

Warren Congregational Church

4 Sackett Hill Rd. Warren, CT 06754

September 2009

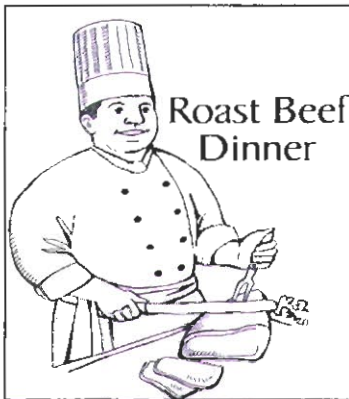
Jackie Lover, editor



Welcome Back!

Sunday School begins on
Sunday, Sept. 27th at
10:15am

Please come and register
your child!



Roast Beef Dinner

September 12th from 4:30-7pm

\$12 for adults and \$5 for children

Bring your family and friends - this is a
dinner not to be missed!

Sponsored by the Prudential Board, this
event will go directly to help with our
budget deficit.

See you there!!!

As you know Pastor Bill & Jackie will be retiring
as of October 1st ! There will be a **Pot Luck
Luncheon** following worship on Sept. 27th

ALL ARE INVITED!

If your last name begins with:

A—H PLEASE BRING A MAIN COURSE

I—P PLEASE BRING A SALAD

Q—Z PLEASE BRING A DESSERT

We hope all the members, family and friends will join
us for lots of fun and memories!!

Reminders for September

Worship

10:30 am

Sr. Choir Rehearsals

9:15 am Sept. 13th all welcome

Coffee Hours

Sept. 6th Missions Board hosts

Roast Beef Supper

Sept. 12th 5-7pm

Sunday School information session

Sept 20th 4:30pm (see CE article)

Sunday School

Sept. 27th @ 10:15AM

Pastor Bill 's letter of "Good-Bye " and many thanks!



As Jackie and I prepare for retirement, I have spent time reflecting on our shared ministry and mission work over the past 6 years. The time has gone all too quickly, and we take with us many joyful and blessed memories of each of you and the work for Christ, which we accomplished together.

How do you say goodbye? That is what I struggle with as we prepare to leave. I find it hard to say goodbye. I wonder if you do? I don't like this unpleasant task. I have always enjoyed meeting people and it feels good to say hello. Even though we will keep in touch, which Jackie and I plan to do, it will be difficult for us to leave the closeness we have had here with you.

Jackie and I will always be grateful to this family of faith for the ways in which they welcomed us and made us feel so much at home here. You took us both into your hearts and allowed us to know you and your families in real and personal ways. We will always be grateful for your many kindnesses to us and to our children and grandchildren.

Saying goodbye is awkward. We would rather not do it. Yet it is important to acknowledge that our relationship with you will soon be changing. Saying goodbye is something we must do, so that we can be free to say hello to others in the future. If we fail to say goodbye, there is a danger that we will cling to the past and not be ready for the new and exciting things God wants us all to experience in the future. Thinking too much about the way things used to be keeps us from discovering the blessing that are yet to be revealed.

How can our goodbyes be creative? How can we keep ourselves open for future blessings we cannot even imagine? I believe the Book of Hebrews offers us some guidance and help in the matter. In Hebrews chapter 12 verses 1b-2, the writer shares this wisdom. "Let us run with determination the race that is lies before us. Let us keep our eyes on fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end." Our thoughts and feelings should not be too focused on ourselves but rather, they need to be focused on Christ and the race that lies before us.

Jesus in the 6th chapter of John's gospel shares a message with his disciples, which is helpful for us also. He is leaving them and returning to the Father. Basically he is saying goodbye to them. He tells them, I will send the Counselor to you. Jesus is speaking of the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that unites us with God and with each other. It is the Spirit that helps us call to our minds the blessings God has given us through the people we meet and the ministries we share.

As we say goodbye for now, Christ calls us to remember to presence and work of the Spirit, which binds us together across the miles for months, even years. We help each other live in joy when we remember that once we are visibly separated from each other, we are still united because our lives are centered in Christ.

Although I will no longer be your pastor after September 30th, Jackie and I will keep in touch with you about family matters. Please know that we will keep you in our hearts and prayers as I hope you will keep us in yours!

