



The Signpost

SUMMER 2011

VOLUME 38, NO. 7

The Bolton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

228 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, CT 06043 ~ (860) 649-7077 ~ www.boltoncongregational.org

The vision of the Bolton Congregational Church UCC is to be true to the model and example set by the early Church of the Apostles, in our own time.

Event-full Summer Happenings

JULY:

Tuesday, July 5	Board of Stewardship	6:30pm
Wednesday, July 13	Church Council	7:30pm
Thursday, July 7	Worship Service	7:00pm
Tuesday, July 12	Bylaws Committee	7:30pm
Monday, July 25	Prayer Shawl Group	7:00pm
Thursday, July 28	Worship Service	7:00pm
Saturday, July 30	Chicken Barbeque	5:00-7:00pm

AUGUST:

Tuesday, August 2	Board of Stewardship	7:00pm
Wednesday, August 4	Board of Deacons	7:30pm
Sunday, August 7	Board of Missions	11:15am
Thursday, August 11	Worship Service	7:00pm
Sunday, August 15	SIGNPOST Articles Due!	
Monday, August 22	Prayer Shawl Group	7:00pm
Thursday, August 25	Worship Service	7:00pm
Monday, August 29	Board of Christian Ed.	7:00pm
Monday, August 29	Pastoral Relations Board	7:00pm

All Summer:

Every Sunday:	Worship Services	8:45 & 10:00am
	AA Group	7:00pm
Every Tuesday:	Time To Socialize/Crafters	10:00am
Every Thursday:	Bible Study*	7:00pm
Every Friday:	Al-Anon	7:30pm

*Bible Study Group will attend Thursday night Worship Services, when there is a service, with Bible Discussion immediately following.

Saturday, July 30th

Continuous Seating
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.



Annual Chicken Bar-B-Q Dinner

Half-chicken (\$9.50) / Quarter-chicken (\$7.50);
potato salad, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, dessert,
and beverage.

At Chandler Hall
Bolton Congregational Church
228 Bolton Center Road, Bolton

Don't forget to visit our Crafters' Store for unique handcrafted items and "previously loved" treasures.



To make reservations and purchase advance dinner tickets, please call the church office at 649-7077.



From the Pastor...

Dear Disciples,

A major change is happening this month with our newsletter, *The SIGNPOST*. Due to increasing complications with the bulk mailing system at the U. S. P. S., we have been exploring alternative means of getting news about our church's programs and ministries out to families and friends within our congregation. With more and more people now receiving all kinds of information routinely in electronic form, it seems that now is the optimal time to begin transitioning to this form of delivery of *The SIGNPOST*. So while some will continue to receive the newsletter via first class mail, and others have chosen to pick up a paper copy in person, distribution via email will become standard for many others. The best part is that this is "greener" in addition to being less complicated.

One section of *The SIGNPOST* has raised some unexpected issues – the "Joys & Concerns" page which lists prayers that have been offered at worship the previous month. If you have ever viewed our newsletter online at www.boltoncongregational.org, you may have noticed that the prayer list is missing there, along with a few other details such as phone numbers and addresses of people in our congregation who lead groups and events. We have always deleted that information on our website out of privacy concerns for those involved – since the internet is accessible to anyone anywhere in the world, including people who might misuse private phone numbers, email addresses and other personal information. This wasn't an issue when distribution was solely by postal delivery of a paper newsletter to a finite group of people locally, but it surely is when the "worldwide web" is involved.

For similar reasons, the "Joys & Concerns" page will not be available in the electronic version of *The SIGNPOST*, simply because very personal matters raised in prayer at worship (illnesses, deaths, job losses, family struggles, etc.) are just that – private matters that are appropriate for the congregation to share in the holiness of a worship service. These things should not be universally available to others who may use this information for intrusive or otherwise less than noble purposes.

At a recent meeting of the Bylaws Review Committee, we reaffirmed a section which stated that one "qualification" for membership was acceptance of "the New Testament as the guide of faith and conduct." The change regarding the prayer listing in our newsletter actually follows this section of our bylaws, since a review of the New Testament will reveal that Jesus' model of prayer was often very private (in a garden, quiet spot by the sea, or other "lonely place"). It seems that for Jesus and the first disciples, prayer was a very sacred and intimate practice kept within the community. If we are to be guided in faith and conduct by the New Testament in accordance with our bylaws, then this change is not only less complicated and "greener" – it is also faithful!

