

THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission is to change peoples' lives
through a relationship with Jesus Christ

October 2008



From The Pastor's Heart

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you all know there is a *Dream Team* that has been meeting throughout the summer. What you might not know is why we are meeting!

This team has been praying about and trying to discern how God is calling our faith community to utilize our new building! I think that I can speak for the team in telling you that the Holy Spirit has lead us to a place that is surprising all of us!

We began our meetings by meeting with Laurie Sabourin, the Peace of Bread Community Kitchen coordinator. From that meeting we discerned that we could probably not sustain a weekly kitchen --- but then something interesting happened! The Spirit began to move us and other folks in the congregation. We began to talk about perhaps providing a meal and adding a learning experience to it: on nutrition, parenting, building a budget and wisely managing your finances. Then we got other ideas from folk: a support group for those who have experienced miscarriages and an Addiction & Substance Abuse Ministry. We also began to name some of the activities and ministries that already take place here in our buildings: the After School Program, two AA meetings, Boy Scout & Girl Scout troop meetings, the Men's and Women's groups, Craft Days, and the list goes on and on...

As exciting as all of this is, there still has not been one ministry that has surfaced as our main focal point! Our original intent had been to find the one ministry that we would all focus on ---

one ministry in our community that we would be known for! As we continued to pray and discern, however, we realized how rich we were with all the ministry opportunities that seem to continue to surface and the current ministry that we are already involved in!

As the Dream Team reflected on our past history, we realized that the last time this faith community engaged in study together (over 60 people were involved in *40 Days of Purpose*) we built a new addition to the original building. As we reflected on our experience, we were aware that further study enabled us, as a faith community, to do something extraordinary for God in our outreach to the community. So we are inviting you to grow in your faith by joining a small group study!

In the next couple of weeks you will be asked to help us discern what kinds of learning opportunities that you might be interested. Some of the programs we are thinking about offering are:

40 Days of Purpose: This is a video based small group study of 6 sessions. There are daily readings from Rick Warrens *The Purpose Driven Life* and weekly meetings lasting 90 minutes. Be prepared! When we did this study as a church a couple of years ago we found that it changed our lives!

In this issue:

From the Pastor's Heart 1-2

Blackstone Valley Crop Walk 3

Welcome New Members! 4

Pilgrimage for Peace 5

Celebrations 6

Calendar 7

Special points of interest:

- New Members
- Pilgrimage for Peace
- Crop Walk
- Youth Hand bells

(Continued on page 2)

(From the Pastor's Heart Continued)

Companions in Christ: This is a 28 week study designed to deepen our spiritual lives. Through this study we can explore spiritual practices, develop new daily devotional habits that will deepen our relationship with God and each other. An option is available to order separate participant books for the 5 topics so the group can take a break between topics.

Crown Financial Ministry: Crown Financial Ministries is a Christ-centered, Bible-based ministry whose core values include recognition of God's ownership of all things and the need to pray about everything. Two of their programs are being considered. The Money Map program teaches the clear biblical basics of money management and seven financial destinations that anyone can reach. The Biblical Financial Study is a 10 week in-depth study of what scripture teaches about money and possessions. Groups in this study meet for 2 hours every week and the sessions include scripture memorization and interactive discussions.

I Refuse To Lead A Dying Church: The study of this book by Paul Nixon is designed to give practical examples that are intended to stimulate ministry ideas and to help churches make positive choices that will alter the churches future and bless its ministries. This is a 5 week study that would meet weekly for 90 minutes.

Beginnings: An Introduction to Christian Faith: This is a 12 week small group study about basic Christian beliefs. It is for anyone who has questions about certain beliefs like: *Who is Jesus? What happens when I die? Can I trust God? How do I speak to God?* At each session participants can share a meal, watch a short video, engage in reflection and then in conversation about our beliefs. We will discover what Scripture tells us, and how we might grow in our relationship with God.

So, are you willing to get on board? Will you take the risk? I am just waiting to see where the Holy Spirit will lead us this time! How about you???

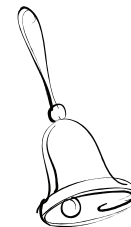
Blessings,

Rev. Michele

www.blackstonevalleyumc.org

The Communications Team is happy to announce that the new website for the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church is officially up and running. There are a few places where information has yet to be posted, but we think you will be pleased with the look of the site and the ease of use. Each week the Sunday Bulletin is available the Friday before the service. The newsletter is also available on-line. We think the website is a reflection of our faith community. The site is the hard work of a number of people. Ray Talke is the designer. He listened to our desires and dreams and made it a reality. Ann Cook has worked on this with Ray. Those two are our computer whizzes and Sue Thompson and Peg Codner assisted with content. Content was also provided by Reverend Michele and a number of others in our congregation. If you have a computer, take a look at our website, blackstonevalleyumc.org. Check the site regularly as there will be new information posted. One of the special features of the website are the photos. You may find yourself in one of them.

