



CrossWays

The Newsletter of
The Congregational Church of Brookfield
160 Whisconier Road,
Brookfield, CT 06804
(203) 775-1259

January 2009

This Super Bowl stay on the couch and stay out of the kitchen!

The Young Disciples (the youth in 4th & 5th grade) are selling Super Bowl Hoagies during the month of January available fresh, for pick-up at the Church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 1st. Details to come – you don't want to miss this delicious opportunity!

BROOKFIELD ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

We invite you to join the leaders of our Brookfield congregations in an evening of prayer and remembrance **at 7:30pm on Monday, January 19th at Valley Presbyterian Church**. Instead of our annual "pulpit exchange" in observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, this year we are bringing our 7 churches (2 Catholic and 5 Protestant congregations) together on our national Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday for community worship.

A combined choir will sing (please come to practice at 6:15 pm, if you are able) under the direction of Max Vladimiroff, Music Director at Valley Presbyterian, and the Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia will preach. Our offering will be collected to benefit the Brookfield Emergency Fund, administered by the Town of Brookfield. Valley Presbyterian Church is at 21 West Whisconier Road in Brookfield (203-775-2624).

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was begun in January 1908 by one small Franciscan community in Garrison, NY. Today in Brookfield we join many other Catholic and Protestant communities from around the world in praying, with Jesus, his prayer "that they all may be one." (John 17:21) Perhaps in these troubled times, and on the eve of our new President's inauguration, we stand in need of God's help more than ever, so we thank you for joining our Brookfield Ecumenical Clergy group in uniting our town's voices in prayer.

Church Council Notes—December 9, 2008

In an effort to keep the congregation better informed as to actions taken or being considered by the Church Council, we are including a summary of significant actions in CrossWays.

Treasurer's Report- Expenses were low this month

Church In Society

Council approved CIS can allocate \$5,000 to mission from their budgeted funds.

Investment Treasurer's Report

Investments are down this quarter, but overall, investments have done well compared to the overall market indices.

Vision Task Force

There have been a lot of meetings, a lot of review, and they have developed a mission statement. The VTF will meet with committees over the next 3 to 4 months to brainstorm and discuss how they may embrace this statement.

Stewardship Report

The proposed 2009/2010 budget was presented and will go to the congregation for approval in January.

Young Disciples

A fundraiser request was approved for the 4th & 5th Grade Young Disciples to make Super Bowl subs.

Open and Affirming

Discussions on how we begin to live this commitment have been going on during the “in-between” time on Sunday mornings.

For All the Saints

The Organ will be ready and the pipes will be up—just in time for the Lessons and Carols service! The final coat of white paint is on the parsonage. Work is continuing on refurbishing the windows by the “Morrison 9”.

Thank you's

- From the Salvation Army. We did very well.
- For the coats, mittens, hats and gloves for local families.
- For the items to put together 128 personal care kits for homeless teens.
- To our Men's Fellowship group for donating money to purchase new clothes for homeless teens.

Call to Congregational Meeting:

In accordance with Article VII, Section A, of the by-laws of the Congregational Church of Brookfield, a Congregational Meeting is hereby duly called to be held Sunday, January 11, 2009, immediately following the 10:30am service of worship for the following purpose: to consider and approve a Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010.

Tom Eaker, Moderator
Sue Slater, Church Clerk

A quick update on **Church in Society** happenings:

Miriam's Kitchen

Thanks to everyone who contributed toiletries for Miriam's Kitchen, a homeless shelter in Washington, D.C. where Kierstin Quinsland is volunteering. The Quinslands were able to bring down three large boxes of needed items at Thanksgiving, and the staff was very appreciative of the supplies. If you would still like to donate items, the box will be up until next summer, and the Quinslands will ship the supplies down every so often. The following supplies are needed in travel, sample, or individual sizes:

Shampoo	Lotion
Toothpaste	Mouthwash
Soap/Body Gel	Razors
Toothbrushes	Floss
Little sewing kits	Q-tips



Business Card Kiosk

Please visit the new business card kiosk located in Fellowship Hall. You can leave your business card at the kiosk if you're trying to expand your client base or you can take a business card if you are looking for a plumber, handyman, computer repair person etc. Many folks don't know what people do for a living, so this is a great way to network. The kiosk presents an opportunity for the church community to call on a person from CCB instead of using an unknown company for services. In addition, there is a "for sale" and "wanted" section.



