

The Beacon

Sunday Worship: 10:25 am; Contemporary Service 6:30 pm

November, 2009

The Jubilee Covenant Renewal & November 9th.

At the start of November, you should have received your Jubilee envelope (known in previous years as stewardship packets) either by having picked it up at the church building after worship or by receiving it in the mail.

Your 2010 Jubilee Covenant Renewal envelope should include: A Question and Answer letter, a Jubilee Covenant Renewal card (please fill out both pages and leave it stapled), an envelope addressed to Bill McGarry, Treasurer (to put your Renewal card in, which should be used whether you return your Renewal Card on November 8th or by mail), and for most of you, an up-to-date personal financial statement (to help remind you

where you are in your giving for the current year).

On Covenant Sunday, November 8, during the worship service, we will be invited to come forward and offer our Jubilee Covenant Renewal Cards. If you cannot join us on November 8, we ask that you return your Jubilee Covenant Renewal Card to the church office by Monday, November 9, 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact Bryant Waller, Chair of Abundant Life Ministry, Donna Clarke, Chair of the Jubilee Team, or Lewis Vissia, Pastoral Assistant for Discipleship.

SAVE THE DATES: January 15-17, 2010

Adult Retreat, Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT. The adult retreat this year will center around the theme of "Healing." More information and sign ups will be arriving in December.

Serving EGCC

Ministers - All our members
Senior Pastor - Michael T. Bush
Email: mbush@egchurch.necoxmail.com
Transitional Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries - Sara Worcester
Email: SWorcester@egchurch.necoxmail.com
Transitional Pastoral Assistant for Discipleship - Lewis Vissia
Email: LVissia@egchurch.necoxmail.com
Moderator - Jim Pestana
Vice Moderator - Jeanne Daggett
Church Secretary - Sharon Morey
Email: Office@egchurch.necoxmail.com
Music Director - Randy Stuck
Organist - Dick Daggett
Sexton - Ann Caye
Nursery Attendant - Kimberly Rodriguez
Marianne Klein

The Beacon is published monthly by
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Bulletin Information is due by Wednesday.
All Beacon articles are due on the 18th of the month. All articles are subject to editing.

If you would like to schedule meetings, events or make any changes to the church calendars, please call Sharon, or leave a note on the desk in the church office.



**Daylight Savings Time Ends
Clocks Back 1 Hour Nov. 1.**

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American Idol

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." -Luke 10:38-42

I imagine most of us have heard of, if not watched, the television show "American Idol." I was overhearing two people talking about the latest "final contestants" in the show, when one of them said, "If the show was about the true American idol there would just be images of money, houses, cars, electronics - - wealth. That is what we are taught to worship. Wealth is our god, money is the real American idol."

I trust most of us would say that we worship God, not wealth, money, or anything else. But the tricky thing about idols is that we are not always conscious of our choosing them.

In the scripture above, would Martha have thought that she was caught up in some kind of idolatry when Jesus came over for dinner? Of course not! She was just doing what she always did - - worrying about the meal and the guests until everyone went home and the last dish was put away. This was likely what she thought it meant to be a good host and a good person. But as Brennan Manning writes, "Honesty requires the truthfulness to admit our attachment and addictions that control our attention, dominate our consciousness, and function as false gods. I can be addicted to vodka or to being nice, to marijuana or to being loved, to cocaine or to being perceived as a good person, to gambling or to relationships, to golf or to gossiping . . . When we give anything more priority than we give to God, we commit idolatry. Thus we all commit idolatry countless times every day," (p.85 in *The Ragamuffin Gospel*).

The clue that Martha is engaging in idolatry is that Jesus characterizes her as "worried." The root meaning of the word "worried" is "pulled apart." That is precisely what worry and distraction do, they split us down the middle, divide us against ourselves. It was not so much the multi-tasking in and of itself that was the issue for Martha. It was that in anxiously trying to do so many things Martha was letting herself be torn up. Martha's "good" of at-

tending first to the cleaning and cooking were keeping her from the "better" of enjoying the present moment and the presence of Jesus (see pp. 106-107 in *The Attentive Life* by Leighton Ford - one of the books you can borrow on the table outside the church office).

How do we know when we are living under the power of an "idol" instead of God's power? Worry and distraction are some good hints. Fear, stress, bravado, arrogance, and anxiety are some other signs of separation from God. To be awake to these feelings within us can be cues that we might be focused fully on doing something we think is good, but missing God and the "better part," (Luke 10:42).

As we renew our covenant commitments at EGCC (our Covenant Sunday is November 8), we are called to commit to practices of receiving from God in prayer, Sabbath time, community worship, Bible study, meditation, and more. We are reminded to commit to practices of sharing what we've received from God through gifts, time, money, and more. This covenant process can be a gift that reveals to us some of our idols - - our worried and distracted ways that tear us apart from receiving God's gifts and living as God's gifts for and with others. This is a season where we are reminded, and given an opportunity through our covenant commitments, to choose the "better part."

In following in this Way of Jesus we are more and more free of idolatry and the "tearing apart" that come with a life lived separate from God. This freedom allows us to enjoy the present and the Presence of God, and to embody that joy of the present and Presence with others. Together, let us choose to turn from the idols, to choose to walk with Jesus, and to choose to receive and share the "better part."

Love in Jesus,
Pastor Michael Bush

Current Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Sunday Nights

Moments That Take Your Breath Away Study Sundays 7:20-8:20 PM in the Conference Room - 11/1 - 2/7 (no meetings on 11/29, 12/27, 1/3). Moments That Take Your Breath Away is a book series to help us focus on and be attentive to the many ways and times God breaks into our routines and gives us one of those awesome moments, so powerful, so amazing, so beautiful that we just want time to stand still. Join Pastor Sara and others to become more aware and receptive to all that God has in store for us! We likely will have an extra book so feel free to attend & join the us!

One Day At A Time Study -Sundays 7:20-8:20 PM in the Buttaro Room - 11/1 - 2/7 (no meetings on 11/29, 12/27, 1/3) After considering his own need for change, Trevor Hudson, author of One Day At A Time, took a fresh look at the iconic Twelve Steps used by Alcoholics Anonymous. He discovered that these practical guiding principles of recovery can help you - whatever your struggle - reclaim self-worth and renewal. When we meet each Sunday evening we will use an additional resource from a "Spiritual 12-Step Program" guide, discuss questions, and share our experience, strength, and hope.

Weekday and Weeknight Groups

Women's Bible Study - "Living Above Worry and Stress" - Tuesdays 12:35 PM-1:35 PM (1st Tues. to include lunch) Continues through November in the Buttaro Room. The focus each week will be to look thru scripture at the variety of ways we can know calm and gain serenity. Come grow together as women of peace. Pastor Sara will facilitate this *Women of Faith* series and all that is needed is a Bible and an open heart. We will end December 8th. Not too late to join us, simply call Pastor Sara!!

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 will facilitate 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.

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News and Notes from Pastor Sara

Dear Friends and Members,

Happy Fall to one and all!! I recently reread something of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that I would like to share with you. He wrote, **"If you let love rule your heart there is no obstacle, no barrier, no problem you can't overcome. This is God's promise to every human being and is the key to liberation for all."** For the well-being of our souls and others checking in with ourselves and asking, *'am I acting from a place of love' or 'is this a loving thing that I am about to do'* are very important questions to help us live the abundant lives God hopes for us. We know from experience that people quite often can operate from places of fear, control, or anxiety when it comes to either small daily choices or huge life changes. Yet, having faith in a loving God who created us to love allows us a way to overcome the difficulties we may face. Also, being part of a church community that strives to tap into that love and to be impacted by the teaching and love of Christ can make life better and more joy-filled.

What I would ask each person who takes the time to read this article is to be the loving eyes and ears for your Pastors. When and if ever you see or hear of someone who is hurting or may have a life changing circumstance let Pastor Michael or me know there might be a need we could address. I've often said a Pastor would rather get ten calls about someone who is in need than not hear about it. When you share with love in your heart about the concern for another member then surely God is glorified and there is a chance that an obstacle will be removed. Liberation comes through acts of love and kindness which happen more often when the church body and its leaders are made aware of who needs our response most. May you each have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Blessings,
Pastor Sara

The Visitation Team

The October meeting for our team of nine is **Thursday Nov. 19th** 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.

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.

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**The Human Resources Ministry
is seeking applicants for the following positions:**

Pastor for Caring Ministries (part-time) responsible for:

1. Support caring ministries through pastoral visits and visitation ministry team
2. Being present for Sunday morning and evening worship and leading some worship services (including 12 Sundays preaching) as scheduled by Senior Pastor
3. Adult Spiritual Formation ministry opportunities as coordinated with Senior Pastor.

15 hours averaged per week

Director of Discipleship for Children, Youth, and Families (part-time) responsible for:

1. Sunday School Pre-K thru 8th grade (and summer children's ministry)
2. Development and leadership in Confirmation ministry with oversight of the Senior Pastor
3. Liaison to Spiritual Formation Ministry and Abundant Life Ministry
4. Children's Worship elements
5. Teacher training/spiritual growth

22 hours averaged per week

Coordinator of Youth Ministries (part-time) responsible for:

1. Develop, support, and participate in youth groups for MS and HS, including planning and spiritual growth with adult leaders.
2. Support and participate in Confirmation ministry in coord with Dir. of Discipleship for purpose of relational connection with youth.
3. Support ecumenical youth ministry opportunities (HUH, Emmaus, etc)

8 hours averaged per week (potential to grow with these ministries)

If interested, contact Search Team leader Karen Rhodes by email at: karen6493@sbcglobal.net.

