



THE SPIRE ~ SEPTEMBER 2006

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MANHASSET (United Church of Christ)
1845 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset, NY 11030 / 516-627-4911 / www.ucmanhasset.org
Ministers: Rev. Jimmy Only and Rev. Chase Peoples

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER

How would you like to belong to a church where 95% of the members feel satisfied with Sunday worship and the music, where morale is high and members help each other in times of trouble, and where the children and youth learn to serve those in need? Great news—you already do! As you will read in the enclosed Overview of Our Survey Results (thanks Mitch Brickell and Regina Paul for this summary), we are a happy and satisfied congregation who feels good about itself. Naturally there is room for improvement. According to those 130 members who completed the questionnaire, our church should offer additional adult education programs around such topics as marriage and family, as well as the Bible and theology. We also need to improve our Sunday School teacher training and continue to attract new members. Our staff and boards appreciate this thoughtful feedback. I am happy to report that steps are already being put in place to address these issues.

On September 26, Ms. Karla Mackenzie, Executive Director of the Parish Resource Center of Long Island West, will lead an All-Boards Meeting in a time of goal setting for the new program year. Within the coming months we will also work on a new Mission Statement for our church.

In Proverbs 29:18 we read, "Where there is no vision the people perish." The converse is true as well. Where there is a unified vision, the people flourish. With God's help, may it be so.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Jimmy Only

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, September 10, our Worship services will return to 8 AM in the Chapel and 10 AM in the Sanctuary.

KICK-OFF SUNDAY AND BRUNCH ~ SEPTEMBER 10

Join us for Worship at 8 or 10 AM for Kick-Off Sunday on September 10. On this special day our Sunday School children begin a new program year and our Chancel Choir begins a new season. **Join us as well for our annual Kick-Off Sunday Brunch at 11:15 AM in the Parish Hall.** The suggested donation is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

WHO'S 90?

Alice Ostrom, that's right, our dear friend and long-time Music Librarian. Alice turned 90 in August. Please join us in celebrating her birthday on September 10, Kick-Off Sunday, immediately following the 10 AM worship service. Brunch will be in her honor with surprise entertainment (I wonder who it will be?). If you would like to contribute to a group gift, send a check to the church with Alice on the memo line. See you then.

SEPTEMBER 11th COMMUNITY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

If you are looking for an appropriate way to observe the September 11th anniversary, consider the Manhasset Candlelight Memorial Service at **8 PM in Mary Jane Davies Park on Plandome Road.** Join us and bring a candle. St. Mary's is the rain location.

SEPTEMBER 17 ~ FALL BIBLE STUDY BEGINS AMOS & HOSEA: BOUNDARIES, TOUGH LOVE, AND AMAZING GRACE

Beginning Sunday, September 17, a Bible study on two famous Old Testament prophets, Amos and Hosea, will be led by Margot Kramer and Pam Lennox. This seminar challenges us to join the prophets in being boundary-crossers; to cross the boundary between religion and politics, or that boundary between "us" and "them." Amos' and Hosea's message is surely relevant for a society such as ours, divided on issues of theology, politics, economics, government, and morality. We need to hear about God's tough love and amazing grace, which is extended by God to a people who have often broken the divine heart. The Bible Study will run for approximately 7 weeks. The Resource Book written by the Rev. George W. Ramsey, a Presbyterian minister and college/seminary professor for almost 40 years, is \$18 and will provide the foundation for each week's lesson. Call Valerie at the church office to register for the course and buy a book.

SEPTEMBER 17 ~ CHURCH SURVEY Q & A

During 8 and 10 AM Worship on September 17, Rev. Only will focus on the results of our recent church survey as the subject of his sermon. Following the service, the congregation is invited to a question and answer time at 11:30 AM in the North Lounge. Official copies of the results are available in the receptionist's

desk. While you are free to read the report for as long as you like, the Deacons ask that the copies not leave the building.

SEPTEMBER 24 ~ BOOK CLUB SELECTION

Abraham: A Journey To The Heart of Three Faiths by Bruce Feiler

Join us on Sunday, September 24, at 11:30 AM for a discussion of Bruce Feiler's engaging and inspiring book, *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* (available in paperback). Bruce Feiler is the *New York Times* bestselling author of seven books, including *Walking the Bible*. He is also the writer/presenter of the PBS series "Walking the Bible," a frequent contributor to NPR, and a contributing editor at *Gourmet* and *Parade*.

Anyone seeking to understand the roots of tension in the Middle East needs look no further than the final half of this book, where Feiler interprets the meaning of Abraham as seen through the prism of each religion.

YOUTH MISSION SUNDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 24

On Sunday, September 24, plan on coming to 10 AM worship and hearing our Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group share about their experiences on this summer's mission trip to Nashville, TN.

