

The Beacon

Sunday Worship: 10:25 am and 6:30 pm

January, 2010

Annual Reports

Copies of the 2009 Annual Report will be printed in January and available on the table outside the church office by January 22. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please call the office @ 860-653-2987. Thank you

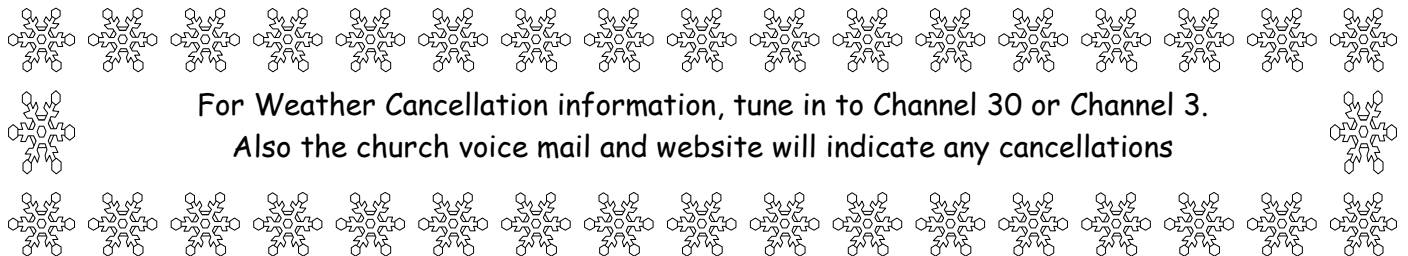
All-Church Annual Meeting,
Sunday, January 31 @ 12:00 Noon
in the Christian Education Center
More information on page 11.

Childcare is available.

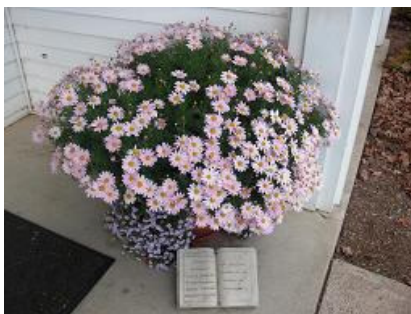
Start The New Year With God and Your Faith Community

Sunday January 3, we worship at 10:25 AM. The message shared by Pastor Michael is entitled "Moving Day," and the Scripture readings are Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12. We will also share in Communion in this worship time. Come and see!

Sunday Night Alive Worship and Sunday Evening classes resume January 10.



In the cold of the New England winter let's remember the beautiful flowers that we all enjoyed into December at the entrance to the church. Thank you Frank Houghton for lovingly caring for them.



Come and Receive Prayer

On the first Sunday of each month (Communion Sunday) there will be a small prayer team available after worship for anyone who is desiring to be prayed for/with - whether the challenge is physical, emotional, spiritual - we welcome all who are open to receive. Also, if you would like to be part of one of these small teams who pray for others on these Communion Sundays, please talk with Jeanne Daggett.

Accidental Christians?

“Choose this day whom you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” - Joshua 24:15
“Those who want to become my disciples must deny themselves and daily take up their cross and follow me.” - Jesus in Luke 9:23

As we move into the New Year, some of us will make resolutions. Why? There is the cliché that we always break them, that we never fulfill these resolutions. Why do we make them? One reason may be that we recognize that change does not come accidentally. Most of us see that there are ways we fall short, hurting ourselves or others. In this we recognize that we need to choose to do something differently if we want things to be different. We recognize that we must be intentional if we want anything to be better.

Have you ever accidentally been able to stop an addicting behavior -- accidentally quit drinking or stopped smoking or changed to a healthier diet? Have you ever wanted to get into better physical condition and it happened accidentally? We know that life does not work this way.

And yet, many think that Christianity works this way. We join churches, we maybe even turn in a covenant, but then we do not do much beyond that intentionally. Maybe we hope that we will “get it” or “live it” by accident? This is kind of like resolving to get into shape, joining the gym, but never actually going to work out. In that case, we do not usually wonder why we are still flabby. We know. Transformation does not come by accident.

We need transformation. We need transformation in our lives -- God’s healing, freedom, help, and hope. We need transformation in the world- - God’s healing, freedom, help, and hope. But this does not come by accident. This change comes as we daily, intentionally choose to follow Jesus, to walk with him opening our lives to the healing, freeing, hoping power of God’s Holy Spirit. We need to worship. We need to pray. We need to listen for God. We need to read and study the Bible. We need to meditate/contemplate. We need to walk this Way with other seekers and believers. We need to share as God calls us to share. We need to intentionally choose and act on these practices. The changing of our lives and world does not come by accident.

