



CVCC celebrates Plainfield Pride Days

by Laura Moorehead

As part of our new goal to do more outreach to the community, our church participated in Plainfield Pride Day on August 4. It's the second year the Plainfield Business Association has held this popular event, and although the weather was extremely hot, the turnout was good. The field next to the town hall was full of local businesses, local bands, a barbeque cook-off, plenty of great food vendors, activities for the kids, and several non-profit organizations.

Since our church is non-profit, our space at the event was free and we saw it as a great opportunity to reach out to area residents. A small group of volunteers met several times before the event and gathered together some fun and informative handouts. A T-shirt was designed and all the booth volunteers wore them with pride. We really stood out in our bright blue T's, and to compliment them, we had a bright blue "Welcome" banner hanging over our booth. You can see the banner above and hanging on the railing outside of church every Sunday.

To encourage people to visit our

booth we handed out "Get Out of Trouble Free" cards and a couple of stickers for the kids — one with a devil and one with an angel. We also had plenty of homemade cookies to entice people to come over and talk. Everyone who visited us was shown a list of outreach activities we've been considering and they were asked to pick which activity they thought was most important to Plainfield. If they knew of other needs, their thoughts were written down on a large display pad. We had a lot of nice feedback and made

several great connections with other efforts in the community.

By late afternoon the extreme heat had thinned the crowds, but as we packed up our booth and leftover supplies, our spirits were high. When we looked back on all we had done, we knew we had touched some lives, and we hoped that we left an impression on some of our visitors. It was a fun day and another great step in our outreach efforts. Thanks to all who volunteered at the booth, made cookies and helped to support us once again!

Our booth at Plainfield Pride Day sparkled with color, happy faces and meaningful posters. Talented people, including our own expert graphic designer, made it



the best of the day! (IMHO, Editor) We are grateful to Karleen of <http://www.portraitsbykarleen.com/>, who took this picture and allowed us the use of it.

Impressions from the Moderator

Plainfield Pride Day = CVCC Pride

by Bob McLevy

The field next to the Plainfield Town Hall was filled with business displays ranging from real estate to local banks to craft groups to wood furnaces, even a photographer's booth, all surrounding the Central Village Congregational Church tent. All this and food was everywhere, good neighborhood fun!

As a church, we were not sure what to expect, but what we experi-

enced were serious people and smiling faces. We were there to show the community that CVCC is alive and well, and to expose our friendliness. Interested people now know that we are here to help and interact in any way that we may be asked. I think that anyone paying attention could feel the CVCC pride.

Thanks go out to many who volunteered time to man the booth,

especially on such a hot day. They included Len and Alice, Cookie, Ginny, Amos, Gordon, Scott and Laura and Bob and Sue. We were also lucky to have the help of the younger generation working the crowd, handing out stickers, cards and smiles. They included Jill, Charlie and Emily Shamback and Melissa McLevy. (I think they had the most fun!)

It was a long and tiring day but I felt gratified that CVCC injected our good will into a major community event.

Prophesy in song Who doesn't remember?

*Lou Christie's '66 hit,
"Lightnin' striking
again and again and
again and again!"*

by Bob McLevy, Moderator

No joke at CVCC! After the discovery of wood shingles in areas around the church grounds, the building committee determined that a lightning strike at the weather vane and steeple was the probable cause. A closer inspection proved shingles were missing in a number of locations on the steeple and the ball of the weathervane would require replacement.

Steeplejack Kevin Leacock promptly reviewed the steeple and structure and submitted an estimated repair cost of \$6,700. The insurance company has responded and we received a check within three weeks.

In early September you can witness the repairs. The building committee can only be spectators this time!



STICKERS





Message from the Pulpit

Many of us have memories of Sunday School or maybe Children's Choir. I remember Mrs. Jeon and Mrs. Parr, a lovely little Scottish lady, who were my Sunday School teachers. I remember wondering what was the big secret that all the kids had to leave Church during something the adults call "communion."

My uncle was the Music Director of the church and I was always in a choir. Mrs. Mills was the choir mother for the Children's Choir. Then I found out her first name — Myrtle. My eight year old mind immediately made up a little song how "Myrtle the Turtle lost her girdle." After about my third fine rendering of my proud composition, I felt a presence looming over me, and it was Myrtle, who didn't take kindly to my song. Go figure.

So I guess the question is, how come Sunday School stops at Confirmation? If it is so important for children, what is the reason, it is not important for adults as well?

The trend today is to get away

from the term Christian Education but to look at Faith Formation. Is our faith fully formed at Confirmation? I would hope not.

I suspect that many will point to the idea that you don't have to go to church to form your faith. Your faith is formed by many factors, but I would suggest to you that you will benefit, in the formation of your faith, by participating in the life of the church. Most memories of church that are faith forming are not about sermons or anthems, they are about the time "we didn't have enough food for all the people at the supper," or "the time we worked on the Church Tag sale together," or "when we fixed the roof after that big storm." I would bet many of you can tell your own story. It could be in our *next* newsletter.

Who and what are forming your faith? Sometimes, seeing the hope in others can be inspirational! Hearing the variety of people's beliefs can help you decide some of the nuances of your faith form. Many start with, "I believe in God," but don't go much farther than that.

Faith needs to be operational. Even if you only pull it out in the

proverbial foxhole, faith needs to be functional. It's no fun to pull out

a flashlight in the darkness and find that the batteries are dead.

So I invite you into the life of the church. Worship is only a part of that. There is a supper coming up. There will be concerts and many other opportunities. Come on by and create stories for the future. Come and add to your faith formation.

Blessings,
Rev. Ken Ferguson
Supply Minister



Who will take up the challenge? The Rev. Ken has asked for your stories — your memories of church activities that have helped to form your faith.

There will be space saved in our next issue just for your story, if you will let us publish it.

Why not write it anyway — for yourself, if nothing else, or so you can tell Rev. Ken.

To see it here next time, just send it to:

**Kathy McKnight
kmcknight@ct.metrocast.net
319 Plainfield Pike
Plainfield, CT 06374**





Photo by Karon DeVega

This Russian Olive Tree photo comes from fineartamerica.com

In Biblical times

This year has been great for both flower and vegetable gardens.

Did you know that the King James Version of the Bible mentions the word “garden” 47 times in the Old Testament and four in the New?

A full dozen verses are in the Book of Genesis and relate to “the garden eastward in Eden” where Eve and Adam ate the “forbidden fruit.” Discussions continue about whether the fruit was an apple, pear or the more likely, pomegranate.

You may remember that when the Lord asked Adam why he ate the fruit, he blamed Eve. “She gave it to me,” he said. How typical!

Today there are several botanical gardens in or near Jerusalem in Israel that display biblical plants in their native environments. One can stroll among the olive, fig and pomegranate trees, date palms and Lebanon cedars and get some idea of how the landscape of Israel might have looked in biblical times.

Here in the United

States, some gardeners are doing their own versions of biblical gardens. The website seedman.com offers a variety of plants mentioned in the Bible and includes Christ Thorn, believed to be the plant from which Christ’s crown of thorns was made.

The website list includes biblical trees: both Common Olive and Russian Olive, which is considered to be the oil tree mentioned in the Bible, Edible Date Palm

and Riverbank Grapevines for producing wine. And there are the many herbs from Anise and Cumin to Black Mustard and Rue.

To read all those other Bible verses about gardens from Eden to Gethsemane, go to king-jamesbibleonline.org and type in the magic word “garden.”

In the Present

Among our church members and friends who have great gardens this year are

Heidi and Mark and Laura and Scott. Heidi and Mark grow veggies and fruits, even yellow raspberries. They plant extra berries for the birds, and their peach tree has lured Baltimore orioles to their yard, Heidi said. Last year she planted a Middle Eastern, nut-flavored squash called Cavili, she reported.

’Tis the season for GARDENS

by Marge Hoskin

Laura and Scott also have a lovely garden with vegetables, fruits and even a few biblical herbs. They also have a lovely pond garden. It’s no Sea of Galilee, but it is where I’ve seen some of my favorite insects, colorful dragonflies.

See Gardens, p. 5



Photo by H. Kapszakiewicz



Photo by L. Moorehead

Left: Heidi’s garden yields colorful veggies for her table. Above: The Scare Bear guards Laura’s bounteous produce from harm.

Gardens

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Each year I ask Laura what their scarecrow is wearing. This year, the scarecrow is a "Scare Bear," a toy bear that their beloved dog Cocoa, now gone, once enjoyed. The bear is wearing a down vest and a bright red, pointed hat. Bet the crows and other wild visitors to that garden were surprised this year!

Heidi reports her dog, Brandy, whose fur is "the color of a toasted marshmallow," performs the job of scarecrow in their garden and has done a great job of keeping rabbits and woodchucks away.

Please pray for

Jeannie Cofske
Judy Hansen
Kay Hickson
Patricia Howell
Cheryl Hull
Carol Mitchell
Ron Morton, Jr.
Stacy Price
Dale Smith
Richard Taber
Alida Taverner

Family and Friends of:
Ron Black
Ernest Hoffman
Charles Hutchinson

Those serving in the Military
Hazel Opperman at Village Manor



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**Central Village
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

Stop by and get your card!

CVCC volunteers handed out a lot of these at Plainfield Pride Days. We're hoping to see one dropped in the offering plate one Sunday!



IF ONLY IT WERE THAT EASY TO GET OUT OF TROUBLE, RIGHT?
We don't have all of the answers, but we gather every Sunday to give thanks for our blessings, gather strength from our church family and hear about God's love and forgiveness for us all.

Central Village Congregational Church

35 Main Street, Central Village • 860-564-3568

A friendly, mission-oriented church. Worship service and Sunday school every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Outreach activities at various times.

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
there is a place for you at CVCC.*

Learn more about us at www.centralvillagechurch.com or on facebook.



by Jill Shamback

The Sunday School will be back in session on September 9th. We look forward to spending our Sunday mornings together again as we laugh, share friendship, and learn about the important messages that the Bible has for us. Our Sunday mornings are always an enjoyable way to start the week.

We welcome any new friends that would like to join us and look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

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Ever wonder why Noah didn't
 swat those two mosquitoes?
 Or why sheep don't shrink when it rains?
 Or why the time of day with the slowest traf-
 fic is called rush hour?
 Or why there isn't mouse-flavored cat food?
 Or why "abbreviated" is such a long word?
 Or why they are called "apartments" when they
 are all stuck together?



Happy Birthday!

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Jana Livernoche
- 7 Jean McCusker
- 11 Mark Brown
- 20 Ronnie Morton, Sr.
- 21 Judy Exley

OCTOBER

- 2 Shirley Eichelberg
- 6 Alice Oberdorf
- 10 Doug Durand
- 11 Seth St Jean
- 17 Amy Rizer

NOVEMBER

- 3 Julia Credit
- 5 Barbara Morton
- 7 Parker Franklin
- 9 Collin Renaud
- 19 Gordon Smith
- 21 Janet St Jean
- 30 Shelley St Jean
- 28 Dakota Morton

Shall we gather together?

by Heidi Kapszukiewicz

Years ago, after church my dad and I would head to a local grocery store that had free coffee set up as a courtesy on Sunday morning. People would meet and share their news, do a little shopping and then



start their day. It was a great meeting place, especially for those of us who lived out of town because we could connect with people from both the town and the country.

Today I still look forward to going shopping as a way to be with people, for I may see people I know and do not know and share a conversation or two. Lately though, I have noticed many people wearing headphones that block their ears to the outside world as they listen to music on their iPods. People texting or those that have a cell phone glued to their ears put them and me into different worlds.

Many of us have noticed people texting and using cell phones everywhere — during family dinners, at the gym, at parks, at social events, and even while driving a motorcycle. Was I the only person amazed

to see a young couple at dinner on Valentine’s Day both texting in silence? Do people talk anymore? Do we treasure personal time with each other? Perhaps, yes, but some of us choose to connect using different forms of social media.

Many can remember dialing a party line and talking to an operator, yet the recent explosion of electronic devices has some of us using mobile phones to speak to anyone anywhere. We can view pictures and videos within minutes from virtually anywhere, even

from Mars! We can use Skype to see and hear a person who lives across the globe. Our many forms of communication are amazing.

The internet and computers can provide people with instant information and immediate connections. We share email, videos, digital images, blogs, and Facebook postings that keep us in touch. Facebook has become popular because people have the human need to feel connected with others. Yet I imagine millions of humans sitting in homes focusing on a flat screen, experiencing

a world based on flat images and typed words. Will we lose the human touch? Are we truly connected?

I often consider how all the different immigrants came to America to work in the mills and factories. With them they brought different cultures, traditions and languages. Because of these differences, it was thought there was a need to develop harmony among the cultures and help these new Americans assimilate in society. The schools taught through repetition. Children developed writing skills by copying penmanship books. In art, students used “copybooks” as children copied the drawings exactly as printed.

The industrial revolution provided jobs but the furniture, textiles, and products were mass-produced. Assembly line work was developed to produce furnishings for the numerous homes that were quickly popping up, but it was repetitive work and the products were the same style. The rural craftsmen were losing their individuality, as America became known as the “Melting Pot.”

As a response, the arts and crafts movement evolved. Craftsmen

See Together, p. 8



Together

Cont'd from p. 7

hand-carved furniture, created unique pieces of stained glass and jewelry, designed architecture, and returned to bookmaking. Craftsmen once again took pleasure in their work. Their individuality and the human touch had been preserved.

So today in our world of electronic messaging, I predict a resurgence of the need for hands-on work and personal connectedness. Perhaps churches will be the center for a place where people may gather and meet for various reasons. Craft groups might meet to create handmade items, quilts, and sewing projects that are donated to hospitals or made for community needs.

Baking skills would be shared as apple pies and turkeys are baked for church suppers. Gardening tips, woodworking experiences, and other stories would be shared at social events like coffee hour. Becoming involved in concerts, singing, dancing, and theater would bring people together.

Our skills and traditions can be shared, learned and passed on at a personal level. We can re-establish that sense of belonging and rejuvenate that ever most important personal touch once again as we gather together, because I, for one, treasure personal time with others. Shall we meet for a cup of tea?



Congratulations IT'S A BOY

Born June 13, 2012
Gibson William Ross, son of
Joe and Stacy Ross,
Grandson of Norman and
Janet St Jean,
Great grandson of Alton and
Marie Exley

News Briefs

Compiled by the Editor

Ron Morton update

Barbara Morton reports that her son, Ron, Jr., has had the last drain tube removed and can now go back to therapy for his leg and to the gym. He still sees his orthopedic doctor, but things are improving. Labor Day weekend marks one year since his severe injuries in a car accident. She says, "Thank you for your prayers!"

Musical journeys

On a recent Sunday, our congregation was treated to a special musical offering. Alyson McKnight, who grew up in our Sunday School, returned with her flute to play a piece called "Ashokan Farewell."

Her father, Warren, accompanied her on keyboard.

Many thanks to Laura Moorehead for filling in so capably for our organist, Heidi Kapszukiewicz, as she had some much needed vacation time.

Organ Repairs

Laura and Heidi have had to use the electric keyboard all summer, since the pipe organ developed some problems. Repairs are scheduled. Hopefully we'll hear it soon.

Choir notes

Choir practice resumes Thurs., Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. Will you join us? Do you have friends who love to sing? They'd be most welcome!

Coming attractions

On Sat., Sept. 22, we'll host a **Turkey Supper** for the public. We'll need "all hands on deck" for this major fundraising event. It's a lot of work when there are only a few, but a lot of fun when there are many hands to help. It will be buffet style, as that worked out well last spring.

On Sunday, Nov. 4, **Andrew McKnight** will be in town to perform his songs and stories for a Coffeehouse Concert at 6 p.m. Bring friends and family; enjoy the show!

The best **Christmas Market** in town is slated for Nov. 17, the week before Thanksgiving. Our crafters have been hard at work all year preparing wonderful items, and there'll be food served, baked goods sold, books, jewelry — something for everyone.

C • a • l • e • n • d • a • r

Every Thurs.	Choir practices, 6 p.m.
Sept. 6, Thurs.	Council meets; Turkey Supper planners meet, 7 p.m.
Sept. 9, Sun.	Sunday School begins, 9:30 a.m. and Charles Walker Memorial Day
Sept. 22, Sat.	Turkey Supper, Public Buffet Style
Oct. 7, Sun.	World Communion Sunday, Neighbors in Need Offering
Oct. 11, Thurs.	Annual Budget Meeting, 7 p.m.
Nov. 4, Sun.	Andrew McKnight Coffeehouse Concert, 6 p.m.
Nov. 11, Sun.	Stewardship Sunday: Support your Church
Nov. 17, Sat.	Annual Christmas Market
Nov. 18, Sun.	Deadline for December Congregational Chronicle

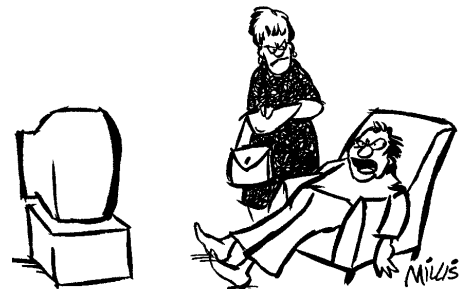
Glazed Blueberry Pie

from the kitchen of JoAnne Poludniak

- 1 3-oz. package cream cheese
- 1 9-inch baked pie shell
- 4 c. fresh blueberries, divided
- 1/2 c. water
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 2 tbs. cornstarch
- 2 tbs. lemon juice



Soften cream cheese; spread on bottom of cooled baked pie shell. Fill with 3 cups berries.
Combine 1 c. blueberries and the water; bring just to boiling. Reduce heat, and simmer 2 minutes. Strain, reserving juice (about 1/2 c.).
Combine sugar and cornstarch; gradually add reserved juice. Cook, stirring constantly till thick and clear. Cool slightly; add lemon juice. Pour over berries in pastry shell. Chill.
Trim with pastry daisies.* Serve with whipped cream.
*Cut daisies from pastry scraps; bake in very hot (450°) oven 3-4 minutes.



"Why do I need to go to church?
I pray every Sunday. And I pray extra hard
when we're inside the 10-yard line."



God promised men that good
and obedient wives would be
found in all corners of the world.
Then He made the Earth
round . . .
and laughed and laughed and
laughed.

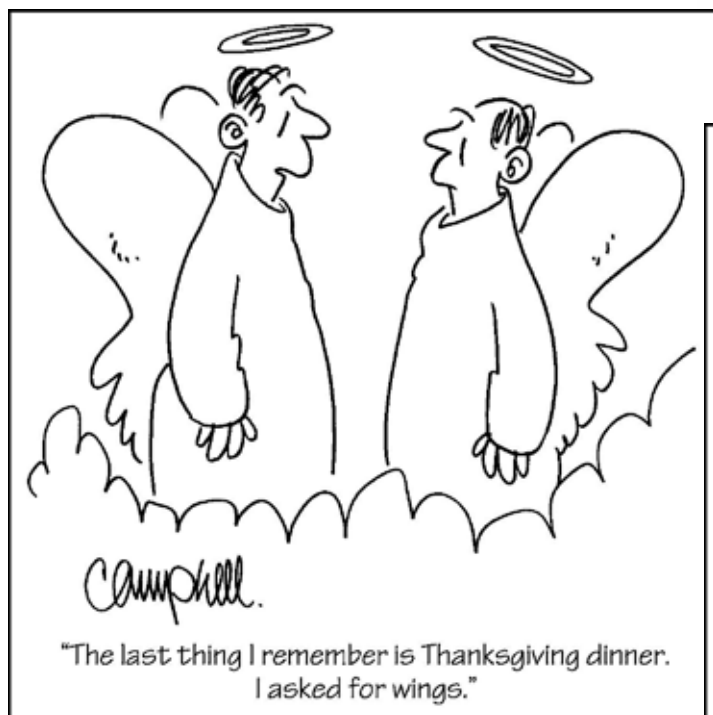
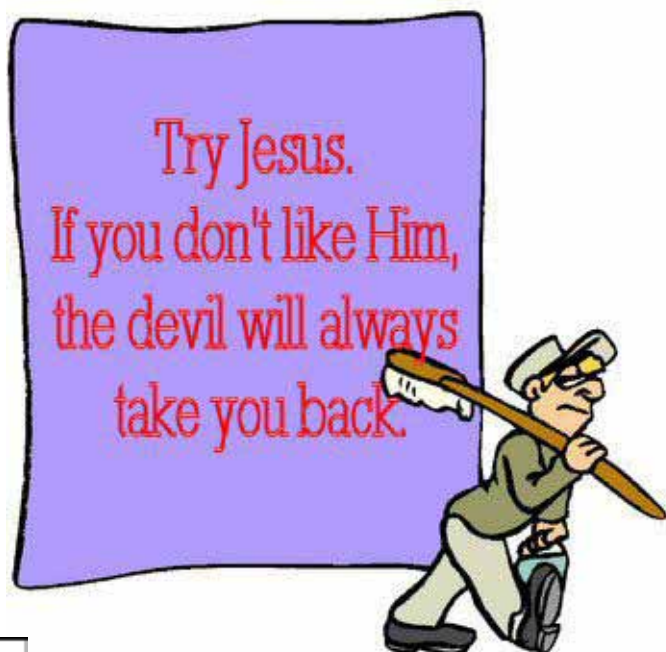
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRONICLE
C/O 319 Plainfield Pike
Plainfield, CT 06374

SEPTEMBER 2012

Central Village
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Ken Ferguson
Welcome to Sunday Worship
and Sunday School
9:30-10:30 a.m.
Box 267, 33 Main St., Route 12
Central Village, CT 06332
(860) 564-3568

<http://centralvillagechurch.com>



Catholics have to have a sense of humor

A priest was invited to attend a house party. Naturally, he was properly dressed and wearing his priest's collar. A little boy kept staring at him the entire evening. Finally, the priest asked the little boy what he was staring at. The little boy pointed to the priest's neck.

When the priest finally realized what the boy was pointing at, he asked the boy, "Do you know why I am wearing that?"

The boy nodded his head yes, and replied, "It kills fleas and ticks for up to three months."