Faithfully yours,

Chuck

Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 3 – 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Sunday

Message: "Why Politicians Fail" ~Chuck Ericson

Sunday, July 10 – 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Message: "Didn't Our Hearts Burn?" ~ Mike Daly

Sunday, July 17 – 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Message: "The Sacredness of 'Now'" ~ Jane Hooper

Sunday, July 24 – 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Message: "Prayer...Unwrapped" ~ Chuck Ericson

Sunday, July 31 – 8:45am & 10:00am

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Message: "In the Cloud" ~ Chuck Ericson

Sunday, August 7 – 8:45am & 10:00am

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Message: "Is Forgiveness Enough?" ~ Chuck Ericson

Sunday, August 14th – 8:45am & 10:00am

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Message: "Fabric of Faith" ~ Jane Hooper

Sunday, August 21st - 8:45am & 10:00am

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Message: TBA ~ Chris Davies

Sunday, August 28th - 8:45am & 10:00am

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Message: "The Purpose of Preaching" ~ Chuck Ericson

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Thursday Evening Services

Thursday, July 7 – 7:00pm

Message: "Everything Will Be Fine," featuring a "mystery" artist and song!

Thursday, July 28 – 7:00pm

Message: "Heaven, Part 1," featuring the song "Going Home," by Morris Robinson.

Thursday, August 11 – 7:00pm

Message: "Conviction," featuring the song "Steal Your Heart," by Augustana.

Thursday, August 25 – 7:00pm

Message: "Heaven, Part 2," featuring the song "When We're Gone, Long Gone," by Trio II.

** Bring an "unchurched" friend who might like a more contemporary service!

From the Crafters...

The BCC Time to Socialize/Crafters will meet each Tuesday from 10:00 – 12:00 throughout the summer months. Please join us.

We will continue to accept donations and they will be added to the Store on a weekly basis. We have a donation receipt available for your tax purposes.

The July/August charity will once again be the collection of Back-To-School items for children in foster care or for families of little means. Below is a copy of Laura Ann's circular on this project. All items may be placed in the yellow and white checked box in Chandler Hall under the **From The Heart** bulletin board and we will see that it gets to Laura Ann. Last year we helped **From The Heart** supply over 150 backpacks that were filled with age/grade related items. We hope that we will be able to do as well this year. Many of these items can be picked up during the summer months at Wal-Mart, Staples, Target, etc. for as little as one penny!!! We would like to thank you in advance for any support that you may be able to give to this program. It makes a huge difference in the lives of many young people.

Lynn Ralston
Crafters Group



Back to School is right around the corner, and for most children, it is filled with excitement and new school supplies!

For many others, there is a great need for support! Throughout the month of August, **From the Heart** is seeking donations of Back to School items. All backpacks and school supplies we collect will be donated to several agencies throughout Connecticut, supporting children in foster care and underprivileged children.

Even one donated item will help to send a child to school with the necessities they need to begin their new school year, oftentimes in a new town with new teachers and peers!

EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE! Any and all school items are needed, however, listed below is a suggested list of items we know are always requested...

#2 PENCILS	BLACK/RED/BLUE PENS	CRAYONS
ERASER TOPS	LARGE ERASERS	MARKERS
RULERS	PENCIL BOXES	PENCIL HOLDERS
GLUE STICKS	HIGHLIGHTERS	PROTRACTORS
FILLER PAPER	CALCULATORS	NOTEBOOKS
INDEX CARDS	3-RINGED BINDERS	WHITE OUT
POST ITS	STAPLES & STAPLERS	BACKPACKS

Fill a Pail...From the Heart

"FROM THE HEART" needs your help to fill as many beach pails as possible this summer! We invite you to be a part of helping us donate over 100 beach pails to children in foster care throughout Connecticut! We can't do it without your help!

How It Works: Fill a beach pail with brand new summer toys, coloring books, stuffed animals, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, balls, and personal items etc. The dollar stores are great places to completely create a pail for under \$10.00!

It is a great idea for an organization, a team of friends and co-workers, or even create one as a family! You will certainly help to bring some much-deserved fun into a child's day with the items you select!

Listed below are just a few suggestions...the list is truly endless! Create pails according to boy/girl, or often times items work easily for both! Donations of several items are needed to make it all work and you can be a big part of helping to show a child he/she is special by donating a completely filled pail or even just an item or two. The contacts FTH works with will ensure each pail gets into the hands of a child whose day needs an emotional pick up!

