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Under the  
**Dome**

## Dunbar United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation  
767 Benham Street, Hamden, CT 06514

October, 2011

Jesus liked to tell stories. He couldn't show people the kingdom of heaven (except when he did his healings and exorcisms) so he tried to describe it through stories. Last Sunday we heard one of these stories (parables). They often start like this: "For the kingdom of heaven is like...." So last Sunday we heard Jesus describe heaven as a place where nobody is unemployed. People don't even have to look for work because God goes out looking for the jobless and offers them work, no questions asked. No interview required-- only a need. And God is an employer who cares more about people than profits. There's no capitalism or free market in heaven, but a system where everybody gets the same thing no matter what they do. Investment bankers will receive the same wages as janitors. Oh my God! Jesus is a socialist! Had Jesus been living now, he probably would have said, "The kingdom of heaven is like --Sweden."

We live in an interesting time when our president is Robin Hood trying to squeeze a little money out of the rich while the Sheriff-of-Nottingham-politicians protect their wealthy benefactors. "Class warfare" is what some call it. Spiritual warfare is more accurate. This isn't a fight between one class of people against another, it's a struggle with the forces of greed and selfishness in every human heart. It's a war that rages in all of us, irrespective of class. But if our scriptures are true, God sides with the poor, which is why he chose to be born into a peasant family. Jesus was born poor, lived poor and died poor and that wasn't an accident. Whether you read Exodus or the Gospels it's clear that God has a special sympathy for what the bible calls "the least of these."

If you want to see a modern version of the parable about heaven that Jesus told last Sunday where the CEO-landowner-God goes out and hires the unemployed

and actually cares about them, then see the movie called *The Company Men*, starring Ben Affleck and Tommy Lee Jones. The beginning of the movie shows Ben Affleck (Bobby Walker), a sales representative for Global Transportation Systems (GTS), walking into a room with the head of human resources and a lawyer sitting behind a table. The lawyer says: "The company is consolidating divisions, difficult decisions have to be made in areas where redundancy surfaces, we've structured a generous severance package for you." Affleck, looking stunned, says: "You're firing me?" The lawyer, who's face is expressionless as a stone, says: "We're offering you placement services to help you secure your next place of employment."

Affleck loses his house, car, golf club membership -- everything. He, his wife and two children eventually move into his parent's house. His wife's brother, a builder, gives him a menial construction job. As Affleck's life unravels, the camera shifts to a board room at a shareholders meeting in Chicago where executives at GTS are discussing money. The CEO says: "We've reviewed our pipeline of some 500 projects and programs, focusing on those with significant marketing opportunities and jettisoning everything that won't contribute immediately to our profitability." Later, the second in command (Tommy Lee Jones) at the company says to the CEO: "How many people are in the next round of 'downsizing'?" The CEO tells him three thousand. Jones says, "Jim -- they're good people." But Jim, the CEO, says, "Not our responsibility. We work for the stockholders." Then the CEO says: "You and Cynthia joining us at Sun Valley for New Years again this year?"

When Tommy Lee Jones goes home to his mansion on the coast with workers trimming his expansive lawns and his collection of expensive cars in front of his garage that looks nicer than most people's homes, he pours himself a big drink and sits on his verandah looking out at the ocean. He looks sad and defeated. His wife joins him and he says to her, "I had lunch with Bobby Walker today -- I thought he was going to throw a drink in my face." The wife says, "You're his boss, not his father." Then she says, "Sue and I are thinking about going to Palm Beach for a weekend later on this month. Do some shopping -- some golf. Think you can get us one of the corporate jets?"

The picture that emerges in the movie is that there ARE different classes of people in America. A small but powerful class of wealthy and a large and growing class of people who are losing ground and not able to hold onto what they have. And in the movie, the people who "have" don't care about those who "don't have." As the CEO tells his second in command at GTS, "Not our responsibility. We work for the shareholders." When Jones cries to his wife, who just bought a \$17,000.00 coffee table, she says pretty much the same thing. "You're their boss, not their parent. It's not your concern what happens to them after they're fired."

I hope you'll see this movie. I won't tell you how it ends -- but it reminds me of Jesus' story -- a modern version of it. Tommy Lee Jones, the big, rich fat-cat has

a conversion experience like Paul on the Damascus Road. But the important thing to remember is that even though The Company Men was just made last year, it's an old, old story. It's older than Jesus. It's as old as Adam and Eve. When the first-born son, Cain, killed his brother Abel, God said: "Cain -- where's your brother?" Cain said, "How should I know -- am I my brother's keeper?" Cain told God he wasn't responsible for his brother. But according to the Bible, Cain was wrong, and every one from Abraham to Moses to the prophets to Jesus have emphatically proclaimed that yes, we are our brother's and sister's keepers, yes, we are all responsible for each other's well-being, yes, when one of us falls we all fall and when one of us rises we all rise. If this were all we knew about life -- if this were all we understood about our relationship to others -- it would be enough.

