



# CrossWays

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

**April 2010**



## **Call to the Annual Meeting**

In accordance with Article V, Section B, of the By-Laws of the Congregational Church of Brookfield, the Annual Meeting is hereby duly called to be held on Sunday, April 25, 2010 immediately following the **single 10:00am service** of worship.

All reports will be received, leadership positions elected, the 2010/2011 budget adopted, goals established, and any additional necessary business transacted.

*Audrey Himebaugh, Moderator*  
*Sue Slater, Church Clerk*

## **MEETING OF CHURCH COUNCIL – March 9, 2010**

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Laurie reported that while there are a few large bills yet to be paid in March, we look to be ending the year in the black. Kudos to all the committees for keeping their spending in check, and members for fulfilling their pledges.

**Refugee Resettlement:** Reminder that Thomas and Bassma's Godspeed will be March 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be an in-between time to meet with Chris George from IRIS, Thomas and Bassma for questions and answers at 9:30 am. Also, please join us for a special fellowship hour after the 10:30am service.

**Stewardship:** Ben Jordan joined the Council meeting to report on the status of our Stewardship Campaign. While there are approximately 60 outstanding pledges, we are on track to meet our budget request! Thanks to all members for their participation in the process.

**Fair Funds Request:** Please submit requests to Audrey Himebaugh by the next Council meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Requests will be approved at the annual meeting.

**Budget Meeting:** will be held on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30am service of worship.

**Annual Meeting:** will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> following the **single 10:00am service** of worship.

### **COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Church House:** Please join us Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 1pm for a "getting ready for Easter" work day.

**Anniversary Campaign:** Total income to date \$521,564; total spent to date \$425,297; cash on hand \$96,277. Organ project is completed and paid for; Air Conditioning came in \$5,835 under budget; Kitchen came in \$3,849 over budget and plans are to replace the second (broken) swinging door; Parsonage is on-going. Over the summer the committee will meet to frame out the remaining projects for the parsonage.

**Davida Foy Crabtree**, our Connecticut Conference Minister will be retiring this spring and a search committee will be forming to find her replacement. If interested please see Rev. Bryn.

*You are always welcome to attend and observe the Council meetings. To be added to the agenda of the monthly meeting, please contact Audrey Himebaugh or Les Slater.*

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**



### **Palm Sunday, March 28—Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 in the Sanctuary**

Rev. Jennifer Whipple will preach on Luke 19:28-40. Sermon title: "*Cost and Joy*". Our Adult, Alleluia and Cherub Choirs will sing, and our children will lead the annual palm processional. We will also be having a special Godspeed for our Refugees, Thomas and Bassma Janabi, during the 10:30am service. Please join us at a special In-Between from 9:30-10:15am in Fellowship Hall to hear more about Thomas and Bassma's resettlement here in the United States.

### ***Maundy Thursday, April 1—Worship 7:30 to 8:30pm in the Sanctuary***

Our traditional remembrance of the Last Supper with communion and the Rite of Tenebrae, a service of candlelight and scripture. Child care will be available for younger children. Rev. Jennifer Whipple will preach on John 13. Sermon Title: "*Servants in the Service of Others.*"

### **Good Friday, April 2—10:00am Stations of the Cross**

Walk a symbolic Stations of the Cross through Brookfield with an ecumenical group from other churches. The walk begins at CCB, ends at St. Paul's, and takes about 1 1/2 hours.

## **EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>**

### **Ecumenical Sunrise Service - 6:00am**

At Weighart's Tree Farm on Route 25 (23 Whisconier Road, Brookfield)  
In the tradition of the ancient Vigil of Easter Eve, this ecumenical worship begins in darkness and ends in daylight, bringing Christians together from all over town. Rev. Jennifer Whipple will preach. The special offering will go to the Emergency Fund at Brookfield Social Services.



### **Easter Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:30 and 10:30am**

Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia will preach on the resurrection narrative from Luke 24. Sermon title: "*We are Witnesses.*" The 8:30am service will be a chapel style contemplative service with communion and special music. Our 10:30am service will feature our Adult Choir, and includes a special program for our church school-aged children. We will celebrate communion at the 10:30 am service, as well, as is our tradition on the first Sunday of the month.



## **Thank you to our Super Stewards**

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the entire congregation for your support during our **Super Steward** Campaign. Pledge envelopes are now available for you to pick up in Brooks Hall.



We hope that our skits allowed us all to laugh a little, but also opened the door (or busted myths as our campaign suggested) to our thinking about our pledging. Perhaps secrecy and resentment can move toward thoughtful sharing of why we give, so we can learn from each other and celebrate the gifts we have to offer. If you have not yet pledged, it is never too late to do so.