FUNDRAISER "THE BEST OF BROADWAY" ~ OCT. 1, 2006

Save the date for THE BEST OF BROADWAY, right here in our Parish Hall, at 3 PM, Sunday, October 1. Our Chancel Choir and Soloists will perform highlights from well-known Broadway musicals including Oklahoma, My Fair Lady, The Sound of Music, South Pacific, Show Boat, Carousel and Fiddler on the Roof. Light refreshments will be served during the intermission. Our Fall Concert is a fundraising event. Monies received through sponsorships and ticket sales for this concert will be applied toward the cost of the new Estonia grand piano recently purchased for the Music Center and for the restoration of the Baldwin concert grand piano located in the Parish Hall. Several ticket options are offered. You may become a Patron for \$100 or more and receive four tickets, a Donor for \$55 and receive two tickets, or a Sponsor for \$30 and receive one ticket. All sponsors will be recognized in the concert program. You may also purchase an advance sale ticket for \$18 or pay \$20 at the door. A memorable afternoon is in store for one and all, so come out, bring a friend, support the efforts of our outstanding musicians, and enrich your friendship with other members of our Church Family. Child care will be provided.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS DURING WORSHIP

On September 17, just before the Pastoral Prayer, Rev. Only will ask for a list of joys and concerns from the congregation.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN SING ~ 9:45 AM

Do you have some favorite hymns that you'd like the congregation and choir to sing? If so, join us for our September Hymn Sing on the 17 at 9:45 AM in the Sanctuary.

BREAKFAST FOR BUSY WOMEN

Every Tuesday at 8 AM a group of women from our church are meeting at the Landmark Diner for breakfast and a short devotional time. Church member and faithful 8 AM attendee, Pam Lennox, coordinates the group (516-626-4688). **Feel free to speak with Margot Kramer or Jennifer Peoples for more information.**

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY AND BRUNCH ~ OCTOBER 15

As we give thanks for the joys of summer and plan for the rest of the year, let's remember the many ways we can be stewards. Many stewards lend their hands and minds in making possible the good works our church continues to provide to our local community and the community at large. Additionally as stewards, let's each consider how we can further support our church financially in the coming year. See you on the 15th!

PORTICO DESIGN APPROVED

At our Annual Congregational Meeting, a short six and half month ago, a design concept was approved by the Congregation for the renovation of the front portico facing Copley Road. In the interim, the Trustees, led by Red Horowitz, Chair, Nick Fisch, Vice-Chair and John Walter, Project Manager, have been working with our architects, contractor and the Village of Munsey Park to come to a mutually agreeable design that provides more detailed drawings of the original concept. We now can go forward and make this design a reality. The architect's drawings will be in the Narthex and at Fellowship Time. The Trustees thank John Walter for his endless time and patience on this part of the project. When we have a clearer understanding of the timing, we will inform you. Thank you for your patience.

SAVE THE NEW DATE ~ NOVEMBER 4, 2006 CHURCH-WIDE PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Mark your calendar for our church-wide progressive dinner re-scheduled for November 4, 2006. Terry MacGown, chair of the Membership Committee, is organizing the event and needs volunteers. If you can help, call her at 516-869-0644.

THANKS TO OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

During our VBS this year, our theme was Treasure Island and over 90 children found clues to understanding the good news of Jesus Christ. Over 30 youth and adults taught music, Bible stories and crafts to these kids. Our great volunteers held countless hands, poured hundreds of glasses of water, helped with the occasional crying eye or scraped knee, and gave out lots of hugs and words of encouragements. It was great! Thanks to everyone who made it happen!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED NEEDS YOU

On Sunday, September 17, envelopes will be included in the Order of Worship for the U.C.C. Neighbors in Need offering to help our worlds hungry and desperate. The need is great and we are being urged by our denomination's Wider Mission to share our plenty with those less fortunate. Any amount will be appreciated. Make your checks payable to: The Congregational Church of Manhasset, with NIN clearly indicated in the memo.

CHILDREN (AGE 3 ~ GRADE 5)

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR ~ We're starting a brand new year of Sunday School on September 10. If you're interested in teaching contact Chase. We're signing up teachers for the fall.

KICK-OFF BRUNCH ~ Plan on staying around after 10 AM worship on September 10 for the Kick-Off Brunch. The Board of Christian Education has a great menu planned. There will be something for everyone! We'll catch up on everyone's summer fun and celebrate a new year of Sunday School.

YOUTH (GRADES 6 ~ 12)

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS ~ On September 10, we will begin Sunday School. Middle School and High School youth are invited to gather together in the youth room below the stage. During the announcement time in worship, all youth are invited to head downstairs and have some fun together deepening their faith. Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday, except Family Sundays when youth help lead worship.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP SUNDAY ~ On Sunday, September 24, PFers who went on this summer's mission trip to Nashville will be sharing their experience during the 10 AM worship service. Plan on coming to hear about this great trip!

