

Bristolletter

**Newsletter of United Church of Bristol, a member of the United Church
of Christ**

TO:

**United Church of Bristol
7177 County Road Two
Bloomfield, NY 14469
churchofbristol@gmail.com**

**October - November 2012
“God is still speaking,”**



**Rev. Thomas (Tim) Hamlin, Pastor Phone: 585-657-7030
Sunday Worship – 10:00 am Fellowship Hour – 11:00 am**

Meetings/Events

Choir rehearses at 8:30 each Sunday - all are welcome

- September 30** Campfire gathering at the Halls' for Sunday school children and their families @ 6pm
- October 7** Neighbors in Need Offering & Worldwide Communion
Burning Springs Bridge Party
Sunday school class after Children's moment
- October 8** Cabinet
- October 14** Worship at S. Livonia UCC – Sue Forsyth 10th anniversary
Bring a dish to pass, no desserts please!
- October 21** Sunday school class after Children's moment
GVA Fall Assembly
Deadline for submission of baby/child pictures
- October 24** Squash making day – 9am
- October 28** Communion – All Souls All Saints Day
Quarterly Meeting
Applesauce making day – 9am
- November 2** Potato peeling, turkey carving, dressing making day – 9am
- November 3** Annual Turkey Dinner, Bazaar & Candy Sale 4pm – 7pm
Candy sale and bazaar opens at 3pm
- November 4** Sunday school class after Children's moment
Potluck
- November 12** Cabinet
- November 18** Sunday school class after Children's moment
- November 19** Bristoletter deadline - text to Jan Schrader

Happy Birthday in October to:

Art B. - 10/1
John F. - 10/2
Steve R. - 10/6
Julie S. - 10/7
Norma L. - 10/10
Ann W. - 10/11
Daisy F. - 10/12
Catherine J. - 10/14
Kali E. - 10/15
Laura B. - 10/15
Gerry D. - 10/16
Laura K. - 10/18
Warren L. - 10/19
Kristin D. - 10/21
Meredith F. - 10/22
Sam McK. - 10/23
Noreen B. - 10/24
Marian T. - 10/24
Tom C. - 10/25

Sharon E. - 10/28
Trevor D. - 10/28
Sandra Lynn C. - 10/29

Happy Birthday in November to:

Tom M. - 11/1
Lexington A. - 11/1
LaRue F. - 11/2
Mary Lynne P. - 11/2
Tim F. - 11/6
Gloria M. - 11/8
Doug R. - 11/10
Bob M. - 11/12
Ken F. - 11/15
Mary Jane S. - 11/16
Charlie B. - 11/23

Liturgist, Greeters & Fellowship Hour

Please make arrangements for a substitute if you are unable to serve.

DATE	LITURGIST	GREET & FAREWELL	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
Oct. 7	Bob Marcellus	CC Bodner & Sheila Hudson	Greg & Dianne Case
Oct. 14	Worship at	South Livonia	UCC
Oct. 21	Ellie Babcock	Art Cratsley & Deb Footer	** Bob & Stephanie Drayn**
Oct. 28	LaRue Fletcher	Greg & Dianne Case	Lance & Diane Bassage
Nov. 4	Catherine Joseph	Richard & Norma Lyons	Art & Priscilla Cratsley
Nov. 11	Greg Case	Jan Schrader & Gloria Miles	Bob & Dianne Marcellus
Nov. 18	Diane Bassage	Faye Brocklebank & Mary Lynne Parmelee	**Sally Ess & Pat Pestle**
Nov. 25	CC Bodner	Helen Fox & Margaret Hayward	Don & Pat Sanford
Dec. 2	Lynn Damaske	John Faulkner & Rena VanScott	Bill & Joan Hall

