

The Messenger - October, 2009



...change and God - the two constants

During our time in the Synagogue, I have been reminded time and again how similar our situation is to that of the Hebrew people wandering around in the desert as they waited to enter the Promised Land. Even though God provided for them in amazing ways, at times when the wait seemed so long they experienced discontent. Even though they had the promise of something much better, they sometimes looked back at their captivity in Egypt and longed to return.

Perhaps as they were encouraged to look forward and trust God, it was simply too difficult. After all, they knew what to expect in Egypt. Not so with the Promised Land. All that they could be sure of was that it would be different and that made them very uneasy.

Without a doubt, we know that some things will be different when we move across the street and that makes us uneasy. Whether or not you attended worship services for many years at the building located on 39 W. Orvis St. or you are looking forward to worshipping there for the very first time, there may be feelings of apprehension. We have all shared some very special times at the corner of Church and W. Orvis over the past 2 ½ years. It has been a time of discovery and growth for all of us. But we need to ask - what made it so? I believe it was the unity that we experienced due to a time of crisis. The fire on May 10, 2007 actually brought us closer together and closer to God like nothing else could.

I realize that the Executive Council's request for suggestions to "rename the Guild Room" may have stirred up feelings that we did not expect. Perhaps we felt like it was criticizing what the church once was – that was not our intent at all. We are a church that has been transformed and revitalized and we wanted to name something to reflect that. Many have said that it should reflect gratefulness to the congregation of Adath Israel for their hospitality. What a beautiful sentiment! However, there was one "write in" vote that I would like to share with you – The Unity Room. I am grateful to whoever made that suggestion because it alone speaks to the hospitality of the Jewish community as well as the closeness that we have experienced since the fire. We truly are "one" family of God.

As I reflect on that suggestion, it has brought me full circle and I write to remind you of what we discovered was most important immediately after the fire. That was regardless of whether or not we had a building, we are still the church! Remember – "The building may be gone, but the church is strong!" Let us stay united with our focus on God and our next transition will be one filled with nothing but joy and peace.

Be blessed,
Pastor Judy

gift wrapping volunteers

2009 Christmas Gift Wrapping at St. Lawrence Centre Mall to benefit Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers are needed in 2 hour time blocks on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays beginning Thanksgiving weekend.

Thank you! For more details see Nola Martin.

sock knitting

Fred Phelix has offered to teach a "Sock Knitting" class. If you're interested, give Fred a call at 769-2623. This class is for people who already have basic knitting skills.

neighbors in need

This special offering of the United Church of Christ supports ministries that address poverty, economic development, human rights, peacemaking, violence, racial and economic justice, environmental concerns, and public policy advocacy.

NIN offering envelopes will be in the Sun., Oct. 4th bulletin or you can send a donation to the church with NIN in the memo section of the check.

**The choir is singing out for voices!
If you would like to join in the fun,
see Jim Phillips or Pastor Judy!**

at the well

We invite you to join us ...at the well, every Wednesday at 7:30 pm, in alternative worship to share in a "sense" of God, more than a definitive theological statement. All are welcome!

listening for the word of God

Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:15 in the Christian Education Building as Rev. Gen Dox, leads us in listening for the Word of God.

prayer chain

If you would like to be on the Prayer Chain or if you have prayers to add, please call Nola Martin at 769-2005 or email her at nolak@twcny.rr.com

**Interested in becoming
a member of Emmanuel?
See Pastor Judy!**

...from your executive council

Executive Council met on Sunday, September 13th, 2009 following worship with ten Council members and Pastor Judy in attendance.

Barb reported that the new Sunday School program has arrived from One Room School House.

Eunice reported for Women's Fellowship. Sept. 27 is Blanket Sunday.

Trustees report is as follows: Driveway repair will be needed at the Church. Lori will research getting a bike rack. The elevator is scheduled to arrive September 16th. Martha Heintz donated some furniture from her camp. Some refinishing will be needed. Regarding the Hardin Furniture, because of the exceptional discount we are getting, the insurance money may cover the entire amount. Jim has compiled a list of needed replacement music. There was discussion about folding tables and chairs for the new Social Hall. We will need round and rectangular tables and possibly padded chairs. The chairs from the Synagogue that were donated to us will be re-covered for the new library. The Synagogue pews were placed in 1890. We will ask if we can have a couple of them for the new church.

Headstart is still waiting for funding for the CE Building.

Pastor Judy reported that we have offered space to PFLAG for meetings. There was discussion about possibly offering other health related workshops for the community. We need to develop a Building Usage Policy. We may have locked storage areas. Hopefully the Rededication of the new church will be early November.

Because of the concern about the flu, more hand sanitizers will be made available throughout the sanctuary. Judy is also going to suggest that prayer concern announcements be limited to names only out of respect for the privacy of those who may not want a specific illness or issue to be announced.