In this New Year, resolve to follow the Way. But do not try to do it by your own power. Ask God to help you. Ask for help from others. And then choose to follow this Way. Every day.

I look forward to intentionally journeying with Jesus together in the year ahead.

Love and blessings,
Pastor Michael Bush

Current Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Sunday Nights

One Day At A Time study continues on Sundays, 7:20 pm

Moments That Take Your Breath Away study continues on Sundays, 7:20 pm

Weekday and Weeknight Groups

Women's Bible Study - "Living A Life of Balance" - Tuesdays 12:35 PM-1:35 PM, Jan. 12-March. 30 (1st Tues. to include lunch) We constantly hear from the experts about balanced lifestyles - that we need proper rest, nutrition, and exercise. It's true enough that we need such things to maintain physical and mental health, but we also need spiritual balance. How do we manage all of that and the challenges of daily life? Only God can guide us toward the balance we desperately desire. It starts with our hearts and this study will help us get there. Sign up by Jan. 6 so books can be ordered (\$10). Pastor Sara will facilitate this *Women of Faith* series and all that is needed is a Bible and an open heart.

Early In The Morning Prayer - Wednesdays 6:30-7:00 AM in the Sanctuary - In the Scriptures we read that Jesus spent time with God "early in the morning." In that spirit, come join a group for a time of mid-week prayer in the sanctuary.

Matthew Group on Wednesdays 9:15-10:15 AM in Buttaro Room (Childcare Available!)

"Do Unto Others" "Blessed are the poor" "Seek ye first" "Wise men from the east saw a star"
Have you heard any of these before? These are all quotes from the story of Jesus told in the Gospel of Matthew, the subject of our exploration on Wednesday mornings. If you have been looking to grow in connection with God and with others in your faith community, this is a great opportunity. We meet 9:15-10:15 AM, and childcare is available. If you have any questions, please speak with Michael Bush who facilitates this group.

John Group on Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 PM - This story of Jesus offers familiar phrases, developed theologies, and deep insight into the nature of who God is, who we are, and what difference that makes. Come discover together. This group also offers a monthly potluck meal prior to the study for those who are able to join us. If you have questions, please talk with Pastor Michael Bush who facilitates this group.

Luke Group on Thursdays 10:45-11:45 AM - This story of Jesus offers a picture of Jesus full of God's Spirit who calls us to awaken to God's Kingdom and Spirit with us, among us, and within us. If you have questions, please talk with Pastor Michael Bush who facilitates this group. Ongoing.

Yoga, Meditation & Prayer on Thursdays 7:00-8:30 PM - A time of movement, meditation and prayer in the CEC, led by Martha Parrish Bush. These yoga sessions focus on the spiritual and are intended for all physical ability levels. While we work with various yoga postures and breath, we practice inviting the spirit to move in and through us. We end our time together with meditation and prayer choosing to listen attentively to what God might want to say to us. This time is quiet, gentle, and honoring of God and all who come to seek God in this way and place. If you're curious, just come and see! Or ask Martha or Sally Mullen for more information.

Healing: A Spiritual Exploration
JANUARY RETREAT 2010

What is healing? How is God involved in healing? Is it okay to seek healing for ourselves? How do we offer or share healing with others? This weekend we will seek to live the truth named by the authors of *Stretch Out Your Hand: Exploring Healing Prayer* when they write, "Whenever we open ourselves to the activity of the Holy Spirit, some kind of healing takes place . . . Not all healing will be physical, of course; often healing comes in emotional and spiritual realms where God's love is able to overcome every obstacle."

Friday, Jan 15th through Sunday, Jan 17th

What a wonderful way to begin the new year! All are invited to our Annual Adult Retreat. Please prayerfully consider joining your EGCC family at the "Lodge" of the Episcopal Retreat Center in Ivoryton, CT. The weekend will include food, fun, fellowship, music and sharing. There will be opportunities to converse, to pray, to play, to think, to dream and to worship.

The cost of the retreat will be \$167.00 a person for single occupancy (no double rooms are available). This includes Friday evening snacks, three meals on Sat. and breakfast on Sun. Maximum occupancy of the Lodge is 39. So add your name to the sign-up sheet located just outside of the Church Office.

