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# Elmwords

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Elmwood Community Church

November 2011

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

Gardens come and go with the years; some years produce abundant flowers and vegetables, some do not. In any event the cold and dark of autumn brings an end to every garden. However, the Garden of Eden lives on in our imagination as a perfect world of safety, peace, and prosperity. At times it is difficult not to resent Adam and Eve's bad decision. Their decision to partake of the forbidden fruit resulted in humanity being exiled into a dangerous, difficult world.

But before we blame Adam and Eve, we do well to recognize that we would have done the same thing. It is like the game kids play where someone is asked not to think about elephants for five seconds. Usually that is all someone can think about. We could not stop thinking about that fruit. Sooner or later we would give it just a little taste...just to see...

That garden, that place of peace and joy, symbolizes God's original intention to offer a world of blessing. The Hebrew word for this state or condition is "Shalom." Although usually translated as "Peace", Shalom is more than peace. Shalom includes everything that contributes to making life good, wholesome, and pure. Shalom includes everything that contributes to right relationships between people, between people and animals, between people and the earth. Peace, justice, freedom, dignity, sharing, compassion, truth, and more are all components of the peace, or Shalom, God offers.

In this Shalom is very much like the Kingdom of God, also known as the Realm of God. As Christians we believe that in some ways the Realm of God has already come. For example, Jesus is risen to show God's power and mercy. Jesus walks beside us and goes ahead to prepare our way. This we believe. Yet we also recognize that the Realm of God has not come to this world entirely, as can be seen by a quick look at the newspaper.

Yet when we think about it, we can see evidence that the Realm of God is all around us. Wherever anyone teaches God's love to a child, or brings a meal to someone in distress, or listens to a friend in need, or sings a hymn of joy, or seeks God's will, there we see the Realm of God. The seasons come and go, so do gardens, but we are always surrounded by God's goodness. Thanks be to God.

Peace,



Dave

## LADIES: CIRCLE YOUR WAGONS!

I've recently made two visits to Circle 6: first, as moderator, to see what goes on, what needs they may have, and what projects interest them for the coming year(s.) They did present several issues, all of which have been addressed by Trustees: some completed, others in the process. One impossible, but acceptable reasons given.

I thought I detected an element of disinterest among the ladies. They said very few attend any more, and the meetings had become more gab-sessions than project-oriented. I remember belonging to the Circle 25+ years ago. It was a very busy, lively group of ladies who were constantly in the process of planning and/or doing really neat projects, with special emphasis on the shut-ins of our Church. It seemed to me that they were the backbone of the Church, always there for whatever was needed. They did the most fantastic funeral receptions (still do!) but it seems to me that that has become their main focus of late. I think I can diagnose the problem. Countless times over the years, I've heard, "oh, Circle 6 will do that,"...and they always did. I guess the mother in me is thinking that, after years of "being there" for everyone, and for every little thing, they have come to be our "mother:" the invisible entity that is expected to do it all, do it now, and not expect a thank you. That's just **WRONG**.

I noticed that, even during the business part of the meeting, people were gabbing away and not even hearing the reports. This tells me that they need to be cared for. Poor Diane Ludwick, with almost no vision, was trying to give her report wearing a crazy apparatus resembling a surgeon's headlight in order to see her own notes! It made me very sad to see that only a few were actually listening. I think they've been taken for granted for so long that they are now taking each other for granted, thus losing the cohesive quality of their group.

My prescription is this: they need recognition and thanks, starting first with themselves. They need to appreciate each member, acknowledge their gifts, and start applauding themselves. They need to plan some programs for **THEM**: topics of interest to women, or perhaps to the congregation. They should consider having speakers or programs to educate themselves, to make them laugh, or to raise awareness of timely issues. If they take seriously the idea of ministering to themselves, I think the energy will return. They are just tired – aren't we all in many respects?