Yours, in the spiritual warfare,

George

### **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.



**Please keep the following friends and family in your prayers...**

- Steven Laffin
- Barbara Hamilton
- Pete Laffin

# BOARDS & COMMITTEES'S

## BOARDS & COMMITTEES'S

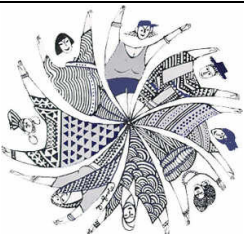


### MISSIONS

- Sunday school is off to a great start. We're learning lots and having fun while doing it. Please consider volunteering to teach. The sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex and has dates through December 2011. Coming up on Sunday, October 30 - Bible Character Sunday! Dress up like your favorite bible character (or just dress up) and then enjoy some crafts and goodies after church.

--- Nancy Braen

- This month missions is helping Heather with funding and supplies for her trip to Haiti. We are looking forward to a great turnout for Operation Christmas Child collection on November 13 and hope everyone is collecting to make their shoebox special. Please remember Missions is paying for shipping, you only need to make a shoebox for a child, boy or girl, age 2-4, 6-8, 10-up(no liquids or war toys please). Neighbors in Need will be starting after Apple Festival. Postage for packages to Afghanistan troops before the holidays will be also supplied. Any questions, please call me. Thanks, Debbie



### Women's Fellowship

Pie making is going great and the apples this year are delicious! We have a great crew but could always use another "apeeling peeler" or "holy roller"! Please join us any Wednesday morning at 9:30 for a great interactive time! Pies are still just \$10 and can be ordered by calling Ginny Granquist anytime or the church on Wednesday mornings. We are organizing our Apple Festival for October 22 from 10:00 to 2:00. If you can help with any of our tables, please call. Everyone put the date on your calendar to come for some wonderful apple treats and great fellowship! Thanks, Debbie



## **DEACONS**

The Deacons committee met on September 11, 2011. During this time we reviewed the current list of church members and updated it as we were able, including adding those most recently confirmed to our active member list. The deacons would like to update contact information including email addresses for all current members and will be working on that this coming month. Please fill out your updated information form that was in the bulletin at the 9/11 service. If you need a form or want to email your contact information to Nicole or myself we will see that the information gets updated. We also discussed communion and coffee hour which we hosted in September.

George and I are going to be working on a sermon for the October 2, 2011 service that incorporates scripture and the relationship to Christian missions. I am planning a medical mission to Haiti for the end of October and I will be talking more about this trip as well. I am currently collecting items to take to the Haitian villages now through October 15th. The items are listed below. I plan to leave a box in the narthex for these items or members can bring them to Sunday service. I thank all of the Dunbar Family for your continued support!

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2011 @ 10 am.

Thank you and God Bless,

Heather Sibley and Nicole Jacques

[hls157@aol.com](mailto:hls157@aol.com)

[nicolejacques23@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolejacques23@yahoo.com)

### Items for Haiti:

Adult Multivitamins  
Children's chewable  
vitamins (not gummies  
as they melt) --- I was  
told that BJs is the best  
place to get the best  
value

Adult and children's  
Tylenol  
Infant liquid Tylenol  
TUMS  
Cough drops  
Powdered infant  
formula

Pepto-Bismol  
Gentle bars of soap  
(Dove/Jargons/ Caress)  
Toothpaste

There are also medicines and supplies that the group buys through a specific vendor as they get the best price so if anyone would rather make financial donation let me know and I can also provide tax ID number.

Thanks, Heather



## **Childcare Has Begun!!**

If your child is too young for Sunday School, we have Childcare offered to all families during our Sunday Worship!! Mary Allen and Linda Rua run the Childcare on the lower level of the Parish House. So drop off your little one's for fun and play while you enjoy the Sunday Service!!



Best wishes to all those celebrating birthdays & anniversaries in  
October!!

8<sup>th</sup> : Dean Luedee celebrating his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday!

22<sup>nd</sup> : Polly Parmelee celebrating her birthday!

29<sup>th</sup> : Robby Shettleworth celebrating his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday!

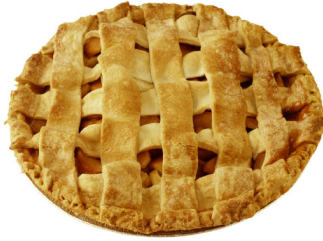


Are you receiving our Weekly Newsletter via email?

If not, email Geneene and she will add you to our Weekly Newsletter List!!

[ducc767@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ducc767@sbcglobal.net)

**OCTOBER 22, 2011  
DUNBAR UNITED CHURCH  
43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL APPLE FESTIVAL**



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 , 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.  
CORNER OF BENHAM ST. & DUNBAR HILL ROAD, HAMDEN CT  
FREE ADMISSION & PARKING, RAIN OR SHINE**

**FRESH BAKED PIES  
APPLE CRISP  
AEBLE SKIVERS  
APPLES PANCAKES  
BAKE SALE**

**HOMEMADE JELLIES  
JEWELRY TABLE  
GRANDMA'S ATTIC  
GRANDPA'S TOOL SHED  
CRAFTS & BAZAAR**

**HOT APPLES SUNDAES WHILE THEY LAST!**

**To place a pie order from now until October 12, call (203) 248-5484 for pick up on Wednesdays at noon at the church hall or on Wednesday mornings call the church at 203 288-2342. Pies are a real bargain at \$10 for a 10" pie. Proceeds benefit area charities.**



**Consider Volunteering to Teach!!!**

We are in need of volunteers to teach Sunday School. No experience is necessary and all supplies are provided. Lesson plans are easy to follow and you can pick and choose which activities you wish to do. Sign up to teach one or more classes by seeing Nancy Braen after church, or emailing [njbraen@comcast.net](mailto:njbraen@comcast.net).



### **Bible for Beginners**

Bible for Beginners is a bible study group that meets from the second Monday in September to the second Monday in June, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Parish House. Moderated by Rev. George Manukas, Bible for Beginners discusses what the Bible has to teach about how we should live our everyday lives as we go through our routines of work, family life, relationships, and community involvement. Come when you can. Attendance at every class is not required, and there is no homework -- except the constant effort to put our insights of loving God and neighbor into practice. For more information about Bible for Beginners contact Rev. Manukas at 203-287-8106.



### **CHRISTMAS EVE MUSIC**

If anyone is interested in helping with music for the Christmas Eve service, please see Nancy Braen after church or email [njbraen@comcast.net](mailto:njbraen@comcast.net).



### **Operation Christmas Child**

**Collection Date: November 12**

**Missions will cover the cost of sending your shoebox!!**

You choose age, boy/girl, and the items can not include liquids, anything that looks war related (i.e., water pistols, toy guns or war figures, etc.). Great items are hair combs/brushes/headbands/bows, toothbrushes, small toys, crayons and books/paper, candy, t-shirts, lipbalm, baby toys, race cars, etc. and feel free to include a letter from you! Heather needs the following: adult multivitamins, children's chewable vitamins, any tylenol (adult, children's and infant) tums, cough drops, powdered infant formula, peptobismol, gentle bars of soap, toothpaste. all items need to be new and not opened. Or financial contributions will help her group get the best buy for certain items.

She has a tax ID # if needed. Anything for Heather needs to be collected by October 2 (earlier if possible). Looking forward to the next season with all of you!

### **Hike for Humanity, Sat. October 1, 1:00 and 3:00 PM**

Sleeping Giant Build will be holding a "Hike for Humanity" on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at Sleeping Giant State Park. Registration will begin at 12:30 pm, and hikers can begin their trek up the Tower Trail between 1:00 and 3:00 pm. (Proceeds from the hike will benefit the Sleeping Giant Build, and will support the current home-building project anticipated to be on Gilbert Avenue in Hamden, CT.)

Update on 390 Gilbert Ave in Hamden, CT. We have not closed on the Masselli farm property yet, so work on the house has not yet begun. As soon as we close we will start work immediately thereafter. Thank you for your patience and continued interest.

Jim Arseniadis

aspetuck.appraisal@yahoo.com



### **MEDICAL MISSION TO HAITI**

Heather Sibley is planning to go on a medical mission to Haiti in October. She will be going to 4 villages outside of Les Cayes area of Haiti. She is going with two nurses from UConn and other nurses from the local area there will be approximately 11-12 of them.

The trip is planned from **Oct 24-31**. They are going with a christian group called Bethesda Evangelical Missions / Pastor Lubin Beaucejour that takes these medical mission trips every 3-4 months and has 4-5 days of clinics where they will see approximately 75-100 patients per day. She will be the only physician going!

#### **Items that are needed:**

Adult multivitamins, children's chewable vitamins, adult and children's tylenol, infant liquid tylenol, tums, cough drops, powdered infant formula, peptobismol, gentle bars of soap (dove/Jergens/Caress), tooth paste.

Some of these items are so simple but necessary and appreciated...gives one a perspective on how these people really need our help!

There are also medicines and other supplies that the group buys through a specific vendor as they get the best price so if anyone would rather make financial donotion Heather know and she can also provide tax ID number. If anyone knows any other medical providers that may have samples of medicines in their offices , pharmaceutical companies that would be willing to donate medicines or supplies and I can forward a list of what medicines the group uses as well.