SARATOGA FAMILY INN ~ We're heading back to the Saratoga Family Inn homeless shelter to work with the children. We'll head out after church Sunday, September 24. Youth (6th-12th grades) are invited to spend a few hours making a huge positive impact on the lives of some wonderful children who live in the shelter.

2006-07 CONFIRMATION CLASS

If you know any young people 8th grade or above who have not been Confirmed, please tell them about our 2006-07 Confirmation Class. The class meets on Sundays at 8:45 AM beginning September 10. Call the church office for more information.

YOUNG ADULTS

COOKOUT ~ On Saturday, September 30, we'll gather at the Peeples' home (90 Country Club Drive in Flower Hill) at 5 PM. We'll grill burgers and hot dogs. Plan on bringing a side dish or salad. Call Chase to R.S.V.P. Kids are welcome! The Young Adults are comprised of folks who are in their 20's, 30's and even those young at heart 40-somethings!

WOMEN'S CLUB

The Board will meet on Monday, September 11, 2006 at 9:30 AM.

CLUB MEETS OCTOBER 2 ~ 12 NOON ~ For our program Rev. Jimmy Only will address the topic "What is new in our Church". Bring a sandwich and a friend for our first program of the year.

MEN'S CLUB

Come join us on Thursday, September 7 at 12 Noon. Contact Frank Dotzler at 627-9191 for more information.

NEW HORIZONS (50+)

September 13 at 7:30 PM is our first meeting of the season. Jim Jones, of the Audubon Society, will give a slide show and discussion on the owls and hawks of Bethpage State Park.

ADD SOME FUN TO FELLOWSHIP TIME

Our weekly Fellowship Time offers an excellent opportunity to get better acquainted and enjoy a cup of coffee or a bite to eat. Call the church office to sponsor a Fellowship Time.

ALTAR FLOWERS BEAUTIFY OUR SANCTUARY

The Altar Flower Committee is seeking donations for altar flowers. This is a lovely way to remember your loved ones. Send your check, along with your information for the Order of Worship, to the Church Office, 1845 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset, NY 11030, attention Marge D'Ottavio. The requested donation is \$50, although any amount is welcome.

CHURCH CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 1 - 30, 2006

Sunday, September 3 ~ 9 a.m. – Worship Service, Rev. Only

Monday, September 4 ~ LABOR DAY

Tuesday, September 5 ~ 7:30 pm – Deacons Board Meeting

Thursday, September 7

12 noon – Men's Club Meeting

8:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 10 ~ KICK-OFF SUNDAY

8:00 am – Chapel Service, Rev. Only Preaching

8:50 am – Confirmation, Rev. Only

9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am – Morning Service, Rev. Only Preaching

10:15 am – Sunday School, Rev. Peeples

11:00 am – Kick-Off Brunch – Alice Ostrom's 90th Birthday

Monday, September 11

9:30 am – Women's Club Board Meeting

8:00 pm – Manhasset Candlelight Memorial Service

Tuesday, September 12 ~ 7:30 pm – CE Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 13 ~ 7:30 pm – New Horizons Meeting

Thursday, September 14 ~ 8:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 17 ~ NEIGHBORS IN NEED SUNDAY

8:00 am – Chapel Service, Rev. Only Preaching

8:45 am – Bible Study

8:50 am – Confirmation, Rev. Only

9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

9:45 am – Hymn Sing

10:00 am – Morning Service, Rev. Only Preaching

Olivia Potts (Schaffrath) Baptism

10:15 am – Sunday School, Rev. Peeples

11:00 am – Fellowship Time

11:30 am – Survey Q & A, Rev. Only

Monday, September 18 ~ 8 pm – Adventures in Learning Meeting

Wednesday, September 20 ~ 7:30 pm – Trustees Board Meeting

Thursday, September 21

12 Noon – Men's Club Meeting

7:30 pm – Missions & Outreach Board Meeting

8:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 24 ~ YOUTH MISSION SUNDAY

8:00 am – Chapel Service, Rev. Peeples Preaching

8:45 am – Bible Study

8:50 am – Confirmation, Rev. Only

9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am – Morning Service, Rev. Peeples Preaching

10:15 am – Sunday School, Rev. Only

11:00 am – Fellowship Time

11:30 am – Book Club, Rev. Only

11:30 am – Depart for the Saratoga Family Inn

Tuesday, September 26 ~ TBA – All Boards Meeting

Thursday, September 28 ~ 8:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 30

2 - 4 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

5:00 pm – Cookout at Peeples' Home