They accepted me on my second visit as an "honorary" member, at my request. I paid dues, so I suppose I can vote, but will be unable to attend many meetings. I outed myself by admitting that it cuts into my Monday night football schedule! Ah well, I also have to take care of me to keep my own energy clock running.

Ladies of Circle 6, I thank you each for all the years of loving service you have provided our Church. Ladies **NOT** of Circle 6: consider joining! It is a barrel of fun and laughs and, with just a little more structure, they'll be up and running again. Besides, you can always tape "DancingWith the Stars!"

With sincere thanks to each of you,  
Mickey.....Moderator.....court jester.....friend

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE**

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 02 Ruth Porter
- 02 Grace Congdon
- 03 Sam Congdon
- 04 Bobbie Ellison
- 05 Judi Swift
- 07 Linda Knorr
- 18 Sarah Bryden
- 24 Heather Buckley
- 26 Herbert Seagren
- 26 Marion Cook
- 27 Carol Hunsinger



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 04 Al Croxall
- 08 Nick Allgaier
- 16 Paulette Evans
- 20 Kelly Lincoln
- 24 Adam Swift
- 28 Joan Gustafson
- 29 Dorothy Swenson
- 29 Carol Alberti
- 30 Sally Waite

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 31 Ethel & Al Croxall

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**REMINDER**



**FALL BACK**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHANGE  
YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR  
ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>.**

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**THANK YOU**

Thank you to Ellen Bucchere for covering for me while I was on vacation. Geri

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**BIBLE STUDY**

There will be Bible Study every Wednesday in November (except November 23<sup>rd</sup>) at 10am in the Fellowship Room. All are welcome!

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**HOLIDAY FAIR**

There will be a **Holiday Fair** this year on **Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to 2pm.** Plans for the Holiday Fair are moving along! Norm & Cynthia Carter have volunteered to run the morning coffee shop, and Barb Hesse and Mickey Allgaier have volunteered for the lunch crew. As always, Circle 6 has come through with many volunteers to bake cookies and work at various tables.

**THANK YOU ALL!**

We still need donations: costume jewelry, trinket boxes, ladies dressing table items, collectibles of any kind, gently used Christmas decorations/linens, Please leave donations, clearly marked "For the Fair", in Conte Kitchen on the counter between the fridge and dishwasher. Thank you.

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**HISTORIAN CORNER**

**Church Fair 1950 – "A Festival of Holidays"** was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1950 from 1:30pm to 9:00pm. The Men's Club put on "a public dinner" at the church fair for 315 people.

**Sue Lyons**

What do you know about Sue Lyons? We have the Sue Lyon's Room dedicated in her memory. Her cane is mounted on the wall above the fireplace. Who was she? Did you know her?

**Pat MacDougall, Historian**

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**50/40 DINNER**

The 50/40 Dinner was a huge success! A lot of people contributed to its success; but the endless hours of research coordinated by our Historian Pat MacDougall and her able Assistant Ellen Bucchere enabled everyone to take a walk down memory lane. A job well done and greatly appreciated by everyone!

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**ON A PERSONAL NOTE**

**THE "90<sup>TH</sup>" ANNIVERSARY OF ELMWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Did you think it was forgotten? Certainly not! There was some talk of combining it with the 50/40 Celebration, but we felt that two events this important should stand alone. As research was done for the 50/40, the Capital Campaign, and even for the last Stewardship drive, many interesting facts have surfaced about us and our longevity as a Church. Just as a family is every bit as much a family even before it owns a house, so were we a united family of faith long before the construction of our present home on Newington Rd. Rev. Congdon received a "surprise" package from Jim Millard who was a long ago member of our flock, now residing in Nebraska. He sent a large framed photo of the raising up of the steeple, and a commemorative plate of the original church without the steeple. The plate is inscribed with names and dates that support a history that pre-dates our claim to 90 years. These items were in his family for many years; now that his ancestors are gone, he felt we should have these in our archives. What a treat it was at Council meeting to see these treasures and reflect upon our deepest roots. Stay tuned: we will be planning a great anniversary celebration in the future - one that embraces the whole truth about who we are and how we got here!

Mickey Allgaier, Moderator

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**ADVENT**

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to the Advent Workshop organized by the Board of Christian Ed after Church on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be activities for all age groups.

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**HAVE YOU TRIED SCRIP?**

The Scrip card program, managed by Barb Hesse (many thanks Barb!) is one of the best fund-raisers we've ever done. It's already raised over \$2,000 this year, and has the potential to be even more successful if more folks participate.

A Scrip card is just like cash, so if you buy a \$25.00 CVS Scrip card, you can make \$25.00 worth of purchases at CVS. The profit to the church isn't subtracted from your card - you get the full shopping value. Scrip cards are available from dozens of merchants like CVS, Stop & Shop, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, and restaurants from McDonald's and Wendy's to Flemings Steak House. They make great gifts, but many folks also use them for regular weekly purchases of groceries, gas, etc.

If you haven't tried Scrip yet, will you consider it? Try one card for some business where you shop regularly - Walgreens, Sunoco, Dunkin Donuts, etc. - and see how you like it. It's an easy way to help the church while doing your regular weekly shopping.

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**HANGING OF THE GREENS**

Please join us for the Hanging of the Greens during 10am worship on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Second Sunday of Advent. This special service offers something for all ages.

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**GIFT CARDS TO GOD**

The theme of our 2012 Stewardship Campaign! Start thinking about what kind of gift card you would give to God for all He has given you!

"The choicest of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God." Exodus 23:19

Blessings, Your Stewardship Committee

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**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING**





It's time for our



62<sup>st</sup> Annual

# Holiday Fair

**Sat. Nov. 19, 9 am - 2 pm**

In Conte Hall

For a complete list of items for sale, visit our website at [www.miltonma.gov](http://www.miltonma.gov)

For more information, call 617-888-2200 or visit our website at [www.miltonma.gov](http://www.miltonma.gov)



Start your holiday shopping early!



**The Elmwood Community Church**

-----United Church of Christ-----

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Secretary's e-mail: eccsecretary@snet.net

Pastor's e-mail: elmwoodchurch@snet.net

**PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

**POSTED MATERIAL**

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

November 2 <sup>nd</sup> .....	6:30pm Deacons
November 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , & 30 <sup>th</sup> , .....	10:00am Bible Study
November 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , & 17 <sup>th</sup> .....	7:00pm Choir
November 5 <sup>th</sup> .....	Turn Clocks Back One Hour
November 6 <sup>th</sup> .....	Stewardship Sunday
November 6 <sup>th</sup> .....	6:30pm Youth Group Meeting
November 9 <sup>th</sup> .....	6:30pm Trustees
November 13 <sup>th</sup> .....	Christian Ed Meeting
November 14 <sup>th</sup> .....	6:30pm Circle 6
November 15 <sup>th</sup> .....	Newsletter Articles Due in Office
November 18 <sup>th</sup> .....	Holiday Fair Set-Up
November 19 <sup>th</sup> .....	Holiday Fair 9am – 2pm
November 20 <sup>th</sup> .....	Missions Meeting
November 20 <sup>th</sup> .....	6:30pm Youth Group Meeting
November 20 <sup>th</sup> .....	Dedication Sunday
November 21 <sup>st</sup> .....	6:30pm Council
November 22 <sup>nd</sup> .....	Newsletter Deadline
November 23 <sup>rd</sup> .....	No Bible Study
November 24 <sup>th</sup> .....	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed
November 27 <sup>th</sup> .....	Advent Workshop
November 27 <sup>th</sup> .....	December Newsletter Available
December 4 <sup>th</sup> .....	Hanging of the Greens
December 4 <sup>th</sup> .....	6:30pm Youth Group Meeting