Heather became involved with this trip through a "wrong number" when one of her stepmother's friends called the wrong Heather in her phone contacts, Clearly meant to be. God works in amazing ways when we least expect it!

### **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](mailto: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.

Operation Christmas Child Collection Date: November 12! Missions will cover the cost of sending your shoebox!!

You choose age, boy/girl, and the items can not include liquids, anything that looks war related(i.e., water pistols, toy guns or war figures, etc.). Great items are hair combs/brushes/headbands/bows, toothbrushes, small toys, crayons and books/paper, candy, t-shirts, lipbalm, baby toys, race cars, etc. and feel free to include a letter from you! Heather needs the following: adult multivitamins, children's chewable vitamins, any tylenol(adult, children's and infant) tums, cough drops, powdered infant formula, peptobismol, gentle bars of soap, toothpaste.all items need to be new and not opened. or financial contributions will help her group get the best buy for certain items.

### **HALL RENTAL INFORMATION**

The DUCC's Fellowship hall is available to rent for all your special occasions! The hall provides a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere for your wedding and reception, birthday party, business meeting, anniversary celebration, retirement party, or any other event you have planned. The hall can hold approximately 240 people, or 180 seated at either round or rectangular tables with chairs. Facilities include a full kitchen and a serving area for food and other refreshments, room for a live band or DJ, and lighting options to create the perfect mood for your affair.

The hall is totally non-smoking and alcohol free to provide our guests with a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere.

Some of the more popular dates, especially weekends around the Christmas holidays, are reserved months in advance, so don't delay. Visit us at 767 Benham Street, Hamden, CT 06514 or call (203) 288-2342 for more information. Ask for Geneene Luedee, Church Secretary and mention that you got the number from our website. We look forward to welcoming you as our guest and accommodating any special needs you have.

#### HALL RENTAL COSTS

The following are the DUCC's Fellowship hall rental costs:

Basic Rental (1/2 Day, 4 hours) \$200.00                      Basic Rental (Full Day, 8 hours) \$275.00

Security Deposit (reserves date and time) \$50.00

Custodial Fee (Included) \$75 \*non refundable for weddings and funerals

Church Custodian (If required) \$10/hour

(The basic rental includes up to 2 hours earlier on the day of the event for set-up, table and chair arrangement, caterer and band/DJ prep time, and up to 1 hour after the event for band/DJ equipment removal)

## Dunbar United Church of Christ

**Pastor:** Rev. George Manukas  
**Moderator:** Jim Arseniadis  
**Treasurer:** Joe Braen  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Mark Rosa  
**Clerk:** Sandra Kops  
**Sexton:** Victor Mitchell  
**Secretary:** Geneene Luedee  
**Hall Rentals:** Geneene Luedee  
**Web Site:** Nancy Braen  
**Nominations:** Bruce Detmers  
**Altar Flowers:** Betty Detmers  
**Budget:** Steve Hurd

### 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); Mark  
 Rosa (2011)

### Missions and Concerns

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

### Trustee's

Gary Burbuckler (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 Burbuckler (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

# Dunbar UCC Member/Friend Profile

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town : \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Add'l Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information/comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

~ October 2011 ~						
Dunbar United Church of Christ						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5pm Worship Service
2 10am Service Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am Mission Meeting	3 7pm Bible Study-Parish House 7pm Girl Scouts – Hall (Kathy Seneco Troop 64159 Leader)	4 5:30-8pm Girl Scouts – Hall (D. French)	5 Apple Festival Baking	6	7	8 5pm Worship Service
9 10am Service 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am CE Meeting	10 <b>Columbus Day</b> 7pm Bible Study Dinner (HALL)	11	12 Apple Festival Baking 7:30pm Trustee's Meeting-Hall	13 7pm Council Meeting (Hall)	14 6-9 pm Girl Scouts- Hall (M. Nabors)	15 5pm Worship Service
16 10am Service 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am Deacons Meeting	17 Apple Festival Baking 7pm Bible Study-Parish House 6-8pm Girl Scouts – Hall (K.Seneco)	18 Apple Festival Baking	19 Apple Festival Baking	20 Apple Festival Baking	21 Apple Festival Baking	22 Apple Festival  5pm Worship Service
23 NO HALL RENTAL 10am Service 11:00am Coffee Hour VESPER SERVICE	24 <b>Dome Reports/Announcements Due</b> 7pm Bible Study	25 5:30-8pm Girl Scouts – Hall (D. French)	26	27 <b>Dome Mailout</b>	28	29 5pm Worship Service
30 10am Service BIBLE CHARACTER SUNDAY 11:00am Coffee Hour	31 7pm Bible Study	Coffee Hour Sponsored by CHRISTIAN EDUCATION				