



First United Methodist Church of Marlboro

The Link - October 2008

Hard Times are 'Heart' Times

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as Fall chill brings vibrant color to the trees and reminds us to reach into our closets for jackets, we are also reminded that the season of Thanksgiving is just around the corner. During Fall 2008, we need, more than ever, to reach not only into our closets for sweatshirts for ourselves, but reach into our hearts toward a new level of compassion and generosity for those who are among the newly suffering this year.

I don't think I could say it more eloquently than our Bishop, The Rev. Peter Weaver. He periodically sends out a "Partners in Ministry" email to all clergy and other interested laity. "Partners in Ministry" is how God sees us, how Jesus taught us to live in the world, and how we as United Methodist see ourselves: partners in "Priesthood of All Believers. The Bishop's story tells us more about how Methodists were living during the years when our own church was celebrating its first years of ministry. Enjoy each part and take it to heart! Blessings, Pastor Linda

Dear Partners in Ministry: **FINANCIAL CRISIS** filled all the headlines in 1857. It is reported that the financial panic of 1857 thrust the northeastern United States into a lengthy depression. Sound familiar? Yet in Enfield, NH, 24 Methodists gathered and decided to build their first church building, anyway. In spite of the "economic conditions," their dreams were big (a church to seat 350, use the best lumber... after all, this was God's work!). In May 1858, with the 24 families giving sacrificially between \$15 and \$100, they raised almost \$1,000 (big money in those days). By October, the building was underway and the numbers had grown to 34 families who now raised another \$2,000 to complete the building where people have now gathered for 150 years through multiple financial crises, wars, and panics. Here, Christ has met them with blessing and strength and the gift of the greatest treasures of life: faith, hope and love.

September 21, we gathered to re-consecrate this 150-year-old building. It is a wonderful small membership congregation that is part of a charge. In spite of the "economic conditions" of today, they offer a free supper every Wednesday evening. They operate a food bank and a thrift shop that is open three days a week. For four years they have sent a Volunteer in Mission team to Louisiana and may send one to Iowa also this year. They give 100% of their Mission Shares so they can be fully a part of missions around the world. Visitation teams go out visiting regularly...worship is lively...the hospitality and welcome excellent...is it any surprise that new people are coming and they are growing...."in spite of the economic conditions!"

It can be true for every congregation.

Blessings. Pastor Linda

From the Education Committee....

The Annual Sunday School Children's Food Pantry Collection will be held from Nov 2nd - Nov 23rd, to be blessed on Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 23rd. Collection boxes will be provided in the Sanctuary, Vestry and in the Education Wing of the church.

WHO (Women Helping Others)

All women of any age are invited to attend WHO meetings, activities and events. We meet the third Wednesday of every month at 7:15 pm in the church meeting room. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 15th.

Coming up on our agenda

Shut in Christmas baskets

Teenage Christmas gifts

Homeless Shelter Christmas bags

Christmas cookie swap and more...

Thanks to all that helped on the Rummage Sale Oct 4th, our proceeds were \$340.

Youth Group News - Another Successful Yard Sale!

Thanks to all who dropped off goods to sell, helped set up, worked, bought and helped clean up at the Youth Group yard sale. Thanks also to Alyson for doing all the advertising once again. Our proceeds this fall yard sale was \$640!

The Youth Group will hold it's first meeting for the year Saturday, Oct 18th, 2 pm while making the Homeless Shelter meal.

Webmaster Wanted!

We are in need of a new Webmaster to keep our church Website, www.marlboroumc.com, up to date. Anyone interested please see Pastor Linda.

To Our Church Family,

We want to thank you for your kindness and caring during this difficult time. Thanks to all for the prayers, phone calls, cards, e-mails, food, flowers and plants. Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

The Richard "Dick" Edelman Family

Nursery Helpers Needed Beginning Sunday, September 14:

We are called to minister even and especially to our tiniest ones in a safe and adequate manner. Thanks to our Trustees, our nursery is now being professionally cleaned! Now, we need to ensure that we have TWO caregivers in the nursery at all times. Our older youth have been wonderful helpers in the nursery, but we need at least ONE PARENT OR ONE GRANDPARENT to sign up for each week. If every parent or grand parent takes one Sunday, we will be able to staff the nursery according to our Safe Sanctuary Policy. The bigger blessing will be knowing that our wee ones are getting an “intergenerational” experience that is missing in so much of society today. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Vestry.

