

Warren Congregational Church
NEWSLETTER

June/July
2008

Jackie Lover, Editor

CONGRATULATIONS...

Graduating from Wamogo:

Sam Hylwa,

Jackie Ajello

Kimberly Layman



and to our College Graduates:

Ed Cheney

Joe Tiedmann



June Schedule

Sr. Choir

9:15am Sundays

Worship

10:30am Sundays

Father's Day

10:30am Little Lambs sing

July Schedule

Worship

10:30am Sundays

Quarterly Meeting

7:30pm Tuesday, July 22nd

From Pastor Bill

Friends, this country is going through a difficult financial time, which it seems will be with us for some time to come. We have people in our congregation who are out of work for the first time in their lives, and others who don't have predictable long term jobs to depend upon. Gas prices has risen to over \$4 a gallon and fuel oil is more than double what it was last year. When you add to this the increase costs of food and other necessities, many families are facing difficult decisions on a daily basis. This is especially true of our families who commute to Danbury, Ridgefield, Shelton and other cities every day.



It is quite appropriate to feel anxious in the midst of these times of uncertainty. My message this month is to remind us all of how our faith in Christ gives us strength and courage to deal with all of this unexpected change. The first thing I want to remind us about is the power of prayer. When difficult decisions have to be made, it is important to pray about it, so you will not be relying on your own judgment. Try not to make hasty decisions. Prayer allows God to show us factors we may not have considered.

Another important thing to remember is what Jesus tells us in the 6th chapter of Matthew's gospel. Jesus tells us, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." (RSV). Eugene Peterson's translation of the Bible, *The Message*, restates Jesus' message this way... **"Give your entire attention to what God is doing now and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."** I like his translation of this verse. It reminds us that God indeed is indeed at work in our lives and in the world. It also reminds us that God will not leave us alone in the midst of our struggles.

Your faith in Christ, even if it seems insufficient, like a grain of mustard seed will sustain you and allow you to live with joy during these difficult days. One of the most important things for us to do is to do what the old hymn tells us to do, "Trust and Obey". Come to worship, hear God's word, share fellowship with other believers. Be assured that when we gather for worship and fellowship, the Holy Spirit is at work in our midst to bring blessings, which we would otherwise not have known.

Our lives together in Christ at the Warren Congregational Church is always a blessing my life. It keeps me from focusing too much on my own life and reminds me that Christ calls me to love my neighbor and to pray for others, those in Warren and those in China, Iraq, and Burma.

My prayer is that you will remember what Jesus teaches us in the 6th chapter of Matthew about keeping your focus on what God is doing now and that you will remember to trust and obey.

Blessings,
Pastor Bill

Deacons Corner - June 2008

Charity, like her sister Mercy, is twice blessed. It blesses those who give as well as those who receive.

- Missions is a very important aspect of the life of the Warren Church. We are fortunate to live in a generous community and fortunate to have dedicated folks serving on our Missions Board, people who care deeply about Mission outreach and throw themselves willingly into fund-raising work.

- As previously reported, the Deacons are responsible for the spiritual leadership of our Church. Sunday Worship is the most visible evidence of our efforts (and we always welcome comment and feedback).

- But, we are also passionate about Christian education - we have David Swift and Laura Swett teaching Confirmation Class, and David, Steve Barbee, and Carl Hetzel leading Alpha - and we maintain close contact with the Christian Education Board.

- And, we are equally passionate about supporting the Missions outreach of our Church. We met recently with the Missions Board and talked through how we acquire funds (and goods) - from our annual Budget, fund-raising events, and special offerings. Please note that the Deacons control the scheduling of Special Offerings so as not to overload the congregation (and risk compassion fatigue) or distract from Worship by being too frequent. We also discussed the geographic nature of our outreach - Local (Warren), Regional (County/State), National, and International. Much of our resources are disbursed directly. We also support UCC Missions work in two ways. A proportion of the Basic Support \$ we send to the CT Conference is for Missions as determined by the UCC (Regional, National, International). There are also special UCC Mission projects, e.g. "One Great Hour of Sharing" in which a high proportion of our donation supports National and International outreach.