Hand bells



A Community Youth Hand bell Choir for grades 3 - 6 will meet on six Fridays, beginning October 10 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the Activity Room. If interested, call Carolyn Mitchell at 508-234-3544.

Christian Love and Sympathy

Christian Love and Sympathy to Jim Gallagher on the death of his Son, Michael Richard Gallagher, September 26th. Please keep Jim and the whole family in prayer.

Blackstone Valley Crop Walk for Hunger

The public is invited to join the fight against hunger by walking in the Blackstone Valley Crop Hunger Walk on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

Walkers will seek sponsors from their churches, neighborhoods and workplaces and then register on Oct. 18 starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Trinity Episcopal Church, next to the Whitinsville Town Common. The walk ends at the First Evangelical Congregational Church, next to the Uxbridge Town Common. The walk begins at 9:00 a.m. and is three miles long.

Sandwiches and beverages will be served to the walkers when they complete the walk. Adults, youth and children are welcome.

Walkers from the Blackstone Valley will join 2.3 million people in 2,000 towns nationwide to support self-help programs in 80 countries organized by Church World Service. In addition, the Crop Hunger Walk provides \$4 million a year to 3,200 food pantries in the U.S., including food pantries in Douglas, Northbridge and Uxbridge.

The Northbridge Association of Churches has been the local sponsor for the Crop Hunger Walk for 34 years. For information, contact Carolyn Mitchell, Coordinator, at 508-234-3544 or Mike Tatarek, Treasurer, at 508-234-5768.

Thanksgiving & Christmas Food Baskets

This year we will continue with our tradition of providing meals for the holidays. We will be providing **10** baskets for each holiday. We will also continue the tradition of the "Angel Tree" for these same ten families at Christmas time.

This year, however, how we do the meals will be different. Our new coordinators Jean & Sela Rousseau are asking us to provide the meals in a different way.

This year we are asking individuals or families to provide a **whole** Thanksgiving or Christmas meal! You may get together with other families or individuals, but the idea is to *"provide a meal similar to what you would serve to your own family on that holiday."*

In early November there will be cards available for each "family" (the families are provided by the NAC) that will give you information about the family (number of adults, children, etc.). We will also give you ideas as to what should be included in each basket.

In this way we hope to make this experience of reaching out more personal and to help build a bridge of caring and love between our faith community and the larger community. We hope that through this experience we each will become more aware that we reach out to those in need out of Jesus' awesome love for each of us!

Scarecrow Competition for the Benefit of the Uxbridge Food Pantry

The 2nd Annual UNNC Scarecrow Competition at the Farnum House on Route 16! Plan to construct your scarecrow and stop by the bake sale on Saturday, October 18 from 9am to noon or on Sunday, October 19 from noon to 3pm. Vote for your favorite scarecrow at various Uxbridge locations throughout the week. The awards ceremony and scarecrow silent auction will be Sunday, October 26 at 1pm. Individuals, families, teams, and businesses may enter scarecrows into the competition for First, Second, and Third place prizes – American Express gift cards for \$50, \$25, and \$10, respectively. A few rules to remember as you plan your designs: The UNNC does not provide materials, only the venue. No nails in trees; grounds must be left in the same condition as before construction. Entries must be able to withstand all weather conditions and be kept in good order for the duration of the event. No political, religious, or excessively violent entries will be accepted.

The Uxbridge Newcomers and Natives Club hosts this event to encourage community participation as well as to raise funds to benefit an Uxbridge organization in need. This year's beneficiary is the Uxbridge Food Pantry! The cost to enter is \$5 plus a donation for the food pantry (nonperishable food, toiletries, and paper products accepted).

More details, official rules, and entry forms are available online at www.uxbridgenewcomers.org.

Welcome New Members!

Karen Albright – We are very excited to have Karen on board as an official member. Her greatest passion is her work. She is Director for the Blackstone Senior Center. Her next passion is to be in some kind of ministry to children! She was drawn to this faith community because of the caring people she met, our mission and outreach programs and our vision for the future! She enjoys crocheting, knitting, walking and hiking. In the past she has been active in UMW and now attends our Women's Study group faithfully. She is very excited to become a member of the BVUMC.

