

Warren Congregational Church

September 2008

4 Sackett Hill Rd. Warren, CT 06754

Jackie Lover, editor



Roast Beef Dinner

Sat., Sept. 20th from 5-7pm

\$12 for adults and \$5 for kids

New Member classes will be held on September 21st and 28th after worship. We will be receiving new members during worship on October 5th. Call Pastor Bill at 868-7106, if you would like to join the Warren Church!

Reminders for September

Worship

10:30 am

Sr. Choir Rehearsals

9:15 am Sept. 14th all welcome

Coffee Hours

Sept. 7th Prudential Board host

Roast Beef Supper

Sept. 20th 5-7pm

Sunday School

Sept. 14th @ 10:15AM

A Message from Pastor Bill



of

As we begin our fall schedule in the Warren Church family of faith, I want to challenge you to engage in some reflection. Most of you know that one of my favorite scripture passages is in John's gospel. Chapter 10 verse ten are the words Jesus contained in his teachings about the Good Shepherd. Jesus tells his disciples, **"I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."**

There are times when I have experience the abundant life Jesus talks about. Most of these experiences occurred in the fellowship of believers, the Church, or with others Christians. They have been times when I felt God's love, God's forgiveness, and felt that God was using me to accomplish His purposes. There was joy and peace in my life, even when my life was filled with worry and struggle because Christ was at the center of my life.

September 2008 certainly finds us surrounded by things to worry about and plenty of problems with which to struggle. Some people are out of work. The cost of heating oil my double the cost of heating our homes this winter. The number of mortgage foreclosures continues to rise. Inflation is causing the cost of living to increase faster than anytime since 1981.

Even if your life is not being significantly impacted by any of the factors I listed, you may find yourself saying, **"Is this all there is?"** A number of years ago a prominent minister in London wrote a series of essays on various problems of every living. In one of them, he mentions a conversation he had with a successful businessman as they sat together on the man's front porch. Everything about the man's house and property appeared to be sufficient for anyone to feel happy. The minister remarked to him that he had much for which to be thankful. "Yes," the man replied, "you are right. And I am thankful, but often I feel that somehow I've missed the best things in life."

Most of us know many people who feel like this man did. They are not careless and irresponsible people. They are decent, hard working people who have much for which to be thankful. Yet if you talk with them for any length of time, you discover that many of them feel like something is missing. They do not feel that they are loved or that their lives are very important. What is missing in their lives is that they have not discovered the abundant life Jesus talks about.

Most every decision in their lives is about what makes them happy. It is about trying to be comfortable and free from stress. Many of them believe in the motto... Whatever you do, don't get involved. Don't accept any more responsibility. Don't give too much money to help others; you need it to take care of yourself.

Such attitudes lead not to abundant life but to stunted relationships and little joy or peace. Talk with someone who loves the Lord and you will find someone who seeks to follow Jesus' commandment to love your neighbor. They know the meaning of sacrifice and serving. They know the abundant life is not found by seeking personal comfort and security.

My challenge is this...come let us together discover the meaning of having abundant life by joining in worship, prayer, and mission work in the name of Christ. By giving and serving in the name of Christ let us discover the joy and peace that comes from knowing that God is using us to fulfill His purposes.

Blessings, Pastor Bill

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER

Hello to all! The New Year is here and we are ready to start Sunday school. Sunday school will start on September 14, 2008 at 10:15am in the Parish Hall. This is registration day, so please make sure you complete the form for your child(ren) before leaving for church. We will have a Parent handbook and calendar for each family when you register.

We welcome all children from Preschool age 3 and up. For those not old enough to start school, we have a daycare room just waiting to be played in.

The Christian Ed Board will be having a "KICK OFF THE YEAR" picnic after church. We will be playing "kick ball" and some other games as well. We will supply the hamburg's, hot dog's, rolls and lemonade and iced tea to drink. Each family should bring a side dish to share, such as a salad, chips, baked beans, pickles, etc. *Please RSVP to the church office with the number of people who will be attending.*

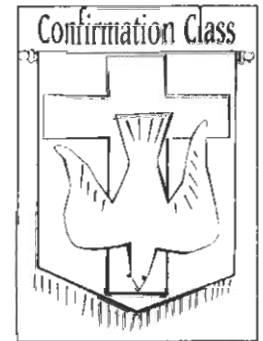
If you are interested in lending a helping hand, teaching a class or helping with group worship days would be appreciated. Contact Colleen Frisbie (868-9682) for more information.

See you soon! Colleen Frisbie for the Christian Ed Board

The Confirmation Class ~ year 2

Confirmation class will begin on September 14th at 10:30am. The classes will be meeting in the Academy!

This is the group that started last year for year 1 and will be confirmed on May 31st 2009.



The current 6th and 7th graders will be preparing in their Sunday School class this year to start their first of 2 years in their Confirmation classes next September 2009.

Thank you! Laura Swett & David Swift



Roast Beef Dinner

September 20th from 5-7pm

\$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!!!

Little Lambs of God - 5th year CHOIR Season begins

What a great summer this has been for singing! Again I had the pleasure of directing some of the children on August 3rd when they sang "Amazing" for our congregation. What an amazing sound we heard that day from Amelia, Casey, Alissa, Kirsten, and Jenna. Great job girls! I, too, wanted to get in on the fun with singing, so Jenna & I sang "Creator King". I believe that song is definitely one of my new favorites, and I hope that the congregation enjoyed our presentation of it. A big "Thank You" to Carl Hetzel for being at the practices & sharing his ideas with us. And we didn't even fall down the stairs Carl!!! Thank you to all those who have continuously supported the junior choir, especially through the summer months. It is you who make the practicing & performing all worth while. It was wonderful to see so many people in church during the summer months. I hope we can keep that momentum going!

Now, having said that, we turn to the upcoming Choir season and of course, Sunday school for the 2008-2009 session. An important reminder that Sunday school will begin on September 14th and the *2008-2009 Junior Choir season will begin its 5th year on October 19th*. I want the children to get acclimated to Sunday school first, and then there is the Fall Festival, so beginning after all that just makes sense. Junior Choir is open to all children who have a love for singing, performing, and praising our Lord through song. We meet Sunday mornings @ 9:15 in the Parish hall (right before Sunday school), and we follow the Sunday school schedule (unless otherwise noted). Choir robes are provided at **NO CHARGE** to those who join. All children are encouraged to join. If you're not sure about it, you can come & listen & see if it's something that may interest you. If anyone would like more information, you can contact me @ 868-1658. I am looking forward to seeing all those beautiful faces from years past & hopefully new faces as well! Let's make year #5 for the Junior choir it's best year yet!!

Looking forward to seeing you all in October!

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

A prayer for perspective

A prayer written for use during the Jewish New Year (September 30-October 1) is pertinent for Christians, too:

Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful;
 courage enough to look forward and be hopeful;
 faith enough to look upward and be humble;
 kindness enough to look outward and be helpful.
 Amen.

DEACON'S CORNER

The Deacons Corner was sorely tempted to take a month off:

- Go play some golf – commune with nature in the open church of the rolling greens.
- Or, hang out in the pool – full immersion baptism of the back-yard.

But, can't really justify the quasi-religious references, so let's just attempt some word-play.

Do you like palindromes (read same forwards and backwards)? Try this one:

"Satan oscillate my metallic sonatas" (31 letters) **

- It doesn't actually mean anything but perhaps we do need to oscillate Satan – get him all shook-up and out of here.

Shook-up words are anagrams. Ever thought about "LIVE" as the opposite of "EVIL"?
- It is surely much better to live fully than be fully evil.

And then there is DOG and GOD. - Let's try to change the "Dog days of August" into the "God days of August".

Enjoy the rest of your summer – we'll get serious in September.

Faithfully yours,

John Pender-Cudlip, Scribe and Co-Chair

** Know any longer ones or any amusing ones – do share (no prizes awarded but we'll publish your name if you want).

Blankets of Belief Workshop open to all who want to help!

Saturday, September 13th 10 - 3 ~ Parish Hall

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 or NO sew directions!

Supplies that we ask you to bring with you!

- Good pair of scissors
- Tape measure or ruler
- Two 2-yard lengths (45") 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 (S&H included)

Thank you, Laura Swett

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

STEWARDSHIP 2008

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 you 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.

We are NOT collecting Campbell product labels anymore ~ Thank you for your support.

We are sponsoring the **South African Project**, which Ann Davidson has been so instrumental in supporting the Emmanuel Day Care Center (supporting physically and mentally challenged children. During worship on October 19th there will be a special collection approved by the Deacons to send money to help the Davidson's with this project that is so dear to their hearts. We will be putting envelopes in the October issue of this newsletter if anyone would like to make a donation.

The Warren School is collecting **General Mills product certificates**, and **empty Printer Cartridges** . You may leave them in the box at the back of the Church and we will see that they get them.

You may have noticed that we haven't had the usual collections this summer for backpacks etc. That is because we know people are feeling the pinch at home with the gas, electric and soon to be heating oil situation. Therefore, we have trimmed our requests to just a few this year ~ we will be asking for help for Ann Davidson's Emmanuel Child Care and then for the Empty Bowl (see below)

Continued thanks for your support.....The Missions Board—Karen, Jackie, Mary, Amy & Jill

EMPTY BOWL—Saturday, NOVEMBER 1st 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 Jackie in the church office if you are interested in helping! Blessings on all of you who help us in so many ways!

The Missions Board,
Jill Thorland, Karen Hylwa, Amy Cassone, Jackie Lover, Mary Massey

CHILDCARE NEWS

OUR CHURCH IS SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

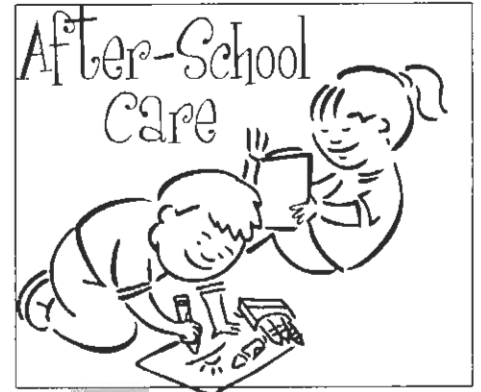
JUST A REMINDER.....

