
March & April 2010 North Star
A publication of North Congregational Church, UCC

413-549-0500 Church Office

Web Address: www.north-church.org

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

An Open and Affirming Congregation

North Congregational Church
North Congregational Church, UCC
PO Box 9613
North Amherst, MA 01059-9613

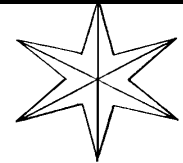
Time Sensitive Material
Please Open Immediately!

North Star

North Church - UCC News

September 2010

Unconditionally Welcoming, Decidedly Christian



In My Thoughts...

“Celebration is our tool. Tomorrow many of us will cry because of how this system will treat us, but not tonight. Tonight we celebrate that God is with us. And we will make it THROUGH tomorrow.”

-- Rev. Vance Ross, quoting a Miguel Baldaras, who participated in the jubilant dancing and singing in spontaneous worship that followed a formal church meeting of the Hispanic Lation caucus of the United Methodist Church. (*Alive Now 1-2/2010, 44-47*)

“[W]e will celebrate that God is with us...” You might have been part of the worshipping group of NCCers that gathered at Jenna & Patti’s home in Easthampton last Sunday (8-29). Out on the back lawn as we sang and prayed and dipped into the morning’s text from Hebrews 13, the Spirit’s presence in cool grass, warm sunshine, holy conversations and the delight of a late summer picnic and pool party all came together. You had to be there to experience it!

North Church resumes its regular schedule of worship, education and ministry on Sunday the 12th on ***Come Back Sunday***. “Come back” in that we come back together after a month of Sabbath and new worship experiences in neighboring faith communities. “Come back” in that we have the joy of returning to North Amherst and catching up on all the things that have been happening in our lives and on behalf of the congregation’s discernment process. “Come back” because it takes all of us to gather ‘round the call God has for North Church right now. But most of “come back” because you need to be here to really know what’s going on! (And bring a friend too.)

Whether it’s NCC’s book group, or Adult Forum, Good Eats Cooking or worship leadership, lending a hand with up-coming projects for cleaning and painting (not to mention Healing Group, Transition Team or Alternative Holiday Fair Team), I know there’s something you might hear the Spirit calling you to get up and try. So come on back, and let’s discover how we can celebrate what God has in store for us today *and* tomorrow.

Peace,

Pastor Nada

FYI

- September 10 & 11** **Giant Used Furniture Sale** to benefit Amherst Survival Center Programs. Friday, 9/10, 2p.m. & Saturday, 9/11, 1p.m, Amherst Town Common.
- September 12** **Sunday Worship:** 9am Adult Forum "Breathe" from Rob Bell's NOOMA DVD series
9:30am Worship Singers rehearsal with Michele F.
Worship at 10:30a
- September 14** **Stonewall Center Open House:** Tuesday, 5-7 p.m., Stonewall Center. The event is open to all LGBTQ people and allies in the Five-Colleges and the local community. Vegetarian dinner provided.
- September 15** **Stonewall Center Course Starts:** 4-6p.m. panel discussion, 8p.m. presentation by Cleve Jones, originator of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.
- September 19** **Sunday Worship:** 9a.m. Adult Forum "Breathe" continued
9:30a.m. Worship Singers rehearsal
Worship at 10:30a.m.
Brown Bag lunch & Parish Hall Clean-up/Painting Party
- September 19** **Simple Gifts Festival:** Neighborhood CISA's annual Harvest Festival event; games, food, fun, bake sale - come out and enjoy the fun. See website at <http://www.simplegiftsfarmcsa.com> for more info or to volunteer. Check with Hanifah Murfin @ hmurfin@gmail.com for more info.
- September 26** **Sunday Worship:** 9a.m. Adult Forum "Breathe" continued
9:30a.m. Worship Singers rehearsal
Worship at 10:30a.m.
Potluck @ Murfin's & field trip to the Peace Pagoda in Leverett
- September 28** First meeting of 4-session cooking classes in Parish Hall beginning at 5:30pm. Come on out and see what's cooking! Volunteer, be a student, help with child care; check with Pastor Nada or Barbara J. to be a part of this Outreach ministry. Next sessions 10-12, 10-26 & 11-9
- October 2** **SUPER Saturday:** Mass. Conference UCC event in Franklin - seminars, workshops, speakers and more. Registration by 9-20; check with Pastor Nada for more info & possible carpooling.