- **Where to pick up the birthday cake has changed at Wegmans.** "Customer Service" desk area opposite the check-out area. It is the new catering desk location.
- Please note the new heading to the "greeters". It was decided in the out-reach committee to have the greeters be "farewellers" at the end of the service by the door to those people who may not be staying with us for the fellowship hour. Thank you for adding this new task and making everyone feel welcome all the time at UCB! Your other duties still are to be at the door by 9:20, remember to wear your name tag, have any guests sign our guestbook, hand out the Sunday bulletins and any other hand-outs, count all the attendees and enter the total in the book, headsets are on the table or in the drawer if needed by anyone, take up the collection when called by the Pastor.
- Fellowship hour duties: remember you need to provide light snacks as well as juice for the children and non-coffee drinkers. If you have the Birthday Cake Sunday (**) and are unsure of what to do, check with Pat or Sally. We think everyone has done it by now.
- Please find your own substitute when necessary. Thank you.

**If anyone would like to be added to this list, please let Pat or Sally know.
Thanks.**

TURKEYS FLYING

The Fall Turkey Dinner, Bazaar and Candy Sale will be Saturday, November 3rd. The doors will open for the bazaar and candy sale at 3:00 P.M. Dinner will begin being served at 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. or until sold out...whichever comes first! The price will be \$9.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children 5-12, and children under 5 eat for free!

Circle the date! We're adding more food hoping to serve all who come to eat. We will need lots of help from our prep days of squash and potato peeling, pie donations, craft items for the bazaar, home-made candy for the candy sale to serving dinners, selling tickets, and washing that last plate and pot!

Remember...November 3rd...SEE YOU THERE!!!

Christian Education News

Christian Ed sessions for children ages 3-to 12 yrs will begin on October 7 and will be held twice a month immediately after the Children's moment until the end of the worship service. The dates set are Oct 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 4 and Nov. 18. Further dates will be set for the next Newsletter.

A **campfire gathering** for all youth and their families will be held on Sept. 30th at the Hall's residence (5252 County Rd.33) from 6 to 8 PM. Dinner will be served at 6 sharp followed by Spirit, songs and **SMORES!**

A **NAME THAT BABY** picture contest will begin on Sept 23. Please bring in a baby/child picture of yourself with your name on the back in an envelope and drop it in the box provided for this in Fellowship Hall. The deadline for bringing in a picture is Oct.21. Guessing will take place from Oct.21 to Nov.11. The winner will be announced on Nov. 18 and will receive 2 hours of youth labor at your home!

Newsy Notes from "The Church on the Hill"

RUNNING WITH GOD

With evenings temporarily spoken for on another project after work every night, and juggling the demands of an overcommitted lifestyle, I resolved to keep up my jogging activities, and jog (in the dark) at 4:45am for a couple of weeks. I'd never run blind before, but it turned out to be a most unexpected and beautiful experience! Once my eyes adjusted, and I could focus on the horizon where there was a guiding light to be had, I was able to see the marvelous sky with endless stars, so crystal clear, and a crescent moon laying down on its side, seemingly taking a nap! The visual canvas that spread out before me was really quite overwhelming. The only thing that unnerved me a little were the strange sounds coming from the woods and fields off in the darkness. I could hear some deer (I think they were) snorting at me from a field off to the side. I'm pretty sure they were deer because I'd seen their silhouettes as I came over one of the "Baptist" hills. Then there was a strange squeaking/wailing sound that I've never heard before off ahead in a stand of trees. I had no idea what it was, and when I got closer to the sound it stopped abruptly, which meant it was well aware of my presence. On the return jog I was even treated to my very own personal shooting star, so of course I made a wish!! As I crested the last hill to reach our driveway opening, and slowed my pace to steal a final look at the night sky in all its glory, I was left with an overwhelming closeness and awareness of Him.

BELLS OF BRISTOL AND GABRIEL

When Gabriel was above the former Congregational Church on Route 64, we could see the direction from where the bells were ringing. The wind caused Gabriel to turn in all directions. Standing outside the building one could hear the bells ringing that had caught the angel's attention.

