



The Spire

The Newsletter of Maple Street Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

October 2009

Dear Friends,

It has been good to re-gather and “rally” as a congregation in September. We have been re-discovering “the rhythm of following Christ” together and “the harmony of serving together as children of God”. The first annual Leader’s Retreat held at the Danvers Senior Center in mid-September was a highlight. A group of over 40 leaders came together to deepen our relationships, and to grow in our skills of working together in the small group settings of our committees, boards, and fellowship groupings. Many thanks to the retreat planning committee and to Pam Parkinson and the Danvers Senior Center ! (see Leadership Retreat)

We begin the **month of October** by looking beyond our church walls to our connection with the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ universal around the world. **October 4th is World Communion Sunday**, which is celebrated by tens of millions of Christians around the world. Since 1936, the celebration of this Sunday has inspired us to continue to walk in paths of peace in the world, through remembering our global unity in Christ. We will also receive a special offering as part of our ongoing connection with the United Church of Christ, the **Neighbors in Need offering** whose theme is *Imagine Another World Possible*.

This year, one third of this year’s Neighbors in Need offering will go to support the work of the **Council for American Indian Ministry**. Since meeting Billy Mills, the 10,000 meter gold medal winner at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, at the UCC Synod in Hartford several years ago, I have become more aware of our denomination’s long time involvement with Native Americans. According to www.ucc.org/nin, “today there are 20 UCC

congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis . These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM”. Also see the Mission Possible 2010 article on the youth group trip to Remember, South Dakota.

Throughout the month of October, we will focus on our “neighbors in need”, in our communities: locally, nationally, and internationally. Some key ways to take part:

*Support the **“People to People Food Pantry”** in Danvers by bringing in food staples that will be donated to the pantry. On the second Sunday of the month food can be placed in the basket in the sanctuary. Any Sunday, food can be placed in the “Social Hall Shopping Cart”. Having children take part in the shopping for food for the pantry and bringing it to church, creates both an awareness of hunger and also the hope that we can respond in simple ways that make a difference. (see World Service)

* On **October 18th**, we will focus on the needs of children around the world, through celebrating the **“Children’s Sabbath”**. Join people of faith across the nations in praying especially for those children who experience poverty and violence.

*Sponsor or walk in the annual **CROP Hunger Walk** on **October 24th**, by the churches of the Essex Association., another good hunger activity with children. Look for youth at the CROP table in the social hall during the Sundays in October. (see CROP)

Peace
– Pastor Steve

Maple Eves

Maple Eves will hold it's first meeting of the year on Wednesday, Oct. 14th at 6:00 pm. It will be a Pot Luck Dinner in the Social Hall followed by a program presented by Dick Crotts and Elsa Marshall on the Youth Group Mission and General Synod trip to Minnesota. The Executive Board of Maple Eves will host the evening and Devotions will be led by Meredith Macione. If you are not on the Maple Eves call list and would like to attend, please call Marge Hathaway at 978-774-5848.

World Service



Fall is in the air, the children are deep into their classes and the Danvers Food Pantry is in full swing FOOD being the operative word.

The pantry is in need of nonperishable food for people in need. It is easy to give. Just bring your donations to church on any Sunday and leave them in the shopping cart in the Social Hall. Your donations are gratefully appreciated.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." - Matthew 25:34.

I want to thank each of you for your cards while I was recuperating from my surgery in June. It was so much appreciated. I am certainly blessed in having such a caring and wonderful congregation. Again, thanks so much for your thoughtfulness.

Love,
Faye Gardner

The Deacon's Bench

One of the duties of the Board of Deacons is to..."Care for the poor, the sick, the sorrowing, the indifferent and the stranger." (For many years, the Deacons have visited those shut in and unable to worship regularly with us a minimum of 3 times a year.)

This year, the Deacons will be expanding this outreach through the Called to Care Ministry. We will continue outreach to those who may be alone and lonely, unable to get out, those who are ill, short term or more seriously, or just for wellness visits—opportunities to bring greetings from the church to someone who just hasn't been around for a while.



Last spring, several Deacons and other interested church members received training led by Susan Dickerman, from the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ.

In the days and months ahead, a formal program will be developed to expand this ministry of Maple Street Church. All are invited to be part of this vital mission. We would welcome your interest in being trained as a visitor, but also to help us identify people who have a need. Please contact Elsa Marshall or any of the Deacons for more information.

