committee's work on your behalf. We thank all of you for your confidence in us. Also, we are all grateful for the transitional ministry of the Rev. Dr.

Stanley Possell as he has shepherded the congregation during the past year. Pastor Stan came to us just when we needed him most and he has made a valuable contribution to the life of our church.

Peace,

The Pastoral Search Committee: Ruth Barks (chair), Georgia Ballard, Pam Ballard-Ross, Blair Cole, Judy Eichner, Tom French, Judy Rondeau, Larry Sasso

Reception for Pastor Jenny Cook, Saturday, October 3rd in Fellowship Hall from 2- 4PM



WITH GOD'S BLESSING AND NEW LEADERSHIP, OUR CONGREGATION CAN CONTINUE TO PURSUE OUR MISSION TO OUR NEIGHBORS AND THE WORLD WITH A RENEWED ENERGY AND SPIRIT. PRAISE BE!

COFFEE HOUR

October

4th Tinti/Messier
11th K. Sevigny
18th Pot Luck Luncheon
25th Judy Rondeau

November

1st Lois Thompson
8th Mary Anne Fontaine
15th Pot Luck Luncheon
22nd Nancy Cambridge
29th Jane & Ray Austin



If you are unable to serve, please call 928-0882

Thank you for all who host and serve!

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



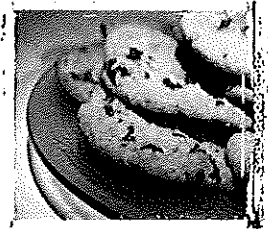
TEEG Donations

Donations of non-perishable food are always needed at the TEEG Food Pantry. Please help fill our basket in Fellowship Hall. The need is great. Bless you for feeding those who are less fortunate.

THOMPSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

COMMUNITY NEWS

Thompson Community Day is Sunday, October 4th at Riverside Park. TCC is registered for this annual event and will have a table set up and manned by volunteers. There will be homemade chocolate chip cookies to sell at whatever the purchaser is willing to donate towards them. There will also be handouts available to promote our church's place in the community.



If anyone is interested and would like to bake some chocolate chip cookies to donate for the event, use a Styrofoam coffee cup as the cookie size guide. Please package 3 cookies per Baggie. Contact Mary Anne Fontaine with any questions at 963-1121

Thanks in advance to all who volunteered and participated.

Speaking of serving the community... For years our facilities have been made available to many organizations. For 4 years we have had the folks who ride 100 miles on bicycles to raise funds for Camp Quinebaug, which serves folks with various types of disabilities. The cyclists ride 60 miles to stop at TCC where one of the helpers serves them lunch. The riders can also freshen up with hot water, use the facilities, rest a bit and set off fortified for their next 40 miles.

The Rawsons (Dave, Barbara & Cheryl) and the Ballards (Georgia, Pam & Dick) have enjoyed welcoming them every 2nd Saturday in September, from 9:30AM—whenever the last biker is accounted for. This is how they have met many wonderful, kind folks. This year we met the

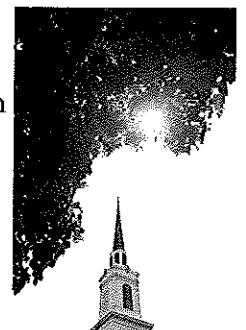
Tourtellotte Honor Society will again be using our facilities Friday, October 2nd. The members of the honor society will be sleeping out on the common in cardboard boxes to bring awareness to the homeless for whom they are raising funds. If you happen to be passing by, please stop and share some cash with them.

Every morning as I drive across the West Thompson Dam to work, I always look for the TCC Steeple. It stands tall and proud, towering above the trees, pointing ever upward toward the heavens. Once in a great while, it is obscured by heavy fog. But I know it is there. Like a beacon in a storm, it guides us to the friendly, safe haven of TCC. LMF

STEEPLE LIGHTING

For those of you who have noticed that the Steeple has been dark for several weeks, don't despair! Yes, the electric bill has been paid. Unfortunately, there is an electrical short somewhere in the system and we need to hire a company with a "cherry picker" bucket to get to the lights to trace the wires. We hope to have the problem fixed and be back online soon.

The Steeple will be illuminated in memory of Alice Johnson for the month of October by Ella Hershberger.



THOMPSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ODDS & ENDS

YOU DON'T LIVE- UNTIL YOU GIVE

Our annual Stewardship Campaign is just around the corner. It is the time each year when most members and friends of Thompson Congregational Church once again contemplate their plan of giving in the coming year. We all want our Mission work in Thompson and beyond to grow and keep God's house warm and clean, plus provide Pastoral leadership for us and those we serve.

