

THE TALE

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Fred Craddock, a distinguished preacher, teacher and author tells a story of a church that lost track of the importance of hospitality. Sadly, it was a church he once served, early in his ministry. It was located in the hills of eastern Tennessee.

Years later, Fred returned to that church. He brought his wife, Nettie, along for the ride — for she had never seen it. As the two of them drove to the little town, Fred reminisced about a time of controversy in that church. The nearby Oak Ridge National Laboratory was expanding, and new families were moving into the area. Fred, the young pastor, urged the people of this beautiful, little white-frame church to call on the newcomers, to invite them to join them.

“They wouldn’t fit in here,” was the curt reply.

A week later, there was a congregational meeting. “I move,” said one of the longtime members, “that in order to be a member of this church, you must own property in the county.” The motion passed, over the pastor’s objections.

When Fred and Nettie pulled up to the old church building, years later, it looked to be a busy place, much busier than he remembered. In his words:

“The parking lot was full — motorcycles and trucks and cars packed in there. And out front, a great big sign: ‘Barbecue, all you can eat.’ It’s now a restaurant, so we went inside. The pews are against a wall. They have electric lights now, and the organ pushed over into the corner. There are all these aluminum and plastic tables, and people sitting there eating barbecued pork and chicken and ribs — all kinds of people. Parthians and Medes and Edomites and dwellers of Mesopotamia, all kinds of people. I said to Nettie, ‘It’s a good thing this is not still a church, otherwise these people couldn’t be in here.’ (Fred Craddock, *Craddock Stories* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001), 29.)

As we begin another church year, I have to wonder how we will behave? Will we be welcoming and inclusive, or will we be cold and standoffish? I have all good faith that we will gather to worship in welcoming fellowship with all who come through our doors, young and old.

I think this is going to be an exciting and rewarding year for us. Welcome back, welcome home, welcome to you who are new. Christ is alive in this place. Let us welcome him as he welcomes us.



MISSIONS COMMITTEE



Missions Committee will hold its first meeting of our new program year on September 4. This is a new committee and while we discern a new direction, we welcome your input about mission./outreach. We also encourage you to continue supporting Loaves and Fishes.

As the economic outlook changes, our local pantry is serving more families than ever. We can help by bringing donations to the church to help stock the shelves. Monetary donations are also welcome (make checks payable to the church and mark "Loaves & Fishes" in the memo line). Volunteers are also needed to meet clients, stock shelves, etc.. For volunteer information, please check the pantry website: www.devenspantry.org

Neighbors in Need

Imagine Another World is Possible

On October 5, we will be receiving the Neighbors in Need offering. This special offering supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Justice and Witness continues strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian Neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's council for American Indian Ministries. Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Manda, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska.

Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis. These churches and their pastors are supported by the Council for American Indian Ministries and the council is an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need makes another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously. Special offering envelopes will be available on October 5.

Missions Committee: *Judy Cavanaugh, Marcia Conant, Susan Buck, Andrea Dickson, Buddy Schmidt, David McDonell, Chip Hurd*



APPLE FESTIVAL 2008

September comes upon us with a rush – especially after the leisurely pace of August and end of summer vacations. But what would a new church year be without the Apple Festival? It's fun, takes the help of everyone - young and old, and is a great way to help the church!

Apples should be ready for collecting from the orchards near the end of September. We will keep you posted on days for going to Carlson Orchards to pick up drops. After that it will be an intensive two week push to turn them into 500 pies. Here's a tentative schedule, which we will update with Sunday announcements:

Week of September 22nd:

Pick up drops (when Franklyn Carlson gives the go ahead!)

Week of September 29th:

Mid-day (10 AM – 2 PM) and evening sessions (7PM to 9 PM, except Wednesday night) at the church to peel and quarter apples. This is a great opportunity to visit with old friends and make new ones.

Senior Highs will lead the charge in peeling, with an initial session on Sunday evening, September 28th.

Week of October 6th:

Wednesday: make pies to freeze; make Harvest Soup

New this year: at 8:30 AM Dennis Bradley (the dough master) will be sharing his secret technique to anyone interested in learning how to make his wonderful pie dough. Come learn from the master!

Thursday and Friday: make and bake pies

Saturday, October 11th: APPLE FESTIVAL – RAIN OR SHINE!!

We cannot make all 500 pies at church. We need some of you to make pies at home. We will provide peeled and quartered apples, and pie tins – all you need to do is add your special spices to make your own pies. We have 3 freezers at church, so pies may be made in advance and frozen, unbaked, for sale at the Festival. Speak to one of the members of our committee to arrange for your apples and tins.

The Day of the Festival we will need help setting up; selling soup, coffee, slices of pie, cheese, whole pies, apples, popcorn and cider; face painting or offering some other fun activity for kids; and cleaning up.