We hope we have encouraged new pledgers and our young adults to become more committed in their giving and to be a more involved part of our blessed congregation. We also hope that we have recognized how truly blessed we are to have such dedicated members and friends who support this congregation with amazing and generous gifts of time, talents and financial support.



Please join us on **Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>** for the last “episode” of **Super Steward**. Allow us to thank you and celebrate together as we look forward to a year of **seeking truth, justice and living God’s way**.

## **Refugee Resettlement**

We are so thankful to have had so much support from the congregation with our refugee resettlement ministry. We were very fortunate to find employment for Bassma. She continues to work part time at the Gingerbread Schoolhouse in Bethel and at Stew Leonard’s in Danbury. Thomas was laid off in the fall. He found it difficult to find a job because his English was not as proficient as Bassma’s. Thomas continues to work with CCB tutors and take ESL classes in New Milford.

To continue his education in English and to learn more of a skill he is interested in, he enrolled in the Community Culinary School of Northwestern Connecticut in New Milford. He graduated March 19<sup>th</sup> and has already received his ServSafe Sanitation Certificate, which makes him a Qualified Food Operator. Thomas started a new part-time job working at Stew’s in the BBQ pit the very next day. Of course, a full-time job with benefits would be preferable, so if you know of a suitable opening, please let us know.

We will “Godspeed” Thomas and Bassma in worship on March 28<sup>th</sup>, as they prepare to move into their new apartment in Danbury on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We ask that you continue to keep Bassma and Thomas, as well as others in need, in your prayers.

Thank you, *Jennifer Wurst and Patty Buchan*  
Refugee Resettlement Committee Chairs



## A Super Hero Celebration Our Annual Meeting & Brunch Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>



Please join us on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at our Annual Meeting and celebration of all our Super Heroes who have served and will be serving on our committees.

The Nominating Committee will host a brunch after the **SINGLE 10:00 service**, immediately followed by the Annual Meeting.

If you are willing to bring fruit, muffins, bagels or a breakfast casserole, please fill out the form below and drop it in the offering plate, return it to the church office, or contact Robin Murphy through the church office.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring to the Annual Meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>

Fruit \_\_\_\_\_

Bagels or Muffins \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast Casserole (recipe available) \_\_\_\_\_



On March 7, 2010, we were pleased to welcome these new members to our fellowship:

**Jared & Jennifer DiLorenzo** live in Brookfield. Jared was originally from NY, and Jennifer from NJ. Jared is a Chiropractor in Danbury. Jennifer worked for the American Red Cross but is now a stay-at-home mom awaiting the arrival of triplets this spring. They said they wanted to be members of a church that will help their children grow in faith and learn the importance of God in their lives. They will be celebrating their 3-year anniversary in April, and they say that ever since they married and moved to CT, they have been searching for a church where they belong. This was a difficult process for them since they come from different religious backgrounds – until their first visit at CCB. They are excited to have found a church where they belong, can contribute to, and is family oriented.

**Barbara Moore** was raised in Chappaqua, NY, and attended St. John and Mary Catholic Church. She joined the Episcopal Church in Mohegan Lake, NY, when her daughter Emma Gianoplus was born 12 years ago. Emma and Barbara recently moved to Brookfield (just around the corner from Pastor Bryn) with Barbara's husband Chris Moore, and their 3 dogs and a rabbit. She also has 3 stepchildren ranging in age from 18 to 23. Barbara works in Westchester, NY, as a college administrator. She says she is excited to join a congregation of neighbors and friends where she can share her faith in community.

**Peter Moore** (no relation to Barbara) lives in Bridgeport, CT. Born & raised in the Episcopal Church, he joined his first UCC church in 2007. He comes to us by Letter of Transfer from First Church, Fairfield. He is divorced and has two sons, Joseph (J.T.), who is 3, and Samuel, 5 months. He was introduced to our church by Serina Quinsland and her family, and says, enthusiastically, "This is the best church I've ever attended!"

**Glenn & Melanie Shapiro** moved to Brookfield almost two years ago from Florida by way of Chicago. They both originally were from New Jersey. Glenn and Melanie just celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary. They have two children. Ethan is 7, and Scarlett is 3 1/2. They feel blessed that Melanie's Mom, Donna Jean, lives nearby in Bethel. They live in Candlewood Shores and are awaiting swimming weather. They love the natural beauty of CT and spend lots of time hiking year-round. Glenn and Melanie work for the same company – which does business development, sales, and marketing for an environmentally safe asphalt product and commercial solar power. They say they have searched for a long time for a church and are very happy to be joining here. They love that ours is a vibrant church with deep tradition and history.