The words above, 'you don't Live until you Give' are especially meaningful to me. I was raised in the church (Grandpa was my pastor) and we looked for ways to serve and give. Giving is carried out in so many ways, time, talents, as well as financially. All are important. This time of year we focus on finances for next year's work. For me, it wasn't until I took a good look at the words of a Stewardship speaker we had here in 1959 or so. He told about his life and how things like sterling silverware are so unimportant, as learning to tithe, in one's life. He told how tithing had totally changed his life. Up until then, my life had been a struggle and I hadn't been able to do or be who I thought God wanted me to be. So I thought, perhaps I could do something. My job paid \$30.00 a week so I began to give \$3.00. This was only \$2.00 more than I was giving, but I was *tithing!* It wasn't always easy and some weeks I had to search hard to come up with the funds needed for my children, mortgage payment, etc. However, within a year I aquired a new job with an increase in pay. Blessing? I believe so. I have never stopped tithing and serving those less fortunate. In time, God gave me a partner who does the same. My life became gloriously blessed many times over! I thank God every day! *Submitted by Georgia Ballard*

Historical Materials Donated to TCC

The church is the recent beneficiary of a lot of historical material from the days of the Ladies Aid Society. It will be stored in our archives and we shall print some memories from those days in the Spirit from time to time. We are indebted to Barbara Spahl for saving the material and donating it to TCC. Here are some items from *The Monthly Record* of TCC dated May, 1899 when Rev. George H. Cummings was Pastor.

Personals: Miss Fannie B. Elliott, after an absence of some months in Brooklyn, New York, returned April 15 accompanied by her nieces Arline and Bernice.

April 19, Mr. R.H. Chandler gave a deed of land situated between the residence of Mr. Blackmar and Foisey's blacksmith shop for the new school building

Through the courtesy of J.A. Underwood, Putnam, Mr. Cummings is trying a chainless bicycle, the Clipper. The wheel wins friends for itself. . . .and there's more to come!

Odds & Ends

We will need someone from the former Ladies Aid Society to help collate and archive these materials. Please let Lynne know if you can help.

Barbara Spahl also gave TCC some old photos. Some help might be needed to identifying folks in the pictures. They are located in the library. She also gave a folder of newspaper clippings and photos chronicling the fire in the Steeple. Hopefully these will find their way into a scrapbook and be kept in the archives as well.

Food Safety Classes are being sponsored by the Northeast District Department of Health. There is an upcoming class on November 2nd. Also on January 4th, March 1st and May 3rd, 2010. All classes are from 5PM—7PM. The fee for participation is \$10.00 per person.

The class teaches proper food handling techniques and is ideal for volunteers who have not taken the Qualified Food Operator Course. This is a helpful course for all those who help with our church dinners, etc. The location of the class is at Northeast District Department of Health, 69 North Main Street, Unit # \$, in Brooklyn, CT. If interested, forms are available from Lynne in the church office.

Have you noticed the *Spirit's* new layout, graphics and format? That's thanks to our secretary, Lynne. Gwyneth and I will collect all the news that's fit to print so keep that information coming! Lynne will assemble and format the layout in this new style. We are grateful to have such a talented and capable gal in the church office. And we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the work that both Georgia and Clarence Ballard put into getting the *Spirit* collated and mailed out in a timely manner. Well done Lynne, Georgia and Clarence! *JCC*

NEWS TO CELEBRATE

**IF YOU WOULD
LIKE THE
SPIRIT TO
ACKNOWLEDGE
A SPECIAL DAY
OR EVENT,
PLEASE GIVE
US THE NAME
OF THE
PERSON, THE
DATE AND THE
EVENT. WE
DON'T NEED
THE YEAR..
LEAVE THE
INFO IN THE
SPIRIT BOX IN
FELLOWSHIP
HALL.**

Congratulations to John Flemming on his promotion to Chief and to Amy Eichner Flemming who was promoted to Lt. Commander. Both are stationed in Sicily, Italy. Bless them for their service to our country!

Congratulations to Tom and Leah Kasper on the birth of their son, Kayden Jay. Proud grandparents are Barbara and John Abbott.

September wedding anniversaries celebrated by Marilyn and Bert Leonard who have been married for 55 years and Floyd and Jean Cole who celebrated 57 years of wedded bliss on the 6th. Congratulations!

Happy belated birthday to Brian Fontaine on September 6th and Sean Rondeau on September 12th. Better late than never! Hope your days were GREAT!

Congratulations to Kari Lynne Poirer and Joseph Anthony Manzi who were married at TCC on August 29th and to Lauren Lavecchia and Paul Wik who were married on September 19th also in our beautiful church.

MEMORIAL MUMS

The chrysanthemums on the front steps of the church this fall are in memory or honor of the following friends and loved ones:

In Memory of:

Florence Ballard
Leroy Ballard
Romaine Elliott Franklin, Our Sister
Maxine Elliott Loveland, Our Aunt
Family and Friends
Ross Cole
Ross Cole, Beloved Son
Irene Gardner, Dear Sister
Family and Friends
Hattie Greene
Lloyd Knowles
Robert Robbins
Raymond Robbins
Alice Ramsdell
Our Dear friend Jim Kirkbright
Karl and Mildred Krigsman
Elmer L. and Minnie M. White
Samuel T. and Jorgina K. Cross

In Honor of:

The Rev. Dr. Stanley Possell

Given by:

