



The Link - October 2007

Blessings for a Round, Sweet New Year!

Last Monday, the Marlborough Interfaith clergy gathered at Temple Emmanuel at the invitation of Rabbi Sherri Kohler-Fox. Since it was our first gathering since May, we celebrated the beginning of a new year of supportive fellowship and ecumenical work for the good of our whole community. Thanks to the Rabbi, however, we received a double blessing, for the Temple had just finished preparing for the Jewish New Year celebration. We met outside, for the Jewish sacred festival of Sukkot (Feast of the Tabernacles) was also beginning.

This feast was established while the Israelites were wandering in the desert. The Lord told Moses to instruct the Israelites to hold a seven-day feast that included sacred assemblies and offerings. (Leviticus 23:33-38) Deuteronomy 16:13-15 further directs the Feast of Tabernacles to be held the end of harvest. Families, including all servants, were to gather, joyfully celebrating God's blessings of abundance. Rabbi Sherri explained that the Feast of Tabernacles also commemorates God's deliverance from slavery in Egypt.

Therefore, the festival is celebrated in temporary structures which some Bible translations calls "booths." Families build these structures in their yards and temples. They eat all meals and spend much time in them just as our common Israelite ancestors did. Staying in a temporary shelter reminds us that God provides for us in all circumstances.

The sukkot shelter (pronounced sue-cot) is built out of natural materials, usually a framework of wood. The sky must remain visible, but most of the roof frame is covered with evergreen boughs. The walls and ceiling are adorned with hanging harvest vegetables of all kinds. Temple Emmanuel's sukkot was replete with hanging eggplants, broccoli bunches, beets, etc. tied with colorful ribbons and strings. Strings of small lights added to the happy atmosphere.

As we sat at a simple table on simple chairs with the carpet of grass under our feet, Rabbi Sherri wished us a happy new year and gave us apple slices which we dipped in honey. Try it! It's very tasty! This Jewish New Year treat symbolizes our wish for a sweet new year. Apples are used because they are naturally round, with no sharp edges. Therefore, Rabbi was helping us embody our wish for a smooth, sweet new year.

Rabbi then showed us the traditional bouquet of Four Species of plants: date frond (much like the palm leaves we use on Palm Sunday), myrtle tree boughs, and willow branches.

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WHO's Fall Festivities

WHO will host a "Home Party Vendor Fair" on Sunday, October 21, from 2:00-4:00. Come to the church vestry to sample the newest lines from Avon, Southern Living at Home, Lites of Hope, Tupperware, Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, Silpada, Stampin' Up, Longaberger, and more. Enjoy refreshments and leisurely shopping. Bring a guest and have a ball!

WHO is selling tickets to the popular holiday shopping event, "Simon Evening of Giving". This is an exclusive after-hours shopping night for charity to be held on Sunday, November 18. Tickets, which sell for \$10, support our WHO missions and the Simon Youth Foundation. Please see any member of WHO to purchase your tickets.

ushers needed

As of October 1st, we will need Ushers as the youth will be doing acolyte duties. There is a large sign-up sheet in the vestry. Interested parties will be given a list of duties. If you feel you should be trained, we will hold a training class. Please talk with Ann Edelman if you have any questions or phone her on 508.485.5786. You will be contacted after you sign up or may be called by phone. Women and Men may usher, as well as teens.

Rummage Sale

The Annual Fall Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the vestry. There will be great deals on winter items, clothing and home goods. Please come and shop. In the mean time, if you can help with the sale, or have items to donate, please see Joyce Swett or Judy Chaves.

Thank you

Thanks to everyone who made the youth yard sale a success on Saturday, September 29! A record amount of money was raised!

News snippets

- Worship Committee will meet 10/21 following the service in the Choir Room
- Education Committee meets 1st Thursday of every month at 6:45 PM
- Sign-up for Altar Flowers located in the vestry
- Youth Group meets 3rd Sunday of every month following the service
- W.H.O. (Women Helping Others) meetings every 3rd Wednesday at 7:15PM
- Trustees meet the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7PM
- Anyone interested in teaching or substitute teaching Sunday school please see or call Lee if interested, (508) 481-2860

- SAVE YOUR WINTER CLOTHING -

Judy Chaves & Joyce Swett, with the assistance of W.H.O., will be chairing a Rummage Sale to be held Saturday October 13th. Please save clothing, winter items, and home goods for this event. Storage available in room behind the stage.