The Deacons will be serving Communion on the first Sunday of every month. During the Summer Communion was offered by intinction where the congregation was invited to come forward to receive the elements. This method seemed to be well received with some saying they experienced a greater feeling of closeness and commitment to the sacrament. Those who preferred the traditional method were served while seated.

We will continue to offer Communion monthly. In October the Deacons will serve Communion by the traditional method alone and in November it will be offered by intinction. We encourage all to participate, but will also honor those who prefer to be served in the traditional manner. Your comments on this experience will be appreciated as we plan for Communion in the future.

Trustees

This year's Trustees - Art Bevilaqua, Sheila Crotts, Rich Donahoe, Lew Hathaway, Art Johnson, Dave McIlroy, Tom Manuel, and Cheryl Ward -- have had a busier than usual summer. I am happy to report that the conversion of our accounting system to Quickbooks is almost complete. I want to thank Lew Hathaway, Cheryl Ward, Rich Hathaway (Treasurer), and LeeAnn Donovan (Assistant Treasurer) for their outstanding efforts to complete the conversion. The new, electronic system will greatly simplify the tracking of monthly income and expenses and will facilitate the production of easy-to-read monthly reports. The modernization of our accounting system is something the Trustees have been working towards for many years, and we are glad that we have finally achieved success.

In other news, Tom Manuel has graciously volunteered to Chair the Building Maintenance Subcommittee. Tom is joined on the Subcommittee by fellow Trustees, Sheila Crotts, Art Bevilaqua, and Rich Donahoe, as well as Alden Duffill, Paul Eovacious, and Bob Berry. The Subcommittee will be identifying and prioritizing building repair and maintenance items and recommending to the Trustees those that they feel we can accomplish within our budget. As you know, we have many groups that use our Church building on a regular basis.

While sharing our building with others contributes to the mission of the Church and our outreach to the community at large, it does create challenges with respect to keeping the building clean and properly maintained. The Trustees are committed to developing a Building Use Policy that will clearly define the expectations for all groups that use Maple Street Church. In addition, we will be working to develop a rental fee structure for outside groups in an effort to, at a minimum, cover the cleaning and maintenance costs, if not generate some additional revenue.

Lastly, how about that parking lot!! While the Trustees would love to take credit for getting the parking lot finally paved, we really had nothing to do with it. As the Town completes the paving, we remind all to reserve the spaces closest to the back of the Church for those members who really need them. Thank you and peace to all.



Building Workday

The Building Maintenance Subcommittee is looking for a few good people! On Sunday, October 3, from 9:00 a.m.—noon, we will meet in the Social Hall to do some painting and cleaning. RSVP to Tom Manuel at 978-337-7052

Church Management Software



The church management software (CMS) subcommittee has been charged with selecting a church management software package for use by Maple Street Church. The primary goal of this package will be to allow us to have a single database listing all of our members and their contact information. Depending upon which package we select, our CMS will also track such items as committee participation, pledging and other gifts, talents, classes attended, significant church related life events, such as baptisms and confirmations, and visits from ministers. The survey we began with, in which we encouraged all members of the church to participate during May and June, left us with two main points: you don't want your attendance at church tracked, and you want access to the information from the database from anywhere. As far as what specifically you want tracked, you are up for anything: everything we suggested other than attendance seems reasonable to you. Many of you are very concerned about security, in particular as it relates to pledges.

As we surveyed you, we also surveyed our sister MA Conference UCC churches. Not surprisingly, a large number of them use the same packages. We have now spent a significant amount of time looking at each package that those churches use. This review, our current computer infrastructure, and your request that the data be available everywhere have led us to narrow our search field down to remote server/Web-based options. At this time, we continue to review different packages. Our focus is on selecting a package that uses terminology that is easy to understand (some of the powerful packages we have reviewed use terms that create a confusing user interface) and very strong data security.

Our search is taking longer than we had anticipated. Part of the reason is that our members, Dick and Sheila Crotts, Cheryl Ward, Lew Hathaway, and Jonell Glass are busier than anticipated with the church office changes. In the meantime, the church office is compiling components of the information we will import into our church management software because the information is useful now, and because this will make our implementation easier once the package is selected.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask any of us, or sit in on one of our meetings to see how we're progressing. For the short term, at least, we meet Sundays after church to review software packages.
Peace, Jonell

Doppio movimento

Artist Series

The Music Committee is pleased to announce that the first concert of the 2009-2010 series will be held Friday, October 16, at 8:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.