Around nine in the morning bells rang for the beginning of sessions of the schools in town. After recess and at one in the afternoon the bells rang again. Elmer DeSmith donated a school bell to the Bristol Library. In 1954 a letter came to Mrs. Effie Marble from Frank G. Francis of Sinclairville detailing the date the bell was placed at District # 1 at Baptist Hill as 1887. The teacher at that time was Miss Anna Johnson who later became Mrs. John Phillips. The cost of the bell, \$60.00, was raised by putting on plays and holding dances. Mr. Francis was a pupil at the school at that time.

Farmhouses also had bells to call the farmers in to meals or when needed at the house. The farmers and bells became fewer as time went by.

The church at Baptist Hill and the Methodist Episcopal Church at Bristol Center both had bells. These bells rang to announce services at the churches. They tolled the passing of a member of the community. At the time of a wedding they rang joyously. The ending of wars was noted with the ringing of the bells. The celebration of the 4th of July called for the bells to be rung. For our nations' 200th Anniversary in 1976 Glenn Evans, Lois Case, Elaine Burd and I rang the bell at the now Historical Society Building. One can only imagine the pride we took in being part of this celebration. Again in 1989 at the 200th Anniversary of the Town of Bristol the bells were rung in celebration. We try to ring the bell at 2pm on the 4th of July each year. Gabriel left Bristol and is still at Rochester Memorial Art Gallery, replaced by the fire alarm warning of a problem or sounding for a celebration.

In 2011 we were fortunate to have a new Gabriel placed on the steeple of the United Church of Bristol at Baptist Hill. The above mentioned Mr. Francis also states in his letter that his grandfather, Stephen Francis; donated the bell at the church. Folks thought that it would be too heavy and would pull the church down in time. Mr. Francis was happy to see that that did not happen. The bell, still in place, rings each Sunday as Gabriel looks down. Through the efforts of Harrison and Norma Marble and a memorial fund in their name we now have a new bronze Gabriel back in Bristol.

Helen Fox, Historian

THOSE WHOM WE HOLD IN PRAYER

- ~ **Dianne Case**, bouncing back after recent emergency surgery;
- ~ **Ann Ward**, facing continued medical challenges;
- ~ **Paula Dorn**, resting after a promising marrow transplant from her brother;
- ~ Those among us facing or contemplating future changes in residence;
- ~ **Bob Simmons** and family, as he faces surgery for an infection;

FLOWER COMMITTEE REPORT

Thanks to Gloria Miles for the last two months of altar arrangements & the flowers in boxes by the entry. October will be divided between Diane Bassage & the Youth Group; the youth will be doing the fall decorations & Thanksgiving. Diane Bassage will do December, the poinsettia orders & January arrangements. If you have any memorials or honoring of special events and wish to place an arrangement please contact Diane.

EVERGREEN CEMETERY HIGHLIGHTS

At our recent quarterly meeting, the Cemetery Board voted to change our current rates to keep up with the other area cemeteries as follows:

Lots with upright tombstones, \$750; lots with level stones, \$600 (flat section); burials in either section, \$750; Ash burials, \$450. These rates, once approved by New York State, will become effective 1/1/13.

For anyone planning ahead, why not make your purchase before the rate changes? You can contact Lyle Jenks, Caretaker, or anyone on our Board: Drayn, Goodman, Tietgen, Damaske, Hudson, Pestle, Erb, Wheeler, or Marcellus. Remember we have a Web Site: www.evergreencemeterybristolny.com. Look us up!