**East Granby Congregational Church Nursery School
2010 - 2011 REGISTRATION**

Are you ready? Your two-year-old is getting bigger...it's time to enroll him / her in Nursery School for next year! Enroll your child in our Tuesday / Thursday 3-year-old program, or our Monday / Wednesday / Friday program for 4-year-olds.

Advanced Registration for EGCC members is on November 12. Rolling enrollment continues 11/13 for currently enrolled and previously enrolled families. New families begin registration on 11/16.

Please visit our website at www.egccns.com or contact Jenny Waller, Director 653-3913 for further information.

Church Family Notes

Thank You

A warm and heartfelt thank you to all those who rose to the Occasion (literally) to make Kathlyn's musical program and "high tea" reception so special. You are too many to name, but we are so grateful to you all for:

- planning the day and then making it happen
- providing dishes, serving utensils and other needed paraphernalia
- baking cookies, petite-fours, sandwiches, scones, cakes and other delights
- offering your wonderful musical talents
- taking pictures and recording the program
- guiding the day with love and humor
- helping with set-up and clean-up
- serving coffee, tea and punch
- acting as "runners"
- arranging the beautiful flowers and centerpieces
- invoking God's blessings for us all
- being there

We shall dearly miss Kathlyn, but know she will always be a part of us.

Kathlyn, we wish you and all your family God's blessings as you make your home on the Cape. Your church family wishes you joy, beautiful music, laughter, and peace.

Signed, The Committee ~ Sandy, Edna, Ruth, Evelyn, Carol, Linda, Jeanne

"Thanks for the Memories"

October 3rd - What a day!

I wish to thank all my friends who came to wish me a "Happy Birthday and farewell greetings." The fine musical program brought back memories hearing all my special music. The "High Tea" was elegant and I appreciate the effort of many who planned such a fine event. Thank you for the many cards of best wishes - I shall enjoy reading them again in my new home after October 18th, at

29 Old Cedar Lane
South Yarmouth, MA 02664
508-394-1906 (Evenings)

Farewell and love,
Kathlyn

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls and flowers upon the death of my father Robert Wolfe. All your kind thoughts were helpful to Linda and me during a difficult time. My father was a wonderful man and will be missed by his family. Linda and I are lucky to be part of such a caring community of people.

Brad and Linda Wolfe

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
John & Darleen Wiedenheft will be back in Florida Nov. 1. You can contact them at:

11300 124th Avenue, #66
Largo, FL 33778

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

There are 2 lock boxes outside the main entrance. You may use either one as they have the same combination and each has a key.

**IHS & Heads Up! Hartford
CALENDAR Fall / Winter 2009
"You/I/We can make a difference!"**

Sunday, November 1st - 5:00 - 6:30 PM Thanksgiving dinner/games with MSYG at the church?!?!?!?

Sunday, November 8th - 5:00 - 6:30 PM Food Share meeting with MSYG at the church?!?!?!?

Sunday, November 15th - No meeting - Emmaus Weekend

Sunday, November 22nd - 7:15 - 9:00 PM meeting in the I.H.S. Room

Wednesday, November 25th - Prepare and serve a meal at a local soup kitchen on Thanksgiving Eve - details to follow

Sunday, November 29th - Shopping for family - perhaps immediately following church?

Sunday, December 6th - 7:15 - 9:00 PM meeting in the I.H.S. Room - wrapping gifts

Sunday, December 13th - 2:30 - 5:30 PM All Church Caroling

Sunday, December 20th - 6:00 - 9:00 PM Christmas Party at Gayle's

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.

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

***IT'S HERE!!
The Faith Wall***

Share your faith experiences, stories, and testimonials on the FAITH WALL. Help us as members of EGCC to be filled and renewed by these stories.

Come and see, come and share.

RE-member how God is working in you.

Re-member who we are when we live in God.

Re-member the ways we have been called to be God's hands and feet in this world.

This fall the Worship Arts Team invites you to share your stories with one another on ***The Faith Wall***. *The Faith Wall* is 20 feet of paper that will reside in the long hallway between the main building and the Christian Education Center (the round room.) You are invited to write, graffiti-style, directly on the paper or write something at home and attach it to *The Faith Wall* in some way. You could think of this like a "faith-book" page that you are updating. There are no restrictions as to how your story might be shared. It need not be formal, or it might be. It need not be profound or expansive; it could be simple and small like a seed of your faith. This might be something you write that is anonymous or you could share with others your story and give your name. You might draw pictures or share photographs as part of it. Parents might help their little ones by writing down what they say. All are welcome! This is a chance for each of us to practice remembering and sharing why we have chosen this path of following Jesus.

May we be blessed to be a blessing...