- Clearly, disbursement of our Missions resources (up to \$20,000 annually, not counting donated Goods like food for FISH, Mittens for Kids, or Care Packages for Troops overseas or School Children) requires careful and thoughtful oversight (can we call it Mission Control?) in order to strike a good balance between the various geographic recipients.

- In addition to self-growth in Christian virtues and in promoting 24/7 fellowship, we must continue to be charitable, loving Christians - your homework assignment is I Corinthians 13 (try both the King James and a more modern version) - and ensure that Warren continues to be a vibrant well of the living water of life.

Faithfully yours,

John Pender-Cudlip, Scribe and Co-Chair.



Many Thank You Notes...

Thanks to Our
Sunday School
Teachers!



A BIG Thank you

As many of you know I recently had a total knee replacement.....I guess I was really naïve as to the degree of "hurt" I would be in after the surgery!

I never thought about meals or shopping etc. Thanks to the "Warren Angels", it turns out I didn't have to think about meals, or shopping, or finding a ride to physical therapy—the wonderful people in our church had it all under control and believe me, Bill and I were MOST appreciative. It was so comforting to us to know that our Church Family was in control and all we had to do was say, 'Thank You'!

Then there were the prayers that went up for healing ~ little did I know how much healing there would be, and without the support of the people in this church and this town, I am not sure that I would be able to walk again as I am today!

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and pray for God's blessings upon each of you!

Pastor Bill & Jackie Lover

The Children thank all those who have taught and nurtured them this year in their Sunday School classes.

Mrs. Meeker, Mrs. Downs, Mrs. Frisbie, Mrs. Lago, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Pecha, . . . Mrs. Martineau, Mrs. Calhoun and Jenna Downs, and Mrs Roode.

We LOVE you and thank you!!!

We also thank David Swift and Laura Swett for their teaching of the Confirmation Class this year ~ You made it very meaningful for these young people who will be confirmed next May!

Thank you to the Choir

Choir Recognition will take place on Sunday, June 22nd during worship.

The Choir has worked very hard this year under

the leadership of Mary Lee Hershey.

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Karen Andersen</i> | <i>Ruth Cheney</i> |
| <i>Karen Hylwa</i> | <i>Lynn Johnson</i> |
| <i>Brad Johnson</i> | <i>Jackie Lover</i> |
| <i>Jane Manley</i> | <i>Dan Martineau</i> |
| <i>Ruth Schnell</i> | <i>Claudia Rahm</i> |
| <i>Woody Rahm</i> | <i>Bobbie Wasley</i> |





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 School, who continues to fight her cancer.

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

All of the suffering people 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

**Newsletter Deadline for August is
JULY 24TH**

**Please email your articles to Jackie @
wcongregational@gmail.com**

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow. The everlasting Father who took care of you yesterday will take care of you today and each day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, put aside you anxious thoughts and imaginations. author..... St Francis DeSales

MISSIONS

Many thanks for your support with Tools and Blanket program. The "Rainbow of Car-ing" shines so brightly through our church. We raised \$270 which means we were able to purchase 54 blankets for Church World Service to give to people in need.

Thank you!

Jill Thorland, for the Mission Board.



Little Lambs of God junior choir

Well, what can I say? The children did a wonderful job singing for us Moms on Mother's Day. Again, there were tears shed in the congregation when they finished! It's at times such as that, that the children & I have it confirmed that you truly enjoy having them perform for you. It's evident that many hearts and souls were touched that day.

For most of the children, they have decided to take the summer off from singing. Why not? Isn't it written somewhere that summertime is for the children? I know in our household it's for ALL of us! However, some of the children have decided that they would like to sing maybe once or twice during the summer for the congregation to keep things flowing, and those of you who know me, know that I'm in favor of it! I hope that many of you will decide to endure the rising temperatures & come to Sunday morning worship to support their efforts. There will be a handful of children singing for Father's Day, June 15th. They will be again singing "Everything to Me", a song they sang earlier this year. This song is not only for God our Father, but for all those remarkable Dads out there - and we have MANY of them in our church family. I ask all those who are able, to please come to service regularly & continue to support our junior choir. If it were not for our congregation, we would not have the means to continue with this part of the music ministry. May the Lord bless you all, keep you safe, healthy, and cool this summer! Looking forward to seeing you at worship!