May the peace and love of Christ abide with you,

Pastor Bill

Hello to All!!! What a fast summer. Pretty soon the children will be back in school and a brand new school year will begin. With a new school year brings a new Sunday school year. This year the Christian Education Committee would like to SHAKE UP the year. We have started by saying hello to Jenna Downs, who will be taking over the music education for the children. As we say hello to Jenna, we say good-bye to Marie Elena Pecha, who has taught and helped us grow in music over the past few years. Marie Elena will continue to direct the Little Lambs of God Choir.

As in the past, the Sunday school children will meet in the Parish Hall at 10:15 a.m. for their own service. We will then proceed to the Church for the first part of service and then return to the hall to continue our education. Classes will end at 11:45 a.m. **Sunday School Classes begin on**

September 27, 2009.

Along with Sunday school, we have a new confirmation class beginning. Heather Meeker and Hilary Rebot will be the Advisors for the new class. The Confirmation class will run for two (2) years. The class will start on Sunday, September 20th in the Church. Not only will our young adults participate in class, but they will continue to meet as a Junior Youth Group. The Youth Group has some exciting adventures planned, such as, in November, they will be traveling to St. John's in NYC to help with the homeless over night. If you are in seventh grade or higher and would like to learn more or join this new confirmation and youth group, please contact Heather (868-0270) or Hilary (567-9517). We would love to have you see what new experiences await you.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN!! PRESCHOOL TO TEENAGERS AND THERE PARENTS. There will be an Open House at the Parish Hall to introduce parents and children to the new curriculum for Sunday school, information about the new Confirmation class and general information about the Church and its mission.

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20

4:30-6:30

WARREN PARISH HALL

HOT DOGS, CHIPS, DESSERT, BEVERAGES

Parents, if your children haven't been to Sunday school in a while because it is "boring", bring them to the Open House in September to see all the changes that have been made. Maybe it will spark their interest. You never know!!!

See you then!

Christian Ed Committee

DEACON'S CORNER ~ A "Potpourri"

♦ Interim Pastorate:

- An Interim Search Committee has been formed by direction of the Congregation at the July Quarterly Meeting.
- The Deacons were entrusted with forming a Committee that is empowered to select and hire our new Interim.
- It is okay to have a gap between Bill's last Sunday (Sep 27) and the Interim - we'll arrange Pulpit supply.
- The Committee will consult with the Deacons on a regular basis.
- The Committee will consult with the Prudential Board regarding compensation.
- The appointed members are Stephanie Weaver and myself for the Deacons, along with Anita Cornish, Brad Johnson, and Amanda McGrew who bring a combination of experience and balance to the process.
- The Committee has been further briefed and charged by Rev. Mike Ciba, our UCC Regional Conference Minister, who has given very helpful advice on process and how to get started.
- We have already received four Profiles to review.

Lastly, we promise to do our level best to select someone who will continue with the day-to-day performance of Worship and Pastoral care as well as help us review and rewrite our Congregational profile and generally prepare us for another wonderful full-time settled Pastor. We will welcome your input!

♦ Confirmation and Mentoring: (by Stephanie Weaver)

- Heather Meeker and Hilary Rebot have taken on our church's latest confirmation class, which this year consists of 5 children, four girls and one boy, from 7th and 8th grade.
- There has been a good deal of thought on how to engage these young people in a way that gives them tools, perspectives and relationships that can guide and inspire them.
- As part of the class, they have hooked each child up with a volunteer mentor from our congregation who gives a two year commitment.
- This mentor is someone unrelated to them, to give them a different perspective from what they know of how religion, spirituality and walking a life of faith can be incorporated into many occupations and lifestyles.
- Take some time to talk to them and the students who will be in this class the next two years.
- And don't be surprised if you are asked to give of your time and thoughts for this venture, as Heather and Hilary are on the lookout for people to come to confirmation class at times during the two year.
- Their hope is that all of us, with our differing jobs, life events, and passions, can engage these young people and let them know how important God is to each of us in our walks of life.

Deacon's con'd

♦ Visit from our sister Church in Tallmadge, Ohio:

- Some folks will recall that we welcomed a few members of the Tallmadge Church on the occasion of our 250th.
- Their Church is making a Bicentennial pilgrimage (as it were) back East in the Fall.
- They will be visiting Litchfield County and Boston among other places.
- We are hosting a lunch for them on Tuesday, October 6 between roughly 11:30 and 2:00.
- We would like two things:

For as many as possible of you to come along and welcome our friends from out West.