The concert of music for violin and organ will be performed by *Heinrich Christensen and Jodi Hagen*.

A native of Denmark, *Heinrich Christensen* is Music Director of Boston's historic King's Chapel.

Jodi Hagen is a freelance violinist in Boston and performs regularly in many notable venues.



The concert will include works by Vivaldi, Rheinberger, Massenet, Hakim and a new work written for the performers by Boston composer James Woodman, which will be narrated by John Nastuk.



New General Minister & President Named

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ has voted to elect New York Conference Minister Rev. Geoffrey

Black as its new General Minister and President.

"We face a daunting task," alluding to economic difficulties and declining membership in many parts of the denomination. "There is a daunting task ahead... ahead of us...ahead of me—and ahead of you." In an acceptance speech on June 26, the Rev. Geoffrey Black invited all members of the church, in every setting—in local churches, in covenanted ministries, in theological seminaries, and as ecumenical partners—to work together. "In the UCC," he said, "ministry is not a social act. We are in this together."

He quoted scripture: "We do not lose heart. We are all of us in this ministry together." And he insisted that "we are adequately and incredibly gifted to serve the world."

"Take hold of the life that is really life."

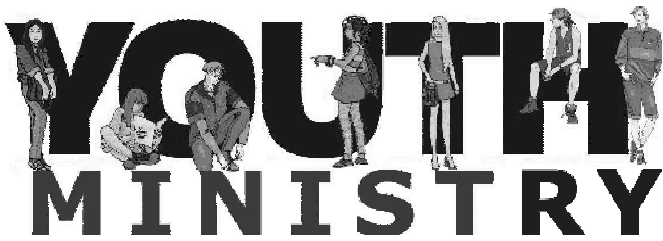


"Generosity as a Way of Life" The 210th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference

Oct. 16 - 17, 2009, Worcester, MA
In a turbulent economic time what unique witness does the church have to offer in these days?

Your Annual Meeting Planning Committee is creating a gathering whose purpose is "to consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

We will be led in this purpose by our keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Gregory Jones, Dean of Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. Dynamite worship is being planned for Friday evening featuring preacher Rev. Susan Smith, Pastor of Advent United Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio. Seminars will be offered to resource delegates around numerous facets of generosity and the business of the Conference will be engaged.



YOUTH MINISTRY

October is upon us. A season of change but also a season of familiarity. Our Youth Group comes together once again, some brand new, others seasoned pros ready to mentor what it is to be a good Christian and serve their neighbors. We have an exciting year planned for you. October is going to be especially busy, but fun!! Youth Group:

Sun., Oct. 4 4 - 6pm Regular Meeting
Sun., Oct. 11 4 - 6pm Regular Meeting
Sun., Oct. 18 4 - 6pm Regular Meeting
Fri., Oct. 23 6:30 pm thru Sat., Oct. 24 8:00 am -

Lock-In

Friday the 23rd we will host other youth groups from around the area playing games and getting to know each other. After they leave we will continue with our Lock-In.

Saturday the 24th at 8am **Crop Hunger Walk**
Maple Street Church is once again hosting this event for the Essex Association. We help with the event set up then we walk from MSC around the area, ending with a bite to eat. Anyone is welcome to join in. See Mercy Duffill for sponsor sheets. We should be done @ noon.

Sun., Oct. 25 4 - 6pm We are having an Out of the Building event. More info to come on that - it's a surprise!!!!

Sun., Nov. 1 **Out of Building again!!** We will all meet at Sunnyside Bowling in Danvers at 4:00 and pick up will be at 6pm. Please bring \$11.00 for shoes, bowling and a drink.

S.M.Y.L. Senior Mentor Youth Leadership

This year we have a set schedule for the you. It will make it easier to know what's happening, when and where, therefore much easier to fit into your busy schedules.

Sun., Oct. 4 6 - 7:30 pm **Dinner** Your leadership team will serve you dinner. We will meet in the Reception Room for this.