Spiritual Care and Nurture

Please keep all of the following friends of North Church in your thoughts and prayers:

For those with health concerns:

Norm Clarke, Julia Evans, Bruce Fowler, Amy Johnson, Barb Jones, Pat Koons, Dave Maslanka, Tom & Becky Passa, Linda Perry, Pauline Richmond, Jeanette Serwa, Lester Sottile, Geoffery Vyce, Maria & Niko Yorgakopoulou

For life changes & challenges:

Margaret Bates, Diane Carraci, Nazita Gamini, Dottie Giard & family, Marky & family, Neal & Samme, Malissa & Alison, Kathy Parent & family, Carrie Pinheiro, , Angie Sottile

For those returning to school:

Scott Serwa (student), Ginger Fowler (teacher), Patti Richmond (guidance professional), Sheryl Hall (teacher), Malissa Vyce (student)

Remember... every prayer does make a difference!

Please notify Bill, Ginger, or Pastor Nada of any updates or changes to this list. Thanks!

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for our 2010 October-November newsletter will be September 24th. Please send all Newsletter submissions to me at nccadmin@crocker.com. I am more than happy to receive anyone's entries any time before the deadline. Let me know that the email is specifically for the Newsletter by putting 'Newsletter' somewhere in the subject line.

Thank you,
Malissa Vyce

This newsletter is produced by NCC with special help from Barbara Jenkins, Bill Wiley and Nada Sellers; layout and final copy by Malissa Vyce. Your submissions are welcome, subject to review and possible editing. Questions? Please contact us at nccadmin@crocker.com.

Stonewall Center at UMass Amherst

LOCAL NEWS:

From our friends at the Stonewall Center at UMass Amherst...

The Center announces a Special Course entitled, "LGBT Life over the Past 25 Years." This is a One-Credit Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Course for Fall 2010 at UMass, sponsored by the Stonewall Center.

In conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the UMass Stonewall Center, the center is offering a one-credit course through WGSS called "LGBT Life over the Past 25 Years."

The course will consist of presentations each week by leading LGBT scholars, artists, and activists from throughout the U.S. (including Cleve Jones, Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls, Cherrie Moraga, Leslea Newman, Alix Olson, Robyn Ochs, Jennifer Baumgardner, Irene Monroe, and Eileen Myles). Topics to be covered include politics, law, history, religion, sports, literature, music, bisexual rights, transgender rights, and AIDS. The course will meet Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m. in Room 119, Agricultural Engineering Building.

Registration will be in the fall. To be notified when the course opens or for a schedule, please contact the Stonewall Center: 545-4826 or stonewall@stuaf.umass.edu. Individuals not taking the course for credit are also welcomed to attend sessions. *[For more information on Stonewall Center events, visit our website at <http://www.umass.edu/stonewall> or call us at (413) 545-4826]*



October 3 Sunday Worship: World Communion Sunday with Neighbors In Need Special Offering received

9a.m. Adult Forum "Breathe" continued
9:30a.m. Worship Singers rehearsal
Worship at 10:30a.m.

October 3 Hike for Humanity - Mount Holyoke Summit Skinner State Park, South Hadley. To register or for additional details contact Monica Borgatti at (413) 586-5430 or resource@pioneervalleyhabitat.org. For more info, and to download pledge sheets, visit www.pioneervalleyhabitat.org.

October 4 Executive Committee meeting, 7p.m. in meeting room off of Bates room.