For folks to help provide a good old-fashioned Yankee pot-luck lunch.

- There will be a coach-load of visitors (plan on 55) and I'd hope that at least 25 of us (hopefully nearer 40) will be able to attend and participate in the welcome and/or provision of food.

Naturally, it is important to get a good idea of how many we need to cater for, so do please contact me (e-mail is jwpendercudlip@att.net) or one of the Deacons to indicate probable attendance and/or what you can provide.

♦ Farewell pot-luck for Bill and Jackie:

- September 27 will be Bill's last Sunday in our pulpit.
- Please mark your calendars to come to Church to celebrate Bill and Jackie's ministry among us for six good years.
- Then come to a pot-luck lunch for a more informal send-off.
- You all know how this works; make or bring your usual and we'll have a varied feast.
- It's never easy to say goodbye, but we can together make this one a glorious occasion.

Thanks, and mark your calendars.

John Pender-Cudlip for the Board of Deacons

THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

A young couple sought a church in which to worship. They visited a church one Sunday and later complained to a retired pastor, "No one in the congregation welcomed us. After the service, the pastor stayed in the chancel and spoke only to those who sought him out. No one was at the door to greet us when we arrived or when we left. Of course, we won't go back there."

How friendly is your church? It's as friendly as you make it. Why not engage anyone who appears to be a visitor with a warm handshake, a smile and your name. Find out their name and later make a note of it so you can greet them by name the next time you see them. Introduce the visitors to others in the congregation and guide them to any fellowship event after worship.

Remember that no act of kindness toward others is ever wasted.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

STEWARDSHIP 2009

According to a survey conducted by a company called Christian Research, Christians who were taught the importance of giving gave 26% more to their local church than people who hadn't received such teaching. They also gave nine times more to charity than the average householder did.



Bill Gates, one of the world's wealthiest men, learned to give from his parents. They taught him by their example of being generous to church and community needs. Now that Bill and his wife, Melinda, have traveled the world learning of the hurts, sickness and poverty of fellow humans, they work steadfastly to provide aid and hope. By their examples, other people are learning the importance of giving.

But you don't have to be a billionaire to give generously and cheerfully. What are some ways you can give — and, in doing so, teach others about giving?

- ◆ Teach Sunday School
- ◆ Serve on a Church Committee
- ◆ Volunteer in a Mission Project
- ◆ Give testimony in church during our "Giving Glory to God"
- ◆ Make a sacrificial gift (Second Mile Giving) to the Church if you can

FRIED DOUGH BOOTH at the Fall Festival ~ Volunteers needed!!!

Each year, at the Fall Festival, our church has one of it's major fund-raisers!! It is the Fried Dough Booth and it makes us LOTS of MONEY!

It is time for the next generation to take charge and take over this booth from our dear Anita! She has been taking charge of this forever and it is time for other people to become the leaders of this major project!

There are many good things about doing this:

- 1 It is an opportunity to serve your church and be in the great out doors !
- 2 It is a great way to get to know EVERYONE in Warren
- 3 It is pleasing to God to see you working for the good of His church
- 4 You get to store all the materials at your house!
- 5 It is a great way to be a steward!
- 6 It only happens ONCE a year!!!!

PLEASE HELP!!!! Call the office to find out more about this opportunity!!!! 868-7106!

MISSIONS NEWS

The Missions Board is very busy preparing for the Fall Missions projects! We are still collecting used eyeglasses to donate to the **EYE BANK**—this is a fairly easy project - all it takes is bringing your old unused eyeglasses or sunglasses and putting them in the box in the back of the church—that's it!!! We'll take it from there—thank you for your help with this project.

Winter Coat Drive This Annual event will be taking place in October—Watch for the sign in the church and notes in the bulletins—Please start going through your closets and see if you have any winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves—for men women and children, that you don't need any more! There will be a collection bin for you place your articles near the front door of the church Thank you!

EMPTY BOWL—Saturday, NOVEMBER 6th Yes, it is time for the Empty Bowl Dinner again—as most of you know this is a wonderful event which supports Oxfam and Heifer International, and this year will also support local needs of our neighbors.

