

TIDINGS

North United Methodist Church
300 Parker Street
Manchester, CT 06042

JULY/AUGUST 2009
(860) 649-3696
northchurch@snet.net
<http://numc.axelhouse.com>

True North . . .



ON A MISSION FROM GOD

...And behold, I heard a voice from heaven say, (actually it was the collective voice of the bishop and cabinet, via the District Superintendent) "Pack your belongings and head South along Interstate 495 and Interstate 90 and Interstate 84. There in the town of Manchester CT, off exit 63, you will find a beautiful little church called North United Methodist Church. That's your next appointment."

(Laurel's journal, April 2009)

Well, those were not the exact words, but they pretty much summarize the notice I received regarding my next stop on my ministry journey.

United Methodist elders become accustomed to the rituals of saying hello and saying goodbye. We gear up ourselves to move to the next ministry appointment, to leave those to whom we have become accustomed and to venture into the great unknown of a new congregation, a new community. This activity is not without some tears both of sorrow and of joy, and not without some fears. But we are re-assured that in this work with God to proclaim the good news to all the people; and to participate with God in saving the creation God loves so much, the presence of God goes before us to prepare the way and that same presence remains behind us as a blessing and a benediction.

So as I prepare to move to Manchester, my fears are assuaged knowing that I am approaching holy ground because as psychologist Raymond Hammer cautions, *God was there before me...*

As I rummaged through boxes and crates of documents and papers marking the experiences I have gone through I came across the article I wrote to the congregation I served at the beginning of this century and I noticed a trend. It may not in the end, mean anything, but then again it might. I wrote then that I am a traveler; that movement seems to be a natural part of my life. Mind you, there are elders in my family who

caution that ‘a rolling stone gathers no moss,’ meaning that I will never accumulate anything that is significant materially because I move so much; but I take it to mean that because I move so much, there is less of a chance that I will accumulate the things that will weigh me down! Besides I like moving ... well not actually moving as in packing up things and moving, but rather, I like movement, and traveling.

I visited the House of Blues in Disneyland last February as I took a break from a GCFA training and purchased a blanket with a portrait of the Blues Brothers (Dan Akroyd and John Belushi) with the slogan “We’re on a Mission From God”. I’ve watched that movie dozens of times and never fail to be amused by the Blues Brothers’ antics; but I also resonate with the slogan at a deep level. *I am on a mission from God*. If I had a choice, I would have chosen a far more glamorous life for myself.

So far, my appointments have been West (Old West Church) Center (Centralville) and now North. See what I mean about a trend? Funny how God has a sense of humor. I’ve always wanted to go South (geographically). *Maybe God’s starting to listen*. I’ve been North, further North, West of North and now I’m moving South of west of North to North. (Okay that’s confusing, but try to follow. It’ll eventually make sense.)

So now here we are at this intersection as I join you in your journey as a community of faith with a mission to love the creation as God loves; to care for the creation as God cares and to become the incarnation of love so that the whole world might know the love of God.

When travelers attempt to verify their position and direction, they look to true North on the compass. The North Star helps guide nocturnal travelers. To me, the implications are clear. The work of the community of North United Methodist Church is to provide a reference point for others who are seeking their way. The way home, the way to God, the way to Life.

We’re on a mission from God. So let’s take the time to meet each other and enjoy the relaxing, refreshing pace of the Summer, so that together we resume this mission in earnest in the Fall.

Shalom

Pastor Laurel





JULY

5th TBD
12th TBD
19th TBD
26th TBD

AUGUST

2nd TBD
9th TBD
16th TBD
23rd TBD
30th TBD



COUNTING DONATIONS

JULY

5th Tim LePore
Jim Glass
12th Les VanDine
Collins Judd
19th Bob Bowsza
Harry Arendt
26th Kris Pelletier
Liz Twarkins

AUGUST

2nd Jan Miller
Judy Starkweather
9th Jane Hopkins
Barbara Judd
16th Tim LePore
Jim Glass
23rd Les VanDine
Collins Judd
30th Bob Bowsza
Harry Arendt



JULY

5th Steve Hadge
12th Carole Williamson
19th Bud Moyer
26th TBD

AUGUST

2nd TBD
9th TBD
16th TBD
23rd Steve Hadge
30th TBD

USHERS

JULY

5th Jack Bertrand
John Chadwick
12th Pam & Bruce Putinas
19th Paula Smith
Pam Craparotta
26th Bob Pelletier
Linda Gates

AUGUST

2nd Jack Bertrand
Roger Edinger
9th Curt Whatley
Tim LePore
16th Paula Smith
Pat Smith
23rd Julie LePore
Dianne LePore
30th Lucy Falk
Paula Adamczyk



NURSERY

- 9:00am to 11:00 pm

WORSHIP SERVICES

- 9:30 am
Blended Worship

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

10:30

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- approx. 9:45 am

Children attend the beginning of worship and proceed to class following the Children's Sermon. Classes dismiss at 10:45 am.