You will find it helpful, although not essential, to read Tilda Norberg's book *Stretch Out Your Hand* prior to the weekend. We are using this book as a resource for the retreat. Copies are available to borrow (beneath the easel/sign up sheet) at EGCC as well.

The retreat will begin Friday evening at 8 PM and end following worship on Sunday. *If you need full or partial financial assistance, please contact Pastor Bush. Do not let the cost of the retreat stand in your way!*

SAVE THE DATES!! Start to make plans to give yourself this gift of time. Perhaps the retreat should be on your Christmas list! Come...seek...and see...

Hi There!

Retreat time is coming up soon - January 15 - 17 and as always I'm eagerly looking forward to it. This year will be a bit different and yet very much the same because we are re-visiting the facility where it all began! We will be traveling to The Episcopal Conference Center in Ivoryton where in 1981 EGCC experienced our first ever All-Church Retreat. There are walking trails, swamp walks, a lovely chapel, a beautiful lake and outstanding food offerings! Come and see!

Love and God Bless,
Edna Herzig

News and Notes from Pastor Sara

Dear Friends and Members,

Blessing to one and all in this the Year of Our Lord 2010! Hey, instead of it being a 'space odyssey', 2010 I mean, what if we think of this year as a 'faith odyssey'? I like the idea of exploring spiritual ideas where we've never gone before. Or maybe in terms of being church we might seek out other members who with the help of God could show us a deeper way into the scriptures? The movie, "2010: A Space Odyssey", is about space exploration which takes a tremendous amount of time demonstrating the vastness of our universe. They went out into the unknown.

I would offer up that church is like our ship that allows us to travel our faith journey together (and not alone). Having fellow crew who have different gifts makes this body of Christ stronger because of the variety of unique ways that we seek God or approach Christ. God created an amazing vessel in each human being and I believe when we fathom into our spirits and souls that we find just as many wonders as when we look outward. A dear friend of mine often has said, "Sara people think us finding other worlds or other people out in the universe will somehow negate God. But I think that would only confirm how awesome God is." That view of seeking, learning, wondering, and asking more and more about God's creation can be an exciting adventure! Growing in faith, connecting with the divine will take a lifetime, and that means this year for us as believers is just the start of a new chapter. I pray and wish for each of us this New Year that we think and ask ourselves what don't I know about God? What part of who God created me to be do I need to work on? Or if God were to ask me a question what might that be. Let the adventure continue for God has given us a lifetime to live to his glory.

Blessing to All,
Pastor Sara

The Visitation Team

The January meeting for our team of nine is **Thursday Jan. 21** from 6-7pm in the Buttaro Room. We will continue visiting this month as our ministry to the church. If you cannot attend please communicate with Pastor Sara via e-mail or by phone in the first two weeks of the month.

As a group wishing to be present and caring for others our hope is that over the coming year that we'll visit several of our members on a regular basis! Pastor Sara is working with us each month to make this ministry of "presence" a vital part of our church. The more we make connections the stronger our body of believers becomes! Call her anytime there is someone you believe could use a visit.



Women's Day Retreat
Save the Date
February 27
Facing Fear With Faith:
Leaning on the
Everlasting Arms!

"A day of women sharing, caring, and growing in the power of God's faithfulness for our lives." Facilitated by Pastor Sara. Look for the sign up sheet in the lobby in January.

Please prayerfully consider setting the day aside. We will be spending time with new and old friends learning more about how to face our fears and strengthen our faith in our everyday lives.

Call To Worship

"According to most studies, people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number two. Does that sound right? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you're better off in the casket than doing the eulogy."

Jerry Seinfeld - Famous Quote on Public Speaking.

Recently I came across this quote and while chuckling at the humor I also came to understand the truth in these words. For the past year I have been serving on the Worship and Caring Ministry and heading up the coordination of the call to worship. Those that have a comfort in public speaking willingly offer to take a Sunday and get called on quite frequently; some ask if they can be asked at a later date and some shudder at the question and some quickly state they are not comfortable. I understand each response. We all share our gifts in different ways and usually people feel comfortable doing it or "might be" able to do it given the right circumstance.