*SAND PAILS	*COLORING BOOKS	*ACTIVITY BOOKS
*MARKERS	*CRAYONS	*BUBBLES
*PLAY DOH	*SIDEWALK CHALK	*BALLS/ALL KINDS
*BASEBALL CAPS	*HOT WHEELS	*CARS/TRUCKS
*BARBIES/BRATZ	*FRISBEEES	*LEGOS/DUPLOS
*PUZZLES	*DECK OF CARDS	*UNO/GO FISH ETC.
*STICKERS	*BRAND NEW GAMES	*BIONICLES
*HAIR ACCESSORIES	*HAIR BRUSHES	*STATIONERY
*JOURNALS	*BEACH BLANKETS	*FLIP FLOPS
*SUN SCREEN	*SUMMER SPORT GAMES	*STUFFEDANIMALS
*DEODORANT	*NEW BATHING SUITS	*WATER BOTTLES
*DRAWING PADS	*PLAYING CARDS	*NECKLACE KITS
*SIPPI CUPS	*POPSICLE MAKING KITS	*PAINTS/BRUSHES
*CHAPSTICK	*HAND/BODY LOTION	*KIDS SHAMPOO
*KIDS TOOTHPASTE	*KIDS TOOTHBRUSHES	*KITES

Please contact Laura Ann at ftheart@comcast.net if you have questions! Thank you for your kindness!! It means a lot!!! HAVE A GREAT DAY!

~Laura Ann Weekes
From the Heart



From the Desk of Our Commissioned Minister...

The "Summer Solstice" was June 21st – the longest day of the year and now the days begin to get shorter. Incredible! After the cold, snow and ice of this past winter, how we have waited for the long hot days of summer.

Our ancestors paid attention to the patterns of heat and cold, light and dark, rain and drought – matters of survival. The solstice was the marker of the seasons. Civilizations since ancient times have kept track of these days with a variety of calendars. One of the best known is Stonehenge in England, but everything from the pyramids in Egypt (of which I am familiar) to the castles and cathedrals in Western Europe have been aligned so that the rising or setting sun on the solstice day could be observed each year. What a thrill to stand inside the pyramid and try to contemplate the minds who designed such marvels!

Today, the first day of summer, signals the end of school, the beginning of vacations. June's full moon is called the Honey Moon; thought to be the best month to harvest honey from the hives. The best month for marriage – folk tales tell of feeding the bride and groom dishes and beverages made with honey for the first month after marriage to encourage love and fertility. This period was called the "Honeymoon"!

In this technological, computerized, impersonal world, we have lost our respect for nature, people, animals, birds, life in general. During the Rose Weekend Festival at Elizabeth Park in Hartford, a large group of teenagers stripped the bark off a northern white cedar or arborvitae tree, which means "tree of life," then, carved a classroom full of names; Scott loves Cindy, Krista loves Jeff, causing the magnificent old tree to lose two major limbs. A thoughtless act, we need to learn how to respect again.

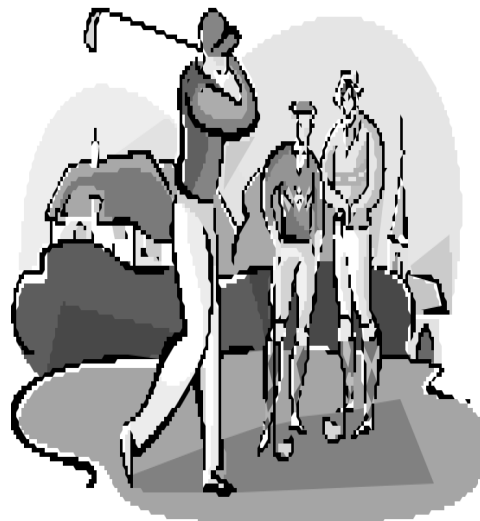
Previous to that incident, I was in Elizabeth Park for a dinner party the garden club I belong to had. Sitting by the side of a pond, I was spellbound watching three herons. Two of them, off a ways, were looking for supper, serious business. The third one, standing ankle deep in water, was also fishing, but he was so close to shore that I could have reached out and touched him. Evidently, used to humans, children hollering, a class of around "seven" year olds with sketch pads and pencils drawing him, this heron was cool! For all around me were adults, cameras clicking while this "take your breath away creature," keeping one eye on us and the other on the fish he was struggling to swallow whole, gave all of us a lesson in nature. From children to adults we were awed by him. It was a scene begging to be painted!!

May this summer, each one of you, experience a moment, a happening that touches your heart and soul with God's great love for all.

Shalom,
Jane Hooper
Commissioned Minister



The 7th Annual BCC Golf Tournament



September 10, 2011
(Rain date: September 17TH)

Willow Brook Country Club
South Windsor

Registration: \$85.00 (*includes greens fees, cart, beverages, snacks, and an all-you-can-eat lunch!*)

Pick up a registration form on the table in the narthex, or call the church office for more information at
(860) 649-7077.