Sun., Oct. 18 6 - 7:30pm **Mission Work**

Sat., Oct. 24 9 - 12 Crop Walk You are welcome to help us and/or join us. See Mercy Duffill or read her article in this Spire for more info.

Sun., Nov. 1 6 - 7:30pm **Meal** Your leadership team will serve you dinner.

Post Cards will go out every month informing you of what we are doing. Information will also be in the Spire, on your web page and in the bulletin Sunday mornings. Check us out!!

Friday Night Flicks FNF

This program is for the 4th grade youth and up. We meet the first and third Fridays of the month. Our movies are posted on the web and will be listed on the post cards that will go out every month for Youth Group. Friends are always welcome. Dues are \$1. and we serve free Pop Corn. We have other snacks available for \$.50 and \$.25.

Fri., Oct. 16 Amazing Panda Adventure

Saturday Night Flicks SNF

This is a new program that we are trying out this year. There are several young people in the third grade that are anxious to be able to go to Friday Night Flicks and we thought, what better way to accommodate the need then to offer them a Saturday Night Flicks. As with FNF, friends are welcome. We will begin in November.

See our web pages at www.maplestreetchurch.org On the home page click on youth ministry and then choose youth and you can move around the tabs in our web space. Permission Slips and medical forms as well as all meeting info will be in that space and if anything should change it is updated regularly so refer to it often. We even post pictures of what we are doing! There are times when changes may occur. We will do our best to inform you in a timely manner, but visit the web page regularly, especially if there is bad weather.

Schedules for each group have been mailed, as well as a post card. If your child has not received a post card, please let me know so that I can verify the address or that I have him/her on my mailing list. Sheila Rizzotti can be reached at 978-836-7867.

From Elsa Marshall

Rally Day has come and gone and gratefully fall is not yet waning. This time of year is very busy for all of us. There are many activities and programs that begin anew or are being offered for the first time. Life becomes a series of priorities and choices. We are hopeful that Maple Street Church will become one of them for you this year. We are grateful for all those who already have made that choice and commitment.



I recommend you consider along with church school, youth group, choir, SMYL, OWL, women's fellowships, etc. important community coalition programs offered by DanversCARES. The majority of their work is focused on youth substance abuse prevention. They have many substance abuse initiatives and are expanding this year to include programs designed for parent training on bullying prevention.

For more information regarding DanversCARES and its many and varied options for learning and healthy living guidelines email Coordinator Peg Sallade at pegsallade@danvers.org. DanversCAres has an electronic newsletter that you can subscribe to for information and updating on current events. Helping Teens Make Healthy Decisions: A Danvers Family Resource Guide developed by DanversCARES is available as a resource in the Narthex, at the side door entrance to the Sanctuary near the church office. You may also contact DanversCARES directly.

This year, DanversCARES will continue its Parent Enrichment Series with the goal of providing parents with knowledge and skills necessary to parent effectively. Some upcoming programs are: "Family Skills Workshop" which is a 6-week program conducted by family counselor George McGurn. Topics covered include empowering your child, setting limits, how to talk so your kids will listen and listen so your kids will talk, sibling rivalry and more. It is geared for parents of elementary school age children.

Also "Best Friends, Worst Enemies" - Dr. Michael Thompson is a renowned author and psychologist specializing in male adolescent development. He will speak on how children form relationships that make them resilient as well as the "social classification" that stratifies youth friendship. In October Jason Vahroosky, Youth Coordinator and Peg Sallade Coordinator, of the DanversCares coalition, have been invited to speak with the Danvers clergy at their meeting being hosted here at Maple Street Church.

Thank you to the many and countless hours that many volunteers offered to help prepare the classrooms' physical space for our Rally Day. I must mention that Amanda and Kristina Hathaway showed up day and after day with willing hands and a "what can I do" attitude. A special thank you to Pam Spearing who coordinated our Rally Day continental breakfast and the activities. The teaching staff is in place all except a grade five teacher. Anyone interested? It is a holy calling and a most satisfying experience. You will be volunteering for about six Sundays between now and the end of January. Please contact Lynne Duffill or Elsa Marshall to volunteer.



Watch for our Storytellers during Scripture Time for Children each Sunday beginning in October. Faith Stories is our church school and youth ministry theme for the year. Each week a different storyteller will offer the Lectionary story. Sacred

stories of the biblical tradition have the power to transform the lives of both teller and hearer. Each of us comes to the story of God in a unique manner. When our story is connected appropriately with the story of God, there is revelation. The foundation and impetus for telling the biblical text begins with gratitude for the gift of the stories of Scripture. Energized by that gratitude, and in joy for "being connected with God's story" our journey. What an amazing gift their sharing will be to all of us this year!



BRING YOUR BIBLE! Sunday October 18th is Bible Dedication Sunday. On that special Sunday the third grade class will receive a Bible

from the church family during worship. The CE Committee would like to offer as part of the celebration a special display of Bibles for everyone, especially the third graders, to see and admire during coffee fellowship. Bring your childhood Bible, or the Bible you love the most, or a family heirloom Bible, or any Bible that has a special significance to you and we will add it to our display table in the Social Hall. Drop it there on your way to worship and bring it down with you to fellowship time. You will take it home again with you that day, so your treasure won't get misplaced or lost. Please help us start this new tradition at Maple Street Church. The Kindergarten Worship Curriculum will begin in October under the wonderful tutelage of Sandi Bogel assisted by Donna DeLuca. The third grade Bible curriculum begins in October as well.



Our One Room School House Program will be offered for the first time this year on Oct 11th. They are offered in the Social Hall on holiday weekends. The One Room School house opens with song and prayer and then moves to special activities provided through learning centers that affords the youth and children 's different learning styles ways to respond to the lesson for the day.

Our Whole Lives, Sexuality and Our Faith, a human sexuality course that connects faith and being created in the divine image is beginning this fall for Middle School students in grades seven and eight. Elsa Marshall and Phil Crofts completed and were certified in this curriculum in order to facilitate this unique and important program. Watch for your invitation. This curriculum will be offered at an alternative time from Sunday morning church school and parents will need to sign written consent for participation. Sexual education has been offered in the past as part of Maple Street Church's rich history of valuing education and youth ministry.



Mission Possible 2010 will be traveling to Remember, South Dakota this summer. Re-

Member is an independent non-profit organization on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwest South Dakota. Established in 1998, Re-Member works with the Oglala Lakota People, forming lasting relationships and bridging two worlds. Volunteers comprised of individuals and groups (adult and youth) from churches, high schools, colleges, and corporations join us at our facility on Pine Ridge for one week at a time. Our volunteers participate in various work projects across the Reservation, helping to rebuild relationships, homes, and lives. Re-member's vision is to be an organization that exists to recall our country's treatment of the Native people of the Americas and to repair the broken pieces of that relationship. Guided by the aspirations of the Oglala Lakota communities they serve, Re-Member seeks to improve the quality of life on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota through relationships, shared resources, and volunteer services. Through work projects and cultural immersion, they continue to develop a growing circle of advocates standing in solidarity with the Lakota people on Pine Ridge. It is an exciting opportunity for us to experience Native people of America and immerse ourselves in their culture, but also to improve in small ways their impoverished life. Our work will be helping to build homes while on the reservation.

Children's Sabbath

On Sunday, October 18, we will celebrate this multi-faith holiday that embraces children and provides communities of faith opportunities to nurture, protect and advocate for children.



From the Christian Education Committee

Rally Day, September 13th was a huge success, thanks to the hard work of many. Thanks to the CE committee members for their work in getting classrooms ready and supplying the tasty continental breakfast. Thanks also to Pam Spearing and her hardworking family for leading these efforts. But we would be remiss if we did not thank those from outside the committee who devoted great amounts of time and some very hard labor getting things “flipped and flopped” and ready for the big day. Our heartfelt thanks to Sheila Crotts, Mercy Duffill, Alden Duffill, Priscilla Curda, Karen Kilty, Lew and Marge Hathaway, Rich and Lynne Hathaway, and particularly Amanda, Crissy and Treavor (G) Hathaway.

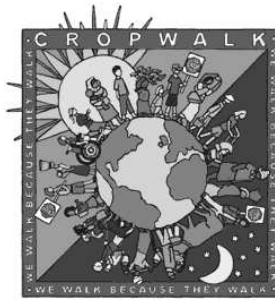
The Name That Sunday School contest will kick off beginning October 4th. Look for the decorated box in the Social Hall to place your entries in. The CE Committee will choose five finalists, and the Sunday School children will then choose a winner. Entries should be in the box by November 1. So get your thinking caps on, get creative, and Name That Sunday School. Just a note: You don't have to be in Sunday School to Name That Sunday School, the contest is open to all of our church family.