To have this event be successful we need many hands—we need help getting the soup donors, the raffle prize donors, the kitchen staff, the people who pick up the soups, prizes etc. We also need people to make desserts. We need servers (the night of the dinner) and help cleaning up!

You do not have to be a church member to take part in this event in any way you would like! Please call the church office if you are interested in helping! Blessings on all of you who help us in so many ways!

Loaves and Fishes ~ There are **6 Tuesdays** in September so that means the Warren Church Missions Board will be serving dinner at Loaves and Fishes at the New Milford Food Bank. If you can help PLEASE call Mary Massey 868-0311. Thank you!

Missions Board ~ Amy, Jill, Kathy, Maria and Mary

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Oh LORD God, we come to You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We acknowledge that we have missed the mark in all our efforts to save this nation. We repent of self-reliance and pride, and for imagining that we could make a difference in this nation by our own human efforts and through a mere political process. O LORD, we acknowledge that you You can change the heart of this nation and restore to it the fear and honor that belongs to You alone. We pray today that You will turn our hearts to You. Send the fire of Your presence, power and love once again to this nation. We pray for another Great Awakening!

(submitted by Carl Hetzel)





Welcome to
Preschool

**OUR CHURCH IS SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND
NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES**

JUST A REMINDER.....

*Our own Warren Community Childcare provides
before and after school care for your school age
children.*

*They also have a Preschool for 3's and 4's as well as daily childcare
for infants 6 weeks through children age 12!*

*If you would like more information, please call Judith Ross at
860-868-2236!*



Little Lambs of God Junior choir

Well, we're about to embark upon another year of choir for our children. I'm still working on securing an appropriate evening & time for the children to practice. As I had mentioned in a previous newsletter, the practice time will change from Sunday mornings to an evening practice during the week. I'm waiting for information on the different extra-curricular activities that will be taking place in Warren to see what evening will best suit the children (and us parents of course!). It is my hope that we will be able to get more children involved with the junior choir by holding an evening practice during the week instead of getting them up earlier than normal on Sunday mornings. (However parents, they will still need to get up to attend Sunday school!!). As soon as I can set a definite practice time, I will be sure to get the word out to all. If anyone has a child/children who would like to participate in the junior choir, please don't hesitate to contact me @ 868-1658. I wish you all the best for upcoming school year!

Marie Elena Pecha -Director, Little Lambs of God choir

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

We continue to keep in our prayers...

Connie Verbouwens, who is living in Ventura CA, in Assisted Living

Jo & Willard Vaill, who are living at Brandywine Assisted Living in Litchfield

Mavis Scholl, who continues to fight her cancer.

Linda Schiel who is awaiting a liver transplant

All of the men and women who are in Iraq, Afghanistan, and in other war zones around the world.



Should you have a prayer request, please activate the prayer chain by calling any one of the following:

Claudia Rahm: 868-7041

Kathy Newton: 868-1845

Elaine Layman: 868-2761

Mary Miller: 868-2144

Ruth Schnell: 868-7865

Jackie Lover: 868-2751

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Shirley Wiltsie ~ one of our newer members, but a

VERY WELL LOVED member!

We send sympathy to her husband, Bo and all of her children, grandchildren and

extended family!

Please keep this very family in your prayers and they grieve their sudden loss!

Choir begins on **September 13th at 9:15am.** As you can see from the list below there are lots of great reasons to join us ~ you need not be a GREAT singer, just enjoy the love of helping lead our Sunday worship!
We need sopranos, tenors and basses ~ think about it!!
See you in the loft!!!!



Join the Choir...

**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**

September 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Prudential Board 7:30pm	2	3 Christian Ed Board 7:30pm	4	5
6 Communion Sunday 10:30am	7 Office closed Labor Day	8 Pastor's Advisory 9:00am Childcare Board 7:30pm	9	10 Missions Board 7:30pm	11	12 ROAST BEEF DINNER 4:30 to 7:00
13 Choir begins 9:15am Worship 10:30	14	15 Deacon's Board 7:30pm	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Sunday School begins Pastor's Bill's last Sunday!	28	29	30			

HEARTS in the morning

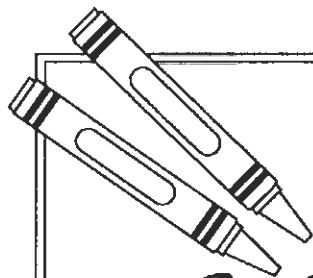
Start your morning with heart. Enjoy this special breakfast with someone you love!