## Youth News

**FOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULES (Young Disciples, JYF, and SYF) please see our website ([www.uccb.org](http://www.uccb.org)) or check the board outside the Youth Room in the Church School wing. If you are not on our youth group e-mail/ mailing lists please let us know. You can e-mail Pastor Jen at [jennifer@uccb.org](mailto:jennifer@uccb.org) with contact information to be added.**



### Thank You from the SYF Mission Team:

We would like to thank all of you who helped support our mission trip by attending the All Church Talent Show or the “After Party” in Fellowship Hall the next day. Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise over \$1600 to help us on our way to South Dakota in July.

Special Thank You’s go to:

- \*All of the Talent Show Performers – What an amazing group you are!
- \*All who helped contribute to the concessions – Goodies Galore!
- \*The Fellowship Committee – for your special contributions to Intermission Concession Sales!
- \*Dan McKee – for the GREAT t-shirts and being a FABULOUS emcee once again!

We can’t make our way to help make dreams come true in South Dakota without you, so THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

### ***Other Upcoming Fundraisers for the SYF Mission Trip:***



- **Shares of Uncommon Stock** will be available for sale for \$10 each following services on Sundays, March 28th & April 11th. Stockholders will receive a “shout out” from the road and a special breakfast on the day of our Mission Team presentation in September.
- **The Adult Prom** will take place on Saturday, May 1st at the Candlewood Lake Club at 7 pm. We will have tickets available at church during April, and SYF Mission Team Members will have them as well. More details will follow in bulletins and on the website. (You can also contact Pastor Jen with any questions.) This will be a GREAT night of music, dancing, hors d’oeuvres, desserts, and baskets/raffle options. So invite your friends and come join us!





## **Church in Society**

### **Thank you!**

One of the pleasures of being on the Church in Society committee is reading the thank-you notes we receive for our church's generosity. This month, we decided to share some excerpts from a couple of the notes we got from the recipients of our Yankee Fair funds.

### **From Literacy Volunteers:**

*On behalf of the board of directors of Literacy Volunteers on the Green, Inc., thank you for the donation from the Congregational Church of Brookfield of \$2,739.00 on January 29, 2010 in support of our organization.*

*This donation will support literacy and English language instruction helping people improve their lives, thus benefitting the greater Litchfield Hills communities.*

*Thank you for making a difference with this gift to Volunteers on the Green.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jacqueline Farrell, Executive Director*

### **From We CAHR:**

*On behalf of We CAHR, I would like to thank you for your generosity in making us the recipient of \$2,739.01, ....proceeds from your Yankee Fair and Barn Sale. Your recognition of our work is deeply appreciated by both our Board and Staff.*

*We are continually challenged to meet the needs of our communities. Your support is a tremendous boost to all of us. It is because of people like you that we are able to advocate for people with disabilities.*

*Sincerely,*

*Martha M. Burr, Executive Assistant*

### **From the Church in Society Committee:**

*Thank you for your support and for the great work you do as a church. A portion of your pledge goes toward missions, allowing our committee to send money to places that need our help. Your hard work at the Yankee Fair this past year supported local agencies whose funds were stretched very thin in these difficult economic times.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sally Markiewicz, CIS Chairperson*

### **Save the Date! - July 12 to 16**

**Vacation Bible School will be from 9:00am to 12:00noon  
at Prince of Peace church**

**This year's theme is "Galactic Blast" - sounds fun doesn't it!**

**Registration forms will be available soon.**



## FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

### CONTINUING CONCERNS

Gordon Burgess

Judith Fisher

Gert Ewing

Donna Geck

Please see your printed copy for addresses.

Barbara Harris

Ruth Phinney

Audrey Taylor & John Stryker

Bill Ward

### HOSPITALIZED

Joe Rocky

### NEW BABY

Congratulations to Jeanine Hanewicz and Lou Memoli on the birth of their grandson Luca Michael Calabrese on March 9, 2010.

### BAPTISM

Cole Thomas Anderson, son of Chad & Michele (Aurori) Anderson was baptized on March 14, 2010. Cole was born October 1, 2009.

### IN MEMORIAM

Our sympathy is extended to Anne Watson and family on the death of her husband Ken on March 4, 2010.

*Please join us for a  
Retirement Party in honor of  
The Reverend Doctor Davida Foy Crabtree  
Sunday, May 2, 2010  
Open House 3pm until 6pm  
Program at 4:30pm  
The Old State House  
800 Main Street, Hartford CT  
Directions and parking information can be found at:  
[www.ctoldstatehouse.org/directions.asp](http://www.ctoldstatehouse.org/directions.asp)*

I have had the pleasure of discussing the book *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom with two wonderful groups of our folks throughout the Lenten Season. We have talked and wrestled together about salvation, mortality and eternal life, Christian denominations and other major world religions, blessings and struggles, family and daily living, and so much more. We have had the opportunity to share some of our own faith stories and some of the challenges we find living in modern society. All the while we have had the chance to talk and to listen, to share and to grow with one another.