Junior Deacon Program

Calling all 6th, 7th and 8th Graders! We are looking for anyone interested in joining the Junior Deacon's Program that has not already done so. Last year we began this program as a way to welcome and encourage our young people to be active participants in Sunday Worship and beyond. Last year the Junior Deacons participated in the Offertory portion of the service by bringing forth food donations for the People to People Food Pantry on the 2nd Sunday of the month and serving as worship leaders during Children's Chapel and Communion Sundays. This year we are hoping to expand the program to include a greeting/ushering component along with other exciting opportunities!

If you are interested in becoming a Junior Deacon please contact one of us in person on Sunday or by phone:

Mercy Duffill 508-527-4745, Norma Gates 978-774-0274, or Elsa Marshall 978-774-4510



Crop Walk

It's that time of year again! The 2nd Annual CROP Hunger Walk Sponsored by The Essex Association Mission Committee of the Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ

and Maple Street Church is going to take place on Saturday October 24, 2009 at Maple Street Church.

A CROP Hunger Walk is an ecumenical community walk designed to raise awareness of hunger and poverty and raise funds for both international and local relief. Last year we raised over \$5,200.00 and \$1527.75 came back to support 3 local food pantries in Essex County! This year we hope to raise at least \$6,000.00! Please help us raise money for those in need! Details of the event are as follows:

Location: Maple Street
Congregational Church
90 Maple St. Danvers, MA

Registration: 9:30 - 10:30 am
Walk Begins: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Lunch 12:30 - 2:00 pm

We definitely need people to walk and to volunteer again this year as crossing guards, water servers along the route, set-up, clean up, etc. If you are interested in finding out how you can be a part of this year's CROP Hunger Walk, to donate, volunteer or coordinate a group of walkers, please contact the coordinators Mercy Duffill or Linda Reilly in church or by email at cropwalk@maplestreetchurch.org As we get closer to the walk date we will have tables set up at coffee hour where you can come and donate!

You can also register for the walk or donate online at www.cropwalkonline.org. Once in the site just click on "Massachusetts", then "Essex Association CROP Hunger Walk", and follow the appropriate prompts to either register or donate! Thanks for your support and looking forward to seeing many Maple Street faces on the 24th!!

Leadership Retreat

The **Church Growth Committee** and the **Membership and Leadership Committee** would like to thank all those who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the Leadership Retreat held at the Danvers Senior Center on September 18th and 19th. A special thank you goes to Pastor Steve and Elsa for their dedication to our church and their desire to help us grow and be able to work together in harmony.

Starting off with a wonderful dinner prepared and served by Pam Parkinson of the Senior Center and her family followed by a video, Tai Chi, Bible Study, Prayer and much discussion, we were able to come away with a real feeling of teamwork. We brought into focus how important it is to listen, set an agenda, have clear achievable goals, follow our passions, have flexibility and good communications. We also received an update from Scott Spearing on where the Church Profile Committee is in the process and a report from Cheryl Ward and Lynne Duffill on what is happening in the Church Office during this time of transition.

The retreat was very successful and we hope to have more of you join us when we have another one next Fall.

Top Ten Key Elements of a Good Small Group/ Committee Meeting

- Listening to others
- Leader and agenda that focuses the Group
- Clear goals/purpose
- Passion/showing Up
- Open/Close with prayer/devotion
- Flexibility
- Recognize/utilize talents/gifts of group members
- Good refreshments
- Make a decision
- Thorough post-meeting communication within the group/within the church

Maple Street Church Leaders Retreat

9/18/09

The Sisterhood

The Sisterhood meets on the third Monday of the Month. Using fellowship, worship, service and scripture as our foundation, we hope to share our journey together and in the process create a deeply meaningful group. Our next meeting will be on Monday October 19th at 7:00pm in the reception room.

The Sisterhood will be taking on serving the Salem Mission dinners the second Saturday night of the Month starting this month. All are welcome to come and join us; we would love to share this opportunity to serve with anyone interested in helping out. Please contact Karen Kilty 978-777-7785 k.kilty@verizon.net or Pam Spearing 978-921-6624 spearingfamily@comcast.net if you have any questions.

