



FRIDAY, AUGUST 1ST

5-7:30PM ~ \$10

1/2 CHICKEN, MACARONI SALAD,  
SWEET CORN, ROLL, DESERT,

BEVERAGE, BOXED TO GO OR STAY  
PARISH HALL ~ BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

**Parish Hall Rental Agent NEEDED!!!**

We need a person who would like to earn a little cash occasionally! This position is to handle the rentals of the Parish Hall. Please call the church office for details  
860-868-7106.



Calling All Church Chicks!

Who's up for a road trip ?

Saturday, August 16th

to Prime Outlets in Lee, Mass  
(only an hour away...honest)

Meet in church parking lot at 9:30am

We will car pool from there.

BYO money for shopping and lunch

RSVP to church office 868.7106

• **Worship**

**10:30am Sundays**

Anyone interested in Church membership please see Pastor Bill or call the office—860-868-7106. New Member classes will be in September!

# From Pastor Bill

Friends, I have good news and bad news for you as I write this report. The Good News is that God's love and the gift of his Son is our greatest sources of comfort, strength and hope in the midst of all of life's problems. The bad news is that the next year could be filled with many problems and many difficult choices. Some are saying that the current economic down turn is

the worst since the Great Depression in 1929 and that it is likely to get worse over next few months. Food prices are climbing, joblessness is growing, and the cost of gasoline and fuel oil could continue to climb.



I found a quote which I like that reminds us of what we, as Christians, need to do not only during difficult times but at all times. It is titled, **The Bottom Line**. It is based on 1 John 4:16.

**"When it comes right down to it, this is the bottom line, the bedrock of our faith, and the explanation of the peace we have about the present and the future. Knowing and relying on God's love for us is our duty and our joy in all of life's circumstances, and is the best and the only answer to any situation we run up against. It allows us to look beyond the circumstances to see (or simply trust in) God's had working in our lives. Know God's love. Rely on it. That is all God asks us to do."** Laura Hepker, Christianity Online

This congregation like many congregations has seen the results of trusting the unfailing gift of God's love when major changes and challenges have presented themselves. Through prayer, trust and the willingness to wait, this family of faith has seen how God is at work for good in the midst of concern and uncertainty.

One of the great joys of Christian living is that we who are part of Christ's family of faith, The Church, draw strength from each other. There is something very wondrous about seeing believers supporting and encouraging each other through the painful experiences of life and sharing the joy of celebrating the happy experiences with them.

Our congregation, like every congregation, faces many economic challenges in the coming the coming months. It also faces other challenges, like the drop in the number of school age children in the Warren Public School and the fewer number of young families who can afford to live in the Town of Warren. The Warren School has only 3 children registered for kindergarten for September and two of those may withdraw because the family can not afford to live in Warren. Many small towns in Connecticut are facing the same dilemma as young families move closer to large cities, because of the high cost of gasoline.

God calls us to a life that is filled with many blessings. These blessings are about joy, peace, comfort and hope. They are not about having more material comforts. God calls us to a life of faithfulness, not a life of free from stress, hardship and suffering. It is our job to discern what God is asking of us in every situation. My prayer is that we may be a family of faith that prays, trusts and relies on God's wondrous love as we face the challenges before us.

Blessings, Pastor Bill

## LITTLE LAMBS of GOD—Junior Choir

SUMMERTIME - What comes to mind when you hear that word? Well, I think of sunshine, NO early wake-up calls, swimming, relaxing, and the list goes on & on. However, a few young individuals also kept the desire to sing for our congregation during the summer months, myself included. For Father's day, the dads were treated to a special song sung by: Tyler, Caitlin, Miranda, Casey, Alissa, Kirsten, & Jenna. Well done my "Little Lambs". Also, during the month of July, I had the pleasure of singing for our congregation along side Jenna. What fun! Some of us are again planning on singing during the month of August at least one more time, so check out the church's website for the date. A special "thank you" to Carl Hetzel for the sound checks and pushing the buttons for us.

As I'm sitting here writing to you, it's around 90 degrees outside with 68% humidity! In other words, it's HOT! But I'm in the process of listening to music for the upcoming choir season - the fall/winter session. I'm getting very excited about this coming year for the junior choir. It will mark our 5<sup>th</sup> year in this part of our music ministry, so I'll start by saying that I can't wait to see all those who previously have been with me in the choir, and I look forward to seeing new faces join us. Any child can join the choir. All you need is the desire to sing, sing, sing - and of course, PRAISE THE LORD! Choir practices will again be held on Sunday mornings in the parish hall @ 9:15, just before Sunday school. The choir season will start in October, after we've begun with the Sunday school year. I like to have the children get acclimated to Sunday school before we begin with choir. I urge all the children to consider joining. You can always stop in to see (& listen to) if it's something you think you may want to be a part of. We do sing in front of the congregation at least once a month, sometimes more if there's something special taking place. Choir gowns are provided at "no charge" for those who sing. So please children, just give it some thought & if you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me @ 868-1658. Hope to see you all in the fall!

With a song in my heart ---

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

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School starts on Sunday, September 14th!

Please consider signing up to teach for a term—teachers are desperately needed !!

Thank you for considering another way to serve God!



# Blankets of Belief Workshop

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Saturday, September 13th 10 - 3

Warren Congregational Church Parish Hall, 4 Sackett Hill Rd, Warren CT 06754

Please be an angel, mark your calendar and join us for this community event!

On Saturday September 13th, 2008, from 10 am to 3pm SOLDIERS' ANGELS WITH THE GRACIOUS HELP OF THE WARREN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH will host a workshop to make blankets for the Soldiers' Angels "Blankets of Belief" program. The church will open its Parish Hall to anyone who wants to help make a blanket. This is a nationwide effort to create 180,000 home-made blankets for soldiers spending their holidays in a war zone. Whether you agree or disagree with the wars, this is a cause that anyone can support.

All skill levels are welcome and we have easy no-sew directions!

## SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Good pair of scissors
  - Tape measure or ruler
  - Two 2-yard lengths of coordinating fleece (patriotic colors strongly encouraged)
- "Blankets of Belief Kits" may also be purchased in advance from the Soldiers' Angel store for \$29.00: [http://www.angelsstore.org/Blankets\\_of\\_Belief\\_Kits\\_p/blanket002.htm](http://www.angelsstore.org/Blankets_of_Belief_Kits_p/blanket002.htm) (S&H included)

We will attempt to collect additional supplies from area vendors but encourage you to bring whatever you can with you.

If you are unable to make a blanket but want to help we will happily collect donations to defray shipping costs.

For more information about this workshop please contact:

Soldiers Angel Laura Swett 860.868.3406, [soldiersangella@gmail.com](mailto:soldiersangella@gmail.com) or alternatively you may contact Church Secretary Jackie Lover at 860.868.7106.

THANK YOU, on behalf of the troops we serve and the Soldiers' Angels Organization!

Please visit our website at: [www.soldiersangels.org](http://www.soldiersangels.org)

Laura Swett



## Deacons Corner - July 2008

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Most of us are in vacation mode, but Deacons duties never take a break.

- For instance, we met with our UCC Regional Conference Minister and had a very frank, informative, and constructive discussion on the role of the UCC and our affiliation. More to come .....

"Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (from Matthew 6:34)

- It means tomorrow may or will take care of itself when it comes.

- In the meantime, focus fully on the present:

    Don't dwell (overmuch) on the past;

    Don't anticipate (unreasonably) the future;

    Live this moment to the fullest.

- Jesus got it.

- Buddhism and other Eastern religions get it.

- The consciousness movement of the Seventies got it (sometimes too much of it).

- Eckhart Tolle gets it in his book "A New Earth" (Awakening to Your Life's Purpose).

Life happens - it is a succession of events, some good, some bad, like a series of still frames in a movie.

- You cannot change them:

    You acknowledge the bad, so move on to the next;

    You acknowledge the good, so milk the moment for all you can.

Take a deep breath, look around.

- Enjoy all that's good about summer in New England:

    Be present - be in the moment;

    Appreciate those who are in the same moment as you;

    Spare a thought and a prayer for those who aren't.

Come to think of it, isn't that at the core of Sunday Worship - to gather together.

- Your Deacons and your Pastor are working to make the Worship experience a vital moment (or series of moments) in your lives.

    But we need YOU

    Your Church needs YOU

    God's Church needs YOU

    God demands YOU

Faithfully yours,

John Pender-Cudlip, Scribe and Co-Chair.

## One Person's Opinion

## *Making a Difference*

**COMMIT** - To give in charge or trust; to compromise, involve, to pledge (oneself)

**COMMITMENT** - The act of pledging or engaging oneself

What do these words mean to you? The explanations for the words came from the dictionary, but has anyone really thought how these words pertain to oneself? I did, and still do everyday. As I reflected on how the past Sunday school & choir season came & went in our small congregation; what the children did, how they've progressed with loving hearts & hands to guide them, I had a sense of pride knowing that I had a hand in that process. There were also many other caring & loving individuals who were constantly nurturing our children to become the best people they can possibly be. However, we are always in need of more individuals to make the "commitment" to keep our congregation strong & nurtured, whether it be serving on a committee or board, teaching our Sunday school for a session, or supporting our choirs. There's always a need (and the room) for others to stand up & make the "commitment".

I would like to share with all of you a bit of information about myself. I grew up in a very loving home and attended a catholic school for 9 years. It was very structured, sometimes feeling as though one was in the armed services. However, having grown up with that type of structure, I quickly came to know what it was to make a commitment not only to myself, but also to others around me. I am committed to "our" children, not only those in the junior choir, but those in our Sunday school. I am asking all the parents/guardians of these wonderful children, to make the "commitment" to have them attend Sunday school regularly and for you, make the "**commitment**" to **attend worship services on a regular basis**. We are the models for our children. Children learn by watching what they see around them, and then acting upon what they've seen. If our children see us make the "commitment" to attend worship, help out in a classroom, or serve on a board, that will just help to reinforce their desire to become the best they can be. I find it ironic and somewhat saddening that we can always make the commitment to attend extra curricular functions, but when it comes to "committing" oneself to seek out our Lord who has given us so much, there's no time in our daily lives.

So I say to all of you in this wonderful congregation, search within yourself and find the time to make the "commitment" to get involved in any way you can. If we all make even the smallest gesture, we can continue to grow & nurture our spiritual community. Jesus made the ultimate "commitment" for us - his life - so that we could be cleansed of our sins & have new life. Let's all think about that & see where it leads us.

Marie Elena Pecha

# Thoughts to Ponder

## Lending a hand

Terry and Anne Guerrant of Gilbert, Arizona, are "micro lenders." They find people in poverty-stricken areas of the world who need some money to grow their small businesses. For example, a small loan enables a woman who sells chicken eggs to buy more birds, sell more eggs and edge her way out of poverty.

The Guerrants helped a woman in Africa who made mats to cover dirt floors in huts. With the loan, she was able to hire helpers and make more mats. Other loan recipients include a man who sells vegetables, another who sells fish grown in a pond, and a woman who sells clean water.

The money comes from a foundation the Guerrants started, partly with earnings Anne made as a tennis pro. Amazingly, 97 percent of the loans have been paid back. The money is then loaned out to other small-businesspeople.

With 3 billion people in our world living on less than \$2 a day, it's encouraging to know of the Guerrants' ministry.

## Guidance from Wesley

John Wesley (1703-1791) offered the following "Rules of Conduct" for Christians:

Do all the good you can,

By all the means you can,

In all the ways you can.

In all the places you can,

At all times you can,

To all the people you can.

As long as ever you can.

## Helping the brokenhearted

**A retired pastor counseled younger peers to remember that in every pew sits someone dealing with a broken heart. Hasn't that been us at some point? What have we learned from our brokenness? What helps? What doesn't?**

**People who are hurting don't need platitudes and quick answers. In fact, it's often best not to say anything at all. The most important thing is to just be there. Sit. Listen. Hold a hand. Respond with brief expressions of understanding. When appropriate, offer assurance that God knows of the situation and cares.**

**After Jesus healed the paralytic, the man stood up and returned home glorifying God (Luke 5:17-26). Likewise, Christ says to the brokenhearted today, "Stand up and go into your future, glorifying God with good works for his kingdom."**

# SAVE THE DATES!!

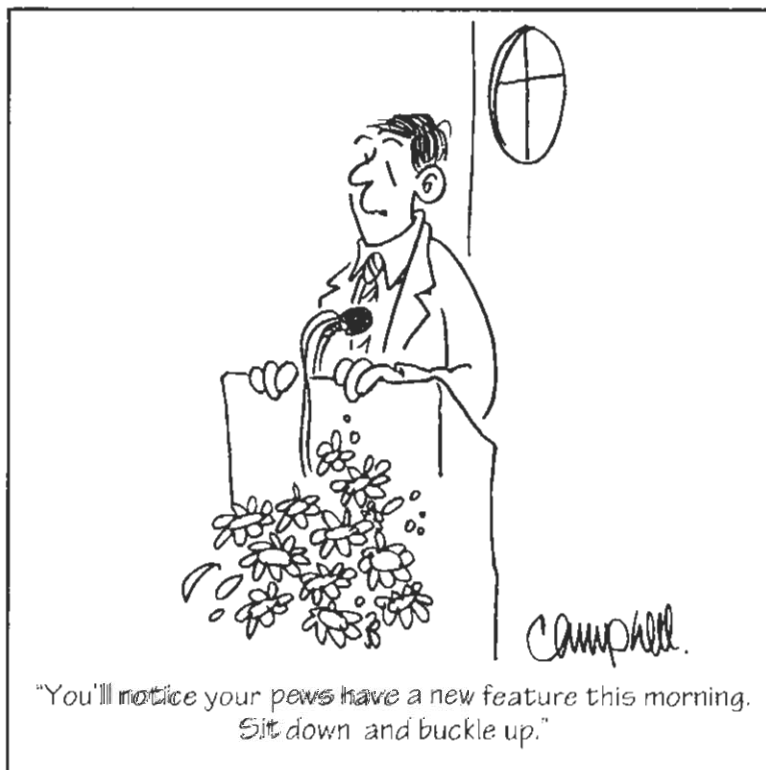
The Prudential Board has scheduled two important events:

Our annual **Chicken Barbecue** will be held on Friday, August 1 at the Parish Hall from 5 to 7:30 PM. Dinner includes  $\frac{1}{2}$  chicken, macaroni salad, sweet corn, roll, beverage and desert for a donation of \$10. Dinners are boxed to go or you can relax, eat in and visit with friends. Tickets are available in advance and at the door.

And next.....

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 20, when we will be hosting another roast beef dinner. \$12 adults, \$5 children under 12.

These are major fundraisers to support the operating expenses of the church. So bring your friends and family, enjoy fellowship and a good meal and help the work of the church.



*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*

We continue to keep in our prayers...

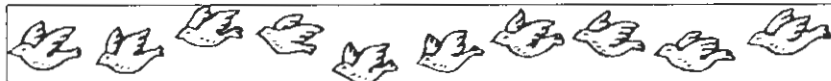
**Connie Verbouwens**, who is living in Ventura CA, in Assisted Living

**Jo & Willard Vaill**, who are living at Brandywine Assisted Living in Litchfield ~ Room 218

**Mary Rahm**, who is at the Kent.

**Mavis Scholl**, 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.

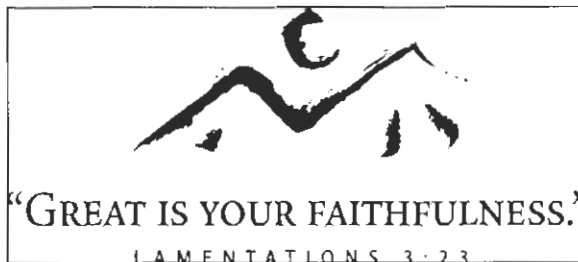
  
P R A Y E R C H A I N

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

All requests will be confidential unless otherwise noted.

June Income	\$11,068
June Expenses	\$14,510
YTD Income	\$73,564
YTD Expenses	\$86,960
Total MINUS	\$13,396



Senior Choir resumes on Sunday, September 7th at 9:15am rehearsal. All are welcome to join our choir. All you have to do is enjoy singing to praise the Lord!

We would really appreciate another soprano, bass, baritone and tenor.

Give it a try!!!!

# August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 CHICKEN BAR-B-Q	2
3 WORSHIP 10:30 Special mu- sic—Marie & Jenna and friends	4	5 PRUDENTIAL BOARD 7:30PM	6 CHRISTIAN ED 7:30PM	7	8	9
10 WORSHIP 10:30AM	11 CHILDCARE BOARD 7:30PM	12	13	14 MISSIONS BOARD 7:00PM	15	16
17 WORSHIP 10:30AM	18	19 DEACONS MEETING 7:30PM	20	21	22	23
24 WORSHIP 10:30AM	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 WORSHIP 10:30AM						

# For Kids Only

## REFRESHING ★ SUMMER ★ ACTIVITY

Try this activity with your Sunday school. It's a fun way to give people more than just a cold drink. It helps them learn about the Bible and your church.