THANK YOU

- ~ To **Fran Staub and Pam Osinski** for landscaping work in the church yard;
- ~ To all who are coming forward to support the Christian Ed Committee in its plans for the new program year;
- ~ To those giving their time and talent to enhance our worship through the choir;

NOTES FROM CABINET

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is working with Tim Hamlin on our covenant for 2013. With help from others who are contributing photographs and text, **Catherine Joseph continues to bring our new web site** closer to an autumn launch. Members of **Stewardship & Finance Committee** met over the summer with our investment advisor, and continue to study different options as we learn more about where our funds are and the work they are doing on our behalf. **Trustees** are working on upgrades such as new thermostats, replacement electric cable into the building, and computer network. **Committees** are beginning to review their narratives for updates to our UCB committee handbook. Discussion is underway about **the possibility of a new picture directory in 2013.**

United Church of Bristol note cards, featuring Tom Meding's eye-level photo of Angel Gabriel, are now available.

In community,

Lyle Jenks, Moderator

MISSIONS UPDATE

Upcoming Joy Jar collections will be used specifically to assist local individuals with health challenges, and for **UNICEF**, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. The October 28th JOY JAR proceeds will support **UNICEF**.

The **Neighbors in Need** collection will occur on October 7th, the day we share **Worldwide Communion** with neighbors around the globe. As we open our hearts in love and celebration on this day, let our minds embrace the idea that our neighbors can be next door, or far, far away. There are many in need, both here and there. Please give generously in support of Neighbors in Need, part of Our Church's Wider Mission. Thank you!

Additional Prayers

- ~ Tom Tette, facing a challenging treatment regimen;
- There is additional opportunity for prayer in the church study following worship each Sunday.

Our 150th Anniversary Celebration Continues

See the insert page inviting participation in the 'Words to Live By' project. We hope to publish the 2012-2013 edition as soon as we reach the goal of 111 submissions. Proceeds from sales of the blue Angel Gabriel tote bags will help underwrite the cost of this publishing project.

Watch for "focus group" opportunity to offer input on how Bristoletter can evolve to meet our changing needs.

Pastor's Letter

We've just passed the "autumnal equinox" – a time in the year when people like me dust off their Latin, along with their snow shovels and sweaters and prepare for a change of season. The passing of "equinox" literally means that we have passed the tipping point from a majority of light in the day to a majority of darkness. Aside from NYSEG and RG&E, there may be few who relish this change. But it happens every year – and we live with it.

I suppose most of us have mixed feelings about light and dark. When it comes to turkey, I prefer "light" to "dark". Others feel differently. At night, the majority of us opt for darkness while sleeping. On the other hand, light works better when we're reading, knitting or performing surgery.

In other areas, our choices for "light" and "dark" vary greatly. In terms of candidates' views on issues of state we want clarity, and the "light of day." We trumpet transparency as to financial transactions in our corporations, political leaders, and civic institutions.

By the same token, darkness often enshrouds our personal lives – our lives "behind closed doors." No need to air our dirty laundry in front of others. There is a time and place when the benign "darkness" of privacy is comforting, respectful and needed.

Even in our worship, "light" and "dark" dance together. We offer prayers and songs publicly, perhaps even loudly at one moment. At another, we are deep in the recesses of our hearts communing silently with the Holy in a very personal way.

We oscillate in our need for light and dark. My father and I used to do our own "dance" regarding light and dark. One minute he'd tell me to turn the light off when I left the room (since he paid the electric bill!). The next minute I'd be crouched in a chair reading a book and he'd chide me for not turning the light on, saying, "You're going to ruin your eyes!"

As we perch at this seasonal tipping point, when light gives way to dark, we might do 2 things: first, foster compassion for the varying needs for "light" and "dark" within those around us. That may mean turning off the light when we leave the bathroom! That might also mean honoring one friend's need for privacy...AND...respecting another's hunger for openness and sharing. Second, we might draw some comfort from an ancient prayer that goes this way: "Where could I go from Your spirit? Or how could I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there! If I make my bed in darkness, You are there! If I soar on the wings of the morning or dwell in the deepest parts of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your love will embrace me." (Psalm 139).

We may leave the light on...or turn it off. We may find our current path richly illuminated...or full of shadows. But either way, the God of light and love knows exactly where...who...and whose we are...and loves us dearly.

Blessings to all, night and day
Tim