Church School News...

I hope you are all enjoying your summer!

I am off to Florida for three weeks with the kids. It will be

wonderful to spend time with my family down there, and no, Florida summer heat does not bother me. I love it!!!



I am looking forward to our next Church School year and we are in need of teachers. If you would like to give back to the church, what a great way to do it. It is such a fulfilling way to give of yourself. We make it very easy to be a teacher in our church school. All of our lessons are on a CD. Each week the lessons have so much information for you to use, and you can take as much or as little as you like. I am always here to help you in any way you may need and we also have some wonderful experienced teachers that are always willing to help with any questions you may have. If you are interested we are in need of the following:

1st/2nd grade – 1 teacher to alternate weeks with
Linda Brown

3rd/4th grade – 1 teacher to alternate weeks with
Jane Loda

5th/6th grade – 1 teacher to alternate weeks with
Susan MacDonald

If you are interested please let me know. Thanks so much.

We would like to continue our Free Family Movie Nights in August. If you are interested in helping me organize something for Saturday, August 20th, please let me know. We also got a lot of positive responses regarding offering family fun outings after church on some Sundays. In order to make this work I need some volunteers to help out with the planning of these activities. If you are interested, please let me know.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Jessica Romeo
Christian Education Director



Prayer Shawl Ministry

This knitting group usually meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., year round, in the lower level of the Meeting House. In the past several years we have provided nearly 300 beautiful hand-knitted shawls for friends and family of our church. There is never a charge, and anyone can make a request as a gift of caring, comfort, or for the joy of a celebration.

We have expanded our mission over the last two years. We are making squares from leftover yarn to be made into blankets for children in need. We have donated hundreds of squares along with handmade mittens and hats. Recently, we started making arm warmers for patients who are undergoing radiation therapy. This is a great project, easy to do, and so special for the patients. Anyone can do it; please let me know if you would like to help with this.

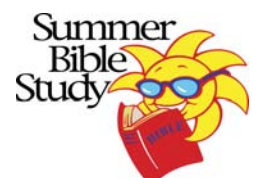
With your generous support and donations of money, yarn, and needles we can offer instructions and supplies. If you would like to learn to knit, we have several teachers to get you started and we will support your learning ongoing. Our meetings are open to all...come to knit, stitch, or just to visit as we share in the joy and comfort our gift will bring to the recipient. Visitors are always welcome.

Dot Lessard.
Prayer Shawl Ministry

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Check it out...

Bible Study will continue to be offered throughout the summer months on a drop-in basis on Thursday nights to both men and women. Please join us at each Thursday evening worship service where Bible Study will follow the service in the Church parlor. This is your chance to discuss any topic.



Thursday evenings where there is no service, Bible Study will continue to be open to all from 7:00 – 8:30pm, at the home of Dot Lessard. You need not come every week!

Come when you can for an ongoing discussion of different books of the Bible as well as the Bible in our lives today. We often enjoy dessert and coffee together and the conversation is lively.

MAY DAY TEA: A GREAT SUCCESS!

The results are in and the May Day Tea was a success. First, I would like to thank all the chairs for their commitment and creative effort in making this year's Tea the success it was. Even though we changed the tea from December to May and encountered a few publicity glitches where the newspaper delayed the news release, the Tea brought in approximately \$2,300. Check out:

www.boltoncongregational.org/Homepage.htm under the "Women's Group" page and see candid pictures of the Tea. Also, check out the bulletin board in Chandler Hall as you walk in on the left hand side.

Under the leadership of Sharon Witham and with the culinary experience of Arlis



Bobb, far too many women from our congregation to name gathered together most of Saturday and Sunday morning to make Cranberry Chicken Salad Mini Croissants, Shrimp Salad in Cucumber Compotes, Watercress Rolls, Egg Salad on Pumpnickel and Ham, Cream Cheese and Apple on Raisin Bread...all this was followed by Currant/Orange Scones with Clotted Cream and Jam. To top this all off, we had delicious sweets made by many in our congregation. In keeping with food sensitivities, the group offered gluten free platters as well. The food was fabulous and definitely a highlight of the event.