If you have questions please talk with Martha Parrish Bush

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Soup Kitchen

We will be cooking on November 28th at 3:00 and then going down to serve at 5 pm, we will be home no later than 8:00 pm. If anyone has any coats, hats, gloves, blankets, men's toiletries that they want to donate, or want to help out cooking and/or serving, please call me at 651-3946. Thank you in advance!
Lauren Farley

Operation Christmas Child

The Mission and Outreach Ministry invites you to participate in Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, gives Christmas gifts to children around the world who would otherwise receive nothing. To participate you fill a shoe box with items for a boy or girl, items such as soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, stuffed animals, small toys (not war related), hard candy or gum, etc. To get more details see the table in the CEC and/or visit the Samaritan Purse website, www.samaritanspurse.org

Communion Table Flowers

Thank you to the following people for offering to grace the Communion Table with flowers for the month of November.

November 1	Nancy Bunnell
November 8	Winnie Granger
November 15	Gayle Wilcox & Jon Corey
November 22	Bob & Donna Derry
November 29	Available

Audio Tech crew for worship services in the month of November is as follows:

November 1	Tom Horner
November 8	Matthew Short
November 15	Shelby Demke
November 22	Tom Horner
November 29	Dan McIsaac

November Birthdays and Anniversaries



1. John Colbeck
2. Kevin Smith, Marisa Drzewiecki
Jalen Drzewiecki, Randy Stuck,
Al Leadbeater
3. Kevin Taylor Bach
4. Robert Bertolini
5. Donna Clarke
6. Nancy Cornell
7. John de Sousa, Sally Raabe
Rob Demke, Rick Gray
9. Michael Simmons
11. Sybil Pokorny
13. Dan Colbeck, Nancy Biddleman
Victoria Cannon, Teresa Galloway
14. Brandy Jean Caterino
15. Dave Trenholm
16. Dave Harrold
17. Louise Barillaro
18. Cliff Gibson, Debra Reimer
21. Jenny Waller
23. Sandy Boardman, Cole Rodriguez
24. Courtney Derry
26. Kathryn Korhonen
27. Al Biddleman, Linda Ridgeway,
Ed Hiser
29. Rita House
30. Alyssa Wessner

Happy Anniversary to:

- 2 Dan and Janet Cannon
- 6 Cyndie & Neil Dryfe
- 8 Charlotte and Stu Babcock
- 12 Ed and Emma Hiser
- 13 Jim and Kate Connole
- 22 David and Phyllis Drysdale
- 30 Fran and Bob Perkins

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

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November, 2009

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 10:25 Worship Following Worship, January Retreat Sub Committee Mtg. 5:00-6:30 Middle School Youth Group 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	2 7:00 SrPRT	3 12:35-1:35 Living Above Worry & Stress, Buttaro Room 6:30-9:00 Boy Scout Leaders, F. H.	4 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 5:30 John Study Dinner 6:30 John Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	5 10:45 Luke Bible Study 7:00-8:30 Yoga, Med- itation and Prayer, CEC 7:00 Senior Bell Choir	6 10-11 Food Pantry	7
8 10:25 Worship 6:30 Sunday Night Alive 7:20 One Day At A Time 7:20 Moments That Take Your Breath Away	9 7:15 All Min- istries Gather- ing, Followed by Individual Min- istry Meetings	10 12:35-1:35 Living Above Worry & Stress, Buttaro Room 6:30-9:00 Boy Scout Leaders, F. H. & CEC	11 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 12:00 Worship Staff Meeting 6:30 John Bible Study 7:00 Nursery School Board Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir	12 10:45 Luke Bible Study 7:00-8:30 Yoga, Med- itation and Prayer, CEC 7:00 Senior Bell Choir	13 10-11 Food Pantry	14
15 10:25 Worship 6:30 Sunday Night Alive 7:20 One Day At A Time 7:20 Moments That Take Your Breath Away	16 7:15 Church Council	17 9:30 -12:30 Quilt- ing Group, F. H. 12:35-1:35 Living Above Worry & Stress, Buttaro Room	18 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 6:30 John Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	19 10:45 Luke Bible Study 6:00-7:00 Visitation Team, Buttaro Room 7:00-8:30 Yoga, Med- itation and Prayer, CEC 7:00 Senior Bell Choir	20 10-11 Food Pantry	21
22 10:25 Worship 6:30 Sunday Night Alive I H S 7:15-9:00 pm 7:20 One Day At A Time 7:20 Moments That Take Your Breath Away	23	24 12:35-1:35 Living Above Worry & Stress, Buttaro Room	25 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 6:30 John Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	26  Thanksgiving	27 Church Office Closed	28 5:30 Soup Kitchen
29 10:25 Worship 6:30 Sunday Night Alive	30					
			9			

East Granby Congregational Church
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The Beacon
November, 2009 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.