COMMUNION SUNDAYS

The first Sunday of each month is Communion Sunday, at which time the children begin their day by attending their class at 9:30 am and then join the service with their families for communion and the remainder of the service.





Prayer Requests

We are a community of faith and we believe in the power of prayer. These are long-term prayer concerns in our monthly "Tidings". These could remain for three months. You may call the office (649-3696) or email (northchurch@snet.net) and add names as the need arises –however, we ask that you seek permission of those involved so that we may protect their need for privacy as we reach out in faith.

Moriah Fowler
Ed Painter
Lillian Fenn
Etta Miner
Joan Dewyer
James Lapenta
Carole and Matthew
 (Liz Twarkins' daughter & grandson)



Knitting Group

The Knitting Ministry will not be meeting together, during the Summer months.

We will take time to enjoy, with our families and friends. We will resume meeting once again, in late September. Have a wonderful Summer. For any information, please call Lucy at 647-1488.



MEDITATION GROUP
Tuesdays ~ 7:30 – 9:00 pm
 Join in practicing engaged Buddhist meditation. All are welcome regardless of your backgrounds or affiliation.

Additional information is available in the Memorial Room.



FRIDAY, August 14

For the September Issue of Tidings

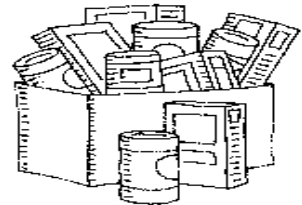
This is a reminder that all articles and notices for the *September Tidings* should be submitted to the church office by the August 14 deadline.



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are a wonderful way to acknowledge the Memory of a Loved One or Celebrate a special person or occasion. Forms are available in the Memorial Room to make such requests. If you have any questions, please speak with Doris Timbrell, our Flower Steward (649-6494).

Manchester Area Conference of Churches



FEED THE HUNGRY FOOD PANTRY

*Thank you for your weekly generous donations to the Food Pantry. The Pantry is always low on **soup, peanut butter and jelly, tuna and mayonnaise, sauce (for pasta), mac & cheese, canned fruit and cereal.** Thank you for your help!*

A very special thank you to everyone who gives so generously to this need in our community!

ONE-ROOM SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER SIGN-UP

is now available in the Memorial Room. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to share time with our wonderful children. Thank you!





PROPERTY COMMITTEE REQUESTS

We would like to remind everyone that several years ago the Trustees established a sub-committee - "**Property Committee**".

This committee is solely responsible for organizing and addressing all repairs and maintenance of our buildings. As a result, the policy for any repairs, modifications, or maintenance in and around the building is as follows:

If you notice a need within the church building or on the grounds, it is to be brought to the attention of the **Property Committee** by filling out a Request Form. These request forms are found in the narthex information center by the mailboxes. Once you have completed a form you may place it into the 'Property Committee' mailbox. The committee will then assess the need and decide on an appropriate course of action to meet the need. *We respectfully ask that all members and friends of North Church use this policy and forms for all requests and trustee approval.*

Any questions regarding this policy may be directed to:

Co-Presidents of Trustees –
Jan Miller and
Jim Williamson.

Wesleyan Study Group

The WSG has just completed its latest discussion book: *The Secret Message of Jesus* by Brian McLaren. The WSG will be taking the summer off. We will start meeting again in mid-September. Look for updates on our next book in the Sunday bulletins in late August and the September Tidings. If you have any questions concerning the WSG please call Carolyn Gimbrone (643-9310).

Summer Reading Group:

Plans are currently being developed for the NUMC summer reading group. Jackie Abbott and Carolyn Gimbrone will be coordinating the groups again this year. Announcements for the book selections and discussion dates will be posted in the weekly bulletins and the July/Aug. Tidings.



Did you know that all the information included in Tidings each month - and more! - is posted on the North Church website every month?

<http://numc.axelhouse.com>

Simply go to
'**News and Events**',
and then '**Tidings Monthly
Newsletter**', and finally,
select the month you wish to
view.



Spring cleaning?

The big **church tag sale** is coming up on **September 12th**. Please save all of the gently used items that you no longer want for the tag sale. More information to come as the summer progresses.



