

Rev..George Manukas,
Minister
(203) 287-8106
revonweb@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Joe Braen

Geneene Luedee
Church Secretary
Office: (203) 288-2342
ducc767@sbcglobal.net

Moderator: Jim
Arseniadis

Under the Dome

Dunbar United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation
767 Benham Street, Hamden, CT 06514
(203) 288-2342 ducc767@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter for June, 2011

“Seeing” is a regular theme of my Dome reports and sermons. Seeing. And who knows why preachers and prophets feel so compelled to keep speaking about certain issues? Things pile up in the heart like steam trapped in pipes or pressure in volcanos until the heart explodes and words blow like a vomit-tsunami. Jeremiah preached Doom! Doom! Doom! until people got sick of him. He felt so isolated and lonely he told God: “I quit!” But God refused his resignation. When Jeremiah realized his call was for life, he said, “If I say, ‘I will not mention him (God), or speak any more in his name,’ then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.” (Jer. 20:9)

Isaiah was one of the willing prophets. God said, “Whom shall I send?” Isaiah said, “Send me!” And God told Isaiah: “Go and say to this people: ‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.’ Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.” What a strange mission for God to send a prophet on: to plug people’s ears and shut their eyes. In the Gospel of John, Jesus said, “...the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light....” But if we loved the light, what would we see? What did Jesus see that we don’t?

He saw this: we are one family -- Jews, Muslims, Greeks, Palestinians, Taliban, atheists, gays, freaks, terrorists. We're all family, which is why he taught the disciples to pray, "Our Father...." God is everyone's parent. And the question Cain asked God early in Genesis is THE spiritual question of the Bible. Cain killed his brother and God said, "Where's Abel?" Cain said: "I don't know -- am I my brother's keeper?" It's one of the oldest questions in the Bible, and we still don't know how to answer it.

Our misguided brother Bin Laden was barely dead and some people used the occasion to defend the torture of human beings. Educated, "civilized" people defended torture. "See," they said, "there are times when we must violate another human being to be safe. There are times when we MUST inflict unbearable pain on our enemies -- for our National Security. To endure as a nation there are times we must put our faith in evil." ("Amen," the devil said.) And through all the fog and media circus surrounding the death of the FBI's most wanted, Cain's question is still unanswered: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

WHY DIDN'T GOD JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION? Why didn't God just say, "Yes Cain! Yes, you stupid, murdering, ignorant fool! Yes! -- YOU ARE YOUR BROTHER'S KEEPER!" But God didn't answer and Cain's question still cries out like a lost, disembodied spirit on every page of the Bible. If God answered the question, would it make a difference? Would we then make a government that takes care of poor people? Would we make a society that provides for people who don't have food or a place to live? Would we make a system to care for people who can't afford doctors or dentists? Would we help children who don't have parents or anyone to read to them? Would we support people who are unemployed until they are back on their feet? Would we make a way for everyone who wants an education to receive one? If God answered Cain's question and told us -- in plain English -- that we are our brother's and sister's keeper, would we listen?

But God only told Cain, "Your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground." And it still is. Thousands of years after the first murder, the earth is saturated with the blood of Abel and all his brothers and sisters -- all of our brothers and sisters. And the ground cries so loudly, we can't hear. And the truth is so blinding, we can't see. We can't see that we are only

one family on this earth and the same God breathes through each of us.
And yes, we ARE our brother's and sister's keeper.

Once Jesus spit on the dirt and made mud. He rubbed the mud on a blind man's eyes and when the man opened his eyes, he could see. Jesus Christ, faith-healer, doctor of the soul, Son-of-God: open our eyes.

Yours, in the dim light,

George

If you or someone you know would like a call or visit, please
contact Rev. George Manukas at (203) 287-8106 or

revonweb@sbcglobal.net



Birthday's!

Kerry and Chris Kane will be celebrating their 12th wedding anniversary on the 26th

Mary Braen is will be celebrating her 10th birthday on the 3rd

Stacey Borzillo's birthday is on June 4th

Jeanine Aceto & Michelle Coppola's birthday are on June 18th

Remember Joanie Trower ??

Joanie was one of the earliest members of Dunbar Church, and was very active in it. She has been living in Vermont for many years, near her daughter and son. Her son, Tom, writes that she had congestive heart failure in January, but is doing better, and gets around slowly with a walker. She is living in a Home that had belonged to the Eastern Star organization. Her eyesight is very poor, so Tom reads her the Dome each month. She wishes Debbie Laffin and the Women's Fellowship well. If you would like to write to her, her address is: Joan Trower, c/o Thomas Trower, 713 Hartford Avenue, White River Junction, VT 05001



Women's Fellowship:

This past month we covered coffee hours including a Happy 100th Birthday Celebration for Marge Bradbury on May 1 which was a wonderful day! We have had two work meetings as well as a scholarship meeting. All of the reusable grocery bags we made sold at the Hamden Earth Day Fair on April 30.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK APPLES! Peeling and pie making start **Wednesday, September 7**. Please keep in mind our tables for Apple Festival; if you are parting with something that would contribute to our Grandma's Attic, Jewelry, Toy or Bazaar table, please save it for our festival! Thank you, Debbie



Missions:

In May we participated in a Crop Walk at the First Church of Christ in Old Saybrook. Missions donated to the Alabama Education Foundation to help displaced students of the tornadoes keep up with their education. We are also helping out with the church garden this summer. Maybe by the time you get this, the sun will be out! Debbie



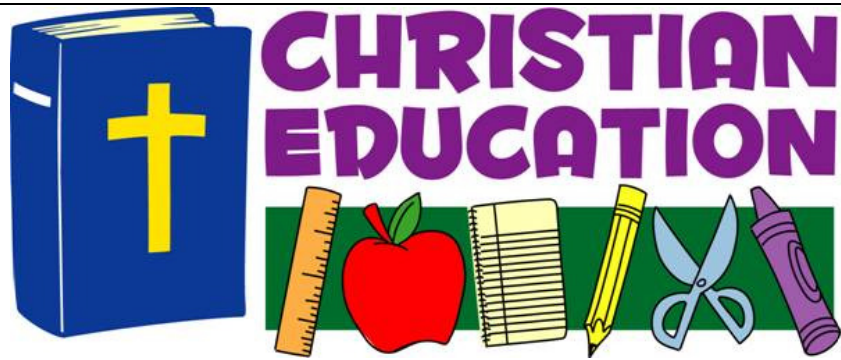
Update on the Masselli Farm House:

We were hoping to start renovating this house starting July 1st, 2011. Unfortunately, the purchase of this property by Habitat is currently on hold, due in part to the proverbial “red tape”. As soon as I know more, I will gladly pass it on. We may start another home in New Haven in the mean time. This too is bogged down in paperwork.

I greatly appreciate everyone’s interest and look forward to start our next home/project. You can check the website (<http://www.sleepinggiantbuild.org>) for additional information.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jim Arseniadis (203) 605-8493 aspetuck.appraisal@yahoo.com



This Easter the weather forced the Easter egg hunt inside. Regardless of this the kids had a fun time hunting Easter eggs in the Parish House. We handed out goody bags and board books to the little ones. On May 8 we celebrated Mother's Day and Blanket Sunday. We raised \$150 by selling hearts to pin on the Blanket in Fellowship Hall. The money raised will go to the Church World Service which will distribute blankets to the needy across the world and in the United States. Our last Sunday School class of the year will be **June 12**. This will also be the day that the students who have been studying with Pastor George for the past two years will be confirmed. On **June 19** we will begin our Summer Story Time. Children will be invited to hear and discuss a story from the bible, do crafts, tend the garden and play outside (weather permitting). If anyone would like to volunteer please see Nancy Braen or send an email to njbraen@comcast.net. You do not need to be a member of the board of CE to teach and you do not need to sign up for multiple Sundays.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Braen.



Coffee Hour Sponsored by the Deacons

Dunbar Church is Online!

Did you miss a sermon? Or a Dome? Want to read what you heard last Sunday or pass it along to a friend? Maybe you want to check out some pictures of the kids baking cookies. Or maybe you forgot who has coffee hour next month and you want to make sure it's not you! All this and more is online at <http://www.dunbarchurch.com>. Visit the website and check out what going on. Send comments and suggestions for the web site to Nancy Braen at njbraen@comcast.net.

And now we're on Facebook! Click the "Like" button on the website and be taken directly to our Facebook page or search for Dunbar United Church of Christ in Facebook. All the weekly happenings are posted there. Feel free to start a discussion by writing on the wall. Tell us what you think should be posted there. Your Facebook admins are Cindy Long, Geneene Luedee and Nancy Braen. You can find us on Facebook of course!

A screenshot of the Facebook page for Dunbar United Church of Christ. The page header shows the Facebook logo and a search bar. The profile picture is a photograph of a white church building with a steeple. The page title is "Dunbar United Church of Christ" and the location is "Hamden, Connecticut". Below the title, there is a "Wall" section with a "Most Recent" dropdown menu. The "Share:" options include Status, Photo, Link, Video, and Question. A text input field with the placeholder "Write something..." is visible at the bottom.

DEACONS

The Deacons committee met May 8 and discussed needing to update list of active church members. Please email Nicole or Heather if there have been any changes to your contact information. We also discussed the possibility of replacing the ovens before pie making begins this year. We discussed possibilities for raisings funds for this purpose and will need to obtain estimated cost and discuss at next meeting. The Vesper service is scheduled for June 26 at Chapel in the Woods. We will be hosting coffee hour for the month of June. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 12 after church service.

