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# Elmwords

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Elmwood Community Church

February 2012

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

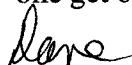
It is a marvel the way events, ideas, and circumstances can come together to reinforce one's sense of purpose. A case in point. For the past few weeks Pat MacDougall, our church historian, and I have been discussing family history and genealogy. At the same time I had been pondering ways to involve more people in reaching out. At the same time, unbeknownst to me, my mother in Florida found the genealogy my father had put together years ago. Pat was thrilled and asked for a copy. A few days later she came back with a simple sheet of paper; a record from 1820 – 1850 Passenger and Immigration Lists.

I was stunned. My father's research had discovered that his father's fathers' (however many fathers it takes to get to the 1850s) had married a woman named Ellen Conlin. Ok, fair enough, but nothing was known of her. Then Pat discovered that one sheet of paper. It listed, "Ellen Conlin, age 18, occupation servant, from Ireland, landed September 29, 1848."

1848 was the very depth of the Irish Famine. (An Gorta Mor, "The Great Hunger.") That poor girl. Fleeing starvation in Ireland. Was she all alone in this world, or did she travel with family and friends?

How we all wish that the 1850s had put an end to hunger in this world. Sadly this is not the case. Hunger is a problem everywhere. Even in West Hartford. Many people bring hats and coats for the Mitten tree. It will be kept up for a while since the weather is still cold. When it comes to helping feed folks at the South Park Shelter, some people make sandwiches and chili, the Sunday School makes cookies, but there is only room for four or so people to actually serve dinner. And it is a long day on your feet.

What would you say to making a real effort to help the West Hartford Food Pantry? At the grocery store, please give prayerful consideration to picking up something for the hungry. Check out the specials, "buy one get one free"; "10 for \$10." Our church can make a real difference right here, right now.



Dave

## Church Council Meeting –January 16, 2012 – Agenda/Moderator’s Notes

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm with seven members present: Al Croxall, Susan Wiley, Colleen Peterson, Barb Hesse, Bill Alberti, Rev. David Congdon, and Mickey Allgaier

**Opening Prayer and Scripture (Pastor Dave): Psalm 19**

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

**Updates: Capitol Campaign – given by Susan Wiley**

**Stewardship – given by Colleen Peterson**

### Old Business:

- Conte kitchen renovation team
- Safe Church – problem complete; policy by second quarter.
- Memorial Garden committee discussion
- Photo Directory Schedule
- Compiling list of ride providers

### New Business: Betty Hoyt will audit records

**2012 Goals:** To increase responsibility (4 areas):

- Spiritually – deacons, rides for shut-ins, and prayer support.
- Interpersonally – kindness to one another, patience in listening.
- Communal – more participation in parades, community dinners, etc.
- Fiscally – trustees, stewardship, cost saving ideas and scrip program.
- February Board requests – elect chair and other officers; appoint one to nominating committee, and propose 2012 calendar.

### Deacons – Colleen Peterson

- 38 plants purchased (\$78.38 profit) from poinsettias; 8 wreaths purchased.
- Coffins would enjoy visits.
- Deacons will do lunch at Annual Meeting; asking for sandwiches and desserts.

### Pastor’s Report – Pastor Dave

- WTIC reflections...still unable to reach coordinator.
- Weather cancellation info on file.

### Missions – Robin Lindemann – (absent) – (info provided by pastor)

- Commitments paid
- Preparing for South Park meal on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Mittens, etc will go to South Park Inn.
- Purchasing Scrip Cards for Discretionary Fund.
- Encourage donation for West Hartford Food Pantry.

### Trustees – Bill Alberti

- Amistad has not returned keys.
- Will put chain across exit driveway
- Considering eventual replacement or repair for outside lift.

(moderator's report continued)

**Christian Ed – Patrick Nobou – ill (Pastor did report)**

- Anticipate a great year.
- Movie Night Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm
- Youth Group Calendars
- Amber Smith won raffle

**Controller's Report – Susan Wiley**

- Financial summary reviewed
- Rental summary reviewed
- Balance sheet reviewed
- Discussed feasibility of flea market

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

**Junior Member-At-Large – Al Croxall**

- Need to paint vestibule in Conte Hall
- Suggest new cookbook, or update?
- Wall in Fellowship Room needs painting

**Senior Member-At-Large – Susan Giaccotto – out of town**

**Newest Member-At-Large Barb Hesse**

- New members – shepherding them – tour of church, etc.
- Front money for Scrip; will take up with Trustees.

**Upcoming Events (Just so we're all on the same page)**

- February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – Pictures for new directory.
- February 5<sup>th</sup> -Souper Bowl Collection.
- February 19<sup>th</sup> – Pancake Supper following worship.
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ash Wednesday

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm**

**Next Meeting: February 20, 2012**

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**PICTURE DIRECTORY**

Picture taking will take place every 10 minutes from 2:30 to 8:40pm on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10am to 4:40pm on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Everyone gets a free 8x10. Packages are available, but **NO PRESSURE** – Different company than last time.

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**BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays during February (except on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>). All are welcome to join us at 10am in the Fellowship Room.

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**COOKBOOK**

Council received a suggestion that we do another cookbook. What a great idea! There are many new people in church, since we did the last one, and people who shared recipes in the last book may have come up with new ideas. Who wants to head this up? Let the office know, if you are willing to be the one or ones. Even if leading the effort is not for you, why not send your recipes to the office. Email is best, but paper is okay too. Thanks.

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## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Beiliz Rodriguez
- 05 Madelyn O'Connor
- 09 Michael McLarney
- 12 Tim Coffin
- 13 Kaliya Ortiz
- 15 Ethel Croxall
- 15 Robert Bucchere
- 16 Christian ortiz
- 17 Judy Janas
- 19 Sharon Lamb
- 21 Carl Moskey
- 22 Charles Peterson



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 06 Kaz Glista
- 07 Eleanor Kibbe
- 08 Sue McLarney
- 10 Kacie Lamb
- 12 Mickey Allgaier
- 21 Alan Waite
- 24 Amber Smith
- 28 Johanna Oppel (Brown)
- 30 Pat MacDougall

### MARCH ANNIVERSARY

- 06 Johanna & Timothy Oppel
- 20 Ellen & Robert Bucchere

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Your donations on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, in our Souper Bowls, at the close of worship, will bring food to the needy in our Community. This is a unique youth-led movement of caring that is transforming the nation's biggest weekend of football into its largest weekend of giving. The money collected will go to the West Hartford Food Bank.

Did you know that the West Hartford Food Bank is helping over 500 families? Two years ago, they passed out bags of groceries to less than 200 families. Now many of the same people who used to donate to the Food Bank, are in line collecting from it for their own families. Many of our seniors are finding it hard to feed themselves as they are trying to help their children and grandchildren. Please, when you to to the store for groceries.....PLEASE, buy 1 or 2 items extra for the food bank. Again, thank you for your donations. Missions Board

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### SHROVE TUESDAY

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Meal will be held on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, following worship. Hosted by Christian Ed – ALL are

welcome to Conte Hall for pancakes and sausages, (or just come for coffee). A free-will donation is asked in order to help cover expenses.  
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### ~ DID YOU KNOW? ~

Welcome to a features column by the Deacons! We hope you find it informative and helpful.

Did you know that the Elmwood Community Church has a web site? It's quite popular with an average of 38 visits per day for the last year. In fact, there were over 70,000 hits or clicks on one of the pages for that same time period. We have information on the church's activities, facilitator schedules, pictures and much, much more. Come and visit us at [www.elmwoodchurch.net](http://www.elmwoodchurch.net).

Also, did you know that we have a Facebook page? As of this writing we have 27 friends who like us. We should be able to do better. Tell all your FB friends to check out our page and like us. No prizes but great social exposure. **Love and peace, your Deacons**  
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### THE MITTEN TREE

Every year, we put up a Christmas tree in the sanctuary as a place to collect donations of children's hats, scarves, and mittens. The donations are then taken where they will help needy children. This year, in light of the continuing tough economic times, the mitten tree will stay up until **Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**, and the **donations will be taken on Valentine's Day** to the children at the South Park Inn homeless shelter in Hartford. So, the next time you're at Wal-Mart or Target, please consider buying a hat, scarf or mittens or ...even if you have gently used ones to donate...they will go to another great home where they are needed.

**Thank You - the Board of Missions**

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### HISTORIAN CORNER

May 1964 – Circle 5 purchased a lace tablecloth. It was decided that Mrs. Kelly would keep the tablecloth at her house. Anyone wishing to use it for a Church affair should contact Mrs. Kelly.  
1949 – An electric mixer was presented by the Women's Federation. We still have it!

The Historian Room is in need of another File cabinet. If you have one you can donate, Please contact the Church Office Manager.

Also, The Historian Room is a work in progress.

Historians Pat MacDougall & Ellen Bucchere

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-----**United Church of Christ**-----  
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Pastor's e-mail: elmwoodchurch@snet.net

**PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY  
DATED MATERIAL**

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

February 1<sup>st</sup> .....6:30pm Deacons  
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup> .....10:00am Bible Study  
February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup> .....7:00pm Choir  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> .....Pictures for Directory  
February 4<sup>th</sup> .....Pictures for Directory  
February 5<sup>th</sup> .....Souper Bowl Collection  
February 5<sup>th</sup> .....CE Meeting  
February 5<sup>th</sup> .....6:30pm Youth Group  
February 8<sup>th</sup> .....6:30pm Trustees  
February 12<sup>th</sup> .....Missions Meeting  
February 19<sup>th</sup> .....Pancake Supper  
February 19<sup>th</sup> .....6:30pm Youth Group  
February 20<sup>th</sup> .....6:30pm Council  
February 22<sup>nd</sup> .....No Bible Study  
February 22<sup>nd</sup> .....7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service  
February 26<sup>th</sup> .....First Sunday in Lent