CHRISTIAN ECONOMICS

I had a Seminary Professor who used to challenge us to think about the teachings and way of Jesus as we think about our economic life together. What about wealth and “commonwealth?” What about the rich, and camels, and eyes of needles? Why was “lending” with interest charged seen as the sin of usury? (Wesley was very clear about this...if he were here today, he might say, “I told you so.”) Is there a word from the Lord in this time of asking questions about our economy and the world economy? I encourage you as pastors and laity to have special groups to talk about these things in the light of our current crisis. We need to be alert and caring about the economic circumstances of our sisters and brothers in the church and in the community. Those living in Massachusetts are facing a referendum that will eliminate the state income tax, 40% of the budget, and, by implication, dozens of our most important programs for children, and the most vulnerable in our “commonwealth.” (Get informed and vote.) The church is the place where we need to pray, talk, and live the Christian life as it connects with the real challenges facing us in this economy. Let us be partners in this ministry—Bishop Weaver.

--Pastor Linda

We Are Getting a New Church Directory! Olan Mills Pro Photography is coming!

Thanks to the Trustees, we will have a new pictorial church directory by Christmas. Olan Mills will be at our church to take pictures of individuals and families on Tuesday, December 2 from 3-9:30 PM. A schedule of appointment times will be available later this Fall. Olan Mills guarantees that any photo packages you purchase for Christmas giving will arrive on time! Get your family to clear schedules, get haircuts, locate just the right clothes, and gather at the church for this special photo opportunity. It has been (too) many years since our photo directory has been updated, so this is exciting!

All Saints Day is the first Sunday in November this year. We light candles and honor the memories of the saints who have gone before us during worship. We especially want to invite families of those we have lost since last November to be present with us. Please invite family members and friends who have lost loved ones to be with us in worship this day. Naming and remembering these persons in love helps the healing process!

Calling all Liturgists! Reading scripture at Sunday worship is a privilege open to anyone who would like to pronounce the Word of God. If you like to read scripture and we don't know about it, let Pastor Linda know!

Advent 2008...is Right Around the Corner!

Starts Sunday, November 30! Christmas Eve is Wednesday, December 24, and Christmas Day is Thursday, December 25. If you have preferences about what time Christmas Eve services should be, please let Pastor Linda know. Remember that she must do two services...one in North Grafton and one in Marlborough!

Want to host a Sunday Coffee Hour? If your family is commemorating a special occasion, we would love to help you celebrate. If you wish to furnish refreshments, host and clean up on a special Sunday, please contact Robin Zaia, our Coffee Hour Chair.

Altar Flowers: If you wish to commemorate a special occasion this year, the sign-up sheet for altar flowers is on the bulletin board in the Vestry.

Watch for early sales on winter mittens and hats for our Advent Mitten Tree.

Shop early and bring personal care items for 16 men and 4 women. We will pack Christmas baskets for them in early December.

Start collecting interesting, small household items for approximately 15 Christmas baskets for our shut-ins!

Announcing our Charge Conference Date

Our Charge Conference is set for Friday evening, November 21. The Staff-Parish Committee will meet with District Superintendent, Rev. Ron Wilson at 6:15. Then the entire congregation is invited to be in holy conferencing at 7 PM. Because we are a two-church charge, we hold joint charge conferences with our sister church, North Grafton UMC. Many from NGUMC traveled to our church last year for Conference, so we will travel to North Grafton for the 2008 Conference. Start planning your carpools now!

Important Note: All Committee reports and required financial statements are due in the church office no later than Sunday, November 9 to give volunteers sufficient time in both churches to compile the annual reports.

Second Annual Three-on-Three Basketball Tourney is Back!

Dan Swett is gearing up for a second annual 3-on-3 basketball tourney fundraiser at the Boys' and Girls' Club. The tentative date will be a Saturday early in November. Since he is away at college, he needs help coordinating the event on this end.