Marie Elena Pecha - Director, Little Lambs of God junior choir



WILL YOU BE A HELPER??

This is July, a time when many are on vacation. The work of the church, however, goes on. It must. God and the Church do not go on hiatus:-)

So what needs to be remembered? Stewardship, for one thing. Reminding everyone that the bills also come in the summer, the church staff members need their salaries, the homeless still need to be fed, missionaries are still in the field, etc. The church must depend on each member doing his or her part on a regular basis. That is our responsibility and our privilege.

We must also carry on our stewardship of service: lining up teachers for Sunday school, finding volunteers for the nursery, people to work on committees, kitchen workers, counselors for summer camps, youth counselors, people to help build Habitat for Humanity homes, etc. We need talented people to help with our people to work on special events such as the church dinners, a special fundraiser, and religious education experiences for children and adults.

The bottom line is this: Helpers are always needed. Helpers are always wanted. Helpers are always special and greatly appreciated. Will you please be a helper?

FROM THE PRUDENTIAL BOARD

As we read the above article we realize that our financial problem isn't just ours ~ it is the same problem in all churches. With people going on vacation, or not coming to worship as regularly as they do at other times, the church falls behind and cannot pay the bills. The power company doesn't want to hear that people are on vacation and not giving their pledge! The same with the phone company and the insurance company! It would be a great help to our church if you would continue to send your offering to the church office during the months of June, July and August. Thank you!

Church Budget to date:

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| May Income | 9,653 |
| Expenses | 14,510 |
| YTD Income | 62,478 |
| YTD Expenses | 72,450 |
| MINUS | 9,972 |

June 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1 Communion 10:30 | 2 | 3 Prudential Bd. 7:30pm | 4 | 5 Last Alpha Class 7-8:30 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Worship 10:30am | 9 Childcare Mtg 7:30pm | 10 | 11 Preschool Graduation 6pm | 12 Missions 7pm | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Father's Day -Little Lambs sing | 16 | 17 Deacon's 7:30pm | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Worship 10:30 am | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Worship 10:30am | 30 | | | | | |

July 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| | | 1 Prudential 7:30pm | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Communion 10:30am | 7 | 8 | 9 Christian Ed—7:30pm | 10 Missions 7:00pm | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Worship 10:30am | 14 Childcare Bd. 7:30pm | 15 Deacons 7:30pm | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Worship 10:30am | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Worship 10:30am | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Worship Sundays 10:30 am

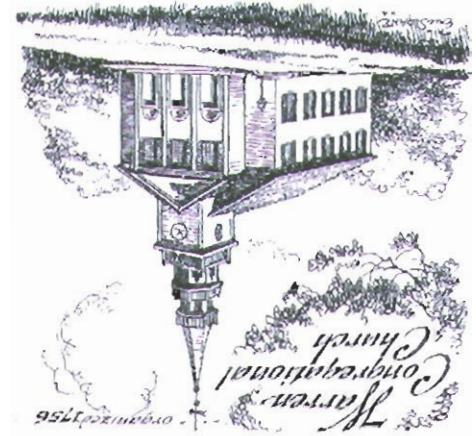
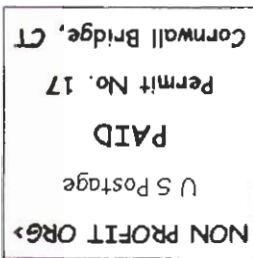
wcongregational@gmail.com

Email:

Phone: 860-868-7106

Warren, CT 06754

4 Sackett Hill Road



WISH LIST:

The Prudential Board is looking for a dehumidifier to put in the downstairs storage room in the Parish Hall. If anyone has one they would like to donate, please call the office at 868-7106! Thank you!

Rental Agent Wanted:

We are looking for someone who would like a VERY part-time job as the "rental agent" for the Parish Hall.

The job consists of taking the initial inquiry, informing the church office, preparing the paper work, showing the hall, preparing the hall before the event, and opening and closing the hall on the day of the event.

There will be a payment made to the "rental agent" for each rental they take. Please call the church office at 868-7106 if you are interested.