



The Link - July 2007

Mission and Ministry

(Excerpts from *The United Methodist Member's Handbook* by George Koehler)

To be a member of The United Methodist Church is to be in servant ministry with and to others.

In our culture, many people use the word minister to mean clergyperson, a pastor or other ordained man or woman. But for United Methodists, all of God's people—children, youth, and adults—are called to be ministers. Most of these people are laity—baptized Christians of all ages who minister in formal and informal ways within the church and beyond it.

In The United Methodist Church, we have two expressions of ordained clergy, who are also ministers:

- Deacons: Men and women ordained by a bishop to a lifelong ministry of Service and Word—especially in leading and supporting baptized Christians in their varied ministries in the world...
- Elders: Women and men ordained by a bishop to a lifelong ministry of Service, Word, Sacrament and Order—that is, to serve, preach, teach, administer the sacraments, and order the life of the church for its mission.

Though our gifts vary widely, we're all called to and engaged in the one ministry of Jesus Christ. Some aspects of our ministry are easy and come naturally. Some are difficult, involving long hours, tough work, perhaps with conflict, perhaps with disappointing results. What drives us? What keeps us going? The list includes at least these three things:

- the memory of Jesus' life of service to others, which inspires us to follow him in ministry;
- the assurance of God's gracious love for us, which empowers us to love others;
- the promise of God's coming reign on earth, which draws us into action directed toward this vision.

Where does ministry happen?

- It happens in our daily activity
- It happens through new initiatives
- It happens through groups and institutions
- It happens through the church

A Lift Update - Good News!

Hallelujah! It's been a long and complicated road, but our lift is now officially operational! The state inspector put his 'stamp of approval' upon the lift on June 28. The lift provides access to the sanctuary and vestry and is available to anyone who has difficulty negotiating stairs. If you require assistance operating the lift, please see any Trustee. The key and stop system for the lift's operation is more involved than we would like it to be. The Trustees are working on solutions for easier operation. In the mean time, we are happy to assist you!

Trustees welcome two new members

Thank you to Les Lambert and Ann Bastian for stepping up to become our newest Trustees. Both bring years of experience in our church family (and excellent smarts) to the Board. We've been short-staffed for months now, and we thank God for this answer to prayer. This brings our Board member total to just four. Ideally, the Board should consist of nine members. Please look into your heart and prayerfully consult your schedule. If you feel called (or just inclined!) to join the Board, please see Pastor Linda, Joyce Swett, Alyson Cox, Les, or Ann.

WHO news

The ladies of WHO (Women Helping Others) enjoyed a successful sewing day on June 23rd. In between the lively conversation and a delicious "faith salad" break, we managed to create some unique children's pillow cases and aprons as well as gorgeous patriotic bows. We'll be selling these items and more at the Heritage Festival in Marlborough on September 30th.

There's more work to be done and fun to be had, so we'll have another **sewing day on Saturday, July 14, from 10:00-3:00.**

Our next business meeting will be on Wednesday, September 19, at 7:15 p.m.

As always, all women are welcome to join us!

The Capital Campaign forges on

Our capital campaign, "Extreme Faithlift" is still under way. The Trustees have bills yet to pay for lift installation, and many new projects await our attention. We were recently forced to sell off a large portion of our investment funds to pay for the lift. These funds must be repaid before we can undertake any more projects. We still need to fund a new roof and gutters, a fire detection system, parking improvements, and more. We understand, and are grateful, that most in our congregation donate faithfully each week to our church's general fund. The gifts placed in the offering plates are necessary for the day-to-day operational costs of the church. Please consider also making regular donations to "Extreme Faithlift". Many thanks to all who have planned and executed fund raisers thus far on behalf of "Extreme Faithlift".

Thank you from the Trustees...

to Ann Edelman, Judy Chaves, Les Lambert, Michele Rogers, and the Youth Group for self-initiating aesthetic improvements to the church yard. Ann employed her green thumb, Michele wielded a paint brush, and As you know, your contribution helps us support some of our state's most vulnerable citizens—children, the elderly, the disabled, and the unemployed. all donated

From the Mailbag:

From Project Bread:

Dear Friends, On behalf of the hungry children and families we serve, we'd like to express our appreciation of your two generous gifts totaling \$115 to Project Bread. Additionally, it helps Project Bread apply its effective hunger prevention strategies to schools, neighborhood health centers, and community centers across Massachusetts in order to bring solutions into neighborhoods where hungry people live, learn and work. It's your caring that provides a family with a hot meal and the gift of hope. For this, we are very grateful. Sincerely, Ellen Parker, Executive Director

From Marlborough Community Services:

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your recent donation. Your contribution assists us in meeting the ongoing needs of those whom we serve through our Food Pantry and Direct Services Programs. Fatinha Kerr, Executive Director

Church Calendar for August 2007

1	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Trustees Meet, Education Room
2	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons with Holy Communion
5	Sunday	10:30 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship
6	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan, Disciple IV
9	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons
12	Sunday	10:30 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship
13	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan, Disciple IV
16	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons
19	Sunday	10:30 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship
20	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan, Disciple IV
23	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons
26	Sunday	10:30 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship
27	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan, Disciple IV
30	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons

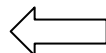
Church Calendar for September 2007

2	Sunday	10:30 AM 11:00 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry Morning Worship with Holy Communion
3	Monday		Office Closed, No Bible Study, Labor Day Holiday
5	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Trustees Meet, Education Room
6	Thursday	6:45 PM 7:00 PM	Education Committee, Education Room Worship at New Horizons with Holy Communion
9	Sunday	10:30 AM 11:00 AM Noon	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry Morning Worship Youth Group meets, Education Room
10	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan, Disciple IV
15	Saturday	2:00 PM	Meal preparation for Roland's House, Homeless Shelter
16	Sunday	10:30 AM 11:00 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry Morning Worship Celebration of Second Anniversary of W.H.O. (Women Helping Others)
17	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan, Disciple IV
19	Wednesday	7:15 PM	W.H.O. meets, Vestry—Final Arrangements for Heritage Street Fair booth
22	Saturday	7:00 PM	Homecoming Concert open to the public and free will offering
23	Sunday	10:30 AM 11:00 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry Morning Worship/Homecoming Sunday. Sunday School resumes during the regular worship hour this year
24	Monday	10 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan, Disciple IV
29	Saturday	8:30-3:00	Fall Yard Sale sponsored by Youth
30	Sunday	10:30 AM 11:00 AM	Early Morning Setup for Heritage Fair on Main Street Fellowship coffee hour, vestry Morning Worship Fifth Sunday, Youth Lead Worship Morning and Afternoon Sales at Heritage Fair on Main Street

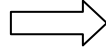
Photos from June 2007



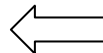
Pastor Linda blesses Mathew Alexander, Jan Racca and Sue Lodi as they begin five weeks of training to become local church Lay Speakers. This is the first time in many years that our church has had trained lay speakers to assist the congregation with Sunday worship and other special services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals



Rev. William Fleming, Port Chaplain from Boston Seafarer Friend Society, preached on the first Sunday in May. Our youth has an ongoing mission relationship with the Society and the many foreign seafarers who bring our fuel and other goods to us via Boston harbor.



Youth lead worship on Children's Sunday on June 10th in keeping with many decades of church tradition.



Suprise birthday party for Kay Little at Beaumont Nursing in Northborough on Monday, June 18. Ice cream cake was enjoyed by Bess Cowan, Evey Golan, Barbara Schleicher, Sue Lodi, Anne Halliday, Joyce Locklin and Pastor Linda. Other guests included Anne's niece Betsy and Kay's roommate Lilli.



Church Calendar for July 2007

1	Sunday	10:30 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4.00-7:00 PM	Calling Hours for Kay Little, Slattery Funeral Home
2	Monday	10:00 AM	Funeral for Kay Little, Sanctuary Interment at Evergreen Cemetery Collation in church vestry
5	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons with Holy Communion
8	Sunday	10:30 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship
9	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan, Disciple IV
12	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons with Holy Communion
14	Saturday	10:00-3:00	W.H.O. Sewing Day for September Fair sale items
15	Sunday	10:00 AM	Acolyte Training, Sanctuary
		10:30 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship
		12:00-1:00	New Member Class in Pastor's Study
16	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan, Disciple IV
19	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons
22	Sunday	10:30 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship
		12:00-1:00	New Member Class in Pastor's Study
25	Wednesday	8:30	Marlborough Collaborative on Elder Issues, Marlboro Hospital
26	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons
29	Sunday	10:30 AM	Fellowship coffee hour, vestry
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship
		12:00-1:00	New Member Class in Pastor's Study
		Noon	Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Education Room
30	Monday	10:00	AM Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan, Disciple IV

Our condolences to Kay's family on Kay's death, June 27. Her funeral will be held in the church on Monday, July 2 at 10 AM. Interment is at Evergreen Cemetery. All are invited to attend a collation following the church and cemetery services in the church vestry. The collation is hosted by W.H.O. (women helping others).



First United Methodist Church of Marlborough
52 Church Street
Marlborough, MA 01752
(508)485-1980
Email: marlborofumc@verizon.net
Website: www.marlboroumc.com



Address Correction Requested

Pastor Linda Stetter