Call Dan at 508-485-0815 to offer help. He needs:

- Prizes for winning teams and runners-up
- Recruitment of 3-person teams ages 16 and up
- Help distributing registration forms
- People to help on the day of the tourney

Second Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
Registration Form (Please Print)

TEAM NAME: _____ TEAM CAPTAIN: _____

PLAYER #1: _____ Age ____ PLAYER #2: _____ Age ____

PLAYER #3: _____ Age ____ EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____
Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Only 16 Available Team Slots* *First Come First Served

Please turn registration and payment into the Swetts by

October 26

Cost \$45: Cash _____ Check ____ Check # _____



Fall/Winter Mission Opportunities:

Sign Up To Help with Homeless Shelter Meals. The Third Saturday of each month, we prepare a meal for 20 and deliver it to Roland's House, our local homeless shelter. Groups can share the fun by meeting in the church kitchen to prepare or assemble the meal at 2 PM. Meals are delivered around 5 or 5:30 PM. Some families choose a month and get together in their home kitchens to prepare the meal and deliver it. We still need families for six of the nine meals this year. Please sign up on the announcement in your church bulletin or contact Joan Parris.

Central Massachusetts Lay Speaking Courses Are Back!

The United Methodist Church believes in the "priesthood of all believers." Therefore, we celebrate a very long history—beginning in the 1700s when there were no ordained clergy in New England. Lay preachers volunteered to "take up the slack" can continue to do so into the 21st century, particularly in churches with half-time pastors like FUMC Marlborough, where worship and visitation functions need extra support.

Currently, we are blessed with three dedicated Lay Speakers: Mathew Alexander, Sue Lodi and Jan Racca. However, a church our size needs at least 6 so that we don't burn out a few doing all the work.. So, our goal this Fall is to train Three More Lay Speakers for Marlborough.

Please prayerfully consider attending the Basic Lay Speaking Course this Fall so that you can be affirmed officially at our Charge Conference in November. If you are already a Local Church Lay Speaker, you need to take an advanced course this Fall to become a Certified Lay Speaker. Lay Leaders are required by the *Discipline* to be Certified Lay Speakers. Here is the information:

- Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course: Focus on many lay speaking ministries: preaching, leading, teaching, serving, proclaiming the gospel, disciple-making, storytelling, growing through personal spiritual formation. The book introduces skills in caring, leading and communicating. Completion of the Basic Course is required for Lay Speaker Certification.
- Lay Speakers Discover Spiritual Gifts—Advanced Course: Focus is on acquiring better understanding of needs of church ministry and being more fully equipped to lead others in exploring and using their spiritual gifts.
- Lay Speakers Lead Bible Study: Advanced Course: Used in conjunction with William Barclay's latest edition of "Introducing the Bible." Helps lay speakers become versed in how to teach and lead Bible Study.

Dates and Times: 1-6 PM on three Saturdays: October 25, November 8, November 16

Location: Oakdale United Methodist Church, 16 North Main Street, West Boylston, MA 01583

(We meet and carpool from the church)

Cost: \$35, including books, instruction and snacks

REGISTRATION FORM FOR LAY SPEAKING SCHOOL
(please fill out, clip and turn in to Pastor Linda for signatures)
CENTRAL MASS DISTRICT
LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES COURSE REGISTRATION FORM

Course dates/times: each course will meet on three sequential Saturdays: October 25, November 8 and November 15 from 1 PM to 6 PM

Location: Oakdale UMC, 15 North Main Street, West Boylston, MA 01583

Fee: \$35

Registration Deadline: October 5, 2008

Name _____ email _____

Phone _____ Local Church _____

Pastor's Signature _____ Admin. Board Chair Signature _____

Course enrollment: ___ Basic Lay Speaking Course—Instructor: Bruce Senseon
 ___ Advanced Course: Layspeakers Discover Spiritual Gifts—Instructor Janice Myers
 ___ Advanced Course: Layspeakers Lead Bible Study—Instructor Judith Sandberg
___ I am taking the Basic Course to become a Local Lay Speaker.
___ I am taking an Advanced Course to renew my certification.
___ I am taking an Advanced Course for audit purposes only.