I have been asking for guidance on how I can encourage those who are "on the fence" about doing a call to worship to feel comfortable to take that final step. What I have come to realize is that many times it is just a matter of understanding what it is all about. Many times people feel reluctant because they feel that they need to share some personal experience in front of the congregation, or that it needs to be a statement of faith, or they must impress people with words of wisdom. The call to worship is designed to be just that -- a moment at the beginning of our worship service to call the congregation together to worship God. You are welcome to keep it simple -- read a Psalm (like Psalm 100), share a quote from the Bible or a spiritual book that has been a reminder of God for you, or just remind people that it is good and right to gather together to praise and pray and listen in community. You are also welcome to lead this part of worship together with others -- perhaps a friend or family member -- one person could lead announcements, another could read the psalm, and another could lead the offering time. And however you choose to lead, there is help! We have call to worship guidelines with suggestions for words and phrases to use, prayers to offer, etc. Also, Pastor Michael is pleased to offer help to anyone who do desires. Having done my first call to worship last year I sought out the advice of Pastor Michael and found the suggestions both inspiring and surprisingly, the message a lot easier to understand. So in this new year I ask you to consider sharing the voice that God has given you and help us to bring our congregation together to worship God. If you are interested you may reach me via email at kelly@seemebeautiful.org or on my cell phone 860-796-1977.

Peace and Blessings this holiday season

Kelly Hasenbalg
Worship and Caring Ministry

The Beacon

Passive or Active?

Some quotes below reminding us that we are not gathered to be “fed” in some passive sense, but that we are called to be active participating disciples of Christ.

Our churches are filled with people who've attended their entire lives, yet they're still spiritual babies.

Spiritual growth must be intentional

Spiritual growth is not automatic with the passing of time. The writer of Hebrews sadly noted, "... though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again." (Heb. 5:12)

Millions of Christians have grown older without ever growing up.

The truth is that spiritual growth requires a commitment to grow. A person must want to grow, decide to grow, and make an effort to grow.

-Pastor Rick Warren (Purpose Driven Life Author)

When you drift from God's word, you will begin doubting it, and you will become “dull listeners.” If you have the attitude that everything spiritual is dull, you will begin a dangerous slide into spiritual immaturity. The Bible is dull. The preacher is dull. The Sunday School lesson is dull, and you are dead spiritually. When there is no hunger and thirsting for the righteousness of God, you are spiritually dead or in grave condition.

The neglect of past opportunities to put into practice God's teachings or moral truths results in spiritual dullness. We become lazy spiritually and unresponsive to the pleading of the Holy Spirit to pursue godliness.

-Dr. Wil Pounds

When Paul addresses the Church at Corinth, though addressing them as “brothers,” he says he cannot speak to them as such, instead as though they are babies or really aren't believers at all. The jealousy and back-biting going on amongst the Church is not characteristic of believers in Christ. Aligning themselves according to the personalities or leadership styles of their pastors and teachers resulted in a divisive, destructive culture. It is abnormal stunted behaviour revealing a serious problem of immaturity. Like many (so-called) Christians who have been attending Church for years, instead of building the Church they are behaving like spiritual babies that still require to be spoon fed. It is always easier to stand on the side-line and criticise the players – it's another thing to sign-up to play and give it a go yourself.

-The Reverend Albert Lim, Australia

Some Basics of Belonging To the Christian Church

(This is a resource shared with new members, and it seemed good to share it with *all* members)

To belong to the Christian Church is to make a commitment to follow in the Way of Jesus Christ (also known as being a “disciple” of Christ). To follow Jesus opens us to more fully receive and share the presence, love, and life of God. Being part of a church is not first about being in an organization, or agreeing to support an institution. Becoming part of the Christian Church is to first choose to be and live as a disciple of Christ.

There are many dimensions to following in this Way. However, there are some basics that are foundational. As disciples of Jesus Christ, it is important to:

Pray every day

Read/study some portion of the Bible each day

Worship in community weekly

Gather with others to pray, learn, and build relationship

Share our gifts and resources as God calls us to share

Prayer - is communicating with God, and can include talking (sharing with God concerns, pain, thanks, and joys), singing, listening, meditation, movement and more. It is important to pray each day - - setting aside time for conversation with God. The more we practice regularly praying each day, the more we will learn how to be in contact with God throughout the day (prayer becomes a way we live, and not just something we do). Prayer comes easily for some, but can be more challenging for others. The ministry staff would be pleased to talk with you individually about prayer, and we do offer retreats and classes that focus on prayer throughout the year.