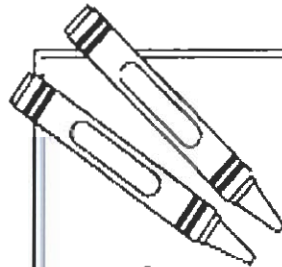
### What you need:

- Bottled water
- Tubs or ice chest filled with ice
- Printed labels or cut pieces of paper the same size as the existing water-bottle label
- Permanent markers (if you're not using preprinted labels)
- Clear contact paper
- Scissors
- Clear packing tape
- Poster board
- Adult supervision



### What to do:

1. On labels or pieces of paper, write a verse about the living water Jesus gives us (for example, John 4:13-14; John 6:35; Revelation 22:17). Also include your church's name and contact information, as well as an invitation to worship or to an activity.
2. Either laminate the new labels or cover them in clear contact paper (to keep them from getting soggy).
3. Tape the labels to the back of the bottles.
4. Make a "FREE Water!" poster.
5. Find a park, local festival or corner where people pass by needing a cold drink. Be sure to have adult supervision.



## Just for **KIDS**

# The Water of Life

To beat the summer heat, we're often refreshed by a cold drink. Complete the puzzle below for a reminder of what Jesus offers us when we thirst.

### KEY:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

19+4 10-7 10+5 10-5 18+4 1-4 20-2 8+1 12-7

18+2 1+7 10-1 20-2 18+1 20-0 28-1 6+8 5-0 10+10

4+4 8+1 8+5 1+2 10+5 15-2 1+4 0+1 7+7 1+3

28-3 7+1 28-5 2+3 21+1 6-1 19-1

21+2 9+0 18+1 10-2 7-2 15+4 10+2 7-2 17+3

6+2 1+2 1-2 20-0 2-1 9+2 3-3 22-2 1+3 2-3

3+3 22-4 5-0 1+4 7+4 7+2 9-3 9+11 14+1 8-2

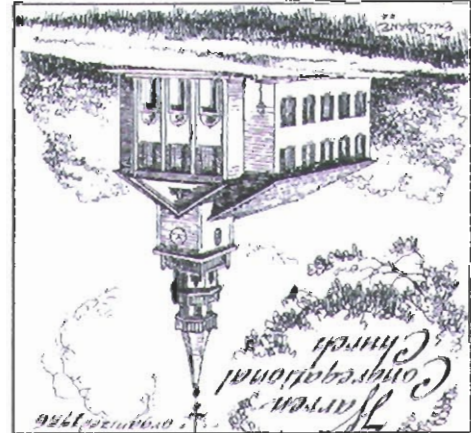
23-3 12-4 8-3 21+2 4-3 20-0 10-5 20-2 13+2 4+2

5-7 12-3 9-3 6-1 *Revelation 22:17, NIV*

ANSWER:  
"Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." Revelation 22:17, NIV

4 Sackett Hill Road  
 Warren, CT 06754  
 Phone: 860-868-7106  
 Email: [wcongregational@snet.net](mailto:wcongregational@snet.net)  
 Summer  
 Worship Sundays 10:00 am

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### Special Dates:

- Choir returns on Sept. 7th
- Sunday School begins on September 14th
- "Little Lambs" return in October

**Newsletter Deadline  
 for September is  
 Aug. 20th**  
 Please email your  
 articles to Jackie @  
[wcongregational@snet.net](mailto:wcongregational@snet.net)

### COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FOR 08-09

<u>Month</u>	<u>Board/Committee</u>
September 2008	Prudential Board
October 2008	Missions Board
November 2008	Childcare Board
December 2008	VOLUNTEERS
January 2009	Choir
February 2009	Trustees & Stewardship
March 2009	Board of Deacons
April 2009	Missions Board
May 2009	Christian Ed Board
June, July, and August 2009	Summer – lemonade & Iced Tea

We ask for volunteers (people who are not on Boards) in December to host the Coffee Hours. There only needs to be food on the third Sunday—otherwise, just beverages! Please call the office to volunteer 868-7106.