

## Historian's Notebook

by George Blanchard

Over the past 10 years I have written several articles about mergers and I thought, for the benefit of newer

members that I would go back to the beginnings of United Church.

On April 5, 1981 a Joint Study Committee of Chestnut St. Congregational Church and Central Church was established with the mission expressed in the following statement:

“Because the prime purpose of our Christian Community is to be a serving witness and, because the combined resources of Central and Chestnut St. Churches would have a greater impact on the community, it is proposed that the congregations of both churches consider a merger of resources, talents, and people in order to accomplish the above stated goals and to assure the presence of The United Church in Downtown Worcester.”

The committee met for 18 months and presented for approval their recommendations for the consolidation of the two churches. On November 21, 1982 each congregation voted separately and in favor of the merger. Several committees were formed after the vote and after the sale of the Chestnut St. property to decide -

- What furnishings would be brought to Institute Rd.
- Remodeling of the sanctuary
- Disposition/renovation of organs

A very careful and complete inventory was taken of both properties - organs, stained glass, pulpits, lecterns, communion tables and silver, chancel paneling and

reredos', Bibles, hymnbooks, choir music and hand bells, church school supplies, office equipment, folding tables and chairs, kitchen equipment including stoves, refrigerators, pot and pans, dishes, silverware, utensils - totaling thousands of individual items.

Then, what would be moved, sold, given away or left behind.

The next important decision was what will the remodeled sanctuary look like and what do we need to accomplish the project. An architect was hired to help us.

After many meetings and numerous revised drawings it was decided to install the Shantz organ, paneling, reredos and communion table from Chestnut St. The chancel was enlarged, choir pews were turned 45 degrees toward the congregation and the Albert Hitchcock and Shepherd Knapp memorial rails were moved from in front of the chancel to the sides.

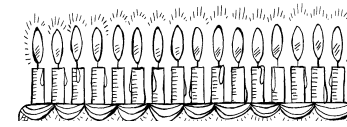
At Chestnut St., besides the organ, six stained glass windows were removed: one, “Jesus preaching the Sermon on the Mount to the Multitude” was installed over the side balcony, another went to the Pakachoag Church in Auburn and four were crated and stored in the basement, hopefully to be installed at a later date. Eventually they were taken to a new church in Tamarac, Florida along with the Central reredos and communion table.

Twenty-five pews along with church school supplies and wooden chairs were given to a start up UCC church in Monson, Maine.

The Austin organ from Central was sold to a church in Mt. Carmel, NY and the Shantz organ was rebuilt and installed

into the redesigned chancel. Because the Shantz was a much larger instrument (2,922 pipes) it required new casework to be designed. Unfortunately it now covers up three beautiful memorial windows which were part of a major renovation dedicated in September 1946.

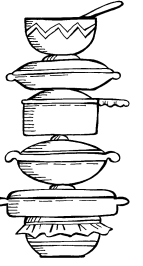
Next time I will tell about other mergers that occurred in Worcester.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Samuel McCorison	1
Penny Gustafson	6
Dylan Ebers	
Phil Hansen	8
Donald Kielinen	
IC2 Kristian Hansen	9
Steven Ebers	11
Joanne Metcalf	12
Sandra Johnson	13
Lena Schultzberg	14
Andy Dzaugis	
Carolyn Dzaugis	
Emerson Brooks, Jr.	15
John Owanisian	
Alexander Gaspari	16
Meredith Barnes	17
Martha Long	20
Dan Lewis	26
Sarah Rachel Esty	27
Kathryn Janner	
Laura Owanisian	30
Cynthia Montalvo	
Louise Dempster	

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP  
POTLUCK LUNCH  
NOVEMBER 4 NOON  
We will provide rides!  
Please call  
the church office  
so that arrangements  
can be made.**



## THANKSGIVING BASKETS



### WE NEED YOUR HELP

We will be distributing 100 food baskets this year and we are ordering them from Serve New England. The following are dates when we will need your help.

Nov. 22 Volunteers are needed to go to Charleton to pick up the fixings and to help unload at the church. Although we will use the church van, we will also need other large vehicles (vans and station wagons) for pick up.

Nov. 23 We plan to assemble the baskets.

Nov. 24 Basket distribution.

Contact the church office or a member of the Wider Church Covenant Ministry to let us know how you can help.

**UPDATE ON THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS**

On September 28<sup>th</sup> there was a special Congregational Meeting that culminated in a vote authorizing the Board of Ministries to set up a task team to explore one of three options presented to the congregation. Following two years of study which included small group discussions, research and reports by Task Teams, updates to the congregation through newsletter articles, special mailings, reports at Congregational meetings, a presentation by a guest panel, and follow-up conversation, the Congregation met to take the next step in this carefully considered process.

The comments and discussion at the September meeting were thoughtful, theological, eloquent, and passionate. It was a congregational meeting at its best, truly filled with the Spirit of God, as people listened respectfully to the differing opinions, questions, and remarks that were presented.

The vote was taken, and the mandate was clear that the Board should authorize a Task Team to begin exploration of merger – either with another UCC church, or with a church of another denomination. As the Task Team is composed and begins its work, the congregation will continue to have opportunities for input to the Task Team with questions and ideas. There will be continual updates at upcoming congregational meetings and through the newsletter.

We continue to trust that God is guiding us and leading us as we seek to discern what God is calling us to do.

**TRAINING FOR FIRST NIGHT VOLUNTEERS NOVEMBER 16 NOON ROBINSON ROOM**



**The GREEN ROOSTER CoffeeHouse**



Doors open 7:30  
All shows 8:00 p.m.

<b>Nov 1</b> <b>\$15</b>	<b>Tony Bird</b>
<b>Nov 8</b>	Go see <b>ZONKARAZ</b> , with <b>Chuck &amp; Mud</b> opening at the <b>Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts</b> .
<b>Nov 15</b>	<b>Amy Gallatin and Still Water</b> (featuring the amazing Dobro player, Roger Williams).
<b>Nov 29</b>	<b>TELLEBRATION</b> —The weekend storytellers all over the world celebrate the spoken word and ply their art.
<b>Dec 6</b>	<b>HARVEY REID</b> —with his unparalleled holiday show)
<b>Dec 31</b> <b>(8:15)</b>	<b>First Night Worcester</b> —The Green Rooster hosts: <b>Chuck &amp; Mud and the Hole in the Dam Band</b>
	<i>Thanks for dropping in! We always need volunteers</i>

*Continued from page 1*

You are filled with the fullness of God! Pledging what you can, you have God's power within you to help this church accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine – especially in these anxious times! To God be glory in the church (and in this church) - and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen!

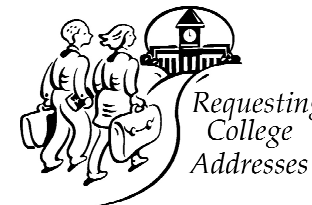
*PS After you have received pledge cards, please help us by returning them as promptly as possible, checking the box if you wish to receive pledge envelopes.*

*If we don't hear from you, we'll give you a reminder call to see how we can facilitate the swift return of your cards.*

*\*\*Even if you do not pledge for the upcoming year, please send back your pledge card with that message so that you don't have to receive a follow-up call.*

*Thank you for all you do!!!  
With love for Christ, this church,  
and for you,*

*Terry*



Please forward the email and mailing addresses of your college student(s) to the church office. We would like to keep in touch with each and everyone! Thank you!



- Prayers of healing for Eric, Lori, Bud, and Cherie.
- Prayers of strength

for Joan Kielinen coping with a medical problem.

- Prayers of healing for Guy Metcalf who has had knee surgery.
- Prayers of healing for Carol Ericson who broke her hip and is at the Jewish Health Care Center.
- Prayers of strength for Peter Moffat who is terminally ill.
- Prayers of strength for Alan Kerr, facing a difficult situation.
- Prayers of healing for Tyler, 6 year old friend of Marilyn Kerr. Tyler is undergoing heart surgery.
- Prayers of healing for Marion Erickson who has been hospitalized.
- Prayers of strength for a troubled teenager and family.
- Prayers of strength for Chet Orczyk who continues to be seriously ill, and for Marion, Scott, and Penny.
- Prayers of hope and healing for those living with HIV/AIDS.
- Prayers of courage and strength for all men and women who are serving in our Armed Forces, especially in areas of conflict.
- Prayers of courage and peace for the families of soldiers who have died and have been injured.
- Peace and hope for the Iraqi people who are still held captive by unrelenting and devastating violence.
- Prayers of hope for the people of Afghanistan.
- Prayers for the people of Zimbabwe, the Congo, the Sudan, Kenya, and Tibet.
- Prayers of hope for all people and countries in the grip of war, conflict, and disease.
- Prayers of wisdom for those seeking political office, that they will put the good of the people before self-interest and political considerations.