Dear North Church Family,

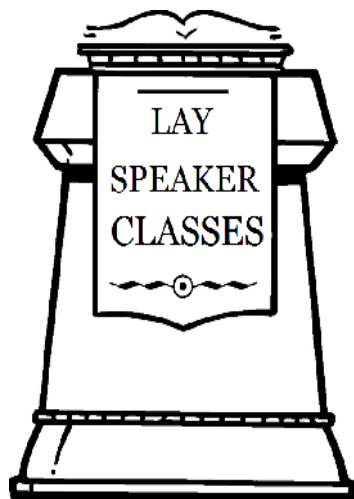
I would like to tell everyone how much I appreciate all the support, guidance and out-pouring of love I have received over the past many years. Especially during times of job changes, and during Nancy's health challenges.

You have all contributed to my growth as a person and musician, as well as my spirituality. I will cherish many great memories and hold them dear forever.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to have worked and worshiped with you.

Nick Spina

CT/WMA District



Lay Speaking Classes Summer 2009

Location:

**First United Methodist
Church
8 Church St., Stafford
Springs, CT**

Dates:

Saturday, July 11 & 18

Time: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Registration deadline:

June 24, 2009

Basic - - The Basic Course includes a study of what it means to be God's called people and how we may be at work for God in our own communities. The guide for this course is practical, including checklists, outlines, and step-by-step plans. Exercises draw on the individuals' personal experiences and on what they know about their communities. The course provides learning opportunities in three areas of service for lay speakers: leading, caring, and communicating.

Instructor: **Marvin Wilbur,**
Certified Lay Speaker

Note: Students enrolling in the **Basic Lay Speaking class** are required to provide a letter of recommendation from their pastor and the chair of the Administrative Board of their church. In addition, they need to write a short essay stating their reasons for wanting to become a lay speaker.

Lay Speakers Preach -- This course provides useful information to the lay speaker about the art of writing sermons. The lay speaker will receive information about resources available to research topics, interpret scripture, and writing interesting and inspiring sermons.

Instructor: **The Rev. Heidi Chamberland, District Superintendent**

Lay Speakers Discover Spiritual Gifts -- This course focuses on acquiring a better understanding of the church and its ministry needs, learning what it means to be a minister; doing the work of Christ in the church and in the world; and being more fully equipped to lead others in exploring and using their spiritual gifts.

Instructor: **George Button,**
Certified Lay Minister

As noted on the registration form, your Pastors signature is required if you are attending an Advanced Class or Basic Class.

"God is calling each of us to be witnesses who proclaim the presence and power of

God through all that we are and all that we do," writes Gilbert and Zoller. "God has called you to witness to your faith in a variety of ways in the midst of a world that questions, doubts, and even (at times) ridicules. We celebrate with you God's call and your response — whatever form it takes!"




Registration forms are available by calling the NUMC office.

For any questions, please contact Lori Stacy, District Director at (413) 267-3765, or email:

lorimstacy@comcast.net

**Big
Thank
You!**

A big thank you to everyone who baked, made sandwiches, staffed the canteen, helped with set-up and donated blood on the day of our Blood Drive. Your efforts were much appreciated.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
					CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 – 10:45 Nursery 9:00 Music Rehearsal 9:30 Worship Service and One-Room Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	7:30 pm Meditation Group			CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 – 10:45 Nursery 9:00 Music Rehearsal 9:30 Worship Service and One-Room Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	7:30 pm Meditation Group			CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 – 10:45 Nursery 9:00 Music Rehearsal 9:30 Worship Service and One-Room Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Ad Council	7:30 pm Meditation Group			CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 – 10:45 Nursery 9:00 Music Rehearsal 9:30 Worship Service and One-Room Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	7:30 pm Meditation Group			CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	

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Address Service Requested

The Health Team recently shared the following prayer with Pastor Margaret, and would like to share it with the entire congregation as we transition through this change.

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

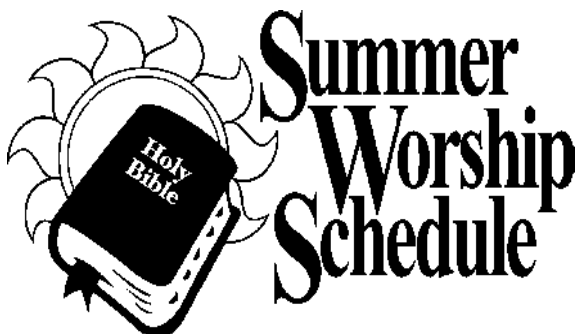
Happy moments – Praise God

Difficult moments – Seek God

Quiet moments – Worship God

Painful moments – Trust God

Every moment – Thank God



JUNE 21 – SEPTEMBER 6

Summer Worship Schedule

One Service at 9:30 am.