What you need:

- Your favorite pancake recipe and syrup
- Pan or griddle
- Cooking spray
- Liquid measuring cup
- One 5-inch heart-shaped metal cookie cutter
- Wooden clothespin
- Spatula
- Adult help

What you do:

1. With an adult's help, follow your recipe to make your favorite pancakes.
2. Spray cooking spray onto your pan or griddle.
3. Pour pancake batter into a liquid measuring cup. (This helps with pouring individual pancakes.)
4. Place the cookie cutter on the pan or griddle. Then clip the wooden clothespin onto the cookie cutter to act as a handle.
5. Pour batter (about 3-4 Tablespoons) into the cookie cutter.
6. Cook until the top is bubbly and the pancake is dry around the edges.
7. When the heart is ready to flip, use the clothespin to lift and remove the cookie cutter.
8. Turn the pancake with the spatula and cook until golden on both sides. Enjoy with your favorite syrup or fruit.



Just for **KIDS**

As for our family...

With school starting, schedules are getting busy again. Sometimes you might feel like you're going in too many directions and forgetting what's really important. Use the key below to remind you of where your family's real focus should always be.

	A	B	D	O'	N'	R'
KEY:	E	F	H	S'	T'	U'
	I	L	M	V'	W'	Y'



□ □ * □ * □ □ * □ □ * □ *

" B

□ □ □ □ * □ □ □ *

□ □ * □ * □ * □ □ * □ □ □

□ * □ □ * □ □ □

□ * □ □ * □ * □ □ * □ □

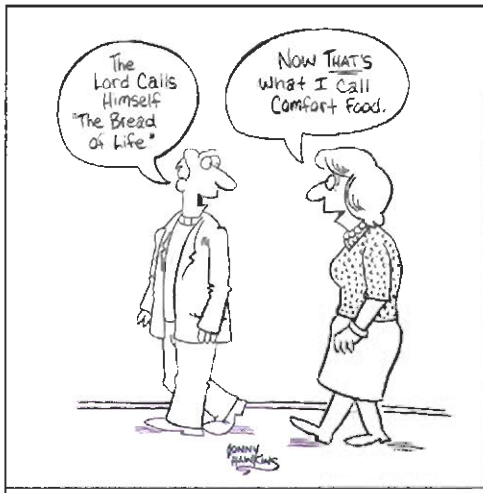
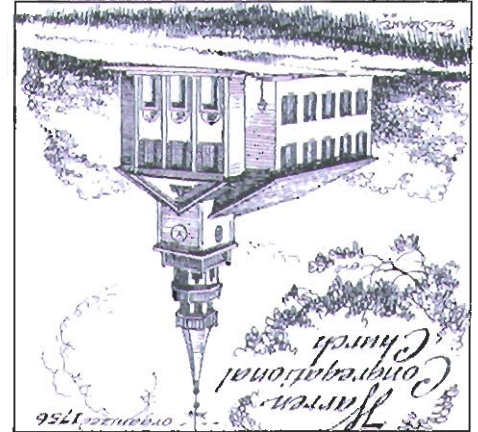
□ □ * □ □ * □ □

JOSHUA 24:15B

Answer: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

4 Sackett Hill Rd
 Warren, CT 06754
 Phone: 860-868-7106
 Fax: 860-868-1067
 E-mail:
 wcongregational@gmail.com

NON PROFIT ORG
 U S Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 17
 Cornwall Bridge, CT



COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FOR 09-10

Month	Board/Committee
September 2009	Missions Board
October 2009	Prudential Board
November 2009	Childcare Board
December 2009	VOLUNTEERS
January 2010	Choir
February 2010	Trustees & Stewardship
March 2010	Deacons Board
April 2010	Missions Board
May 2010	Christian Ed Board
June, July, and August 2010	Summer – lemonade & Iced Tea

Newsletter Deadline for October is Sept. 23rd

Please email your articles to Jackie @ wcongregational@gmail.net

We ask for volunteers (people who are not on Boards) to host the December Coffee Hours.

There only needs to be food on the third Sunday—otherwise, just beverages! Please call the office to volunteer 868-7106.