In the book there is a sermon excerpt, a story about a little girl who comes home with a drawing in her hand from school and is excited to show it to her mother. Despite various attempts to get her mother to listen and to pay attention, the mother goes on about her regular business making dinner and claiming that she is listening. The little girl's response is, "Mom, you're not listening with your *eyes*!"

This story stood out to me, especially during this Lenten Season, as we have been working intentionally — whether in small groups, worship services, Lenten Lunches, committee meetings, through our Stewardship Campaign and beyond — to share our stories, to be witnesses for each other to the ways that God has worked in our lives and continues to do so. We have listened to one another, cried together, laughed together, and grown closer as we have been blessed with the opportunity to hear testimonies from our members and friends who have overcome anxiety and nerves to share deeply of themselves from pulpit, lectern, seat in a committee meeting or at table fellowship. We have shared and listened — not only with our ears, but with our eyes, our minds, our hearts.

As we go forth into this spring, celebrating the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ once again, we remember how our whole faith history began with people who listened with their ears, their eyes, minds, and hearts as well to his story — and then went out and shared it with all who would listen. We remember that those experiences were not always easy and took some strength, determination, and even some overcoming of "stage fright." But the message was *that* important, and the life beyond the message was *that* important, that they shared it with one another and as far and wide as they could reach.

So the best words I have to wrap up this Lenten Season and begin the Easter one are "Thank you" and "Keep up the Good Work!" Thank you for sharing and for listening. I hope that through these moments together we have grown closer to one another — knit more tightly as a community. That is the spirit I feel as I walk through the halls of our church and into worship on Sunday mornings. And keep on sharing. Just because one season is now over and a new one has begun does not mean that we stop sharing, listening, growing together, or living the message that we have had passed down now for generations — since the first disciples. Jesus is risen! We are forgiven! We are called to go live our faith in thought, word, and deed — so people will have the opportunity to listen with both their ears and their eyes to the good news of the gospel living in and through us. How richly blessed we are! Alleluia!

Blessings,  
*Jennifer*

## **Committee Chairmen and Church Council Reps**

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

**Moderator:** Audrey Himebaugh  
**Vice Moderator:** Les Slater  
**Clerk:** Sue Slater  
**Treasurer:** Laurie Matson  
**Investment Treasurer:** Greg Labas



### **Committee Chairs**

Christian Ed	Kathy Taylor
Church Growth	Kim Downey
Church House	Kathy Wandelmaier
Church-In-Society	Sally Markiewicz
Deacons	Kylie D'Arcangelo
Fellowship	Kristin Jordan
Nominating	Robin Murphy
Personnel	Audrey Himebaugh
Stewardship	Greg Dorrell
Worship	Pete Lane

### **Church Council Representatives**

Christian Ed	Dan McKee
Church Growth	Mike Anastas
Church House	Dave Goral
Church In Society	Marianne Gaffey
Deacons	Sharon Santi
Fellowship	Patty Moran
Nominating	Jean Dorrell
Stewardship	Paul Vossbrinck
Worship	Joanna Sanderson
Historian	Bob Brown

Anniversary Campaign: Nancy Vodra

### **Pastoral Relations Committee** Mark Lyon, chair

Jean Dorrell, Leslie Sands, Richard Stewart and Nancy Vodra

Senior Pastor	Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia	bryn@uccb.org
Associate Pastor	Rev. Jennifer Whipple	jennifer@uccb.org
Organist/Choir	Toni Sullivan	sullivannt@hotmail.com
Membership Care	Harry Gerowe	stephminharry@aol.com
Church School	Heather Berner	bernerheather @hotmail.com
Church Office	Barbara Menendez Jeannine McCullough	203-775-1259 office@uccb.org



## **Budget Hearing – April 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Our annual budget hearing will be held in the Meetinghouse immediately following 10:30 worship on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Church Council will report on both the financial outcome of the past fiscal year (which ended March 31<sup>st</sup>) and report plans for the coming year's budget, now that the stewardship campaign is complete.

Our 2010/2011 budget will come up for final vote at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **CrossWays – the newsletter of**

The Congregational Church of Brookfield  
160 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804  
(203)-775-1259 Fax (203)-775-3466  
Email: [office@uccb.org](mailto:office@uccb.org)

### **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

Non-Profit Org.  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
Brookfield, CT  
**Permit # 56**



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED