

Warren Congregational Church

4 Sackett Hill Rd. Warren, CT 06754

October 2008

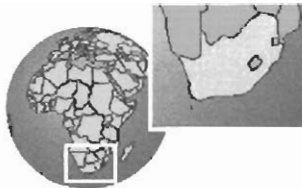
Jackie Lover, editor

Special Offering - Sunday, Oct. 19th South African Mission

On Sunday morning, October 19th, the Missions Board will be taking a special offering to help support the childcare project being supported by Rev Malcolm and Ann Davidson. We want to help again this year by having a special collection so they can have some help with the Childcare Center. Anyone who would like to help can send the donation to the

Warren Congregational Church/ So. African Project
4 Sackett Hill Rd, Warren, 06754

Thank you!



please see page 6



DON'T FORGET

THE QUARTERLY MEETING IS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH @ 7:30PM

PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING



Warren Fall Festival

October 11th & 12th

Come & Support the Church's Fried Dough booth

The Sunday School's booth and

The Childcare's Gourmet Apple booth

Reminders for October

Choirs Rehearsals

Sunday School

Reception of New Members

Warren Fall Festival

Worship at Warren Woods @ 8:30am

9:15am on Sundays

10:15am on Sundays

October 5th 10:30am

October 11th and 12th

Oct.12th—Church worship 10:30

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BILL



Dear Friends,

I do not think you will disagree with me when I say our nation is going through a very difficult and uncertain time. Everyone is worried about the economy and how this will affect our lives in the coming months and years. I do not know about you, but the one word which is essential to getting through these difficult days is the word, Trust. As skeptical as we might be, we need to trust those in our government who are trying to solve our nation's economic crisis. More importantly, we need to trust that God will strengthen and sustain us through all of the ups and downs of the days ahead.

The worst thing we can do is to give into fear. In October and November, the Warren Church will be conducting its annual **Stewardship Program**. On **November 16, Commitment Sunday**, each of us will be asked to make a pledge in support of the work of Christ and His Body, the Church for the coming New Year. My hope is that each of us will struggle with our decision.

As each of us struggles with our decision, I want to lift up God's word as a guide.

The Apostle Paul captures 2 images, which can influence the decision we make.

"What ever a person sows, that he will also reap" Galatians 6:7

"The one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." 2nd Corinthians 9:6

Our Stewardship program this year is titled, **"Growing as a Trustworthy Steward"**. The stewardship committee is asking each of us in so far as we are able to increase our giving. Our

Congregation has a deficit budget for 2008. By increasing our giving for 2009, we can insure that the work of Christ will continue and that this deficit will not increase.

We are living through difficult days when it is easy to doubt and be filled with misgivings about the future of our economy. We need to be careful that does not infect our faith, at least that part of our faith which has to do with trusting in the promises of God.

God gives us all we have, and we can trust God to provide for our needs in the future. Deciding to participate fully in sacrificial giving ~ giving a meaningful part of our income for the work of Christ and His Church requires a deep faith. It requires trusting that God will make it possible for us to care for our needs and the needs of our loved ones at the same time.

Demonstrating our desire to Grow as trustworthy stewards requires that the work of Christ has a high priority in our lives and in our family budgets. I believe that those who make this commitment will find their faith deepening and, far from being impoverished, they will find

themselves enriched both spiritually and materially. Making financial sacrifices for the work of Christ will bring blessings beyond anything you can imagine.

Let us together struggle to **Grow as Trustworthy Stewards** as we make our pledge to the work of Christ's Church for 2009.

Blessings, Pastor Bill

LITTLE LAMBS JUNIOR CHOIR TO BEGIN ON OCTOBER 19TH

Well, it's time again for the children to prepare to sing their hearts out for God & the congregation. I'm waiting with anticipation to see who will continue on & what new faces we will be seeing this season in the junior choir. I've been keeping busy with trying to find new music for the children to sing, and there's a TON of music out there! I can't wait to hear those beautiful voices! Pastor Bill has requested that the children again sing for Stewardship Sunday - November 16th, and of course I said YES with enthusiasm! I can't wait to begin working with these children. The junior choir season will begin on Sunday, October 19th @ 9:15 in the parish hall (right before Sunday school). Any child who would like to participate this year has to have the following requirements:

- * A love for singing for the Lord & congregation
- * A passion for performing in front of people
- * And wants to have fun!

Once we establish which songs we will be singing, the music & words will again be provided to those who participate. Choir gowns will also be provided at no charge when they sing. So let's get ready and make year #5 another wonderful year filling the church with those angelic voices. If anyone would like more information, please feel free to contact me @ 868-1658, or I can be found Sunday mornings at the parish hall or at worship.

Singing for the Lord, ~ Marie Elena Pecha - Director, Little Lambs of God junior choir

MISSIONS BOARD SPONSORS WINTER COAT DRIVE

We will hold a Coat Drive anytime between the time you receive e this newsletter and October 17th. You may bring your used coats, hats, mittens, scarves or boots to church any Sunday and leave them in the Narthex, OR..... bring them to the church office and leave them for us to take them to FISH in Torrington.

FISH is going to have a "Coat Distribution" on Saturday, October 18th for all the people in the area who would otherwise be cold during the winter.

We thank you once again for your donations to this worthy cause!

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



CHRISTIAN ED NEWS FOR OCTOBER

Dear Friends,

Well, we have had a very busy month. Both the Sunday School Children and the Confirmation Class started their classes on September 14th. The Confirmation Class will continue to meet at the Academy. If you have not registered for Sunday School, its never to late. Come join us. 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.

Some important dates to remember in October:

October 12th Sunday School classes will be held at Warren Woods.

Children are to meet at the front gate at 10:15 am. Please make arrangements with the teachers on this Sunday for pick-up.

October 19th Bring a FRIEND to CHURCH DAY. EVERYONE - ADULTS AND CHILDREN are encouraged to bring a friend to Church

The Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, Oct 11th and Sunday, Oct 12th. We need volunteers to help with the Fried Dough Booth and the Children's booth. We have sweatshirts to sell and all are welcome to help. Please see any teacher for sign-up.

For the entire month of October, the children have challenged the adults to a contest. "WHO CAN BRING THE MOST NON-PERISHABLE FOOD TO THE CHURCH FOR THE FOOD BANK"? All Food will be donated to the local food banks. Bring those cans in! Who will WIN?

And even though it is only October, we will be selling wreaths to benefit the Sunday School. Order forms will be going home the first of the month. The items will be here for December 1st. What a lovely way to usher in the Holidays.

As always, if you are interested in lending a helping hand, teaching a class or helping with group worship, contact Colleen Frisbie (9682). Every little bit helps.

Respectfully Submitted for the Christian Ed Committee ~ Colleen Frisbie

WISE PARENTS

Think about the people you know. Do you know any wise parents, fathers and mothers who exhibit sound judgment in how they conduct their lives and raise their children? Do you know any fathers who know when to encourage and when to admonish, when to be tender and when to correct forcefully? Do you know any mothers who know when to give advice and when to just listen, when to teach and when to let life's consequences be their children's teacher? Now try to put a value on those wise insights: How much are they worth? How valuable are they to sons and daughters facing the challenges of the twenty-first century? I know a lot of smart and hard-working people whose lives are filled with difficulties because they were raised by foolish parents who did not teach them how to make life work. I know many others who are living fulfilling and productive lives. Often they say, "I grew up in a home with a wise mom and dad." You can't put a price on the legacy of such parents. Children who grow up with that gift agree heartily with Proverbs 17:6, which says, "Parents are the pride of their children."

EMPTY BOWL DINNER—Sat., NOVEMBER 1st 4:30-7:00

Celebrating 10 years of successful dinners

We thank everyone in the community for their continued support of the Empty Bowl Dinner. It was 10 years ago that Whitney Rahm Weldon brought this idea to the Warren Church. It was indeed a wonderful idea, and our church has continued Whitney's vision for 10 years.....this is a true testament to Whitney and to our church. This year the Missions Board has requested from the Congregation, permission not only to raise funds for Heifer and Oxfam, but also to include our local people who are in need right here in our own community. This was approved by the congregation, who all realized that there might be many families in need this winter due to the current economic downturn.

To have this event be successful we need many hands—we need help in the kitchen, help with servers of both soup and desserts. Help setting up and cleaning up. Help from our church members and friends to make extra soup and desserts.

You do not have to be a church member to help out at this event in any way you would like! Please call the church office , 868-7106, if you are able to helping!

We usually get bowl donations from many places, including Wamogo art department—once again, this year they have promised 100 bowls! We will also be getting some bowls from local potters and from the Kent School.

This event is becoming regional—not just local—and it because of you who make it happen every year! If you would like to help in any way, please call Jackie at 860-868-7106! Blessings on all of you who help us in so many ways!

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



Special Offering - Sunday, October 19th South African Mission

On Sunday morning, October 19th, the Missions Board will be taking a special offering to help support the childcare project being supported by **Rev Malcolm and Ann Davidson**. Ann established a three-fold project called "The Masincedane Project". Masincedane, an Africans word, means "helping others to help themselves".

The Masincedane Project involves a special place called the **Emmanuel Day Care Centre**. It is located in a very poor area in Cape Town called Atlantis. and is committed to helping physically and mentally challenged children. It is only through centers such as Emmanuel that these children can receive the special care they need during the day while their parents are able to work and become more self-sufficient. **Ann now serves on their Board of Directors.**

The **Missions Board** has decided to make this their Fall project, replacing the "Neighbors in Need" project of the past. We hope that in this time of economic difficulty that people will try to give something for this worthy cause. Thank you! The Missions Board: Amy, Karen, Jackie, Mary & Jill

STEWARDSHIP 2008

WHAT IS A BUDGET?? What is a church budget? A church budget is a declaration of mission. It contains a number of vital ingredients.

- 1 A budget is the result of thought, prayer and planning, Jesus in principle, made it very clear that before any work is undertaken the cost must first be counted. (Luke 14:28-33)
- 2 A budget is an attempt to do things decently and in order (1Cor 14:40) IF we do not know where we are going, we might wind up some place else.
- 3 A budget is a declaration of belief and commitment to God's work. It affirms financial support of God's work. (Matt. 16:15,16)
- 4 A budget is an act of faith. It declares trust in God relative to the future (Heb. 11:6), as well as belief in His work (Marr. 16:15,16)
- 5 A budget is a tool that helps each member plan his total stewardship. Giving to the church must be first (Cor. 4:1-3).
- 6 A budget is a challenge. It should stretch each member. It must be realistic, but at the same time contain enough challenge to cause each member to increase his giving.
- 7 A budget is an agreement. It must not be viewed as, "Their budget", or "The church budget". It must be viewed as "Our budget".
- 8 A budget is a plan that brings each family together for prayer, Bible study, mediating, and planning, which leads to a "Here is what we will give, God being our helper!"



What is a church budget? Only you can answer this question. You answer through support!

THE SURPASSING GRACE

The word "surpass" means to exceed, to go beyond, to transcend the reach or capacity of. In his second letter to the church at Corinth, St. Paul refers to "the surpassing grace of God that he has given you" (2 Corinthians 9:14, NRSV). Paul was reminding the Corinthians of the amazing, abundant grace God had showered upon them.

When Paul wrote that letter, the church in Jerusalem was suffering intense persecution. The members were poor and struggling to be faithful under dire circumstances.

Paul knew the church at Corinth was doing fine financially and that they had a mind to help out the Jerusalem church. He wrote: "You glorify God ... by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they ... pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you" (2 Corinthians 9:13-14, NRSV). Consider how you can share God's surpassing grace with others



SILVER TEA NOVEMBER 15TH HELP NEEDED

THE SILVER TEA

November 15th



The summer has flown by, fall is here with a flurry of activity and we don't get to finish one thing without starting another. First the roast beef dinner, then the Fall Festival, the Empty Bowl Dinner and last, but not least—

The Silver Tea as an annual fund raising event of the church that kicks off the holiday season. It is an event where children can find gifts for family and teachers, treasures can be found on the white elephant table, home made crafts and baked goods are sold, and you can relax and enjoy a light lunch or a cup of tea and desert.

As with all of our fund raising activities, we need the help of the congregation to be successful. Help is needed to set up on Friday, November 16, man the tables during the day on Saturday, help in the kitchen, serve tea, and (of course), clean up.



We will also be looking for donations of handmade items for the craft table, baked goods for the bake sale table and tea table, and items for the white elephant table and children's corner.

So, if you are a crafter, consider making something to donate. When you are doing the dreaded "fall cleaning" and are trying to figure out what to do with those rarely used and never used small household items, jewelry and knick-knacks - think of the white elephant table.

I know November feels like a long way off, but to me it's just around the corner.

If you can help or would like more information contact

Ruth Cheney at (860-868-7288).



DEACON'S CORNER ~ One Person's Opinion

The Deacon's Corner -- The Most Important Decision In Your Life

Steve Barbee

If you were to ask someone what their most important decision was, they might reply that it was:

- the person they chose to share their life with
- whether to have children
- which career to choose, or
- which company to work for

But if we had a lens through which we could see the eternal consequences of our decisions, our answer would be different. The most important decision that can confront each of us is how we respond to Jesus: we can believe in Him as Savior or do nothing -- which is the same as rejecting Him since there is no middle ground.

Attached to this newsletter is a tract, approved by the Board of Deacons, with the gospel message that spells out the details needed for making this decision. It uses 7 verses from the book of Romans to lead someone to Christ and is therefore known as the Roman Road. You can use it exactly as it is written or you may be more comfortable putting it into your own words.

For instance, some people think that salvation has to be earned by doing good works and following the rules. They have trouble accepting it as a gift. Our culture is infused with the merit system and the saying "there's no such thing as a free lunch." We need to relate things to our audience. The Church Father Tertullian, who lived in Roman times, handled it this way. He used the example of the bonus given to Roman soldiers on special occasions such as the emperor's birthday. This extra money was not earned or deserved. It was simply a gift. That is what salvation is - there is no way that we can earn it or deserve it. We must accept it as a gift.

Another problem people have with the gospel is allowing themselves to believe. The belief required from us is not just an intellectual belief in some inanimate object or theory. We trust Jesus as our personal, living, Lord and Savior as an act of our will. It's like stepping into a wheelbarrow pushed by Jesus on life's tightrope. You put your trust in Jesus to carry you securely above this world's daily troubles, with eternal life at the other end. This act of belief must be done by each of us; no one can do it for us.

That is why it is important for every person to be confronted with the gospel message. This small tract can be left anywhere anonymously for someone to read. Or you can use it to help share your faith verbally, as Peter admonishes us to "always be prepared to make a defense to anyone, who asks you for a reason, for the hope that is in you" 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV).

Do not underestimate the effect that a tract can have. The Christian booklet left in my dorm room by my college roommate changed my life forever. You may not know whether the soil is fertile where you plant the seed but it is certain that it will not grow if it is not planted, so please consider sharing the gospel verbally or anonymously through a tract such as this one.

Steve Barbee

Thank you, God!

Prayer Concerns

- Mavis Scholl who is continuing treatment for cancer.

Our Nursing Home Residents

Assisted & Independent Living

- Marge Amerman at Ilam Park, Cheshire CT
- Willare & Jo Vaill who are residing at Brandywine Assisted Living

THINK ABOUT IT...

God's presence in Christians' lives can be summed up in these numbers: 24-7-365. It's not a very complex code to crack. The God revealed through Christ's sacrifice is a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year God. No timeouts, no halftime breaks. God is present for us and with us every moment of every day of our lives.

God can be a 24-7-365 God because Jesus was a one-time Savior. Jesus' sacrifice was once and for all. It doesn't need to be endlessly repeated.

Praise God that his Son's one act of complete obedience gives us true peace of mind 24-7-365!

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



BIBLE QUIZ

In chapter 15 of First Corinthians, St. Paul wrote of several appearances of the resurrected Lord. Christ appeared to some women, to Peter and to the 12 disciples. Then Paul writes of Christ's appearing to a large number of people. How large was that crowd?

- more than 50
- more than 100
- more than 500
- more than 5,000

Answer: C (See 1 Corinthians 15:6.)



"Hello, Al's Office Supply? While I admire your gumption, I'm afraid these offering envelopes are too big."

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Christian Ed Board 7:30pm	2	3	4
5 Communion ~ New Mem- bers 10:30am	6	7 Prudential Board 7:30pm	8	9 Missions Board 7:00pm	10	11 Warren Fall Festival Can you help with Fried Dough?
12 Worship @ Warren Woods 9am Church 10:30am	13 Childcare Board 7:30pm	14	15	16	17	18
19 Choirs 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 10:30	20	21 Pastoral Advisory 11am 22 Deacons 7:30pm	22	23 Deacon's Book Meet- ing 7:30pm	24	25
26 Choirs 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 10:30	27 Trustees Meeting 7:30pm	28 Quarterly Meeting 7:30pm	29	30	31	

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

As Jesus tells us in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, all people are our neighbors. You can make a difference for others, beginning in your own neighborhood. Make and share this craft so people know you care and are thankful for your community.

What you need:

- Clear, disposable, non-powdered, non-latex gloves
- Craft paint
- Paintbrush
- Popped popcorn (about 3 cups per glove)
- Rubber bands
- Ribbon or raffia
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- Hole punch



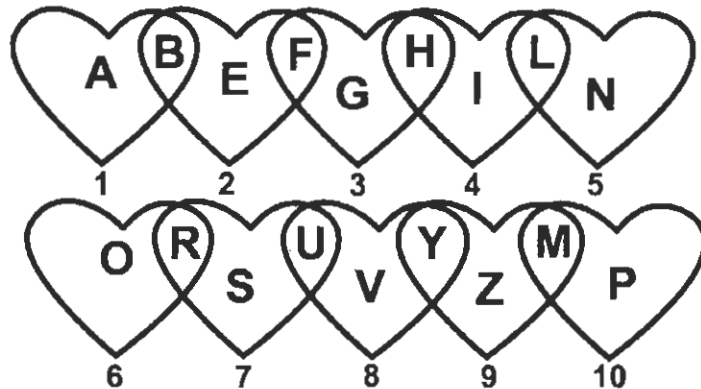
What you do:

1. Paint one side of the glove's fingertips to look like fingernails.
2. Fill the fingertips, then the rest of the glove, with cooled popcorn.
3. Wrap a rubber band around the wrist of the glove.
4. Tie ribbon or raffia around the rubber band.
5. Make a card. Ideas include "Welcome to the neighborhood," "Thanks for being such nice neighbors," "Here's how we'd like to serve you," etc.
6. Punch a hole in the corner of your card and tie it to the glove.
7. With an adult, pass out your "neighborly" gifts.



THE SECOND GREAT Commandment

In the Gospels, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37, NIV). Do you remember what the second great commandment is? Use the code below to discover it.



"L
 4,5 6 8 2 8,9 6 7,8 6,7
 5 2 4 3 3,4 1,2 6 6,7
 1 7
 8,9 6 7,8 6,7 7 2 4,5 2,3

Matthew 22:39, NIV

Answer: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Organist/Music Director
Mary Lee HERSHEY

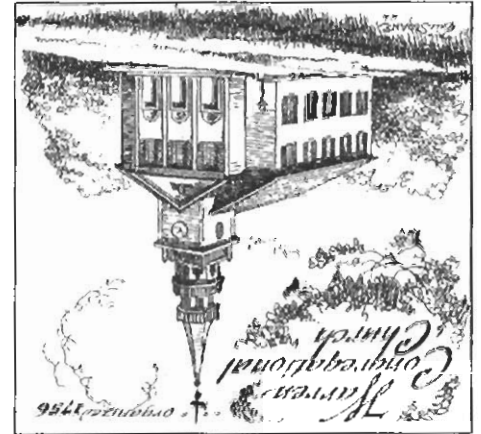
Church Secretary
Jackie LOVER

Pastor
The Reverend William G. LOVER

Worship Sundays 10:30 am

Email: wcongregational@gmail.com
Phone: 860-868-7106
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4 Sackett Hill Road

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SUNDAY SCHOOL WREATH SALE

Even though it is only October, we will be selling wreaths to benefit the Sunday School. Order forms will be going home with Sunday School children the 5th of October.

There are several items to choose from ~ wreaths, centerpieces and sprays. The items will be here for December 1st.

Please stop by the church office for an order form. If you have questions you may call the church office 860-868-7106

What a lovely way to usher in the Holidays and at the same time help our Sunday School!

Newsletter Deadline for November is Oct. 16th

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