Is your church interested in hosting future CMA District Lay Speaking Classes? ___ Yes ___ No

Please mail registration form and payment (check payable to New England Conference) to: Bruce Denso, 9 Dana Drive, Oxford, MA 01540. Email inquiries to b.denson@charter.net

We are a Church in Mission!

Thanks to our very active Mission Committee, supported immensely by W.H.O. (Women Helping Others), we have a full slate of Mission projects for this Fall. There is a mission activity for every ability and every age!

- Thanks to those who helped with the annual Backpack program. We accomplished our goal of 10 customized back packs for the Food Bank program, including the backpacks, school supplies and gift cards. Through your generosity, we were able to complete the back packs without supplementing the cost from WHO funds—for the first time!



Here to serve you! A full staff greeted those who came to shop at our annual Rummage Sale on October 4. Pictured are: left to right seated: Evey, Karen, Dottie, Jean and Millie; left to right standing are: Joyce S., Heather, Linda P., Joyce H., Judy, Haylee and Brandi. Items left from the sale are donated to the Viet Nam Veterans group. As the old saying goes, "everything has its place."

Don't Forget to Bring Food Offerings the First Sunday of Each Month.

We always have a suggestion for items urgently needed at the Food Bank, but the truth is that any non-perishable food items that are still within the expiration dates are needed! Every time you go to the store, please pick up one extra item and bring it to the Food Pantry box in the Vestry. Each First Sunday, in keeping with the tradition of almsgiving at Communion, a tradition that we can trace back even to the earliest Christian years, we bless our offerings on the altar and then send them to the Food Bank. Our local Food Pantry serves 600+ families each month. September and October are historically the lowest donation months of the year. It's a shame when the Pantry has to close because it is empty. The overwhelming majority of hungry families in Marlborough are working poor, single mothers, handicapped individuals, and elderly. Ever month, these households must choose between purchasing food or medicine or utilities. We worship a God who put plenty of resources in the world. It's up to us to make sure that those resources are adequately distributed in our town. Here is a list of SUGGESTED ITEMS; IF YOU DON'T LIKE THESE, BRING SOMETHING ELSE! POST THIS LIST ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR OR NEAR YOUR GROCERY LIST:

First Sunday in October: cold cereals

First Sunday in November: black beans, kidney beans, baked beans

First Sunday in December: jars of baby food, especially fruit, baby cereal

First Sunday in January: hot cereals

First Sunday in February: spaghetti sauce in cans or jars

First Sunday in March: baby formula (Enfamil, Similac, etc.)

First Sunday in April: jelly or jam

First Sunday in May: canned tuna, especially white tuna

First Sunday in June: crackers (all varieties), cookies, raisins, granola bars, popcorn

First Sunday in July: diapers (size 3,4 or 5 are most needed)

First Sunday in August: shampoo, crème rinse, soap, toothpaste, deodorant



Michele and Lee sort and price a wonderful assortment of hand-made items to sell at the Heritage Days Fair on Main Street on October 5. Thanks to W.H.O. (Women Helping Others) for their hours of diligent crafting. This event not only raises funds but also helps us be more visible and inviting to the community!

More Photos



Mathew on the ladder, Pastor Linda on the ground...at Maine Mountain Ministries in Kingfield Maine in October...priming a house for an elderly lady so that her house can be painted for winter.

Michel, Mathew and Pastor Linda...still all smiles as they return from an intense but fun mission trip to Main Mountain Ministries. They report that the bunk house was very comfortable, spacious, with a very well appointed kitchen and dining area!



Linda and Micaela help set up for the annual Fall Youth Yard Sales which was held on Saturday, September 27. Many thanks to all who donated, helped set up, and worked. It is an ongoing success story for our Youth!

Vicki, Joyce and James help in the church kitchen on Saturday, September 20 to make home-made pizza for the monthly homeless shelter meal. Others helping were Michele, Laretta, Joan, and Pastor Linda. The group had great fellowship making and sharing their very creative "main dish" and "dessert" pizzas.



Late Summer Cleanup Day: Thanks to the Trustees and a few helpers, our church grounds are well groomed for the Fall. Pictured are: Joe from the CB Shalom Brazilian Church, Joyce, Ann, Duane, Tom, and Cindy. There are still several small but important "winterizing" tasks that need to be done "before the snow flies." See one of the Trustees or Pastor Linda to find out how you can help make our church ready and safe for the winter.