WHO (Women Helping Others) will host a **Home Party Vendor Fair** in the vestry on Sunday, Oct. 21, 2:00-4:00 p.m. All are invited to sample products from Southern Living at Home, Lites of Hope, Tupperware, Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, Silpada, Stampin' Up, Longaberger, and more. Enjoy refreshments and door prizes while you place your orders in plenty of time for holiday gift-giving. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the missions of WHO.

WHO is selling tickets to the popular holiday shopping event, "**Simon Evening of Giving**". This is an exclusive, after-hours shopping night at the Solomon Pond Mall on Sunday, November 18. Tickets, which sell for \$10 support our WHO missions and the Simon Youth Foundation. Please see any member of WHO to purchase your tickets.

The Spare Change Drive is in full swing. Empty your pockets of all that change and put it in the cans provided by the Youth Group. All proceeds go toward defraying the cost of our lift. Small change add up quickly, so help us out

The Youth Group will be **collecting beverage containers** over the summer months to raise money for their mission work. Please drop off your coke/pepsi cans & bottles in the large box in the vestry.

Donations of \$20.00 supermarket gift certificates or donations of cash earmarked for 'Thanksgiving Fixins' can be dropped in the collection plate or mailed, over the next 6 weeks. This money will supplement the turkeys provided by the Marlborough Food Pantry. Please provide a memorable and happy Thanksgiving to a local Family this November.

Get ready for Christmas shopping! There will be a direct vendor sale on Sunday afternoon, October 21 from 2-4 PM. Come view the wares and make your Christmas orders. If you can help out by making finger food snacks for our public visitors, please call the church office at 508 485 1980.

Our next "fair" **fundraiser for W.H.O.** is the Senior Citizens Fair on November 17. If you sew, your help is urgently needed to ensure that we can fill orders and have a good selection of inventory for that event. See any member of W.H.O. to find out how you can help. Helping is not limited to the women of the church!

It's not too early to plan ahead. The **annual Marlborough Interfaith Thanksgiving service** is set for Monday evening, November 19 at 7 PM at Immaculate Conception Church. Our own Pastor Linda will be preaching!

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These are bound together at the base with intricately woven palm leaves. The fourth Species is represented by a fruit called the “etrog.” Etrogs are lemony-yellow, bumpy and elliptical. They grow upward on bushes and then droop toward the ground when heavy and ripe. Together with the leaf bouquet, prayers are said for the holy days. And so, the Rabbi prayed this stirring prayer:

Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe who creates the fruit of the vine, who made all things exist through His word. Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe who has chosen us from among all people, and exalted us above every tongue and sanctified us with His commandments. And you gave us, Lord our God, with love Sabbaths for rest, and appointed festivals for gladness, festivals and times for joy this day of the festival of Sukkot, the time of our gladness a holy convocation, a memorial of the exodus from Egypt because You have chosen us and made us holy from all peoples and your holy festivals in gladness and in joy you have given us for an inheritance. Blessed are you, Lord, who sanctifies the Sabbath and Israel and the seasons. Amen.

As we finish getting our new school/church program year underway, we can be joyful and thankful along with our Jewish friends. We see signs of harvest around us everywhere in local fields, farm stands, grocery stores and decorated yards. We can all look back over 2007 and see how God continues to bless us with safety, friendships, family, and deliverance from illnesses or troubles. We have much in common with our Jewish friends: common Israelite ancestors, common commandments to care lovingly for each other, and a God whose covenant ensures that we have Sabbaths for rest, restoration and worship.

Only God knows what this new year will bring. But, in the midst of everything that happens, let us remember the sukkots, the temporary shelters, and what they mean: the Living God shelters us and provides for us in all circumstances. In the meantime, it is a privilege and pleasure to walk with you into this new year. Let us all make a new year’s resolution to treasure our church, which is the very Tabernacle of God, and treasure meeting together above all other earthly activities, to celebrate The Lord’s Day each Sabbath.

May your new year be sweet and round!

Blessings,

Pastor Linda

A Big Thank you

Thanks to the members of W.H.O. and all other helpers who sewed children's aprons, pillow cases and door bows, made floral arrangements and gift baskets for the Heritage Street Fair on Sunday, September 30. The weather was gorgeous and sales were brisk. A special thanks to Louie Papile for loaning us his tent and for those who did the nitty-gritty of setting up and tearing down.

words of welcome!

We now have a new Daisy Girl Scout troop meeting every other Tuesday in our church.

Gifts galore And a whole lot more!

It's a Home Party Vendor Fair!

Sample the latest product lines from:

Lites of Hope

Longaberger

Pampered Chef

Silpada

Southern Living at Home

Stampin' Up

Tastefully Simple

Tupperware

...And more!

Place your orders in plenty of time for holiday gift-giving.
Proceeds benefit Women Helping Others

Sunday, October 21, 2007, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

52 Church St., Marlborough

508-485-1980

Refreshments

Door Prizes

Free Admission

Church Calendar for October 2007

1	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
		7:00 PM	Budget Review, Meeting Room
2	Tuesday	3:30 PM	Daisy Girl Scout Troop, Meeting Room
3	Wednesday	6:00 PM	Trustees, Meeting Room
4	Thursday	6:45 PM	Education Committee, Meeting Room
		7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living Chapel With Holy Communion
7	Sunday	11:00 AM	Worship
		11:20 AM	Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
8	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
11	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living Chapel
12	Friday	7:00 PM	Indian Chorus, Meeting Room
13	Saturday	9:00-3:00	Rummage Sale, Vestry
14	Sunday	11:00 AM	Worship, World Communion Sunday
		11:20 AM	Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		Noon	Mission Committee, Meeting Room
15	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
16	Tuesday	3:30 PM	Daisy Girl Scout Troop, Meeting Room
17	Wednesday		W.H.O. (Women Helping Others), Meeting Room
18	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living Chapel
20	Friday	7:00 PM	Indian Chorus, Meeting Room
21	Sunday	11:00 AM	Worship, Laity Sunday
		11:20 AM	Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		Noon	Youth Group
		Noon	Worship Committee, Meeting Room
		1:30 PM	Setup for Home Vendor Fair Fundraiser
		2-4 PM	Home Vendor Fair, Vestry
22	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
25	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living Chapel
28	Sunday	11:00 AM	Worship, World Communion Sunday
		11:20 AM	Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
29	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
		7:00 PM	Administrative Council, Meeting Room

Remember to bring items to the church for the upcoming ***rummage sale*** and place them in the storage area behind the stage in the vestry. The sale is Saturday, October 13.

Sunday, October 21 is ***Laity Sunday***. The strength of the Methodists has always been in the faithfulness of lay people to lead worship and run church business. Please join us for a festive

Pictures from September 2007 activities



Adrian Gerald changes a tablecloth in the vestry. There are jobs everyone can do in the church! We are planning a busy year, and we need everyone's help to accomplish church goals.

Judy Chaves and Esther Gerald make a variety of pizzas on September 15. The cooks enjoyed a fellowship pizza meal and kicked off our new year of delivering meals to the homeless shelter on the third Saturday of each month. *Please sign up to help with a meal. So far, we need volunteers for November, December, January, February, March, April and May.*



Pastor Linda and District Superintendent Rev. Ron Wilson conduct the annual Charge Conference on September 16. We hosted a joint conference with the North Grafton Church to celebrate accomplishments and outline challenges and goals for the upcoming year.

Methodists believe in the discipline of Bible study as a means of grace. The Monday morning adult Disciples study meets at 10 AM in the home of Bess Cowan (seated with Jan Racca). Back row: Laurretta Field, Anne Halliday, Joyce Locklin, Joan Parris. All are invited to attend this Bible study or to create another small group for regular prayer, scripture study, book reading or exploration of topics of current social concern in our community. Speak to Pastor Linda if you have an idea for a small group.





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Address Correction Requested

Pastor Linda Stetter