Thank you,

Heather Sibley and Nicole Jacques

hls157@aol.com

nicolejacques23@yahoo.com

Dunbar UCC Open and Affirming/Mission Statement

We, the members of Dunbar United Church of Christ, want Jesus to be the center of our lives. Our mission is to practice the New Commandment that Jesus gave us: to love one another as he has loved us (John 13:34). We seek to follow God's will by loving our neighbors, friends and enemies alike. We seek justice for all.

We celebrate the image of God in every person. As an Open and Affirming Church, we welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of our church, and affirm that the grace of God, known especially through Jesus, is a gift meant for people of every race, color, age, ability, and sexual orientation. Worship, leadership, ministry, and employment are open to all.

We are on a journey of faith and invite all people to join us. No matter the church or community where your journey began, you are welcome here.



The Garden Committee is looking for anyone interested in helping maintain (water & weed) the “Feed the Hungry” Garden. Email Tom at twparlapiano@aol.com



Sponsored by Trustee's

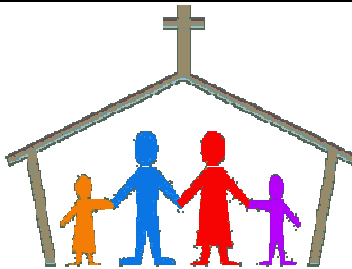
Sunday June 12, 11:00 am (after Sunday service)

Hotdogs, hamburgers, salads and FUN !!!



Ten scholarship recipients will be introduced in church on Sunday June 12th. Come, join us, and meet and hear about the aspirations and educational goals of these young adults."

The loose offering on June 12th will be designated for the Women's Fellowship Scholarship Fund. Please be generous as we continue to support our ambitious students.



**Dunbar Church Council Planning Meeting
Thursday June 16th @ 7:30 in Fellowship Hall.**

We will have our annual planning meeting on June 16 at 7:30pm. We will be creating the calendar for the next church year. All Boards and Committees are asked to send a representative so that they can give us dates for any events that they are planning, and to choose their months to provide Coffee Hour refreshments. We will have a Council meeting as well as discussion of the calendar. Refreshments will be served.

Please come and enjoy dessert and fellowship with us! We've had a very productive and enjoyable year of Church Council Meetings. I would like to thank all the folks who have attended Council this year!

In peace, Jim Arseniadis, Moderator

2011 Dunbar United Church of Christ

Pastor:	Rev. George Manukas	Email: revonweb@sbcglobal.net
Moderator:	Jim Arseniadis	Email: aspetuck.appraisal@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Joe Braen	Email: jbraen@comcast.net
Clerk:	Sandra Kops	Email: sandrakops@aol.com
Sexton:	Victor Mitchell	Email: vicm56@aol.com
Secretary:	Geneene Luedee	Email: ducc67@sbcglobal.net
Hall Rentals:	Geneene Luedee	Email: ducc67@sbcglobal.net
Web Site:	Nancy Braen	Email: njbraen@comcast.net
Nominations:	Bruce Detmers	Email: brdetmers@snet.net
Altar Flowers:	Betty Detmers	Email: brdetmers@snet.net
Budget:	Steve Hurd	Email: stephen.hurd@kemira.com

Deacons

George Manukas (Pastor)
Nicole Jacques (Chair)
Heather Sibley (Chair)
Jordan Jacques (2012)
Kathy Straka (2012)
Betty Detmers (2012)
Tom Palapiano (2012)
Judy Campbell (2012)

Missions and Concerns

Debbie Laffin (Chair)
Nancy Braen (Co-Chair 2012), Donna Burkuckler (Co-Chair 2012), Olga Dryfoos (2012), Janet Braen (2014), Dale Long (2014), Sandy Hurd (2014)

Trustee's

Gary Burkuckler (2013)
Bob Corona (2013)

Ted Endriss (2013)

Larry Liseo (2012)

Al Via (2012)

Chuck Walters (2012)

George Braen (2014)

Paul Jacques (2014)

Bruce Detmers (2014)

Christian Education

Nancy Braen (2012 Chair), Donna

Burkuckler (2012)

Janet Lavorgna (2012)

Cindy Long (2012)

Libby Wamser (2012)

Bell Forte (2014)

Janet Manukas (2014)

Ellyn Liseo (2014)

Taylor Jacques (2014)

Olga Dryfoos (2014)

Investment

Bruce Detmers (Chair)

Jim Arseniadis

(Moderator)

Joe Braen (Treasurer)

Meg Nowacki

Tom Parlapiano

Chuck Walters

Pastoral Relations

Meg Nowacki (Chair)

Jim Arseniadis, Judy

Campbell, Steve Hurd

Betty Detmers

Columbarium

Bruce Detmers (Chair)

Bob Corona, Betty

Detmers, Ellyn Liseo

Barbara Walters

Chuck Walters, Ann

Watjen

Publicity

Cindy Long

Tom Parlapiano

Memorial Gifts

Ginny Granquist

Meg Nowacki