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!



FREE PIANO

Thanks to our new friend, Bill Beckman, we will be on the receiving end of a Spinnet piano for the Parish Hall. That means, that the current upright piano that is in the parish hall is available for adoption. According to John Angevine (our piano tuner) it is a good piano and some one might just like to have it to learn on or for your children or grandchildren.

All you have to do is pick it up! If we don't hear anything before September 15th, we will be donating it to charity.

If you are interested, please call Jackie at 886-7106. Thank you!

Signs of our Faithfulness

July income	\$8,552
July expenses	\$14,553
YTD income	\$87,045
YTD expenses	\$101,871
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Minus	\$14,826

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Prayer Concerns

- ◆ **Mavis Scholl**, who is continuing treatment for cancer
- ◆ **Debbie Dance**, who had back surgery
- ◆ **Linda Schiel**, who awaiting a liver transplant
- ◆ **Emmanuel Child Care** ~ Ann Davidson's project in South Africa

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

Assisted & Independent Living

- ◆ **Connie Verbouwens** who is at her apartment in Ventura, Ca
- ◆ **Marge Amerman** at Ilam Park, Cheshire CT
- ◆ **Willare & Jo Vaill** who are residing at Brandy-

Choir begins on September 14th 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!!!!



Advantages of joining the choir

1. You never have to worry about what to wear.
2. You have excellent seats and are assured a reserved seat for Christmas and Easter.
3. From your advantageous seat, you can smile at, gawk at, ignore and otherwise enjoy the rest of the people in the congregation.
4. The pastor is nearly always looking the other way.
5. You're in a wonderful spot to see new members.
6. The cost for all these benefits? Just one morning a week at 9:15am
7. Oh, yes, one more reason to join the choir: You're a leader in the worship experience.

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office closed	2 Prudential Board <u>7:30pm</u>	3 Christian Ed <u>7:30pm</u>	4	5	6
7	8 Childcare Board <u>7:30pm</u>	9	10	11	12	13 Blankets of Belief <u>10-3</u>
14 Choir <u>9:15am</u> Sunday School <u>10:15am</u>	15	16 Pastor's Advisory <u>11:30am</u> Deacon's <u>7:30pm</u>	17	18 <u>7pm</u> Missions Board Special meeting	19	20 Roast Beef Dinner <u>5-7</u>
21 New Member classes at 11:30am Parish Hall	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 New Member classes at 11:30am Parish Hall	29	30				

Kids Page

(for kids of any age)

OUR HOUSE

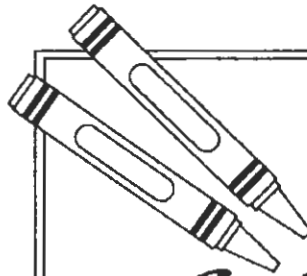
This craft is a reminder of the blessing of your family and what you and your family should do for God.

What you need:

- 8 1/2" x 11" cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- A photograph of each person in your family that you can cut apart
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- A hanging picture frame that holds an 8 1/2" x 11" photo (optional)

What you do:

- Draw a colorful picture of the outside of your house. Remember to add a door and windows.
- Decide where you want each person's photo to go. Cut out a whole body (if you want someone to stand on the front porch, for example) or just cut out a face (if you want someone to be looking out a window).
- Use the glue stick to glue the cut-out photos onto your drawing.
- Write out Joshua 24:15b, NIV: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."
- To frame your picture, have an adult help you. If you don't have a frame, display your house on a refrigerator or bulletin board for everyone to see.



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.

KEY:	A	B	D	O	N	R
	E	F	H	S	T	U
	I	L	M	V	W	Y

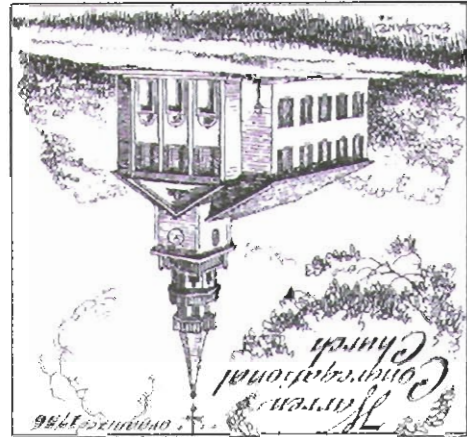


JOSHUA 24:15B

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

4 Sackett Hill Rd
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 Phone: 860-868-7106
 Fax: 860-868-1067
 E-mail: wcongregational@gmail.com
 Worship ~ Sundays 10:11am

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COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FOR 08-09



**Newsletter Deadline for
 October is Sept. 22nd**
 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.