

A VIEW FROM THE STEEPLE

MAY 2009

The **View from the Steeple** is published monthly by The Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC.

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Ministerial Musings ~ May 2009 (written 4/28/09)

It is, quite suddenly, 90 today. We seem to have skipped Spring altogether; Ineke wonders on her Facebook page if Winter is just around the corner, then. Someone “jokingly” replies, “Yes!” There is an earthquake - in Mexico, this time. There have been many throughout the earth in recent months. Polar ice caps are melting; polar bears are threatened with loss of habitat and almost certain extinction. Species are disappearing.

I saw this on the internet recently: “for all the children... to whom we entrust the future.”

“Argh!,” my head and heart scoff with some disgust. “Not so. It is from the children that we BORROW the future. It has been entrusted to us *for* them.” Our questions of ourselves, increasingly urgent, poignant and compelling, must be: What have we done to improve global living conditions for the sake of our children, and theirs, unto the seventh generation? How have we stewarded, conserved, treasured and safe-guarded the earth’s resources so that the generations of children who are to come will experience the plenty that was God’s gift to human kind?

No, anonymous internet person, we do not entrust the future to our children; this is not ours to give. God entrusted a good, green, productive, whole and holy environment to us ~ how have we honored this gift?

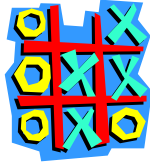
Just now, as I was researching the above quote, I saw an entry from a childhood friend of mine, now living near Boston, who had just come back from a run. He said, “It’s HOT outside; what’s up with that?”

Though it will cool down post- thunderstorms tonight, we must remember that these great and grave fluctuations in temperature, unseasonable extremes of all kinds ~ these are the anomalies that point to the reality and impending tragedies that are ensured by global warming: earthquakes, flooding, droughts, the loss of the balances that ensure our great-grandchildren will *have* a future on this planet.

What can we do about it? PLENTY. Suggestions abound from many sources and interested parties, of course. And the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ has begun a new, greening initiative. Interested in learning more? Please join the *Congregational Church of Plainville “Green Team.” Let’s give our kids our best, for *God’s* sake. Amen.

*In faith,
Claire*

* If interested, please see Rev. Claire



Game Night in May!

Evangelism and Church Growth will be hosting a game night in Kelsey Hall on Friday, May 1 from 6:30-8:00pm. We'll have various games for all ages and refreshments will be served. Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun!

Watch the Steeple and the bulletin for other upcoming events including movie night in June and a Rockcats baseball game in August.

Christian Education

This spring has so far been very busy for Christian Education. The Heifer Project collection is going very well as evidenced by all those full containers that the children brought in on the last Sunday of March. Please look for monthly updates on the bulletin board in Kelsey Hall. The Prayer vigil and Reverse Advent on Good Friday were also great events and we would like to thank all those who helped and attended.

Of course as the days finally get warmer we are starting to think about our summer church school. We are currently looking for volunteers to sign up to teach for one or more Sundays. This is a great opportunity to be involved with our youth for those who are unable to teach throughout the year. We will be holding a second hour program on May 17th to discuss what is involved with teaching Sunday school and we will also be recruiting for teachers for the following school year. We will also be looking for a new Church school superintendent as Karen Hodge will be stepping down at the end of this year. She has done a terrific job for two solid years and we cannot thank her enough for all her hard work. For those of you who do not know what the role of the superintendent is, here are some of the responsibilities:

- Oversee church school teachers
- Register students at the beginning of the school year
- Oversee church school on Sunday mornings
- Ensure all classes are staffed
- Identify equipment/ supply needs
- Assist Christian Education with events such as the bible breakfast, youth Sunday and the Christmas Pageant

If you are interested in being the Superintendent or sharing the responsibilities with another person, please see one of the Christian Education committee members. (Rex Cone, Joanna Vastola, Pam Thomas, Lynette Susco, Joie-Marie Mazurek, Shelley Johnson)

Snowflake Fair ~ May 21st

The Snowflake fair craft night will be on May 21st, we will meet in the library at 6:30. For this craft night we will make beaded bookmarks, this is very easy to do and all are welcomed. These bookmarks make great gifts throughout the year. A sample of this craft and sign-up sheet will be in Kelsey Hall.

Thank You! 😊

A big THANK YOU to all of the men who baked for the Cake Off Bake Off, the women in their lives who let them make a mess of the kitchen, and to everyone who bid on the cakes! We were surprised and thrilled by the contribution of 25 cakes to the contest. Judges Sarah Heap-Crosby, Shayla Beausoleil, and Joie-Marie Mazurek used a detailed point system to award prizes for decorations, texture, and taste. (They actually tried all 25 cakes.) Thanks also to auctioneer Paul Stansel, who made the bidding fun. In all, we raised over \$550 to support the confirmation retreat at the end of April. The funds will cover costs to get to Maine as well as food for the weekend. The confirmands and their families deeply appreciate everyone's support.



MUSIC NOTES...

The Music Committee will meet on Sunday, May 17 at 11:15 A.M.

*Through May 17 the "Buy A Key" piano tuning campaign will continue. Please help support the recent tuning of our 3 church pianos.

