

# Elmwords

## Pastor's Corner

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, keep thinking about these things.” Philippians 4.8

Television fitness guru Richard Simmons has inspired a lot of people to take better care of themselves. He is a very strong proponent of proper exercise and eating healthy foods. In one hilarious segment he went into a grocery store and looked into people's shopping carts. Someone had frozen vegetables in cheese sauce; Richard suggested they get plain frozen vegetables, or even fresh. He scolded a lady who had Ring Dings, Twinkies, and soda. But when someone had a carton of cigarettes, Richard lost it. “AARRGH! AARRGH! ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL YOURSELF?”

In his inimitable way Richard was trying to help people grow more aware that the decisions they make in the grocery store have a big effect on their health and well-being.

In his letter to the Philippians Paul was trying to help us recognize that it is very important to focus our minds and thoughts on spiritual, positive ideas. When we allow ourselves to become stuck in any form of negativity, we close ourselves off from the light and joy God offers. Whether we criticize others, become cynical, or give in to feelings of despair, what we have actually done is to turn away from the grace of God.

It does not have to be that way. We have just celebrated Easter. Christ's resurrection brings God's promise that joy can be ours come what may. Kindness is more powerful than hatred. God's mercy is more powerful than human evil. Life is more powerful than death.

If we think of our minds as being like shopping carts, surely we want to select thoughts of kindness; thoughts that bring hope, ideas that help others become the best they can be. As we live these next few weeks, let's try an experiment. Let's try to keep our thoughts focused on our faith, on the goodness of this life, on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peace,



Dave

**Church Council Meeting –April 16, 2012– Agenda/Moderator’s Notes**

Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm with eleven members present: Chuck Peterson, Diane Ludwick, Al Croxall, Susan Wiley, Patrick Nobou, Robin Lindemann, Barb Hesse, Jerry Gray, Wendy Leonard, Rev. Dave Congdon, and Mickey Allgaier

**Opening Prayer and Scripture (Pastor Dave): Psalm 96**

**Minutes of the previous meeting: accepted with minor typo corrections.**

**Old Business:**

- Safe Church – need to complete by September 9, 2012.
- Photo Directory (still in process)

**New Business:**

- Cookbook Committee: Robin Lindemann, Joan Gustafson and Pat MacDougall; looking for cookbooks published **before** 1955. Submissions of new recipes can be emailed or sent to the church office.
- Chowder Fest: Can we do late September or early October?
- Tag Sale: Early June – should we do? Mickey will ask around.
- Church Fair: Need coordinator. Pat MacDougall will price jewelry and better treasures.
- Need Stewardship Committee: Colleen and Susan G. unable to do this year, but willing to share ideas.
- “Clean-up Elmwood” Day: Scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Memorial Day Parade

**Deacons – Jerry Gray**

- Holy Week awesome. Plants beautiful: \$175.00 profit – go towards Christmas wreaths.
- Visitation: Betty Gilpin would like visits. Dot Swenson and Dot Guertin also.
- Need people to show up when scheduled for nursery duty!
- June 10<sup>th</sup>: Choir Appreciation Day.
- June 17<sup>th</sup>: Children’s Sunday.
- Starting June 24<sup>th</sup>, coffee hour will be minimized and served by one person.

**Pastor’s Report – Pastor Dave**

- Norm much better; Pat Johnson better.
- Pat MacDougall and Ellen Bucchere – widow’s mite boxes suggested, idea approved. Christian Ed kids will make them.
- Need to encourage use of Scrip cards.
- Potential new members discussed.

**Missions – Robin Lindemann**

- South Park went well!
- Board will meet 4/22.
- Tools of Hope for Mother’s Day.

**(moderator's notes continued)**

**Trustees – Chuck Peterson**

- “Sexton” job description shared – discussions continue.
- Two rentals this month; three scheduled for May.
- Request for new book shelf in copy room and painting of Office Manager’s office.
- May convert oil burner to natural gas: cost would be recovered in about two years.
- Consider new appraisal of church of insurance purposes.
- Need new toilet in upstairs bathroom.

**Christian Ed – Patrick Nobou**

- Easter Egg hunt fun – ten kids took part.
- Preparing for Children’s Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup>, and will do coffee hour that day.

**Controller’s Report – Susan Wiley**

- Still in deficit.
- Capital Campaign discussed.

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

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

- Excellent job by Jerry Bilak and choir for Maundy Thursday and Easter.
- Church is dirty – suggest Sanctuary work day.
- Suggest auction be held to celebrate 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Conte Kitchen renovation committee moving along.

**Junior Member-At-Large – Barb Hesse**

- Need to check lock on handicapped bathroom door.
- One upstairs bathroom needs new toilet.
- Need to get copy machine networked.
- Need to frame minister’s picture.

**Newest Member-At-Large Diane Ludwick**

- Scrips project needs to go into *Elmwords* – Susan Wiley will do.

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

- *Tools of Hope*/Mother’s Day – May 13<sup>th</sup>
- Youth Group Car Wash tentatively scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:56pm**

**Next Meeting: May 21, 6:30pm**

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Arthur Gledhill
- 05 Gail O'Connor
- 07 Bob Burford
- 08 Janet Stewart
- 09 Johanna D'Ambrosio
- 10 Carol Alberti
- 13 Kristina Ortiz
- 14 Arlene Balsar
- 14 Daysha Haxton
- 23 Dick Cero
- 23 Phoebe Carter
- 24 James Coffin
- 24 Louise Carlson
- 26 Kate Cunningham
- 29 Joanne Grady



### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 08 Kriss & Layne Brown
- 18 Bobbie & Mason Ellison
- 19 Susan & Mike McLarney
- 19 Edie & Jerry Gray

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 04 Dan Swift
- 06 Pat Johnson
- 15 Mary Gledhill
- 21 David Smith
- 22 Marissa Lamb
- 24 Kortez Rodriguez
- 26 Chad McLarney
- 29 Elaine Carlson

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Lynn & Joe Teodoro
- 27 Mary & Arthur Gledhill
- 27 Carol & Ron Hunsinger

### TOOLS OF HOPE

The Missions will be offering these lovely cards for Mother's day. *Tools of Hope* cards help to raise funds for needy communities around the world. They help to buy tools for farming so that people have a chance to become self supporting. Give a great gift for that special woman in your life. For only \$5.00, give the gift that gives *hope* and help to others. We will be offering these lovely cards **May 6<sup>th</sup>** and **May 13<sup>th</sup>** in the Fellowship Hall. Thank-you, Missions Board

### THANK YOU

A joyous thank you to Jerry Bilak and his Choir for the glorious voices that filled our church for Maundy Thursday service and Easter morning.

What Glorious Joy!

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Please have your scholarship application into the Missions Board **before or by May 11th**. This is the dead line for applications to be received and reviewed. The forms are available through the church office. Thank you, Missions Board

### SCRIP CARDS FOR CASUAL USERS

The Trustees have decided to fund the purchase of some of the popular types of Scrip cards so that non-regular purchasers can try out the program. The church has been involved with the Scrip program for several years and a small number of members buy cards regularly. They get cards from Stop and Shop, CVS, and other local merchants, and use them instead of cash for their regular purchases; they also use them as convenient gifts. Some of the members use the "presto-pay" system, which lets them order their cards on-line, others use paper order forms. Each card purchased contributes a small amount of profit to the church. For example a \$100 Stop and Shop card contributes \$4.00 to the church, while the member gets the full \$100 value of the card.

To encourage more members to try Scrip cards, Trustees will purchase some of the most popular cards and will have them for sale every Sunday; they will be sold until they run out, and another batch will be ordered. Those cards will be: Stop and Shop, Dunkin Donuts, Subway, Walmart, CVS, Bed/Bath/Beyond, Walgreens, Barnes & Noble, and Home Depot. Any member can simply buy a card with cash or a check without ordering in advance. Also for upcoming Mother's Day, Father's Day, and graduation gifts, the following cards will also be available: Red Lobster/Olive Garden, Outback, Panera, Kohls, Michaels, Target, Cheesecake Factory, Red Robin, and Chili's.

This is not intended to substitute for the regular ordering process. Members who regularly use presto-pay or paper order forms are encouraged to continue to do so. But we hope that this will encourage more folks to become regular purchasers of Scrip cards.

### WE'RE MARCHING

Our church **will be marching in the West Hartford Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**. This parade honors the veterans of all our armed forces, so we want to show how much we appreciate their service. We assemble at about 9:30 in the center and march, carrying our banner, less than 1/2 mile to Town Hall. If you can participate, please sign up on the bulletin board.

**FROM A CHAPEL TO A CHURCH BUILDING**

In 1924 our Chapel was overflowing with members. There just wasn't room for the whole congregation and all their programs. Boy and Girl Scouts, the Ladies Federation, the Men's Club, lectures, fairs, dinners, musicals, youth groups, Church counsels, all needing to use the limited space available in the small Chapel. It became apparent to Reverend English that it was imperative that a bigger and better building was very much needed. He called an emergency meeting to discuss this very important and sensitive issue. A new Church building was the answer, but how do you even begin such a project with no funds available?

Mrs. William H. Muller was the first to offer a simple and workable plan. She said, "The way to get what you want is to begin working with what you have." She happened to have 25 cents, which she laid on the table. That started the Building Fund, which was destined to pay \$100,000 to the building and equipment fund of the new Church, and \$15,000 to the banks and individuals who financed the job.

Thus began a fury of creative fund raisers. Oyster dinners were put on. The Woman's Federation made quilts, and tatted conundrums and handkerchiefs. They gave vanishing parties, made and sold pillow cases. Charged for food demonstrations given by the gas company. They sold local honey and recipes. They sold needle threaders, polishing cloths, and prepared meats. The Men's Club held paper drives, put on plays and musicals. They put on Church dinners. Everyone did their part by filling up coin cards and mite boxes.

Throughout the years fund raisers were needed to help the Church financially. New and interesting ideas came to light. The Church women put on breakfasts for the men at New Departure. They sold baked goods at The Hartford National Bank. They gave whist parties that included a tea cup sale, fashion shows were paired with hat sales. They sold Planters salted peanuts, magazines, food choppers, cookbooks, and mops. They tested fruit juice for the Lane Services Company. Someone suggested the women's group officers go on the television show, "Strike it Rick". The men's club put on strawberry festivals, barbecues, Monty Carlo parties. They sold tickets to barber shop musical nights.

In the past several years our Church members proved to be just as creative as past members. We have had a food co-op with spices and baking dry goods. We have had several dinners and tag sales. We had a book sale and rummage sales. An organ concert, continued with strawberry festivals, barbecues, fairs and Church dinners. The Scrips program was created. A new cook book was sold. Circle six sold apple and pumpkin pies, they held numerous bake sales. Candy bars, plants and flowers were sold. The youth group had car washes.

If you have a new idea for a fund raiser or wish to bring back a past proven one please fill in the section below. You may e-mail the Church Office, put it in the Sunday offering basket, or bring it in or mail it to the Church Office.   ♥ The Church Historians♥

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Submitted By:** \_\_\_\_\_



## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

### HISTORIAN CORNER

We are to keep henceforth a permanent record of events in the life of our Church. This statement was made in 1947 by Reverend Sterling White. Thus began the challenging, but interesting task of keeping Church records for their historical value. A task that was taken on by our first Church Historian, Mrs. Claire L. Shipman.

Every year is an important year in the life of a church. The year 1951 proved to be a year in which several decisions made by the Board of Deacons then instigated changes that would affect not only present church members, but all future Church members. 1951 was the first year that Church services were held every Sunday throughout the year. Prior to 1951 there wasn't any Sunday church services in the month of August! It was also the first time in the history of the Church that a midnight Christmas Eve candlelight Communion service was held. And the first time that a Thanksgiving Day service was held.

The Board of Deacons of 1951 wished to add to the spiritual value of our Church and the community by leaving the Church sanctuary unlocked and available to all between nine in the morning and five in the afternoon during the advent season.

The first Sunrise Service for Elmwood Community Church was in 1943. A combined Service with Broadview Church was held on the rear grounds of Elmwood School – it began at 5am! It was a beautiful, moving service that our combined churches held together for 68 years.

Thank you Sue McLarney! Wonderful!  
Your donation of approximately 50 (9x12) clear document holders with Velcro closing. Wonderful!  
Thank You!

\*\*\*\*\*

### THANKS TO THOSE WHO SHARE

Mason and Bobbie Ellison have made a generous and beautiful donation to our Church. They presented us with a lovely glass serving plate from their wedding. It was first used at Ethel Croxall's memorial reception, and now finds a permanent home in our family. It is especially significant in that they grew up in Elmwood Community Church, were married here, and have continued to serve faithfully for all these years. Sincere thanks for a legacy that will endure for years to come!

\*\*\*\*\*

### BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will meet on Wednesday morning at 10am during the month of May. All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Room.

.....

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

This article is about Habitat for Humanity and the part that the Elmwood Community Church has played in this Christian Mission. It all began when Millard Fuller and his wife Linda, as millionaires, decided to give themselves and their wealth away for a Christian cause. Millard, as a missionary in Africa, had the idea of the need of a house for the world's poor. A decent roof over one's head would make for a better life. So the organization for Habitat for Humanity began in 1976. Each home was not to be a gift, but paid off over time like a mortgage at no interest called "Biblical economics".

Habitat for Humanity was at work around the world and in the United States and came to Hartford in 1989. Of special note, on October 25, 2003, Millard Fuller was here to help dedicate the 100<sup>th</sup> House Project at 273-299 Capen Street. In 1999, the Elmwood Community Church had already joined in the home building effort and began to keep a record of work days. You who have worked one time or many will be amazed to know that during those fourteen years, the ECC has supplied a crew 73 times. The total number of volunteer laborers adds up to 91. Many thanks go to each and every one of you!

In the years 2003-2004, the Elmwood Church accepted the challenge of building a "House of Faith" on 7 Waverly Street in the north end of Hartford. Numerous churches in the Hartford area provided funding to underwrite the cost of the home. Thirty six Elmwood Church members gave \$1,272.00 as our contribution. Jeffrey and Lori Fort and their eight children were the family to abide in this new home. On July 18, 2004, there was a celebration and dedication of this new home. This is when Ms. Kathy Dolan, in charge of the dedication for the Habitat for Humanity staff coined the phrase about the Elmwood Community Church, "The Little Church with the big Heart". Hopefully on Sunday, July 15, 2012, Jeffrey and Lori Fort and family will join us for worship and all those who have worked on the "House of Faith" or at any time for Habitat for Humanity, are cordially invited to celebrate the joy of a family and house in Jesus' name.

Mason Ellison

\*\*\*\*\*

### SERVING THE SERVERS:

#### HOW WE CAN HELP

Anyone who has worked in our Fellowship Room kitchen has to know how challenging it is to maneuver in such limited space. It truly accommodates only two people at a time, and even that can be tight! We could really help the coffee hour crew by eliminating visits to the kitchen during coffee hour, or at least by keeping them to a bare minimum. Thanks for being considerate of those who so graciously volunteer to feed us!

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Elmwood Community Church**  
----United Church of Christ----  
26 Newington Road  
West Hartford, CT 06110  
860-233-8203 fax: 860-233-4202  
Secretary's e-mail: eccsecretary@snet.net  
Pastor's e-mail: elmwoodchurch@snet.net

**PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY  
DATED MATERIAL**

\*\*\*\*\*

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup>.....10:00am Bible Study  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>.....6:30pm Deacons  
May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup>.....7:00pm Choir  
May 6<sup>th</sup>.....Tools of Hope  
May 6<sup>th</sup>.....6:30pm Youth Group  
May 9<sup>th</sup>.....6:30pm Trustees  
May 13<sup>th</sup>.....Mother's Day & Tools of Hope  
May 13<sup>th</sup>.....CE Meeting  
May 14<sup>th</sup>.....6:30pm Circle 6  
May 20<sup>th</sup>.....Missions Meeting  
May 20<sup>th</sup>.....6:30pm Youth Group  
May 21<sup>st</sup>.....6:30pm Council  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>.....NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE IN OFFICE  
May 26<sup>th</sup>.....Youth Group Car Wash  
May 27<sup>th</sup>.....JUNE NEWSLETTER  
May 28<sup>th</sup>.....OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY