

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of NAUGATUCK



2011 CHURCH CONFERENCE

January 15, 2012

CONNECTICUT CENTRAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bishop Rev. Jeremiah Park

Rev. Kenneth Kieffer, District Superintendent

Rev. Steven Kim, Pastor and Rev. Paul Hibbard, Presiding Pastor

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Lay Leadership Committee Report *(*Indicates the newly nominated.)*

Church Council (Administrative Board) Chair: John Hope-Ross*

Secretary/ Lay Leader ----- Linnea Behlman
Treasurer ----- Bob Behlman
Financial Secretary ----- Cindy Herb
Trustee Chair ----- Jenner Almanza
SPPRC Chair ----- Wayne Zirolli
Worship Chair ----- Jeff Hunt
Finance Chair ----- Matti Lilback
Sunday School Superintendent: Lauren Carrington* (from Sept.2012)
Education Work Area Chair: Esther Ruocco *
Lay Delegates to Annual Conference ----- Ethel Grant
Alternate Delegate to A.C. ----- Bob Behlman & Bernie Grant
Newsletter & Website Editor: Gretchen Usawicz
(Assistant Website Editor: John Hope-Ross)
Mission & Outreach ----- Ethel Grant
Stewardship Chair ----- Kim Dilts-Louey
Historian: Bev Carrington

Board of Trustees Chair: Jenner Almanza

2012: Mary Hope-Ross, Bud Argel, Jenner Almanza
2013: Paul Harrison, Bernie Grant, Jeff Hunt* (2 year-)
2014: Carl Herb* George Mudry* Debbie Torrice *

Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) Chair: Wayne Zirolli

2012: Lisa Herb, Jim Louey, Wayne Zirolli
2013: Jeff Hunt, Diane Monsam, April Ruocco *
2014: Lauren Carrington* Jerrie Petro *

Lay Leadership Committee (Nomination) Chair: Pastor Steven Kim

2012: Ethel Grant, Marion Zirolli, Cindy Fellows * (1 year)
2013: Barbara Hunt (Vice-Chair), Elma Solomon, Esther Ruocco
2014: Bev Carrington*, Ed Usawicz*

Education Work Area: Esther Ruocco

Superintendent: Sherrie Ploof (till June), Lauren Carrington* (from Sept.)
Nursery Coordinator:
Youth Fellowship Instructors:
VBS & Adult Education Coordinator: Ruth Lilback

Finance Committee : Chair: Matti Lilback

Financial Secretary: Cindy Herb
(Assistant Financial Secretary: Richard Hassenfeldt)

Treasurer: Bob Behlman
Church Council Chair: John Hope-Ross
Stewardship Committee Chair: Kim Dilts Louey
Major Fundraiser Committee Chair: Bill Carrington
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Ethel Grant
Alternative Delegate to A.C.: Bob Behlman, Bernie Grant
Representative of SPPRC:
Representative of Trustees:
Lay Leader: Linnea Behlman
At-Large Members: Elma Solomon, Dale Sweet

MFWA (Major Fundraiser Work Area) (A sub-group of Finance Committee)

Chair: Bill Carrington*

Members: Barbara Hunt, Richard King, Christine Pease, Mike Fallon* Bev Carrington*

At-Large Member: Finance & Stewardship Committee Chair

Stewardship Committee (A sub-committee of Finance Committee)

Chair: Kim Dilts-Louey, Paul Harrison, Bob Behlman, Jeff Hunt, Mary Hope-Ross,
Audrey Kirkendall, Cindy Herb

Worship Committee Chair: Jeff Hunt

Organist: Cherelle Solomon

Communion Steward/ Liturgist Coordinator: Jeff Hunt

Cup Bearers: Liturgist of the day & Bill Carrington

Usher Coordinator: John Hope-Ross

Altar Coordinator: Bev Carrington,

Acolyte Coordinator: Elma Solomon*

Fellowship Hour Coordinator: Bev Carrington

Bell Choir Coordinator: Barbara Hunt

At-Large Members: Gretchen Usawicz, Susan Agamy, Caroline Raj, Sara Behlman

Lay Speakers: Jack Lewis, Debbie Torrice

Mission & Outreach Committee Chair: Ethel Grant

Fellowship Hour Coordinator: Bev Carrington

Coffee House Coordinator: Rob Petro,

Food Bank Coordinator: Elma Solomon

Members: Jeff Hunt, Linnea Behlman, Kim Dilts Louey, Edward Usawicz,
Gretchen Usawicz, Marion Zirolli, Lisa Herb, Diane Monsam

Auditing Committee Co-Chairs: Mary Hope-Ross, Edward Usawicz

Mary Hope-Ross, Edward Usawicz

Cindy Fellows, Paul Harrison, April Ruocco*

Report from Church Council

2011 has been a real roller coaster ride with the high point and the low point occurring only days apart. The high point, Vacation Bible School, August 8th thru August 12th allowed the 40-50 people who attended to be carried away on a spiritual voyage to an Island Odyssey. It was truly a week of fun and spiritual renewal for both children and adults. The low point, just days later, August 16th, hence to be called Black Tuesday or the great flood. Fellowship Hall, classrooms, and the kitchen were wiped out by 18 inches of water when the town's sewers could not handle the deluge and flooded our basement. When the damage was assessed it was clear this was not going to be a quick fix. Plans for the rest of the year would have to change.

The coffee house scheduled for September would be cancelled, Sunday school postponed, our major fund raiser, the Snowflake festival would have to be cancelled, and Fellowship Hour relocated. As the shock wore off, the rebirth began. Sunday school teachers put their heads together and found rooms to meet in. Fellowship was moved first to the Pastor's backyard and then to the Memorial room once the weather cooled.

Most importantly, God inspired one person to take charge of reconstruction while the rest of our heads were still spinning. Carl Herb stepped up and said "I'll have the school rooms and fellowship hall back to new soon." True to his word Carl and his crew of 2 (Roger Houseknecht and Brian DeRosa) have done everything from sheetrock, trim, paint, and floors and in between used his experience to deal with the insurance company. This Church owes Carl and a huge debt of gratitude, and also Cindy Herb who is running her business without her husband's help since he moved to the Church construction business.

As the year ends and the sawdust begins to settle, it is once again clear that God's hand has been at work. Fellowship Hall and the school rooms look sparkling new and the downstairs is now handicap accessible thanks to our new chairlift. Thank you, Mary Hope- Ross, for your leadership in making the lift a reality. Many people worked hard this past year to bring us through this trying time, but our real strength was the calm steady spirit of our leader Pastor Steven. He seemed to be able to see past the immediate problems and assured us all would be well. It is clear that God has plans for our future because he has miraculously restored our facility, both church and parsonage. Let us hope he allows us to pave the driveway without Divine intervention. As Marlene Taylor recorded in the History of the Naugatuck Methodist Church "Our Church is a survivor. In an age of computeristics which reduce us all to numbers, she remains steadfast, holds out her hope and is a haven to us. Here the bereaved are comforted; the souls find salvation. The purpose of her past promised the future to us. Blessing on them all and on us too! What we can become is still to be recorded. But so far, our Naugatuck United Methodist Church has written a success story."

Bill Carrington

Church Council Chair

SPPRC Report

December, 2011

The SPPR Committee continued into 2011 with a good relationship with the pastor and staff. The sharing of the sexton's duties between Cliff Young and Bud Argel continued to work well and the congregation appreciates the work done around the church. Dottie Sherwood, our long time church secretary has continued to run the office and provide support for the congregation and Cherelle Solomon continues to be an important part of the church services as organist/choir director.

Pastor Steven has been kept quite busy with the daily demands of the pastorate, tending to the needs of the congregation, looking for ways to bring the congregation closer and working on community involvement.

Through the hard work of the Trustees and Trustee Chair Mary Hope-Ross a long time dream of the church has finally come to fruition. The addition of a lift to the church, as well as a handicap accessible rest room has been virtually completed and is functional, enabling access to Fellowship Hall to all. While the church experienced extensive flooding as the result of heavy rains which contributed to a sewer backup, leaving Fellowship Hall under at least 18-24" of water, the congregation was able to continue with services. As a result of the flooding, the addition of the lift and bathroom upgrade became incorporated in renovation of the whole basement, including Fellowship Hall, the classrooms and even the rear classrooms.

The congregation has been faithful in their support of the church throughout the long renovation process, and I believe the crisis has brought the church members closer together. I see great potential for growth and ministry in our church, and the committee members, the congregation and I appreciate the hard work and support Pastor Steven and staff members Dottie Sherwood, Cliff Young, Bud Argel and Cherelle Solomon cheerfully provide to everyone.

I would also like to thank all the committee members for their commitment to Christian values and the welfare of the pastor and staff and the life of the church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Zirolli - SPPR Committee Chair

Mission & Outreach Committee Report

Together we serve our neighbors, Together we make disciples,
Together we witness to God's Love, and Together we make a difference.

Once again with God's help we have worked together to be witnesses of God's Love. We pray that we have made a positive difference in someone's life and renewed their faith. We could not have done all the good things that we have this year without the support of each other. We pray that we continue to work together for the greater good and grow our faith. Missions and Outreach continues to work towards incorporating the principles of the 'Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations' and work toward moving our Congregation into more 'risk-taking in mission and service' in conjunction with the mission goals of the United Methodist Global Ministry:

- ü Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
- ü Strengthen, Develop, and Renew Christian Congregations and Communities
- ü Alleviate Human Suffering
- ü Seek Justice, Freedom, and Peace

In March we really stepped out of comfort zone and took a risk and participated in a 'Change the World' event. We closed our doors for a Sunday and everyone went out on mission together. We had 6 groups: home repair for our shut ins, Sunday Service at the Homeless Shelter, cook a meal at the Soup Kitchen, serve a free community meal at our Church, visit sick and shut ins and neighborhood food collection and set up in the Food Bank with the help of the Boy Scouts. For me this was an emotional event – just to see everyone turning out early Sunday morning – seating and waiting with beaming faces – waiting for their blessing before going out into the world – it was wonderful! It made me smile, and I know that God was beaming. Stay tuned for 2012 'Change the World'.

Other great examples of our teamwork can be seen in our ability to continually collect more items than are requested for the Ecumenical Food Bank holiday baskets (almost 400 mac and cheese); and, our continued generosity to the Ecumenical Christmas Toy Collection, and Health Kits for Conference and school outfits for school children through 'New Beginnings', and toys, hygiene products, and school supplies for Operation Christmas Child. As a collection point for the 3rd year for the Naugatuck Valley, the 300 shoeboxes we collected joined the 8 million shoebox gifts delivered to smiling children all over the world as an example of God's Love. Also, because of your generosity in dropping off your cans and bottles, we continue to contribute to apportionments and was able to donate \$500.00 to Habitat for Humanity to help with the start up of a new program called "A Brush with Kindness". This program will help the elderly and disabled and others keep their homes livable. Stay tuned for our hands-on opportunity to work with Habitat in 2012.

We continue to prayerfully and monetarily support mission projects on a local, national, and international scale through our local church and Conference (shared ministries). Listed below is a review of the ministries you support. It is wonderful to see what we have accomplished together in God's Name. If there is a ministry that you would like to learn more about or would like to personally participate in, please speak with one of the Committee members or with Pastor Steven. We welcome your passion and your input.

Naugatuck UMC Local and Global Missions
Special Sundays, Crop Walk, Mission Tree, Human Relations Day
City Fest – Waterbury, Coffee House Ministry
One Sunday
Toy Great Hour of Sharing, Receptions for Families (Funerals)
Native American Ministries, Sunday Prayer Chain Ministry
New Beginnings,
Peace with Justice Sunday
Habitat for Humanity
Prayer Shawl Ministry
World Communion Sunday
Pumpkin Patch
Thrift Shop Ministry
United Methodist Student Day
Operation Christmas Child
Fellowship Hour
Human Relations Conference
Birthing Kits for Day
Food Bank Ministry
Naugatuck Ecumenical
AA & Addiction Meeting Place
Outreach Network
Caroling to Shut-ins
Greeting Card Ministry
UM Army (Youth)

Finally, a big 'Thank You' to Pastor Steven for his spirituality and leadership, and to the dedicated members of the Missions and Outreach Committee for their support and Christian Fellowship. (What a Team!)

Mission and Outreach Team

Pastor Steven, Linnea Behlman, Beverly Carrington, Kim Dilts, Lisa Herb, Jeff Hunt, Rob Petro, Elma Solomon, Ed Usawicz, Gretchen Usawicz, Marion Zirollie

We've had several meetings throughout the year and spearheaded our annual Stewardship Campaign this fall, "In the Reality of Today, God also Dwells." We continued emphasizing the importance of strengthening our individual stewardship and progressing towards tithing. Some committee projects included painting the door to the handicap entrance of the church and helping the Trustees with the grounds clean-up.

As a committee we discussed the ongoing need for long term financial and estate planning as a necessary part of Christian stewardship. We put the topic on hold for the remainder of 2011 but will be discussing it again in 2012.

In Christ and Peace,

The Stewardship Committee

Kimberly Dilts, Chair * John Hope-Ross * Jeff Hunt * Paul Harrison

Bill Carrington * Audrey Kirdendall * Cindy Herb * Pastor Steven

Worship Committee Report

The Worship Committee continues to tweak the worship services to make them flow a little more smoothly and adjust the sanctuary to make it more user-friendly

- We were able to have some pews modified to accommodate wheel chairs. This, in addition to the access improvements to the other areas of the facility, will make the sanctuary much more friendly for the physically challenged. We hope to create one or two more locations for wheel chairs. - A group has been established to create banners for the sanctuary to augment the existing banners.

- A big thank-you to Bev and Bill Carrington who always see that the altar is decorated beautifully, banners hung, hymn numbers displayed and the liturgical cloths are in place. - Cherelle Solomon, our music director, has beautifully incorporated the talented youth musicians of our church and continually selects appropriate music for the adult choir and meditation moments.

With Pastor's guidance, the worship service continues to be a meaningful, spiritual experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Hunt

EWA Report 2011

Our Sunday school year didn't start until Oct. 2, 2011 due to the disaster in Fellowship Hall. Only 3 weeks later, however, we had another surprise with a snowstorm on Oct. 30, 2011 in which we had to cancel Sunday school; our teachers were able to get catch up in a few lessons. We were not able to use all the classrooms until Dec. 18, 2011, so we made use of the offices, and other areas we found that we could use.

We also had the K & 1st grade class double up with the 2nd & 3rd grade class. This worked out quite well, as the older students were able to help the younger students with any craft project that needed to be done during that week's lesson. The teachers had positive feedback on the combining of the classes. Unfortunately, due to the flooding of Fellowship hall we have found that we need to replace a few things in the 4 classrooms off of Fellowship hall. We are asking for donations and also will be "shopping around" and comparing prices of items needed.

We have 22 families (40 students) scheduled to come back. To date only 3 students representing 2 families have not returned. Phone calls have not been returned when messages were left on their answering machines/voice mail. We average about 20 students per week on a regular basis, with offerings being between \$10- \$15 a week. We had all but one teacher from last year return. We found 2 volunteers who rotate weekly to cover for that class. We also have 3 of our 4 subs returning. We have also come up with a criteria/guideline list for any volunteers who would like to be a teacher or a sub. This is to go into effect immediately.

Our advent assembly crafting project which was held on December 4, 2011 was to make 2 Christmas ornaments. These were shapes that were cut-out and the students had to color/decorate them. One was for the Christmas tree and the other was sent with a Christmas card to a Recovering American Solider Foundation at Walter Reed Medical Center in Maryland. Our Christmas pageant was on December 11, 2011. It was held in place of regular service that day. This seems to work out our well for the students and attendees. Once again the high school class, under the direction of their teacher Christian Herb, coordinated the entire pageant. A "cold" potluck was held after.

We will be welcoming in a new EWA chair on January 1, 2012. Esther Ruocco will fill in this position vacated by Christian Herb on December 31, 2011. Lauren Carrington will also be mentoring under the guidance of Sherrie Ploof so that she can take over the position of Superintendent of Sunday school as of September 9, 2012. And lastly, a Superintendent "handbook binder" is in the process of being made by Sherrie Ploof so that all the Superintendent duties will be clearly outlined for any Superintendents that may follow. A USB port is also going to be provided with the binder, that has documents that need to be changed yearly, instead of having one hard copy, with no way to perform changes, there is an e-copy that can be changed and printed as needed, along with the original "hard copy" that is on the USB port.

Respectfully submitted

Sherrie Ploof

Sunday School Superintendent 12-31-2011

Board of Trustees' Annual Report 2011

2011 was a momentous year with the finishing of the Wheel Chair Lift Project. With much gratitude to Mary Hope-Ross, who spearheaded the project, our Church now has accessibility to Fellowship Hall for people who previously could not participate in activities there. Mary singlehandedly raised additional funds to make up the gap for completing the project, which it turns out was a windfall as she found Hudson Accessibility who did the project at a lower cost than was originally forecast. A handicapped bathroom was installed at the same time. This will make our church more accessible for people who previously could not come here.

August 2011 we had a major insurance claim as there was the sewage back up into Fellowship Hall and the classrooms after a major rainstorm. There was over a foot of sewage that had to be cleaned up immediately. With help from Bud Argel and Sanitrol all the sewage was pumped off. Church Mutual was contacted and they assigned LaMarche Associates to assess the damages.

Service Master was brought in for initial repairs at the recommendation of Church Mutual. The bottom half of sheet rocked walls and moldings were all removed. All kitchen cabinets were removed and the refrigerator was damaged. With much gratitude to Carl Herb, who brought his own contractors and materials in, Fellowship Hall and the classrooms have been restored to previous condition. The kitchen is still a work in progress as a new refrigerator is needed as well as cabinets.

Once this restoration project is completed we need to get our hall renters back as we have had no income generated for hall use since August of 2011. Future project(s) include getting an updated sump pump for the basement. As usual we complete many small maintenance projects for the church and parsonage whenever they come up.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenner Almanza

Chairman, Board of Trustees

Lay Leader Report

Have you ever heard someone say 'How can you possibly find joy in the middle of troubles?' If you ever do, just tell them to come to the UMC on Meadow St. in and they will feel that joy. We have had unheard of problems like being flooded out of our kitchen & Sunday School. On top of that add our financial problems and I could go on & on. But God has seen us thru all our difficulties and I believe it is due to our dedication, our faith, and our strong belief in prayer.

God sent us a wonderful Leader. I have not heard of one person who doesn't love Pastor Steven. It is through his leadership that we have strengthened our Faith, Dedication, and Prayer Life. As a congregation we give thanks to God for sending him to our church.

Respectfully Submitted

Lynn Behlman

Lay Leader

Pastor's Report

December 15, 2011

God has led our church in His goodness throughout 2011. Many of our church members have served God faithfully in different areas; I cannot name them one by one here. I commend, however, each of them in the blessing of our Lord. God Himself will reward each for their commitment.

As I look back on 2011, there were times when our spiritual journey seemed to have been blocked by obstacles. They were the tests, however, which God put before our church in order to purify the integrity of our faith. Sometimes, we didn't understand why certain things happened to us but now we humbly confess that God allowed them to happen for reasons according to His goodness for us.

Perhaps, the biggest joy for our church this year was to see the electronic chair lift installed at last. As a result, our church families who are less blessed physically are able to join us at our fellowship hour downstairs. Also, God has helped our church to revamp our facilities in the basement through ways beyond our imagination. Along the way, it has been truly inspirational to see some of our members commit their time and energy for months in the midst of the project. Their toils will be remembered not only in the hearts of the people but also in the heart of God.

Finally, I thank God for helping us to have paid off our apportionment to the Conference this year. It has been made possible through the prayers and financial commitments by many members who assumed the responsibility as the family of God. I'd also like to express my gratitude to all who responded generously to the Pastor Appeal.

Brothers and sisters, 2012 is the new chapter for our church. It is totally a new creation from God for us. Let us embrace it in His grace. It has come to us as life, hope, and opportunity to serve God and His world. God has just embarked on His new journey along with us through Naugatuck United Methodist Church. Let us be guided by Him altogether. Let us participate in His blessing for the world. He is our victor.

Pastor Steven Kim