Bible - If you've not read or studied the Bible much, starting with one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) is a good place to begin. Read a section each day, thinking about what the story is saying about who God is, who we are, and what difference that makes. Pray, asking God to help you understand. It is also helpful to read and discuss the Bible with others (see below)

Worship - God calls us to worship in community each week, and we have two opportunities each week at EGCC (morning and evening on Sunday). Worship is about opening to God, to hear God's messages for us, and to offer to God our thanks and praise. If you cannot attend worship here during a given week, then choose to worship wherever you are (while on vacation, my family chose to worship most nights around a campfire with song and prayer).

Gather with others to pray, learn, and build relationship - growing as a disciple is nurtured well in a smaller group - - from meeting regularly with a prayer partner or prayer group to a more “organized” Bible study group, class, or spiritual support group. In these groups we support one another as we share stories, insights, questions, doubts, and challenges. We need one another to grow in our experience of God and who we are as God's beloved children.

Share Our Gifts and Resources - Another essential element of discipleship is the idea that we have been gifted in order to be God's gifts. As we are opening to God, we will discern more clearly how God calls us to share our gifts, our money, and all of our resources with others, and God will help us to trust that it is good and right to share. In this we help others to know God's love and life, and this can bring God's healing to them and to our world.

The Beacon

Search Status

Director of Discipleship

Job Description Posted v

Resumes Received
Resumes Reviewed

Interviews

Final Candidates

Final Interviews

Meet the Members

Pastor for Caring

Job Description Posted v

Resumes Received
Resumes Reviewed

Interviews

Final Candidates

Final Interviews

Meet the Members

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Job Description Posted v

Resumes Received
Resumes Reviewed

Interviews

Final Candidates

Final Interviews

Meet the Members

Your Search Team: Karen Rhodes:Chair, Judy Goff, Gayle Wilcox,
Ward Mathis, Kathy Mock, John Rafferty

Welcome New Members Received December 20

Neville Judd - Tel. (860) 970-9815.

I am a Brit, now happily settled here in this wonderful town. I have managed bookstores and written biographies of musicians and had a lucky life being touched by so many amazing people.

Nancy Moody - 123 North Main Street, East Granby, CT 06026. Tel. (860) 653-2866

Nancy, Jim and Anna (and their dog) live in East Granby in Jim's old family homestead. After closing their long-time business (Video Galaxy in Granby), Nancy and Jim are now working part-time and enjoying time with Anna.

David & Karrie VanRyn - 280 Mountain Road, North Granby, CT 06060. Tel. (860) 413-9189

Dave VanRyn was raised in Granby. He currently works for Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics in Wethersfield. Karrie VanRyn was raised in Salem, MA. She has worked as a nanny for the last 10 years. Dave and Karrie were married in October of 2002 in Salem, MA at the First Universalist Church. They have a 3 year old daughter Jenna Rose and a second baby on the way, due in April.

Jodi White - 246 Turkey Hills Road, East Granby, CT 06026. Tel. (860) 844-0441

I have lived in East Granby for a little over eight years now. I am originally from Granby. My husband's name is Steven. I have two children. My son is Adam and he is a 9th grader at EGHS. My daughter's name is Eve and she is a 4th grader at Seymour. My life has been somewhat of a roller coaster ride. As I climbed those hills slowly, I used to pray for myself. Now as I climb these hills, I still pray, however, I am so thankful for my life, my husband, my children, my family and GOD!

Missions Corner

We-the whole church body have been very busy preparing for the birth of our Savior, Jesus. In the spirit of GIVING:

-In late November, 40 Shoeboxes filled with surprises were combined with a multitude of others from area churches and have been shipped to their destination. The recipients of 'Operation Christmas Child' will receive their shoebox along with the "Good News Message of Jesus' birth" and they will also receive literature and Bibles in their native language. Missions' thanks you for your generosity. We plan to make this an annual tradition -so watch for SALE items after Christmas and think "Operation Christmas Child' for next November 2010!

-On Nov 28th youth volunteers-cooked and served at the Immaculate Conception Soup Kitchen and delivered clothing and toiletries to the men. Our box (in the entry hall) CONTINUES to be filled and we store the items for the next delivery date, Sunday Jan. 3rd. Please continue to think of items you may donate to the men-our Friend to Friend Thrift store may offer choices and you can help the East Granby Food pantry by purchasing from the store.