October 17 Shelter Sunday: Come on out and walk the N. Amherst 'hood for a good cause. Door-to-door canvas to raise funds for *local* shelters, food pantries and social service agencies assisting the homeless, including our friends the Amherst Survival Center. More info? See web at www.sheltersunday.org

October 18 LGBT Service of Healing, Monday, October 18, 7 p.m., North Hadley Congregational Church. This will be an inter-faith service of healing for those who have been hurt by clergy, religious establishments, friends or family because of their sexual identity or orientation. Info: 586-2021

Save the Date Alternative Gift Holiday Fair will be held in Parish Hall on Saturday, November 13th. Volunteers and planners are being sought, so check with Barbara J. at bbendaj@msn.com

Birthdays in March and April

September 17th – Steven Brown

October 1st – Georgia Fowler
26th – Alison Maslanka

We would like to have the birthdays of everyone at North Church, so if you have not already done so, please reply to nccadmin@crocker.com with yours. Thanks!

Special North Church Visitor

Report by Barbara Jenkins

On August 16, David Poile, an organist from Chicago, stopped by North Church to see our organ. He had contacted the church office to say he'd be passing through the North Amherst area, and he wondered whether he could visit because he had become aware of our instrument through the Organ Historical Society. David reported having a strong interest in mechanical action organs such as ours, and since there are no Steere and Turner organs in the Midwest, he was curious about it.

Pastor Nada asked me to coordinate, since I had access to historical information about the organ, which I did copy off for him. I thought he would be simply "checking off" our organ, since our arrangements were very last minute, and he was squeezing us in between a visit to Deerfield and to UMass. Had I known he was going to play as much, I would have tried to notify others because it really was a treat to hear the organ played so magnificently. After he fiddled around for a while getting set up, suddenly there was this tremendous swell of sound which became what I later learned was the finale from Guilman's Symphony for Organ.

David reports that our organ is in good shape except for the one stop that cannot be turned off, which has been known to us, and, of course, it needs tuning. When pressed for more details, he stated that "the swell shoe could be a little tighter" and that the "open diapason stop was particularly good". I must have given him a quizzical look on that last one because he asked back, "You didn't know that?" Nope, I sure didn't, which is why it's good to have special visitors.

Lathrop Auction Benefits Homeless Women

The Peace Group, a gathering of Lathrop Retirement Community residents that meets twice a month to discuss current events, will host its biggest event ever. A silent art auction will be held Saturday Sept. 11 and Sunday Sept. 12, from 3 to 5 p.m., at the Richmond House, 70 Florence Road, Easthampton. Reporter Susan Kaplan of NPR will speak at the Saturday event. It was a report that Kaplan did for NPR on Jackie K's House late last year that gave the Peace Group the idea to do the fundraiser. Mostly local artists have donated approximately 100 pieces of art to be auctioned off to benefit Jackie K's House in Leeds, a transitional home for female veterans that offers group support and counseling services. The home is located on the campus of the Veterans Administration Hospital campus. For information, call Elsie Hasskarl at 527-6810.

Good Eats at North Church - This community effort welcomes your help!

Good Eats Cooking Classes

Here's the notice that will go out through the media for the next series of classes beginning September 28. Please share the information with everyone who might be interested. Also, pick up a flier at church to post where appropriate.

If you haven't helped at Good Eats, please sign up for at least one of the four classes. It will give you the opportunity to see what is going on with this special program and will also be wonderful support for members of our church family who were there regularly during the summer series and plan to be once more, but could definitely use a periodic break.

Good Eats Cooking Classes: By the People, For the People: Learn to cook tasty, nutritious, economical meals under the instruction of guest chefs. The second series of these popular community-cooking classes begins Tuesday, September 28. Classes will be held from 5:30 -- 8 p.m., continuing every other Tuesday through November 9. \$20 for four classes; scholarships available. Child-care for young children will be provided. For information and required pre-registration, call the church office at 413-549-0500. Pre-registration is encouraged by September 21. Class size is limited.

Guest chefs will include Tom Hidas, former chef/owner of Amber Waves, who will teach participants how to make an Asian noodle stir fry, and Naz Mohammed who will demonstrate how to make a simple meal of lentils with vegetables.

Classes will be held at North Congregational Church in the Parish Hall kitchen, 1195 North Pleasant Street, Amherst (at the traffic light in North Amherst).

If you have other ways you'd like to participate in this community-cooking endeavor, perhaps as a guest chef, please let us know. This is a joint venture offered by North Church and the Amherst Survival Center; let's continue to create community together! All are welcome.