From the Moderator

Dear Maple Street Church Members,

I am writing to you the evening of Rally Day, a terrific day, better than could have been hoped for after the many changes of the summer. The church was clean and beautiful with new furniture in the reception room, new carpets in the church school rooms, and a new configuration of classrooms that will enhance Christian Education. Reverend Alspach created a moving and meaningful service.

But this was no ordinary Rally Day. With no sexton all of that work was done by staff and some very dedicated volunteers. Not only was our staff and Christian Education Committee planning for Rally Day and this year's programs but they along with others were washing walls, floors, furniture, replacing light fixtures and vacuuming. Much of this had not been done for years.

Lew Hathaway spent the week washing windows. Tom Manual, who on top of his building maintenance function, is climbing the steeple to wind the clock so that Danvers will continue to know what time it is. I spent my morning after church today thanking all of these volunteers, too many to mention.

Another group of people that I spent the morning thanking are those who have taken over staffing the business office. Lead by Lynne Duffill the office, staffed by volunteers, continues to function effectively. We are all learning a great deal about our church operates. The phone is being answered, programs are being produced, and the Spire is being written and enhanced. Lynne, by the way, has also cleaned her share of bathrooms.

As a stop gap we are using our cleaning service more frequently until a new sexton can be hired. But even with the cleaning service, there is still much to be done and we continue to rely on volunteers. If you have some time to contribute it would be greatly appreciated.



We have not yet started to look for a new church secretary as we feel we want to continue with the volunteers for a little longer so we can more accurately define the job and find the appropriate person. Again, if you have time to help in the church office a hand would be gratefully appreciated. Please call me, Lynne, or any of the staff if you have suggestions or a hand with which to help.

Finally, on a subject of great concern to us all, the search for a new settled pastor. You will be pleased to know that the profile writing groups have, as planned, worked over the summer creating the first draft of the profile. I have yet to see the product of their labors but I am planning a review for our next Church Council meeting. Because of the efforts of the volunteers in these groups, we are moving forward in accordance with our search plans and timetable. I want to take this time to thank those dedicated members as well.

The greatest part of Rally Day for me was seeing the church returning for the fall season with a spirit of hope and optimism. It was wonderful to see the church family back together again. We continue to have a great deal to accomplish but we have come very far in a short amount of time. There are struggles ahead but today I realized that we can and will overcome all of them emerging as a stronger and better church.

Bruce Billingham
Moderator

STEWARDSHIP



STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

When thinking about pledging, our feelings are probably closer to reluctance than cheer. We need the attitude of the boy in the following story. The boy was impressed by a new car and the owner told him it was a gift from his brother. The boy's reaction was not that he wanted the car. He wished he could give a gift like that to a brother. How do we get this same desire to freely share our treasure with the church?

Personal Note: A note of thanks---While recovering from a broken arm, I appreciated all of your cards, visits, fruit basket, flowers, concern and prayers. I am truly blessed with a wonderful church family---
Paul D. Eovacious



Church Mouse

There has been a request that we revive the Church Mouse section of the Spire. We will plan to include it in next month's newsletter. Please send us any information that you would like included. An example of a Church Mouse item is that the furniture given in honor of Frank Pickering is now in the Reception Room. Go try it out. Many thanks to Jim Smith who coordinated the project and to all who made donations.

New



Choir Members Welcome!

The Intergenerational Choir will sing for worship for the first time this year on Sunday, October 25th. We will rehearse the Sunday before, on September 18th, from 11:15 to 12:15, in the adult choir room. This choir is for all who love to sing, from grade 3 to age 93. Please join us to celebrate our faith and community through music. All are welcome!!!

It's not too late to join a choir! The Cherub Choir, for children in grades K through 2, meets from 9 to 9:45 on Sundays before worship, in the children's choir room upstairs. We share rehearsal and a snack, and then join our families for worship and church school.

The Good News Choir, for young people in grade 3 through 8, meets after church from 11:15 to 12 in the children's choir room upstairs. We have a snack and then practice music that we will share in worship. This is an exciting, dynamic group of young singers, and there is always room for one more!

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at candk144@gis.net.

Kathy Gross



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The due date for contributions to the November issue of The Spire is October 13 at noon. Note this change.

Fully composed items can be e-mailed to info@maplestreetchurch.org or delivered to the



The Spire

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