The beautiful decorations were created and setup by Ruth Treat and Linda Brown again with the help of so many women who were readily available where needed. Corenda Haugh chaired the table setup and cleanup committee. Maryanne Edwards once again provided a very diverse supply of tea, lemons and honey. Susan MacDonald chaired another successful year of auction items and sales. Of course, none of this would have been possible without publicity coordinated by Linda Brown and ticket printing and sales led by Kay Peterson. The beautiful background music was supplied by Sonja Kirk. And the service was like none other as we were served by the men of the New England A-Team under the leadership of Mike Kiefer. (And he's chairing the best golf event ever on September 10, 2011. I know I'll be there!)

In addition to ticket sales, part of our profit is made up of what the store sales and quilt raffle brings in. I would like to thank Lynn Ralston for her efforts and

flexibility in working with us to create a nice shopping experience for attendees interested in making a purchase or two.

Between lunch and shopping, we had a very informative demonstration by Karen Tierney on the making of a May Day basket as well as a few beautiful floral arrangements. Michael Tierney presented a slide show on growing herbs in Bolton. As a very special thank you, Dot Lessard, chair of the Prayer Shawl Ministry presented Michael with a prayer mantel made especially for him; Karen was presented with a prayer bracelet. While the women enjoyed Karen and Michael's presentation, the young ladies spent time with Avery Kiefer making crafts. It goes without saying that without the help from so many of those unnamed, the Tea wouldn't have been what it was.

Thank you for all those who donated auction items, helped make food, decorated, attended the tea and shopped at the store.

Cindy Fiano



If a member of this church is in need of a meal(s), church members will provide one to them at their home. Or,

following a funeral service, a member can request a reception and *Helping Hands* will prepare and serve a small meal to the family and their friends in Chandler Hall.

All that is needed for this service to succeed is a donation (of time, a dessert, a main dish or simply a few dollars) at the time when you may be called. This enables us to support those who are "close to home!"

If you are willing to help out when an occasional need arises, please contact Donna Fisher and your name will be added to the list of *Helping Hands*. Thank you!

Donna Fisher and the *Helping Hands Team*

**If you know of a BCC member in need who would appreciate a meal, please call to let us know.*

Tools of Hope Dedications 2011

Mark Bierbaum

*Arlis and Randy Bobb in honor of Arthur Bobb and
Pete (A.B.) Slaybaugh and our grandfathers*

*Lori Boyd and family in honor of Ray Boyd, Jr.,
Ray Boyd, Sr., and Donald Mokake*

*Pam Brown in honor of Paul Brown, Dye Hooper, and
Lloyd Pedersen*

*Rick Bulach in memory of Friedrich Christian Bulach, a
master toolmaker*

*The Burleigh Family in honor of Charles Fenton,
Alec Burleigh, Ed Smith, Gregory Fenton,
Steve Hilt, Gordon Burleigh, Michael Fenton,
and Jamie Brogioli*

*The Catanese Family in honor of Joseph Stenza and in
memory of Ralph Catanese*

Bill Dakin

*Jennifer Daly in honor of Phil Daly, Tom Landry, and
Ted Daly*

*Bruce and Jane Davies in memory of Bruce S. Davies, Jr.
and Oliver K. Jamison*

*Jane Ericson in honor of Chuck Ericson, and in memory
of Fred Beal and Everett Ericson*

*Cindy and Mike Fiano in honor of Ronald Bolduc, Sr.,
and in memory of Enrico Fiano*

*Irv and Robin Glenney in honor of Irv Glenney and
Ed Biske, and in memory of Everett Glenney
and John G. Ashton, Jr.*

Kathie and Rob Hampp in honor of family and friends

Jane Hooper with love and joy to the fathers in my life

*Dave and Paula Lynn in honor of Bino Strollo and
Bert Lynn*

Susan MacDonald

Warren and Barbara Maheu in memory of our fathers

*The Mainville family in honor of Tom Mainville, in
memory of Martha Mainville*

Gwen Marrion in memory of Douglas R. Erwin

Daniel McLennon in memory of Donald T. McLennon

*Jim and Kathy Minicucci in honor of Earle Armstrong,
Sr., Charlie Minicucci, and Earle Armstrong, Jr.*

Robert Morrison in memory of Albert Morrison

Tom Mortimer in memory of Paul Mortimer

*Bob and Kay Peterson in memory of Clarence Peterson
and Harry Hadden*

Lynn Ralston in honor of Bruce and all fathers

*Vann and Jim Rowe in honor of our sons and son-in-
law, and in memory of our fathers*

Anthony Scaglia in honor of Bob Scaglia

Catharine Sprecher

*Stephen & Jenine Wierzbicki in honor of Jenine's father
and in memory of Steve's father*

Gregory and Sharon Witham in honor of our fathers



**Have a Safe, Happy, and
Healthy Summer from all of
us on the Signpost Staff!**