Please join us, for we can't do it without YOU!!

The Apple Festival Committee: *Gretchen Henry, Pat Jennings, Dave King, Bruce Perkins, Liza Sullebarger, Jim and Lucy Wallace*

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE



Our church family is in need of more people to join the Hospitality Committee. It is a rather easy job that includes making coffee and providing a treat for coffee hour periodically. (The more of us on the committee the fewer times we all need to do it). You will work in pairs and need only to come to church 1/2 hour early on your assigned day. It is an easy way to give back to your church. Please consider calling the church office and signing up for hospitality. Thank you.



FLOWER COMMITTEE

The Flower Committee invites everyone to provide flowers for our worship service. You may provide flowers in memory of someone or to honor someone or a special occasion—or simply for the honor and glory of God. The signup sheet is outside of Greg's office. Please sign up as soon as possible as the dates can fill up fast.

BUILDING COMMITTEE



Over the summer we applied to Harvard's Historic District Commission for a determination of appropriateness for our building plans. After several meetings with the commission, the commission voted to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for our design. This was, in the view of our architect Bob Dion, the biggest regulatory hurdle we faced in proceeding with our building plans.

This puts the building project squarely on the shoulders of the Congregation to decide if we can or will proceed with our building program. The Building Committee has more leg work still to do before the decision can be put to the congregation, but we are getting much closer to that point. We look forward to participating in this exciting conversation and decision.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Christian Education Sunday is September 7 and begins a new year of Sunday School. The Christian Education Committee and teachers will welcome our children to class on that day. Registration forms will be available in the classrooms and are required for each child. If you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in attending please pass the information along. Five classes will be offered, a Pre-K & K Class, 1st & 2nd Grade Class, 3rd Grade Class, 4th & 5th Grade Class and Middle School Class, along with the Toddler Room, supervised by parent volunteers welcoming our youngest children from infant to three years of age. If you have particular questions, concerns or interest in helping with the Sunday School Program contact Pam Cochrane directly at pccochrane@gmail.com or 456-2349.

A New **Middle School Youth Group** for children in grades six, seven and eight, will kick off this fall. The group will provide social events and outreach opportunities for Middle School youth in Harvard. For more information and the calendar of events contact Debbie Noyes directly at debbienoyes@charter.net or 456-9792.

Senior High Youth Group meets twice a month during worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month along with a monthly social/outreach event. High Schooler's are invited to the first meeting, September 14th for *A SHYG Breakfast*. Later in September, we'll take a trip to Cathedral in the Pines in Rindge, NH. For more information contact Pam Cochrane 456-2349, or Lloyd Alderson 456-4195.

Confirmation Class, lead by Greg Schmidt, is offered to youth eighth grade or older interested in becoming full members of the church.

Weekly Bible Study is open to all and offers discussion on the Bible and related topics selected by participants. An informal and enriching atmosphere offers fellowship and spiritual growth. The group meets Wednesday mornings from 9:30 – 11:00. Bible Study begins September 3.

Men's Breakfast Group meets Wednesday morning at 7 am to share breakfast and conversation about faith, current events and other timely topics.

The Movie Night Discussion meets the first Monday of the month at 7:30 in the corner classroom. Watch the chosen movie at your leisure and then join in on the monthly discussions. A new approach and dialogue is offered on some of your favorite films. Greg leads the next discussion, September 8th, on *Amadeus*.

Community *Fall Into Fashion* Show

Please join the Harvard community at an exciting and important event - The *Fall into Fashion* Show. The event will feature distinctive clothing for men and women from **Gould's** and **Harvard Runway Models** men and women representing a variety of Harvard community organizations. Proceeds from this event will support our senior citizen community through the **Friends of the Harvard Council on Aging** and the **Tax Relief Fund**.

When: Thursday, September 18, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Fruitland Museum

What: Appetizers, fashion show & dessert

Tickets: \$30 each or a table of 8 for \$215

For tickets, or to make a donation to support the event, please contact Marie LeBlanc at Marieleblanc@charter.net, or 617.513.0433. For questions contact one of **Fall into Fashion Team**.

PRAYER LIST



Our prayers are with:
The Conant family on the death of Marcia's father.

Z Opalka	Victoria Smith Ubben
Chrissy Audibert	Claire Watkins
Nancy Schmalz	Suzanne Powderly
George Mayo	Charlotte O'Shea
Norman Schmidt	Vincent Rymanski
Edward Culverhouse	Carol Shaw
Priscilla, Margaret & James Sullivan (Relatives of T. Dawkins)	

All those serving in the armed forces and their families
Parents, teachers, and students of all ages as another school year begins.

Congregational Church of Harvard

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*No matter who you are or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

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2008



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 7, 2008**

10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE
BEGINNING OF A NEW PROGRAM YEAR.