Brandon Brower – Brandon first started coming here when he and Becky were dating. It is wonderful to now have Brandon on board as a full member. Brandon has always had a passion for playing baseball. He played all the way through his college career and continues to play when the opportunity arises, as it did this past summer with his playing for his company's league. Glenn mentioned in church recently that Brandon was in the 1994 little league world series (Middleboro, MA little league) and pitched to Matt Cassel (current Patriots QB). Cassel hit a 3 run homer off of Brandon's pitch. Lately Brandon and Max, his one year old boxer, have spent lot's of time in their garage building Max's luxury dog house. Another thing you might not know about Brandon: he has an identical twin.

Anne Farley – When I first was appointed to BVUMC I thought Anne was a member. She faithfully attended every Sunday with Tom. We are delighted that she has now become an Associate member of the BVUMC. She has been active in the prayer shawl ministry from the beginning and I am proud to say that she ministered to me by making the beautiful shawl that was presented to me by the group! Anne is also a member of the Women's study group. What I appreciate most about Anne is her quiet, loving presence.

Tom Farley – Tom has been in this church his whole life! This past summer, as we were updating the membership rolls we discovered that Tom was not a member! We took care of that on the 21st! It is good to have him as a full member after all these years! If you tune into our local TV channel you just might just see Tom discussing sports with some other local folks! He also is an Elvis fan and a faithful supporter of the Power of Praise service!

Adele Gentry – Adele is another one of those folks whom everyone thinks is a member but actually isn't! It is good to finally welcome Adele on board as an Associate Member. Adele is an outreach worker for the Northbridge Senior Center. She is also a member of the Women's Study group *and* is our Church Treasurer!! We are blessed by her wonderful presence in our midst and for the work she does as a member of the Finance Ministry Team!

Florence Phillips – Florence first came here to BVUMC after being invited by Anne Farley! Florence mentioned that coming to BVUMC felt like coming home --- she was immediately made to feel welcomed and comfortable! *"The people in this church are wonderful, everyone is friendly and loving!"* says Florence. When Florence was asked what she liked to do, her immediate response was cleaning! (I am giving her name to the Trustees! We are always looking for folks who like to clean!) She also likes to sew and has been going to prayer shawl ministry and the women's study. Florence, welcome on board!

Carla & Lew Squier – Carla, Lew and family are new to this congregation. They started attending BVUMC at the beginning of the summer and in August we baptized their two youngest children, Colin (who is about three years old) and Kylie (who is a little over a year old). Their oldest son, Andrew was four last May. With three young children you can imagine that life is pretty hectic in the Squier household! Carla is a special needs teacher and Lew is a former teacher. Since he has left the teaching profession, he now works from home. The Squiers were excited to not have to be dealing with daycare this year --- since Lew watches the kids during the day! We look forward to getting to know the family better in the days ahead.

PLEASE JOIN US!!

*On Wednesday, October 15, 2008
Blackstone Valley United Methodist
Church,
61 Linwood Ave, Whitinsville
will be hosting the
Pilgrimage for Peace 2008*

We hope that you will be able to be with us that evening to join with others to discuss what makes for *peace/shalom/salaam* in our world, our community, and our faith communities.

The walkers will eat their evening meal at the Peace of Bread Community Kitchen; followed by a time of conversation and sharing at the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church in Faith Hall. Please join us for dessert at the Blackstone Valley UMC!

Conversation & Dessert

7:00PM

Blackstone Valley UMC

61 Linwood Ave.

Whitinsville, MA

The Pilgrims will be walking earlier that day from Upton to Whitinsville for the 5:30 dinner at Peace of Bread and then to the Blackstone Valley UMC for conversation. They will be leaving the Blackstone Valley UMC for the Oxford UMC early the next morning. If you would like to walk with the pilgrims for either of those times, please feel free to do so. You can contact the BVUMC for more information on the route they will be taking!

Church: 508-234-2275

Parsonage: 508-234-2243

Email:BVUMC@verizon.net

If you would like additional information about the complete Pilgrimage, which is happening from September 28th through November 9th, please check the website at www.peacewalk-newengland.com to see the itinerary. They welcome anyone who would like to walk with them for an hour, a day, a week, or all 43 days!!

WHY DO WE WALK?

(excerpt from a statement from the Pilgrimage organizers)

People walk for many reasons: for health, for water or in lieu of transportation. Others walk or march, however, to make a statement, to ask the nation to commit to equality, to justice, to peace. Martin Luther King Jr. led us in WALKS saying "Let us re-dedicate ourselves to the long and bitter – but beautiful – struggle for a new world."