Salvation Army

We had an extremely successful collection of \$823.48 for the Salvation Army. Don Winkley, the Salvation Army kettle coordinator, was thrilled. The collected money is distributed to families experiencing emergencies that Social Services doesn't have the authority to handle.

THANK YOU

Thanks so much to everyone who donated children's coats, hats and mittens, gently used teen clothes and supplies for the teen homeless personal care kits, and donated gifts for local families through our Giving Tree. Thanks to you 8 young children will be warmer, 122 teens and young adults will have personal care items, and 6 whole families as well as many others have celebrated a merrier Christmas. Your generous sharing of your blessings means the world to those in need!



A Friendly Reminder

At each church service you attend, try to meet at least one new person in the congregation.

Thank You Notes Received. . .



Dear friends,

In these uncertain times in the world, one thing stands abundantly clear for me – the love of God is as alive as ever in the countless hands and hearts living out the way of Christ today.

These past few months have been filled with far more moments of love being given to my family and me than we could ever hope to count. Since Sarah's accident and her amazing recovery, so many of you have touched our lives in ways you will never know. From all the cards, calls and emails, to the words of encouragement and the beautiful prayer shawl, you have been present. We have literally been touched in a thousand ways and more. As much as we would go back to October 17th and erase the day Sarah was hit by the car in Pennsylvania if we could, in the midst of it all we could never feel more blessed or surrounded by the presence of God's love as we have seen it so clearly in each of you.

Please forgive our failure in so many cases to say or express our thanks in the way we should. It is not a lack of appreciation, so much as our being overwhelmed by the amount and depth of care sent our way. You have truly blessed us along the way with God's love offered again and again. And for that, please accept our profound thanks, as I hope you know the power of God's love that you bring into people's lives.

May the wonder of the Christmas season find you well and blessed with the birth of new hope and joy.

Always,

Peter, Amiee, Sarah, Katie & William Wiley

Dear Reverends Bryn & Jennifer and congregation,

We would like to thank you all so much for keeping our family in your thoughts and prayers during the illness and death of my father-in-law Don. We can't thank you enough for all of your kind words and cards that we received. I feel very fortunate to be part of such a loving and supportive congregation. Your prayers comforted us during this difficult time.

Maureen Morin and Family

Dear Kris Kringle. . .

Thanks for remembering me! The red wallet is lovely (and the insert). Red is my color of late, too. Hope you are well. *Love, Ruthie Maxim*

Thanks so much for the delicious plate of cookies. It was very nice to be thought of during this Christmas season. *Les Slater & family*

What a delightful surprise to find that we were "Kringled"! A special thank you to our Kris Kringle for the delicious cookies, the candy cane ornament which now adorns our tree, and for sharing Christmas with us. *Ruth & Warren Malkin*



All Church Retreat

Silver Lake Conference Center

February 20th–22nd

Please join us for a weekend of worship, fellowship and fun!

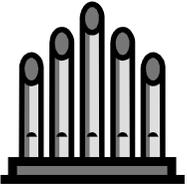
250th Anniversary Campaign Update

~Dave Goral

Over the past few months quite a bit of work has been done on two of the projects which were part of the 250th Anniversary Campaign.

Our Parsonage –

Have you seen the Parsonage? It's looking pretty good these days. The outside repairs are almost complete. Over the summer the roof was redone. Next the entire outside surface was completely stripped of paint. The shakes on the south side were removed and replaced. Shakes and trim were replaced over the remainder of the house as needed. The plywood ceiling of the porch was replaced with beadboard. The house has been primed and painted. The white paint matches the way the house looked in one of the earliest pictures we have. The windows are in the process of being painstakingly restored by our Tuesday Work Crew of dedicated volunteers. The sashes are being removed one by one, the paint is being stripped and the windows re-glazed. When the window work is complete, new wood storm windows will be installed on the outside to keep out the drafts. This will complete most of the essential work that is needed on the outside to preserve the building. While there is still major work to do on the inside, it is great to see the outside looking so good!



Our Organ –

As Jen said a few weeks ago "How do you like what we've done with the place?" Some of you may feel that the Meetinghouse looks strange with the facade pipes removed, while others are enjoying the opportunity to see the workings of our organ as well as the green wall with the stenciling which is normally not visible. Regardless of how you feel, this is a sign of great progress. The organ re-builders from Austin have been hard at work. Multiple new windchests have been installed to handle the many new pipes. Pipes are being mounted to every solid surface available. Did you see the wooden flute pipes hanging on the side wall? When all of the pipes are in there will be very little available space behind the facade. The entire main windchest is being re-wired and all of the felt stops are being replaced. When work is completed, we may have a few stuck notes once in a while, and we shouldn't blame Toni. We've been warned that this is typical until everything gets settled in a little. The work has gone on much longer than expected, but the Austin workers are being very thorough in making sure that everything is carefully restored. Final voicing for our space and for our particular set of 781 organ pipes plus electronic stops will take place in January. The results

Note: At CrossWays printing, the organ has been in use since mid-December and was "unveiled" at the Lessons & Carols service on Sunday, Dec. 20th. However, the Austin Organ crew will be back for several more days of work in January to perfect and fine-tune both the sound and appearance of the organ.

Save the date!

An organ dedication concert is scheduled for Sunday, April 14th at 4:00pm.

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Donna Geck
Barbara Harris
Ivan Park
Audrey Taylor-Stryker & John Stryker
Warren Cooper

Please see paper version for addresses

BAPTISMS

- † On December 7, 2008, Alanna Lise Irizarry daughter of Marcus & Alysa (Herbert) Irizarry.
Born September 12, 2008.
- † On December 14, 2008, Lauren Elizabeth Carlson, daughter of Keith & Stephanie (Kish)
Carlson. Born August 30, 2008.

MARRIAGE

- Amy Schlank and Ryan Turner on December 31, 2008 by the Rev. Jennifer Whipple
- Kylie Himebaugh and Luigi D'Arcangelo on January 2, 2009 by Rev. Jennifer Whipple
and Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia.

Angels for Anthems

Donations toward our Christmas music have been given:

In memory of our parents by Millicent & John Morrison
In honor of Rev. Bryn and family and Rev. Jennifer and family by Patricia Roehling
In memory of loved ones by Jane & Bob Brown
In memory of Novis & Olivia Ridge, Pat Still, and Jim Stoddard by the Quinsland family
In memory of Dan & Vivian Morehouse and Walter & Geraldine Loesch
by Walter & Eleanor Loesch
In memory of loved ones by Margitta & Larry Savo
In memory of my mother Althea H. Beck and my grandparents, Charles & Hattie Hill
and Henry & Leola Beck by Dr. Curtis H. Beck
In honor of Harry & Evelyn Gerowe by Howard and Cathy Winkler and family
In memory of Carl & Myrtha Licht by Virginia VanHorne
In memory of Mary M. Zaccara by Shirley Zaccara
In memory of loved ones by Warren & Ruth Malkin
In memory of William Paterson by Anne McVey
In memory of Jack E. Mix by Thomas & Jennifer Mix
In honor of Nick Labas by Greg & Jan Labas
In honor of Germaine Hanson by Joan & Rodger Wutzl
In memory of Sam & Ruth Moore, Eleanor Rocky by the Rocky family
In honor of Sarah, Erin, Jonathan and Kayla (our grandchildren) by Sandy & Sue Boughton
In memory of loved ones by Jean Bergman
In memory of loved ones by Ken & Wendy Bradley
In memory of Vera B. Hand by the Dykes Family
In memory of our parents by Lauren & David Matte
In memory of Laurent & Annette St. Germaine by the Whipple Family



Christmas Flowers and Greens

The beautification of the sanctuary is a gift to all who worship and celebrate with us this holiday season. The poinsettias and greens have been placed in loving memory of:



Laurence Quinsland, Jan, Gary and Erin Hamilton by the Quinsland family
Linda Ruh by Patricia Roehling
Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Fisher and Mr. & Mrs. Leonard P. Griffo by Jim & Michaela Fisher
James & Jean Gianazza and loved ones by the Gianazza family.
Loved ones by the Wutzl family
Roger Henley and William Cline by Vivian Henley
Vera & Bob Hand and Geneva & Donald Brown by Bob and Jane Brown
Daniel & Vivian Morehouse and Walter & Geraldine Loesch by Walter & Eleanor Loesch
Lorrie Barillari & William Pike by Dominic Barillari and Cynthia Field
Loved ones by Larry and Margitta Savo
My mother Althea H. Beck and grandparents, Charles & Hattie Hill and Henry & Leola Beck
by Dr. Curtis H. Beck
Rita Taylor, Arthur & Edith Winkler and grandparents by Howard & Cathy Winkler and family
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Howe and John Neubeit by Carol Ann Howe
Peter J. Soggi by Sally H. Soggi
Tony Zaccara and loved ones by Shirley Zaccara and Leslie Sands
Jean Gianazza by Jean-Pierre Nydegger
My parents and grandparents by Carolyn P. Miller
Jack E. Mix by Thomas & Jennifer Mix
Loved ones by Warren & Ruth Malkin
Timothy Keyes Higgins by the Higgins "families"
Peace, Health & Prosperity to our families & friends by Alexander & Mary (Gallagher) DeLucia
Loved ones by Bob & Jean Bergman
Robert and Pat Maul and Marge Labas by Greg & Jan Labas
Olga & August Wutzl, and Lincoln Hanson by Rodger & Joan Wutzl
Loved ones by the Rocky family
Loved ones by Ruth & Don Burr
Carol M. Dykes by the Dykes Family
Our grandparents by Ken & Wendy Bradley
Loved ones by Carol Ann Howe
Loved ones by the Bob Lambert Family
Family and friends by Rowland & Pauline Bankes
Helen & Lewellyn Wurst by Jennifer & Steven Wurst
Buck Ewing by Gertrude Ewing
Harold Nohe by Marge Nohe and Linda Fernand & Family
Joseph Troland and John F. DeBisschop, Sr. by the Whipple Family
Tom Kirner by the Marron Family
Davina & Alick Buchan and Elizabeth & William Rafferty by Dave & Patty Buchan
Our Grandpa Frank Arents by Matthew, Kyle and Kate Rosa
Frank Arents by Marilyn Arents
The large wreath in the Meetinghouse is given in loving memory of Harold & Ruth Swenson,
Paul & Elva Nicholou, Julian V. Richards, Herbert G. MacIntosh, and Marion & Jim Gaffey by their
daughters, Barbara Anderson, Lin Frosch, Jean Baker, Barbara Sikorski, and Marianne Gaffey.
In honor of Thomas, Madeline and David by Elisabeth Walker
In honor of the wonderful youth & adults who prayed and helped us in our move by Marion & Al Miller
In honor of the 60th anniversary of Grandpa Lucy & Grandpa Henry Garcia on Dec. 23, 2008 by the
Smallwood-Garcia Family
In honor of Granddaddy Irwin Smallwood and in memory of our two grandmothers, Allene Smallwood
and Faye Crutchfield by the Smallwood-Garcia family

JYF in January

Sunday, January 4th = No Meeting due to Vacation

Sunday, January 11th = 3 Kings at the Observatory – 5 to 6:30

We will travel to the observatory at New Milford High School to experience some FUN 3-D and hands-on opportunities to see the heavens in a new way. We will talk a bit about the three kings who traveled to meet Jesus and see what the observatory has to offer. This should be a great trip, so we hope you all can join us! We'll meet at CCB. *(Note: Parents, if any of you want to see the observatory and share this experience with us we would love to have you along.)*

Sunday, January 18th = Ga Ga Night – 5 to 6:30pm

Wear your BEST Ga Ga socks and come out for a night of FUN in the pit!

Saturday, January 24th = Ski Trip Day

We will meet at CCB to travel to Mohawk for the day to have some FUN in the snow. Please return permission forms to Pastor Jen by January 14th if you plan to attend. *(Note: This is the combined youth fellowship and choirs ski trip. Parents and siblings are welcome.)*



Sundays, January 25th & February 1st = No Meetings

SYF in January

SYF in January

Sunday, January 4th = Mission Trip Informational Meeting— 5:00pm

Bring a parent and join us in Fellowship Hall to learn about this year's mission trip. We are planning to travel to Pittsburgh in mid-late July to work on home rehabilitation for elderly folks in the area. Hope you all can join us!

Sunday, January 11th = Life After High School Night – 7-8:30pm

Bring your questions and curiosities about life after high school to this night full of special guests and good desserts! We will have some of our post-high school church members come and share some of their experiences with us whether about college, work, or other options for after graduation.

Sunday, January 18th = GA GA Night – 7-8:30pm

Help us teach GA GA to some new folks from area churches. This is our opportunity once again to share our favorite game with others. Wear your BEST Ga Ga socks and come to share good food and good FUN!

Saturday, January 24th = Ski Trip Day

We will meet at CCB to travel to Mohawk for the day to have some FUN in the snow. Please return permission forms to Pastor Jen by January 14th if you plan to attend.



Sundays, January 25th & February 1st = No Meetings

When I preached about Jesus's "Parable of the Talents" last fall, I asked for Church Council's help in doing a little experiment. At our November council meeting we decided to try to actually put into practice the challenge that the Master in the parable gives to his servants. But no one had any ancient coinage handy in a wallet, as a silver talent was a coin about the size of a VW tire and worth some \$50,000 in today's dollars!

So, as a compromise, I gave each of the 14 council members present that night \$2, which was the entire contents of my wallet at the time. Their challenge? To go out and invest the money wisely, to yield a return for the church offering plate in the next month. They were to bring back what they had been given, plus any profits they'd made, to the December meeting. I also promised blanket forgiveness to anyone unable to bring the money back with interest – unlike the Master in the parable, I would not throw anyone into the outer darkness where there would be "wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Several of the council members were already hawking their wares at the Mini-Fair in mid-November, and Walt Fisher hit up his relatives for contributions over their Thanksgiving dinner. Audrey Himebaugh, Laurie Matson, Patty Moran, and Sue Slater all invested in food supplies and used their baking talents to multiply their symbolic \$2 "talent." Pastor Jen and I invested in other craft options. I bought yarn and sold my knitting, and Jen invested in what her husband needed to tie flies for sale to other avid fly fishermen. Those of you who are familiar with Nancy Vodra's quilting booth at the Yankee Fair should not be surprised that she managed to parlay a pile of fabrics donated by fellow council member Marianne Gaffey into by far the largest return of all of us. In fact, her \$336 was more than the \$226.97 that the rest of us brought back all together!

Still, you have to hand it to folks for creativity: Craftsman extraordinaire Dave Goral managed to turn a small but historic scrap of wood from our church attic into a beautiful carved pen, which he tempted his pastor to purchase for a hefty markup. Mike Anastas gave up his usual store-bought cup of tea when he runs errands, brewing his own at home instead – thus saving \$14.92 on 10 outings with his \$2 investment in teabags.

In total, our \$558.97 collection represented an almost 2000% return on my original \$28 investment. Just imagine what could be done for our church finances if all of our members could use as much industry and imagination in giving to our church! As we approach our stewardship season in what is arguably the worst economic year in decades, what bright ideas can you come up with to increase your investment for God?

Committee Chairmen and Council Reps

Please call these elected representatives with any questions or comments regarding any matter of interest or concern to you:



Moderator: Tom Eaker
Vice Moderator: Audrey Himebaugh
Clerk: Sue Slater
Treasurer: Laurie Matson
Investment Treasurer: Alan Peck

Committee Chairs

Christian Ed Carol Eagan
Church Growth Kim Downey
Church House Les Slater
Church-In-Society Sally Markiewicz
Deacons Linae Wutzl
Fellowship Kristin Jordan
Nominating Robin Murphy
Stewardship Monica McInerney
Worship Pete Lane

Church Council Representatives

Christian Ed Heidi Riddle
Church Growth Mike Anastas
Church House Dave Goral
Church In Society Marianne Gaffey
Deacons Leslie Sands
Fellowship Patty Moran
Nominating Jean Dorrell
Stewardship Bob Lambert
Worship Walt Fisher
Historian Bob Brown
Anniversary Campaign Nancy Vodra

Senior Pastor	Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia		bryn@uccb.org
Associate Pastor	Rev. Jennifer Whipple		jennifer@uccb.org
Membership Care	Harry Gerowe		stephminharry@aol.com
Church School	Heather Berner		heather@uccb.org
Church Office	Barbara Menendez - or Jeannine McCullough	775-1259	office@uccb.org

Opportunity Fair—January 25th
Celebrate our Giving. . . our Time and Talents



On Sunday, January 25th the Nominating Committee will host its annual Opportunity Fair in Fellowship Hall following each worship service. Our church committees will be ready to share information about what their role and function is in the life of the church. This is an opportunity for members to take a look at their talents to see possible ways they might like to serve and work with this church community. During this Stewardship season we look at the many ways we give, including our time and talents. May we all strive to find where we fit into the life of our church, and a better understanding of its structure and offerings.

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Brookfield, CT
Permit # 56

Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Jennifer Whipple, Associate Pastor
The Rev. M. S. Desmond, Pastor Emeritus

HAPPY NEW YEAR

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED