



Easter Sunday April 4

Easter Worship • 9:30 a.m.
Sunrise Service • 6:15 a.m.
On Shepard Hill Road

April 1 • Maundy Thursday
Service • 7 p.m.



- 2 Church Goals
for 2010
- 2 Plea from the
Moderator
- 6 In the Sanctuary
- 9 Bake some Beans

How are we doing?



Photo by K. McKnight

Church officers at the annual meeting are: (L–R) Sue McLevy, Treasurer; Ginny Winslow, Clerk; Scott Moorehead, Moderator; Bob McLevy, Vice Moderator and the Rev. Jean McCusker, Pastor.

by Kathy McKnight

Descending the stairs to the fellowship hall on Jan. 25, I was greeted with the enticing aromas of a potluck brunch and the buzz of conversation among the good friends who faithfully attend Sunday worship. It was the day of the annual meeting, a time for helping each other plan for the coming year, deal with financial realities, elect officers and generally reach consensus on many such issues. Anyone wishing to understand how decisions are made in this church and have his/her opinions considered would do well to attend this open process.

Once appetites were deliciously satisfied, the meeting commenced with a prayer from Pastor Jean and roll call. Listeners heard many

names called, evoking memories of when our Sunday mornings were filled with more friends. Some on our member rolls are unable to attend due to health or distance or jobs; others have just been missed for a

very long time. How we'd love to see or hear from them again!

The meeting continued, reviewing our past year. What an amazing number of things we accomplished! Each officer and committee chair submitted a written report, which was collected, printed and bound in style by Assistant Clerk, Erma Macbeth. We also have a clear statement of goals for our efforts, which are reprinted here on page 2. Copies of these Annual Reports, containing much more detail than I have room for here, can be obtained at church. They make for interesting, informative reading.

See Annual Meeting, p. 2



MISSION STATEMENT of the CENTRAL VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Relying on the Holy Spirit to lead us and empower us, we worship God and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ with loving service and commitment to justice and peace.

GOALS for 2010 to implement this mission:

- Retain an ordained minister for 12 hours per week
- Have a Sunday morning service each week
- Retain substitute pastors when necessary
- Have music with organist and choir
- Operate a Sunday School
- Care for and support one another
- Communicate with church members, friends and the community at large via church bulletins, quarterly newsletters, Web site and general publicity
- Reach out to others via special collections and projects, including a concert series
- Provide for office/administrative expenses, as necessary
- Care for the church building and grounds
- Provide insurance, utilities, routine maintenance inside and out, and repairs and rehabilitation where necessary



Photo by K. McKnight

Can you help?

by Scott Moorehead, Moderator

Those who attended the annual meeting already know we are planning some long overdue repairs to the facilities. The first is an overhaul of the organ to replace some deteriorated pads and associated items. Our organ repairman has given us a very good price but it will still cost \$1350. I think it is well worth it so we can continue to hear Heidi lead

See Help needed, p. 7

Annual Meeting

Cont'd from p. 1

One highlight of the year for Moderator, Scott Moorehead, was "fine tuning the new kitchen and getting our kitchen permit from the Department of Health." He thanked all for their efforts over the year and announced that 2010 is his last year serving as moderator. He has given us six years of very able leadership. He urges others to volunteer as officers, deacons or committee members.

The Trustees report that the Walker Fund, invested for long-term growth, has recovered nicely and is earning again, supplementing our church income by \$13,208 in 2009. That's good because our Every Member Canvas Report shows gifts and pledges total \$25,269 for 2010, while our anticipated budget needs

are \$64,040! Even with a very good fundraising year reported on by Laura Moorehead, we fall far short of these needs. Scott Moorehead addresses this dilemma, including an unexpected need to repair our beloved pipe organ, in his article on this page.

The financial picture is a bit dicey, but in most other aspects the state of our union is good. We would like to share our fellowship with more people, but we have here a church family who cares about and supports one another.

And our pastor, the Rev. Jean McCusker, allows "If you measure the well-being of a small church by how happy the pastor is to be serving with the congregation, we are very healthy!"

Passages
from the Pastor

The Comfort of Giving

Dear Members and Friends,

On February 7 the horrible news of the explosion at the Kleen Energy Plant in Middletown, Connecticut, shook Bill and me, as well as many other people. Bill had been at work there all day the day before; I couldn't help thinking that if the explosion had happened a day earlier I might be one of the widows. On the one hand, of course I was relieved and grateful and on the other, distressed on behalf of those who were grieving and those who were injured.

One of the things that struck me was how everything can change in a moment. That certainly was true for those who were at the plant that Sunday morning. It felt like it might be the case for those of us who waited for word of how the injured were doing and of whether the explosion would lead to lay-offs of employees. The fact that life is that fragile that it can change in an instant stayed with me all last week.

It might have been quite a stressful, if thankful, week for me, but something happened that helped me during the first anxious days. Among the long-distance phone calls that came from friends wanting to be reassured that Bill was okay was one from a friend of mine in Nevada. Once we had finished speaking about the explosion we caught up on the news in each other's lives.

During our conversation Dawn told me of a project she needed to do. One of her son's fellow students in the Air Force had been killed in an automobile accident. Each of the mothers was to make squares for a quilt to be given to her parents in her memory. Something prompted me to get more details from Dawn, something more than my awareness that sewing and artwork are things Dawn tends to avoid. Soon I had enough information to volunteer to make a square that Dawn could donate if she liked it. Dawn offered to spend the time she would have spent trying to sew in prayer, something she does quite well, I suspect.

Monday I pieced together a background and Tuesday I appliquéd the symbol Dawn chose. It was a blessing to me; my busy hands and mind kept me from stewing about the fact that since I didn't know the people who had died in Middletown, there was little I could



Photo by D. Lamoreux

This photo of the quilt block Pastor Jean created is now “inspiring the quilters working on the Memorial Quilt,” according to Dawn Lamoreux. She agrees that “doing something for others makes you feel better and you make them feel better too. It is moving to see the ‘ripple effect’ Lindsay’s life has had in people’s lives.”

do for their survivors. Through Dawn, the Holy Spirit had provided someone I could comfort, someone else I didn't know, but someone who would be blessed by the memories contained on the quilt the Air Force mothers were making. It was just the right therapy for me. It was a gift of comfort that truly comforted me. Saturday Dawn received the square and I received the joy of knowing that Dawn thought it was a wonderful piece of art.

It never ceases to amaze me how God provides opportunities for us to use our talents to bless others, which in turn richly blesses us. Whatever gifts God has given us we can use to make a difference for someone else. All it takes are an openness to listen for the Spirit's leading and a willingness to try. The satisfaction of giving is so healing.

God bless you,

The Rev. Jean McCusker
860-591-8618
badlandsart@yahoo.com

Concert sets tones for Christmas

by Kathy McKnight

A Christmas Coffeehouse concert has become a “tradition” at Central Village. It almost didn’t happen this year, but our good friends Deb Hopkins and Adele & Co. stepped in with a wonderful show on very short notice. In spite of the nasty weather on the evening of Dec. 5, a good-sized crowd filled the pews.

The performers swapped singing leads and harmonies as they explored a range of feeling from Deb’s lovely rendition of “O Holy Night” to guest Scott Hopkins’ bluesy rock, “Run, Run Rudolph.”

Adele’s rich voice added the folk spiritual, “Children Go Where I Send Thee,” among others.

Paul Salisbury brought Elvis to our house, crooning “Blue Christmas,” to the audience’s delight and Lloyd Salisbury led an energetic “Jingle Bell Rock.”

With Jimmy Poland accompanying on keyboard, Deb wished us a “Merry Little Christmas” in song.

A beautiful evening came to a beautiful end with everyone joining to sing “Silent Night.” The audience departed smiling, proclaiming their enjoyment of the show. It was another triumph for live music at Central Village, allowing us to send \$170 to Project Pin.

Thanks to all the musicians!



Deb Hopkins and Adele Tarkowski sing, while Lloyd Salisbury plays guitar.



Photos by K. McKnight

Wally Salisbury and Deb Hopkins sing a saucy “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” with Jimmy Poland on keyboard.



Hymn Favorites

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love!
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

by Marge Hoskin

When I asked member Bob McLevy for his favorite hymn, he had a tough time deciding; however, he did first mention “Blest Be the Tie that Binds” which “communicates what I feel about the church,” he said. The hymn is also great for humming, he noted.

Hymn honors Christian love

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds” and “God Be with You Until We Meet Again” are said to be the most often used farewell hymns among Christians.

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds” was written by John Fawcett (1740-1817), an English Baptist minister. The composer was Hans G. Naegeli (1773-1836), the Swiss teacher, writer and publisher who became known as a pioneer in music education for his progressive teaching methods.

John Fawcett’s first parish was a small, impoverished congregation at Wainsgate in Northern England.

The story goes that when Fawcett was called to a large, influential Baptist Church in London, on departure day, with his sobbing parishioners gathered around the wagons, Mrs. Fawcett broke down and said, “John, I cannot bear to leave. I know not how to go!” “Nor can I either,” said the pastor.

The Fawcetts stayed on at Wainsgate and during one of his sermons, John shared his poem now known as “Blest Be the Tie that Binds.” The poem “Brotherly Love” was published in a collection of Fawcett’s poems in 1782. The Fawcetts served at Wainsgate for 50 years.

Our gifts bring aid to the desperate



Dear Members and Friends,

*Below is information about the 2010 special offering for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Before you read it I want to remind you of how good it felt when you first remembered that last year's gift to OGHS meant that our money was headed to help the earth quake victims in Haiti as soon as it was needed. Because we gave to OGHS in 2009 the United Church of Christ was able to help right away.*

In his final moments with his disciples, the Good Shepherd asks Peter, "Do you love me?" "Yes," Peter replies. Then, "Feed my lambs," Jesus tells him. "Tend my sheep." Three times, Jesus passionately repeats his instruction, pressing his followers: If you love me, take care of the people I love. (John 21:15-19)

The members of the family of God including those in parts of the world we may never visit, are God's flock, the sheep of God's pasture (Ezekiel 34:31). Yet, God's flock is often forcefully scattered as people are chased from their homes and livelihoods by brutal expressions of

war, or as communities are blasted by natural disasters, or as societies and countries are ground down by unrelenting hunger, disease, and poverty.

Between now and March 14th you'll have an opportunity to offer your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, empowering the United Church of Christ to offer disaster relief and refugee aid, meeting basic needs in Christ's name throughout the world. Each of us will have the opportunity to decide how to participate in an offering that helps strengthen people to improve their own lives and communities.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing:

- disaster victims quickly receive shelter, food, water, and medical supplies
- local communities develop secure sources of food and clean water
- minds and bodies grow stronger with new schools and medical clinics
- refugees receive housing and long-term help to construct new lives
- women and communities are empowered through micro-credit loans and community development opportunities.

In challenging times, we often wonder how much we can afford to sacrifice to help feed Jesus' beloved sheep, when our needs remain pressing. Perhaps only through prayer can we decide how to respond to Jesus' call to feed His Sheep. Remember the feeding

of the 5,000: when Jesus asked the disciples to feed the hungry crowd, the disciples despaired (Mark 6:34-44). The five loaves and two fish seemed insignificant compared to the massive need. Yet when each gave sacrificially from what they had, through God's blessing, their gifts turned into a miracle of compassion for all.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, our gifts meet compelling needs, while also bringing the blessing of compassion into our own lives. The current economic situation is challenging for many of us. For many others, it has pushed beyond challenging to be life-threatening. Bill and I intend to increase our gift this year, and encourage you to consider doing so, also. Heed Jesus' call to feed his sheep with a generous, even sacrificial, gift to One Great Hour of Sharing. Sharing your resources, you'll change lives — including your own.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Jean McCusker

Visit this website to see how your gifts in the Earthquake Relief collection have helped already in Haiti:

<http://globalministries.org/news/lac/haiti-earthquake-what-we.html>

In the Sanctuary...

by Marge Hoskin

As the fabric Christmas crèche and the wall hangings with their Christmas candles are safely tucked away for another year, four new colorful, hand-crafted banners have been hung on the walls of the church sanctuary. The banners' message reads: "Go Child of God. Be open to Jesus in your life."

Both the crèche and ever-changing wall hangings that decorate our place of worship were created by the talented Mary Kay Montague, whose inspiration obviously comes from a higher authority.



Photo by K. McKnight

You can help local Community Kitchen

by Marge Hoskin

Missions & Outreach Committee

Northeastern Connecticut is said to be the most "food insecure" area in the state due to income levels and accessibility problems, but there are folks out there who are working to help change that.

The nonprofit Community Kitchens of Northeast Connecticut sponsors free noontime meals. Mondays there is a meal at the North Grosvenordale Methodist Church, Tuesdays, at the Putnam Methodist Church, Wednesdays, at the Danielson Methodist Church, Thursdays, at All Hallows Church in Moosup and on Fridays, at the Moosup Methodist Church.

I recently visited the Moosup Methodist site where Sharon Griffin and her mother Evelyn Reynolds Tuttle (this year's Plainfield Lions Club Humanitarian of the Year) are the coordinators of the community kitchen, an outreach program of the church. About 10 volunteers,

some of them church members and some from the local community help with the meals, Sharon said, adding that the church also serves meals on both Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Several people were already in the fellowship hall/dining room enjoying cups of coffee as Sharon began to prepare the day's pasta dinner for 75. Desserts had been provided by Big Y. Guests get to take home leftovers.

Most of the food for community kitchens comes from the Connecticut Food Bank which also supplies food to food pantries like our Project Pin, shelters and other sites. But it's the local donations, large and small, that provide everything else.

To help prepare the meal or serve it at Moosup Methodist, give Sharon a call at 860-564-2873 or visit her on a Friday morning. Contributions of canned food, meats, fresh produce in season and money are always welcome.



Want to volunteer but don't know where you're needed? Our Missions & Outreach Committee continues a series of articles exploring volunteer opportunities in our own community. Find out more about Habitat for Humanity in this issue.

Marge Hoskin, Jeff Montague and Gordon Smith are committee members.

Help needed

Cont'd from p. 2

us in our music worship.

If you agree with me, you can show it with a special donation to the Organ Repair Fund. If a particularly generous individual or individuals want to fund this project, we could place a memorial plaque to commemorate those they would honor, as was done for the windows.

We also plan to replace the portion of the ceiling in the fellowship hall that encloses the ductwork. You know, that section in the middle that sags and always looks like it's about to fall on your head or in your turkey dinner. We did some emergency repairs last fall to keep it from falling down but it isn't pretty. Again we got a very good quote and this will cost us \$650.

Adding to those items is two years worth of exterior painting, which will cost \$6500. The grand total for these three capital improvements and some miscellaneous repairs is \$9000. That's the amount we put in the budget for 2010. Just because we put it in the budget doesn't mean that money is just lying around or going to come in as current income.

In fact, based on the pledges to date and our normal fundraising, I expect we will have a deficit of almost \$20,000 this year. That's the difference between our adopted budget of \$64,040 and what we can anticipate to take in for the year.


Where does this difference come from? Well unlike the Federal government, we can't print money. We will need to take money out of our savings and possibly start tapping the principal of the Walker Trust. It's only February and we have already used some money from the savings to replenish the checking account.

We aren't in any financial trouble yet, as we have substantial reserves in the Walker Trust, but we have been running a deficit for the last few years and we can't do that forever. There are three things we all can consider doing to help. One, you can donate an additional contribution designated towards the organ repair. Two, you can invite a

friend or neighbor to join us or develop an outreach program. Hopefully we can grow our merry band of worshippers. Three, you can donate your time to fundraising.

Do you have an idea for an outreach program or a new fundraiser? Share your ideas, offer to lead the effort and there will be plenty of help. There are many ways we can donate to our church. Share the burden and find the ways you can offer more.



 The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mommy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'

*Please
pray
for —*



Richard Bagley
Beverly Blais
Ken Brumfield
Al Cornell
David Crabtree
Ryan Horan
Joan Johnson
Todd Macbeth
Richard Mailloux
George Malboeuf
Carol Moran
Beverly Perry
Marguerite Raymond
Dan Tracy
Madeline Zdancewicz
Convalescent Home
Gussie Burns, Villa Maria
Hazel Opperman, Village Manor

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRONICLE

Kathy McKnight
Editor

kmcknight@ct.metrocast.net
564-3616

Erma Macbeth
Assistant Editor

Marge Hoskin
Scott Moorehead
Special Correspondents

Scott Moorehead
Director

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

News Briefs

Compiled by the Editor



Altar Flowers for Easter

Want to order lilies to grace the pulpit for Easter (April 4)? You may order each plant in someone's memory or honor for \$10 each, which includes a small donation to the church. After Easter, the plants may be taken home with you or brought to someone else to enjoy. Later, plant them in your own garden as a lovely reminder; they'll come back and bloom for several years. Order forms will be in church soon or you may call or email Erma Macbeth, 564-5108 or macbethgerry@sbcglobal.net

Resources to Help Seniors

For those who seek information about elder care and services available to senior citizens, there is a non-commercial, public service website designed to help. In a central location one may find the many resources on the Internet that can help. It is continually monitored and updated as needed. Go to www.CtHelpNet.org

UCC Conference Minister Retires


The Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, in a letter to the Connecticut Conference of the UCC Directors, writes she will "retire this May as your Conference Minister. The events of the past two years in my personal and family life have made it abundantly clear to me that now is the time for this transition. ... I will hold you before God in prayer and commend you to one another, for you are the Connecticut Conference, a loving, generous, faithful and amazing sign of God's hope for the world!"

Reminder: How to Donate with No Cost

The Treasurer's page in the Annual Report shows our church received a bit over \$13 last year from an Internet search service. This is because some members use GoodSearch.com when they look up something. It is powered by the best-known search engine, Yahoo!, so results are as swift and complete. GoodSearch donates 50% of the revenue earned from advertisers to the charity you designate at registration. The best part is that it costs you nothing.

Central Village Congregational Church has already been listed for you to choose it as your recipient. The church then gets a bit more than a penny for each search you do. One cent doesn't sound like much, nor does \$13. However every little bit helps and if a lot more people do this, it will add up to a significant amount.





Birthday Blessings

March	
7	Heidi Kapszukiewicz
11	Wendy Fortin
8	Brook Price
24	Emily Shamback
April	
1	Jill Brumfield
1	Quinn Aaron Renaud
8	Sarah Marie Exley
9	Charlie Shamback
18	Virginia Winslow
27	Jay Lewis
May	
15	Janie Honig
25	Albert Craig Exley
28	Dale Exley Eaton

C · a · l · e · n · d · a · r

- Feb. 27, Sat. Adele & Co. Coffeehouse Concert, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 11, Thurs. Church Council meets, 7 p.m.
Turkey Supper Planning
- Mar. 14, Sun. One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- Mar. 17-23 Pastor's Vacation, Pulpit guest
- Mar. 27, Sat. Turkey Supper, 4:30 p.m., Buffet and Take-outs
- Mar. 28, Sun. Palm/Passion Sunday
- Apr. 1, Thurs. Maundy Thursday
- Apr. 2, Fri. Good Friday
- Apr. 4, Sun. Easter Sunday, Family Service, 9:30 a.m.
- Apr. 17, Sat. Deb Hopkins Coffeehouse Concert, 7 p.m.
- Apr. 29, Thurs. Church Council meets, 7 p.m.
- May 8, Sat. Conference Annual Meeting
- May 15, Sat. Spring Work Day, 8 a.m. Your help wanted!
- May 16, Sun. Deadline for submitting information for June newsletter
- May 23, Sun. Pentecost Sunday, Strengthen the Church Special Mission and Confirmation Sunday
- May dates TBA Spring Yard Sale
Rick Credit Coffeehouse Concert



save these dates



New England Baked Beans

From the Kitchen of Cookie Ormerod

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 lb. dry navy beans,
Great Northern</p> <p>8 c. water</p> <p>1/2 tsp. salt</p> <p>1/2 c. light molasses,
Grandma's Original, unsulphured</p> | <p>1/4 cup packed brown sugar</p> <p>1 tsp. dry mustard</p> <p>1/2 tsp. salt</p> <p>1/8 tsp. pepper</p> <p>4 oz. salt pork, cut in small pieces (1 cup)</p> <p>1 large onion, chopped</p> |
|--|---|

Rinse dry beans; place in heavy saucepan or kettle with about 3 times as much water as beans. Cover pan; soak overnight. Do not drain. Add the 1/2 tsp. salt. Bring to a boil, skim foam off. Reduce heat. Cover and simmer till beans are tender, about 1 hour. Drain, reserving bean liquid. Combine brown sugar, mustard, the remaining 1/2 tsp. salt, and pepper. Stir in 2 cups of the reserved bean liquid. Add molasses.

In 2-quart bean pot or casserole, combine cooked beans, salt pork, onion and molasses mixture. Cover and bake at 300 degrees for 3 1/2 hrs. Stir beans occasionally. Stir in a little of the reserved bean liquid for moistness, if necessary. I like to cover beans with liquid starting out and add liquid if needed. Makes 6 to 8 servings. I also like to serve my beans with steamed brown bread. Enjoy!

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

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

The Rev. Jean McCusker

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

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan.. She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?' A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, 'Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?' 'No,' replied Johnny. 'How could he, with just two worms.'

UNTIMELY ANSWERED PRAYER

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, 'Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?'

Tommy answered soberly, 'I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!'

MOSES AND THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. 'Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt . When he got to the Red Sea , he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.'

'Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?' his Mother asked.

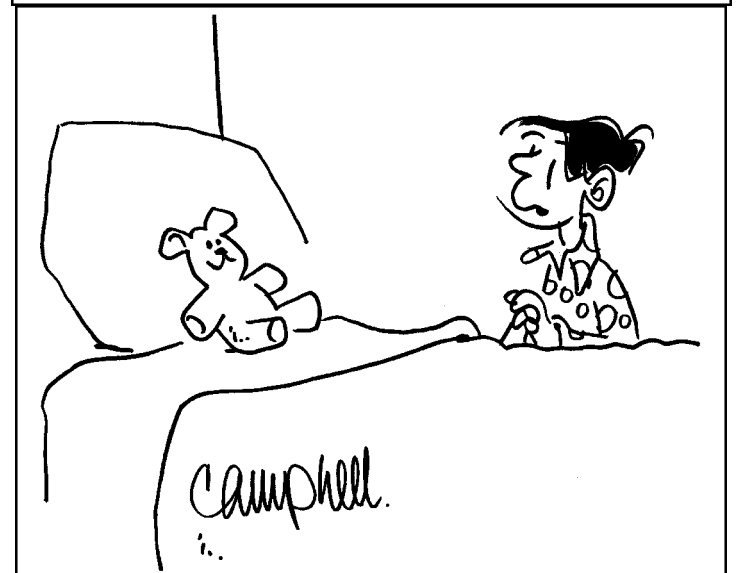
'Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!'



<http://centralvillagechurch.com/contact.html>



"My whole family's giving up something for Lent. Mom's giving up cookies, Dad's giving up cake, and I'm giving up squash."



"I prayed for snow on Christmas eve, Sir, and it didn't arrive 'til Easter eve. A small computer would clear up that backlog."