-On Sunday Dec.14th, the Church office was filled with wrapped gifts that were purchased with YOUR Mission dollars to give a family of FIVE in Hartford a really nice Christmas. The family is screened for need by the Salvation Army and we are given a wish list for each person in the family. The Missions Committee shops on your behalf and these gifts have been delivered to Hartford by Dec 15th.

-The Church World Service- BLANKETS+ program offers the entire congregation a chance to purchase cards (\$5.00 each) and in turn you may specify how we choose to spend that money the items from the CWS Best Gift Catalogue. With one week remaining in the drive, we are once again truly AMAZED at the generosity of the congregation, the nursery school, and other groups that use our church and have dropped their donation at the pedestal. So far we will purchase: one draft animal, two goats, 250 chicks, 5 pair of rabbits, a pair of pigs, two wheelbarrows, seeds, hoes, shovels and rakes for three families, 200 tree seedlings, three oral rehydration kits, and last but not least-30 blankets. As of this beacon deadline, we have 12 days remaining so the other funds gathered will buy more blankets and Jerry cans for carrying water. This program was expanded this year based upon the options in the CWS Best Gifts catalog and we think it has become more meaningful because you can choose a gift based upon the interests of the person you are honoring with this donation. One boy from our congregation is buying a pair of rabbits to honor his teacher-what a great idea!!

**Immaculate Conception Shelter
Soup Kitchen / Winter Collection**

Soup Kitchen dates:
December 30th
January 3rd
April 6th

If you would like to help cook and/or serve on any of these dates, please call me.

Thank you!

Lauren Farley, 860-651-3946

Fund Facts: 100% of the Operation's and Mission's budgets comes in the form of pledges and gifts from the members and friends of EGCC. Thank you for your generosity in sharing God's abundance. Have you ever considered setting up your church pledge to be a scheduled automatic payment from your checking account? It can help spread your pledge payments out evenly throughout the year and help keep our operation's and mission's income more steady. If you would like to consider setting up this option with your bank, please use the following address to mail your payments.

East Granby Congregational Church
P. O. Box 390
East Granby, CT 06026
Attn: Bill McGarry

The Beacon

IHS Senior High CALENDAR Winter 2010

"You/I/We can make a difference!"

Sunday, December 27 th	A movie perhaps???? No regular meeting.
Sunday, January 3 rd	<u>7:15 - 9:00 PM</u>
Sunday, January 10 th	<u>7:15 - 9:00 PM</u>
Sunday, January 17 th	Adult retreat weekend - no evening meeting
Sunday, January 24 th	<u>7:15 - 9:00 PM</u>
Sunday, January 31 st	<u>7:15 - 9:00 PM</u>
Sunday, February, 7 th	<u>Superbowl Sunday - Party at Doherty's 5:30ish</u>
Sunday, February 14 th	No regular meeting.
Wednesday, February 17 th	7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday, February 21 st	<u>7:15 - 9:00 PM</u>
Sunday, February 28 th	<u>7:15 - 9:00 PM</u>
Friday, March 5 th - Sunday, March 7 th	Ivoryton Retreat - Details to follow

Future Dates to remember:

Emmaus Reunions are on the 3rd Sunday of every month are from 2 - 4:30 PM at Trinity Episcopal in Tariffville

The Spring Emmaus Weekend and Heads Up! Hartford works days/Super Sundays have YTBD.

It finally made the calendar!!!! The Ivoryton Retreat will be Friday, March 5th to Sunday, March 7th - Please mark your calendars in INK!

Annual Meeting Notice

The two hundred seventy third meeting of the East Granby Congregational Church will be held on **Sunday, January 31st, 2009, at 12:00 pm in the Christian Education Center.** The purpose of the meeting is to approve the annual reports of the committees and approve the new Ministry members, and to act on other items on the agenda.

The **Annual Report** will be available no less than one week prior to the meeting. All members of the congregation are encouraged to carefully read the report and consider all items on the agenda prior to the meeting.

All members of the congregation are **encouraged** to attend and participate in the discussion and actions to be taken at this meeting.

Proposed Annual Meeting Agenda

273rd Meeting of the East Granby Congregational Church

Sunday, January 31, 2010 at 12:00 pm

Call to Order

Prayer

Old Business

Review and accept the following:

- minutes of the 272nd Annual Meeting (January 25th, 2009)
- all non-financial team and Ministry reports
- reports of the Nursery School Director and Treasurer
- 2009 financial reports from the Treasurers and Physical Resources Ministry

Hear and accept the report of the Audit Team

Elect the Ministry members for 2010 -

Installation of Ministry Members

Any other old business

New Business

Review and accept the Budget for 2010 (Current Operations and Missions)

Notice to all Ministry members that All Ministries

Meeting is February 8, 2009 at 7:15 PM

Any other new business

Adjournment

Church Family Notes

Thank you to my church family for all the prayers, cards, arrangement that were sent my way. I'm doing well and hope to be back soon.

God Bless you all,
Lois Viets

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Ushers are needed for 2010.
Please contact Lisa Poudrier at
860-658-6531 or
LPOUDRIER@Cox.net

CHRISTMAS COOKIE WRAPUP

Thank you everyone for another successful Cookies-by-the-Pound Sale.

This was our 8th (!) year, and it is always a lot of fun. We sold about 200 pounds of cookies and cleared approximately \$1,500. We had hoped to top \$2,000 this year, but in this economy, \$1,500 is great, and we appreciate everyone who made it possible - the bakers, the helper elves, and the buyers. See you next year!

EGCC Nursery School

Please spread to the word--we currently have openings in BOTH our 3 and 4 year old classes for this current school year. We are offering a 5 day option for our 4 year olds. **We are also starting to register classes for next Sept.** Please stop in, call or check out www.egccns.com for more information.

WORD OF MOUTH is our best advertisement so please help us out by mentioning us to friends, family and neighbors. We are feeling the "crunch" from the economy so please keep us in your prayers that registration picks up now and in the near future.

Many thanks!

January Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 1 Bill Bowers
- 2 Charlotte Babcock
- 3 Jon Corey, Julie McGarry
- 4 Gene Wilmot
- 5 Michele Marin
- 8 Cortney Turner, Polly Storms
- 9 John Kallen
- 10 Karina Marie Bach, Dale Mock
Nathan Marin, Ilana Dryfe
- 11 Neil Dryfe, Collin Dryfe, Bill Christie
- 12 Danielle Czarnecki-Brown, Garret Robinson
- 13 John Guinan
- 14 Sally Viets, Bob Derry
- 15 Bea Estby, Ruth Akerlind
- 16 Sarah Czarnecki-Brown
- 17 John Connole
- 18 Dave Drysdale
- 19 Courtney Fitzpatrick, Chet DeGray
Molly Mullen, George Wessner
- 20 Jerry Blair, Karen Rhodes
- 21 Joe Barillaro, Isaac Mullen, Jessie Poudrier
- 22 Mike Viets
- 23 Kevin McGarry, Doug Comstock
- 26 Bobby Nero, Jerry Geise
- 27 Natalie Lareau
- 29 Rocky Allen
- 30 Grace Ann Kingsbury, Jamie Crane
- 31 Betty Wick

Happy Anniversary

- 3 Frank and Cindy Nemeth
- 8 Rick and Amy Gray
- 19 Sybil and Fran Pokorny

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed, please call Sharon @ 653-4966.

The Beacon

January, 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 Have a Blessed New Year	2
3 10:25 Worship 5:30 Soup Kitchen 7:15 I H S	4	5 6:30-9:00 Boy Scout Leaders, F. H.	6 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 5:30 John Study Dinner 6:30 John Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	7 10:45 Luke Bible Study 7:00-8:30 Yoga, Meditation and Prayer, CEC 7:00 Senior Bell Choir	8 10-11 Food Pantry	9
10 10:25 Worship Fol. Worship, Adult Retreat Team Meeting 5-6:30 Middle School Youth 6:30 Sunday Night Alive 7:15-9:00 I H S 7:20 One Day At A Time 7:20 Moments That Take Your Breath Away	11 7:15 All Ministries Gathering, Followed by Individual Ministry Meetings	12 12:35-1:35 Living A Life of Balance, Purple Lounge 6:30-9:00 Boy Scout Leaders, F. H. & CEC	13 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 12:00 Worship Staff 6:30 John Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	14 10:45 Luke Bible Study 7:00-8:30 Yoga, Meditation and Prayer, CEC 7:00 Senior Bell Choir	15 10-11 Food Pantry Adult Retreat Begins	16 Adult Retreat Weekend
17 Adult Retreat 10:25 Worship 6:30 Sunday Night Alive 7:20 One Day At A Time 7:20 Moments That Take Your Breath Away	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church Offices Closed	19 9:30 -12:30 Quilting Group, F. H. 12:35-1:35 Living A Life of Balance, Purple Lounge	20 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 6:30 John Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	21 10:45 Luke Bible Study 6:00-7:00 Visitation Team, Buttaro Room 7:00-8:30 Yoga, Meditation and Prayer, CEC 7:00 Senior Bell Choir	22 10-11 Food Pantry	23
24 10:25 Worship 5-6:30 Middle School Youth 6:30 Sunday Night Alive 7:15-9:00 I H S 7:20 One Day At A Time 7:20 Moments That Take Your Breath Away	25	26 12:35-1:35 Living A Life of Balance, Purple Lounge 1:30 Prayer Group, Purple Lounge	27 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:00 Beacon Mailing 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 6:30 John Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	28 10:45 Luke Bible Study 7:00-8:30 Yoga, Meditation and Prayer, CEC 7:00 Senior Bell Choir	29 10-11 Food Pantry	30
31 10:25 Worship Annual Meeting Following Worwhip 6:30 Sunday Night Alive 7:15-9:00 I H S 7:20 One Day At A Time 7:20 Moments That Take Your Breath Away						
			13			