This is what we see as the purpose of this WALK/PILGRIMAGE – an opportunity for us to come together to explore and share our beliefs and feelings about creating peace, doing justice, caring for our Earth home. The change we want will only happen when we use our "voice"... Let us begin where we live – living now the change needed in our communities for Peace, Justice, Creation.

Good and Faithful Servant

This month we wish to recognize Ray Talke for his time and effort in building the new church website. The Communications Team had a dream. We wanted our website to be a reflection of us as a faith community. We had a wish list and Ray put it together.

It took time to build our site...Ray taught himself a new computer language to do the work. The site is not totally complete, but we are up and running. If you see Ray around church shake his hand and tell him "well done, good and faithful servant"



Celebrations



October Birthdays

- 2. Millie Lynch
- 3. Matthew Barkley
Walter (Ben) Brown
Paul Mitchell
- 4. Nancy Thompson
- 5. Paul McKeon Jr.
- 7. Elliot Brown
Terrie Brown



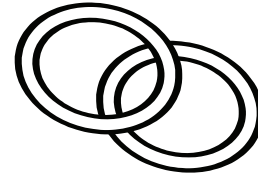
- 8. Andrea Jenkins (Palsha)
Benjamin Niro
Riley Flourde
- 9. Sean Cicero
Bradley LaBonne
- 10. Zachary Beauchaine
Ray Place
- 12. David Gallagher
- 13. Michael Hammer

- 14. Joyce Hamilton
Mattie Thompson
- 17. Brenden L'Italien
Chloe Mawn
Charlie Thompson
- 19. Mark Gentry
Nicholas McKeon
Susan Radcliffe
- 21. Nathaniel Beauchaine
Sofie Chunting-Hall
TJ Wollen
- 22. David Nadreau
Stephen Thompson
- 25. Heather Mawn
- 26. Paul Mckeon Sr.



- 28. Kraig Spencer
Mary Thompson
- 29. Bob Clark
Charlie Rollins
- 31. Gloria Farley

October Anniversaries



- 7. George & Dot Ellis
- 9. Ann & Chad Cook
Lucille & David Gallagher
- 15. Jay & Cathleen Henry
- 17. Bob Clark & Tammy Gilpatrick
- 23. Ted & Bethany Cammarano
- 30. Scrib & Janice Hanny
- 31. Doug & Gloria Farley



Please help the Communications Team keep the Birthday/Anniversary list up-to-date. Should you notice an error or omission, please let us know.



THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7PM Resound Rehearsal	2 6:30PM Girl Scouts 7PM Chancel Choir	3	4 7:30AM AA Meeting Trustee Clean up Day
5 10AM Sunday Worship Holy Communion 4:30PM-6PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6PM Youth Group- You're Invited	6 7PM Church Council- Activities Room	7 6:30PM Brownies- Fellowship Hall 7PM Boy Scouts- Faith Hall 7:15PM Women's Study-Activities Room 8PM AA Meeting	8 12 Noon Young at Hearts- Faith Hall 7PM Resound Rehearsal	9 6:30PM Girl Scouts 7PM Chancel Choir	10 3:30-4:30PM Hand bells	11 7:30AM AA Meeting
12 10AM Sunday Worship No Youth Group	13	14 6:30PM Brownies- Fellowship Hall 7PM Boy Scouts- Faith Hall 7:15PM Women's Study-Activities Room 8PM AA Meeting	15 Pilgrimage for Peace 7PM Resound Rehearsal	16 6:30PM Girl Scouts 7PM Chancel Choir	17 3:30-4:30PM Hand bells	18 7:30AM AA Meeting Blackstone Valley Crop Hunger Walk
19 10AM Sunday Worship 6PM Youth Group- Everyone's Invited	20 6:30PM-8PM United Methodist Men	21 6:30PM Brownies- Fellowship Hall 7PM Boy Scouts- Faith Hall 7:15PM Women's Study-Activities Room 8PM AA Meeting	22 7PM Resound Rehearsal	23 6:30PM Girl Scouts 7PM Chancel Choir	24 3:30-4:30PM Hand bells	25 7:30AM AA Meeting
26 10AM Sunday Worship No Youth Group	27	28 6:30PM Brownies- Fellowship Hall 7PM Boy Scouts- Faith Hall 7:15PM Women's Study-Activities Room 8PM AA Meeting	29 7PM Resound Rehearsal	30 6:30PM Girl Scouts 7PM Chancel Choir	31 3:30-4:30PM Hand bells	