*On June 23 we will host the Plainville Wind Ensemble and an Ice Cream Social. Join us for an evening of beautiful music on the front lawn.

*The Music Committee wishes to thank the Chancel Choir, Rev. Claire, Bobbie Turcotte and Connie MacMillan for sharing their musical talents during worship.

How Are We Doing?

	Income	Expenses
January	\$ 22,034.24	\$ 20,391.20
February	\$ 17,978.25	\$ 20,161.89
March	\$ 20,913.57	\$ 19,438.88
	\$ 60,926.06	\$ 59,991.97

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE



"Buy A Key" Fundraiser

April 26th to May 17th

Your donation will go into the NEW "piano tuning" fund!

The music committee will put your name on the keyboard in Kelsey Hall as a Thank you for your support!

All donations welcome

Do We Have YOUR Birthday and Anniversary Dates???

Thanks everyone for continuing to send in your birthday and anniversary updates to us! ☺ Please keep them coming! You can reach us by emailing the Church Secretary, Kathy Todd, at congregational9486@sbcglobal.net. If you do not have email, please give us a call at 747-1901, or drop off a note in the Church Office. We don't want to miss your special day(s)!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the outside beautification.

Don't forget to sign up to cut the grass. The list is in Kelsey Hall.

Thank you to everyone who contributes (and volunteers) in the Thrift Shop.

Right now we need small housewares (pots, pans, dishes, etc.) and jewelry.



A Day of Surprise and Remembrance by Our Church Family

Two long time members of the Plainville Congregational Church were totally overwhelmed and humbled, on Sunday last by your loving tribute. The entire morning worship of prayers and special readings by Dr. Claire and her reflections, the thoughtful Anthem by the choir, the hymn selections, the pinning on of lovely roses, the history essay of some of our church doings over the years, delivered by Lauralee Colella, and the special presence of Clifford Carlson at the console. We felt like we were ascending!

After service the words, the hugs and handshakes so warmly and lovingly given evolved into a huge celebration in Kelsey Hall. The lovely table setting – with delicious food, a tribute sheet cake (yum), the gift of a handsome clock with date and engraving of this 19 of April momentous occasion, the beautiful arrangement of roses and complementary flowers seemed so over the top. Then during the photo op, we were told two plants had been placed outside in front of the Sanctuary, in our honor – a white azalea and a boxwood.

The 19” by 13” card of thanks, signed by many and all was delightful. As if this wasn’t enough Mary Fuller shared a gorgeous tribute arrangement that honored her mom.

There are no adequate words to express our thanks and appreciation for the amazing honor you bestowed on us Sunday the 19th of April. It was so lovingly given and most lovingly received.

Again our sincere thanks,
Claranne and Jim

Blanket the World with Love, May 3rd & 10th

Mother’s Day is a time when families across the country gather to celebrate moms, grandmothers, aunts, and other special “mothers” in their lives. And in our church, we have made it a tradition to make it “Church World Service Blanket” Sunday. Mother’s Day is a day when churches give thanks for all the mothers in their congregations. And, it is a day when Church World Service honors mothers everywhere through their Blanket Program. Through our individual contributions, this program provides heavy wool blankets to people in need when emergencies occur around the world.

A donation of \$5 per blanket is a wonderful way to thank the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, adopted mothers and friends in our lives. Greeting cards are provided for you to send to the women you are honoring, and will be available after church on Sunday, May 3rd and 10th.

Your Mission-Social Action Committee --- Audrey, Carol, Joni, Mary, Pauline, Rinette, Robin, Ruthe

Prayer Shawl Meeting

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Thursday, May 28th at Carol Peterson’s home in Plainville. All are welcome to this fellowship of knitters and crocheters, or just come and enjoy our fellowship. For a ride, call Carol during the day at 747-5174. If you’d like to learn how to knit or crochet, please join us on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Our heartfelt sympathies to those who have lost family members this past month:

To the friends and families of: Sharon Warren, David Bowes, Steven Stairs, Morgan Nichols



Our thoughts and prayers are with: Joseph Dwayne Rivas, Debbie Wasel, Lachlyn Parker Nichols, Cynthia Bowes, Alan Martin (Dale Martin's brother), Sister Mary Sharon Smith, Helen Wilson, Bert Michaud, Jessie Flanders, Pam Collins, Luke Santhouse, Dick and Joan Dante, Bunny Colter, Jim Fielder, Irma Eastwood, Marcia and Woody Winslow, Gary Hubbell, Don Barrows, Dorothy "Dot" Haley, Maria Schatz, Davida Foy Crabtree, Jeff Schaefer, Peg Hoerle, Peg Young, Mary Devine, Gordon McCann, Helen McKernan, Jeane Pierson, Walter Smykla;

and the families of Sharon Warren, David Bowes, Steven Stairs, Morgan Nichols, Jill Zettergren Schaffrick (Chuck Zettergren's Aunt), Edwin Harvey (Audrey Lewis' uncle), Richard W. Arnold (Rev. Claire's uncle), Henry Waye, Pat Knierim, "Skip" Crocker, as well as members and friends serving in the military: James Palmer, Gabriel Smykla, and Mark Terrill.

We received a **"Thank you"** card from Woody and Marcia Winslow after Easter....

Dear Church Family, *"To thank you sincerely for your kindness"*

We both wish to thank you one & all for your prayers, cards, the Easter Lily, the blessing of weekly list to have special mention by you, Rev. Dr. Bamberg, to the church family, all is so much appreciated!

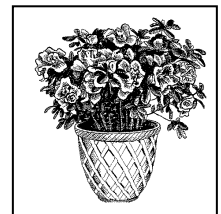
With Our Love, Woody & Marcia Winslow

A Time of Sympathy

We thank you so very much for your wonderful hugs, words of sympathy and caring as well as your thoughtful cards of inspiration and encouragement. You, our Church Family surrounded us with such loving support – we have felt truly Blessed. The tragic untimely death of our 22 year old granddaughter, Morgan Ruby, was such a shock to us all. We were most grateful to have been able to share our grieving with all of her family and friends in Tennessee. Your continued prayers for our great granddaughter Haley and her permanent location with our granddaughter Laura continue to sustain us

Again our thanks, Claranne and Jim

We wish a very **"Happy Birthday"** to the following members of our congregation who have birthdays this month: Al Valeri (May 1), Davon Bartosiewicz (May 3), Jessie Flanders (May 7), Brady Beausoleil (May 8), Elizabeth Mayer (May 13), Geoff Gennett (May 16), Jeffrey Schaefer (May 20), Donna Blanchard (May 21), and Bev Letendre (May 23).



We also wish a very **"Happy Anniversary"** to three couples this month: Margaret-Ann and Robert Bamberg will be celebrating their 55th anniversary (May 8), Laura and Jeffrey Schaefer (May 9), and Carey and Jeff Beausoleil (May 26).

MILESTONES AND HIGHPOINTS

New Members

None reported

Transfers or terminations of membership

None reported

Inactive

None reported

Deaths

None reported

Marriages/Unions

None reported

Births

None reported

CHURCH CALENDAR

May 2009



****Steeple articles due by: May 22, 2009****

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am - Worship <i>hawkwing's</i> Second Annual Moccasin Walk at the Glastonbury Community Center Confirmation Retreat ~ Maine ~	27 10:00 am AI Anon	28 10:30 am - AA 7:00 pm - AA 7:30 pm - <u>Church</u> <u>Council</u>	29 5-7pm Food for Friends 6:30 pm- Bell Choir 7:30 pm- Adult Choir	30 9:00 am – noon Circle of Parents Kickoff meeting (Library) 7:30 pm - NA	1 EVCG Game Night 6:30-8:00pm	2 6:30 pm - NA
3 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am - Worship 11:30 am - Young in Heart CWS Blanket Cards for Sale 6:30 pm Adult Christian Ed 7:30 pm-Recovery	4 10:00 am AI Anon	5 10:30 am - AA 7:00 pm – AA 7:15 pm - <u>All Committee</u> <u>Meeting Night</u>	6 5-7pm Food for Friends 6:30 pm- Bell Choir 7:30 pm- Adult Choir	7 7:30 pm - NA	8 6:30 pm - NA	9 UCC Conference ~Annual Meeting ~ Asylum Hill Church 6:30 pm - NA
10 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am - Worship Church World Service Blanket Sunday	11 10:00 am AI Anon	12 10:30 am - AA 7:00 pm - AA	13 5-7pm Food for Friends 6:30 pm- Bell Choir 7:30 pm- Adult Choir	14 7:30 pm - NA	15 6:30 pm - NA	16 6:30 pm - NA
17 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am - Worship 11:15 am - CE Second Hour Program 6:30 pm Adult Christian Ed 7:30 pm-Recovery	18 10:00 am AI Anon	19 10:30 am - AA 7:00 pm - AA 7:30 pm - <u>Church</u> <u>Council</u>	20 5-7pm Food for Friends 6:30 pm- Bell Choir 7:30 pm- Adult Choir	21 10 AM Conference of Churches 6:30pm~ Library Snowflake Fair Craft Night 6:30-9:30pm -NA Administrative 7:30 pm - NA	22 *All Steeple Articles due**	23 6:30 pm - NA
24 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am - Worship	25 10:00 am AI Anon	26 10:30 am - AA 7:00 pm - AA	27 5-7pm Food for Friends 6:30 pm- Bell Choir 7:30 pm- Adult Choir	28 7:30 pm Prayer Shawl Carol Peterson's home 7:30 pm - NA	29 6:30 pm - NA	30 Confirmation Dinner 6:30 pm - NA
31 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am - Confirmation Breakfast 10:00 am - Worship ~ Confirmation Sunday 7:30 pm-Recovery	1 10:00 am AI Anon	2 10:30 am - AA 7:00 pm - AA 7:15 pm - <u>All Committee</u> <u>Meeting Night</u>	3 5-7pm Food for Friends 6:30 pm- Bell Choir 7:30 pm- Adult Choir	4 7:30 pm - NA	5 6:30 pm - NA	6 6:30 pm - NA