The Beacon

... For those of you who want to know more ...



What is Emmaus? An Emmaus weekend offers candidates a short course in the Christian way of life, comparing its values with those of the secular culture. The weekend is held in a retreat setting, but it is not a retreat. There is no fasting and very little solitude. Candidates experience Christian community, but it is also a time of insight into their own lives.

Who can be a Candidate? Generally anyone enrolled in 9th through 12th grade on the date of the weekend can be a candidate. As a rule, candidates are sponsored by a member of a previous Emmaus weekend. The effectiveness of Emmaus is in the teen-to-teen ministry through teen initiated invitations, talks and personal witnessing. The sponsor's role is to pray for and support the candidate before during and after the weekend. Applications are accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

What happens on a weekend? There are talks about the Christian faith followed by small group discussions. There is fellowship, singing, worship, good food and much fun.

How many people are there on a weekend? A team of about 50 people serve on a weekend, about 2/3 of whom are teens and the rest adults. All adults participating on the weekend are required to attend safe church training and have a background check completed by the Hartford Episcopal Diocese. There are usually 15 – 20 candidates. Other adults are welcomed and encouraged to come and consider helping out in the background or even be on a team.

Who leads the weekend? There are usually two ordained clergy who serve as spiritual directors on the weekend, but the primary responsibility for leadership rests with the laity.

How about religious backgrounds? Candidates come from a wide variety of religious backgrounds. One of the strengths of Emmaus is the number of churches involved, building the body of Christ. Some attend worship services regularly, some occasionally, some almost never. Clergy and adult team members are generally Episcopalian or Congregational, but youth team members come from many denominations. Worship services follow the order given in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. Candidates are encouraged to continue in the Christian way of life after the weekend within their currently established worship community. Nothing is knowingly asked of candidates that conflicts with Christian beliefs or Biblical teaching. Candidates are specifically told that they will never have to do anything they're not comfortable with.

What happens after the weekend? Each month, many in the community assemble to meet new and old friends, to share in Christian fellowship and to continue in the support and encouragement of one another. These gatherings are generally the 3rd Sunday of each month.

How much does the weekend cost? The cost is \$25. If candidates have insufficient funds, scholarships are available, and they should ask their sponsors about them.

When and where are the weekends held? Emmaus weekends are usually held in April and November. Previous weekends have been held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Tariffville, St. Peter's Church in South Windsor and here at East Granby Congregational.

Any other questions or for more information, please contact any Demke, Dionne, Korhonen, Gibson, Holton, Mathis, McGarry, or Mclsaac family member.

East Granby Congregational Church
P. O. Box 390
East Granby, CT 06026

Non Profit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
East Granby, CT 06026
Permit #2

The Beacon
January, 2010 Newsletter of the
East Granby Congregational Church



PURPOSE STATEMENT:

East Granby Congregational Church, U.C.C.,
is called to receive the abundant Life and Love of God,
to love the LORD our God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength,
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

With the power of the Holy Spirit, we will do this by:

- Seeking first the Kingdom of God
- Following Jesus Christ and being formed as disciples
- Serving our neighbors and equipping one another for ministry.