Church Calendar for October 2008: Save the Dates!

1	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Trustees Meet, Meeting Room
2	Thursday	7:00 PM	Evening Worship at New Horizons with Holy Communion
3	Friday	All Day	Set Up for Rummage Sale in Vestry
4	Saturday		Rummage Sale, Vestry
5	Sunday	7:30 AM	Deliver Tables, Tent to Main Street for Heritage Day Street Fair
		7:45 AM	Lay out Goods on Tables for sale
		8:30-2:30	Volunteers needed to greet public, sell goods
		2:30 PM	Tear Down tent, deliver goods and tables back to church
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship, <u>World Communion Sunday</u>
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
6	Monday	7:30 AM	Walk in the Park with Pastor Linda
		10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
7	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Worship Committee, Meeting Room
8	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Clergy Mentoring Session, Oxford
		6:00 PM	Education Fair on Alzheimer's, Senior Center
9	Thursday	7:00 PM	Evening Worship at New Horizons
12	Sunday	11:00 AM	<u>Bring a Friend to Church Sunday</u>
			Morning Worship with Sunday School
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship in Vestry
		Noon	Mission Committee, Meeting Room
13	Monday	7:30 AM	Walk in Park with Pastor Linda
		10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
15	Wednesday	7:15 PM	W.H.O. (Women Helping Others), Meeting Room
16	Thursday	7:00 PM	Evening Worship at New Horizons
18	Saturday	2:00 PM	Youth Group prepares homeless shelter meal, Church kitchen
19	Sunday	11:00 AM	<u>Laity Sunday</u> Morning Worship with Sunday School
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship in Vestry
20	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
22	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Eldercare Collaborative, Marlborough Hospital
		3:30 PM	Marlborough Interfaith Clergy, Meeting Room
23	Thursday	7:00 PM	Evening Worship at New Horizons
25	Saturday	1-6 PM	Lay Speaking School, Oakdale UMC, 1 st Session
26	Sunday	11:00 AM	<u>Reformation Sunday</u> Morning Worship with Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship in Vestry
		Noon	Staff-Parish Committee, Pastor's Study
27	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
		7:00 PM	Administrative Board, Meeting Room
30	Thursday	7:00 PM	Evening Worship at New Horizons

Looking Ahead to November: Save the Dates!

1	Saturday	All Day	Tentative W.H.O. sales at Northboro Jr. Women's Craft Fair
2	Sunday	11:00 AM	<u>All Saints Day</u> Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship in Vestry
3	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
5	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Trustees, Meeting Room
6	Thursday	7:00 PM	Evening worship at New Horizons with Holy Communion
8	Saturday	1-6 PM	Lay Speaker School, Oakdale UMC, Session 2
9	Sunday	11:00 AM	<u>Bring a Friend to Church Sunday</u> Worship and Sunday school
			Charge Conference Reports Due in Church Office
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship in Vestry
		Noon	Mission Committee, Meeting Room
10	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
12	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Clergy Mentoring Session, Oxford
13	Thursday	7:00 PM	Evening Worship at New Horizons
15	Saturday	1-6 PM	Lay Speaking School, Oakdale UMC, Session 3 & Graduation
16	Sunday	11:00 AM	Morning Worship with Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		Noon	Worship Committee, Meeting Room
		7-8 PM	Tentative: Youth Group Meeting
17	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
19	Wednesday	7:15 PM	W.H.O. (Women Helping Others), Meeting Room
20	Thursday	7:00 PM	Evening Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
21	Friday	6:15 PM	Staff-Parish Committees meet with District Superintendent
		7:00 PM	Joint Charge Conference with North Grafton AT NORTH GRAFTON
23	Sunday	11:00 AM	<u>Christ the King Sunday</u> Morning Worship and Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		Noon	Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Meeting Room
24	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
25	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Pastor Linda to Central Mass Critical Incident Stress Management Team, Worcester Fire Department
27	Thursday	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Evening worship at New Horizons
30	Sunday	11:00 AM	<u>Fifth Sunday and First Sunday of Advent</u> Morning Worship with Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry



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Address Correction Requested

Pastor Linda Stetter