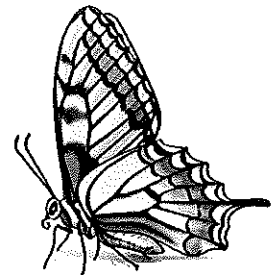
Clarence and Georgia Ballard
Clarence and Georgia Ballard
Marion E. Brassard and Lewis T. Elliott
Marion E. Brassard and Lewis T. Elliott
Frank and Nancy Cambridge
Blair Cole and Karen Charbonneau
Jean and Floyd Cole
Jean and Floyd Cole
The Eichners
The Greene Family
Tanya Knowles Hennesey
Mercedes Robbins
Wanda Robbins
Lois Thompson
Ron and Gwyneth Tillen
Gladys Tucker
Geneva and Sally White
Geneva and Sally White

Given by:

Harry & Ruth Elliott



Do not weep when I am gone. Remember me with a kind thought and smile, of how I lived and not how I died. LMF



It is on a sad note that the Spirit mentions some passings of our extended family at TCC.

Bunnie Bombard, sister of Connie Gomes passed away on August 22nd, 2009 at her home in South Hadley, MA. She had been ill for several months prior to her death.

Bunnie was always very helpful with church projects, especially if they involved sewing, crafts or assembling things. If there was work to be done, Bunnie was right there to lend a helping hand.

Though Bunnie had moved away to be closer to her granddaughter, Debbie, we certainly had not forgotten her. We will miss her.

Leroy Ballard, brother to Clarence, passed away on September 5th, 2009 as a result of complications due to a fall. He was 98 years of age and had been married to his wife, Charlotte who survives him for 75 years.

Leroy had moved to North Brookfield, MA from Thompson years ago where he became a successful farmer. His absence will be felt by many.

Prayers Of Peace and
healing for...

Jane Johnson and
family

Kathy Sasso

Geneva and Sally
White

Jane and Ray Austin
caring for Ray's
sister and Jane's
Mother

Barbara Spahl at
Westview

Ted Reynolds...
faithful friend

Barbara Loy

Lew Partington

David Babbitt

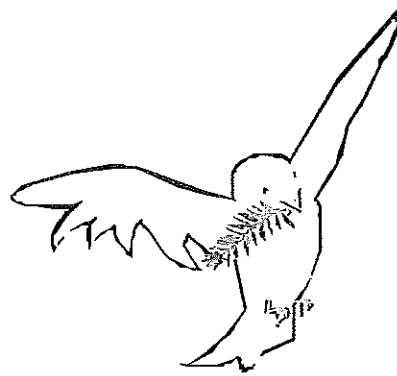
Dick Lucier and Pam
Ballard-Ross and
their family of
caregivers

Pastor Stan and his
wife Elaine

Anne Abry

Alyson, niece of
Gwyneth Tillen

David O'Leary
+++++



Prayers of Peace
for our country and
the world
+++++

Prayers of gratitude
for those who prepare
our church for service
every Sunday
+++++

Prayers of Condolence
for the friends and
families of...

Bunny Bombard...
Betty Pompeo... and
Leroy Ballard
+++++

God, You alone are
blameless. Bless all
our leaders. Be with
our Minister, with
our Lay Leaders and
all those who step up
to serve, lead and
teach. Keep holding
us to a high
standard, not because
we are perfect, but
because You are.
Amen

Scarves, Scarves And More Scarves!!!!

Thanks to Jane Austin for bringing in a box of freshly laundered scarves belonging to our own dear Marion Howard. Jane suggested that you each take your pick and wear the scarf lovingly with happy memories of Marion. The box is located in Fellowship Hall. Great thought Jane!

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE DURING
WORSHIP. ANY QUESTIONS,
CALL MARYANNE FONTAINE AT
963-1121

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY,
11 A.M. WITH REV. DR. STAN POSSELL
IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY. ALL ARE
WELCOME!

Mums

Be sure to notice our display of chrysanthemums on the front steps of TCC. Aren't they a joy to see? Thanks to all who participated and thanks to Chase growers for their support of this project. A big thanks to Marj Woodward who organized it and to the Cole's for setting it up and stopping by to water the plants during dry spells.

Loving God, hold us close when we fear or do not understand the way before us. Open us to the ones who await your welcome through us. May our own frailty make us more gracious—and may we rejoice that in caring for others, we welcome you. Amen.

Coming October 11th, Neighbors in Need Collection

Through our Justice and Witness Ministries the UCC does the following:

- Preach a welcoming and open understanding of Christian Faith
- Take stands for Justice and Peace
- Celebrate diversity without division
- Care for children...and so much more

Donation envelopes will be in the pews on October 11th. Please help if you can.

DATES TO REMEMBER AND REMINDERS

SPIRIT Deadline 15th of every month

Third Sunday—Potluck Luncheons: October 18th after church

Saturday, October 3rd— Reception for Rev. Dr. Jenny Cook in Fellowship Hall from 2-4PM

Sunday, October 4th—Sunday worship service lead by Rev. Dr. Jenny Cook, 10AM

Sunday, October 4th—Congregational Meeting to vote on our Candidate for Ministry

Sunday, October 4th—Thompson Community Day, Riverside Park, 12-4PM

Sunday, October 11th— World Communion and Neighbors in Need Offering

*Dear God, thank you
for the quiet miracles
that change our
lives.*