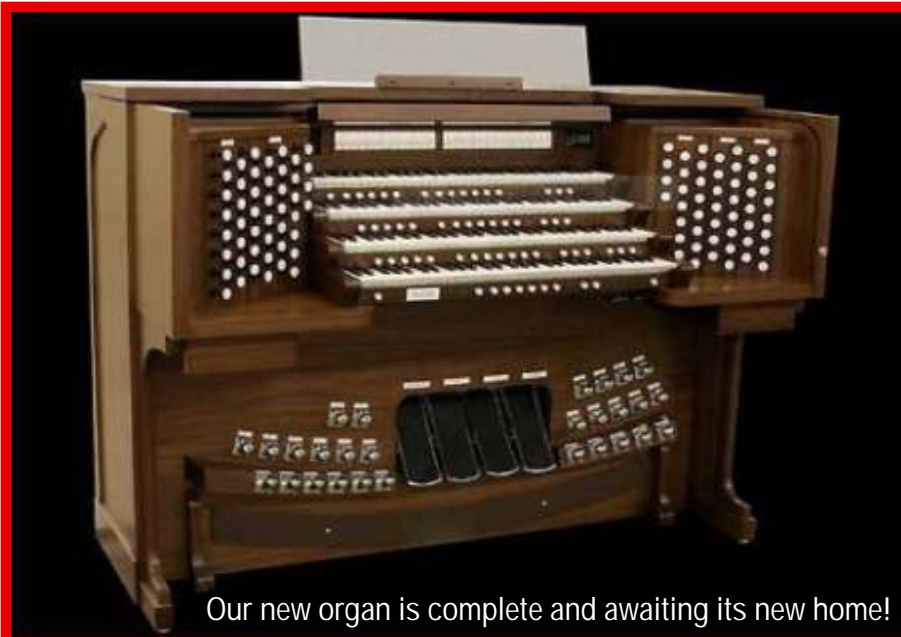
We are compiling name suggestions for the Guild Room and the Parish Hall.

Barb asked for volunteers to do gift wrapping at the Mall to benefit Habitat for Humanity. We will also offer another meal for Habitat in Oct.

Regarding the Fundraiser campaign, a list of businesses needs to be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce.

The next meeting of the Executive Council will be held on Sunday October 11th, 2009.

Respectively submitted, Sally Gleason, Church Clerk



Our new organ is complete and awaiting its new home!

cans and bottles

We are collecting cans and bottles for the Building Fund! You can bring your rinsed out cans/bottles to church or, you can turn the cans/bottles in and give the cash to Mae Brouse.

donations for food pantry

There is a basket in the entry way for donations of non-perishable food items which are taken to the food pantry at the Massena Neighborhood Center. Donations of non-food items are also needed. Thank you! Margaret Disotell

coffee hours

The "Cow Can" at the Coffee Hour is for donations to purchase supplies for the weekly Coffee Hours. Also, we need people to sign up for a turn at hosting a Coffee Hour. The Sign Up Sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. It's easy and there is a "To Do List" in the kitchen so you can see what is required.

events for october

Sun. Oct. 4

9:30 Trustees meet
Neighbors in Need Sunday
World Communion Sunday

Sun. Oct.11

12:30 Council meets

Mon. Oct.12

Holiday Church offices closed

Sat. Oct.17

4:00 Wedding

Tue. Oct.20

Newsletter articles for November are due

weekly events

Sundays

11:00 Worship Service

Tuesdays

10:15 "Praying w/Scriptures" in the C.E. Building

5-9:00 Private Group in Fellowship Hall

7:00 Prayer Team

Wednesdays

6:00 Choir Rehearsal

7:30 ...at the well

Fridays

5-9:00 Private Group in Fellowship Hall

milestones

Wedding September 9, 2009

Kristy Marie Stubbs and Andre Raymond Gardner



Our new entrance is taking shape!



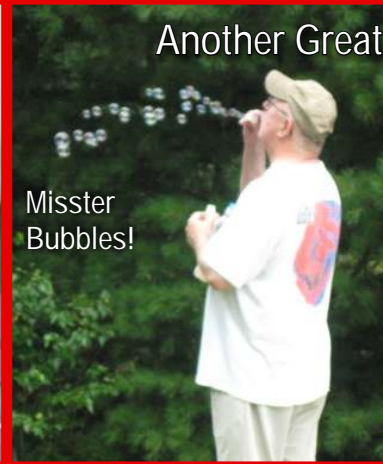
The community room is coming along too...



Hey, look at me!



We help Martha celebrate 94 years!



Misster Bubbles!



Another Great Picnic at Jean & Lori's camp!

Hey, are you guys listening to me?



Just look innocent and we won't get caught...



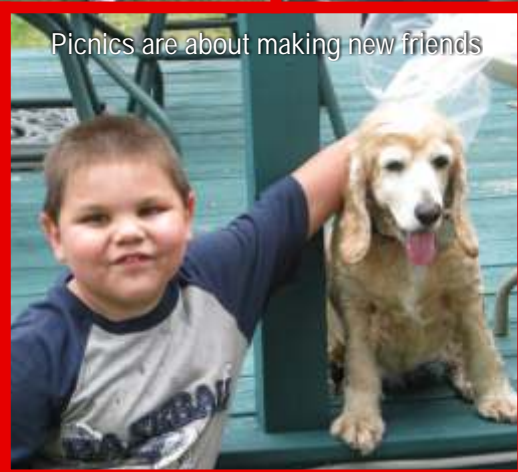
Sometimes you need a back seat driver!



Mirror, mirror on the wall...



Girls will be girls...



Picnics are about making new friends



And thanks to Lori & Jean!

Me Too!

Emmanuel Congregational **United Church of Christ**

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October Messenger

Temporary Quarters

Services are being held at Adath Israel Temple across from our church. Worship times are unchanged.

The church offices have relocated to the Education Building next door to our church: 41 West Orvis

The phone number is unchanged: 769-8523

Email address is the same: ecucc@verizon.net

Website is the same: www.uccmassena.org

 **God
is still
speaking,**



“Never place a period where God has put a comma”

- Gracie Allen