



# THE CIRCUIT WRITER

News from the United Methodist Church of Naugatuck

February 2012

*A community of God seeking, serving, and growing in Christ  
with open hearts, open minds, and open doors.*

203•729•4236 ❖ [www.numcct.org](http://www.numcct.org)

## BE MY BLESSING

Pastor's Report to Church Conference  
January 15, 2012

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's 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 the Naugatuck United Methodist Church. Let us be guided by Him altogether. Let us participate in His blessing for the world. He is our victor.

In Peace,

Pastor Steven Kim

## February Servers

Liturgists – Check on Line at [www.numcct.org](http://www.numcct.org)

- 12 February .....Jack Lewis
- 19 February .....Wayne Zirolli
- 26 February .....Susan Agamy

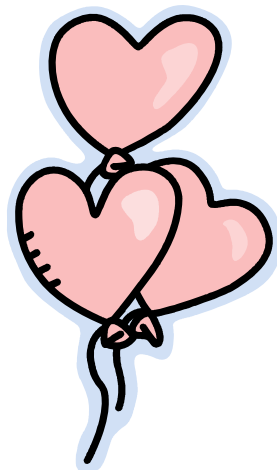
Together We Make A Difference Through  
Shared Ministry Apportionments  
on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February.

## Catch the Excitement with the Education Work Area

- Esther Ruocco, Chairperson

We are in the midst of exciting new program discussions and development, as follows:

- A student-involved Lenten project
- Children's Day theme development
- Time change to 9:00 a.m. for the Grades Eight through Twelve Sunday School class
- An adult discussion-fellowship hour Sunday School class format
- VBS funding ministry
- An assembly format for Sunday School during the summer months



We have six returning teachers for the coming year. If you are interested in teaching, or would like to investigate this ministry, please see Esther Ruocco or Lauren Carrington.

## GET REDEMPTION Plus Cash Back



We are collecting used printer cartridges, AND we will receive \$3 for each one we redeem.

**Drop off  
used printer cartridges  
and get redeemed!**

Questions? See Bill Carrington

## Just a Gentle Reminder...



When you are shopping, please keep the food pantry in mind. Also, consider taking advantage of a 'buy one, get one free sale,' and donating the "free" item to the food pantry. All donations are always gratefully accepted.

Please remember, the  
**FIRST** Sunday of the month is  
**Food Bank Collection Sunday**



The United Methodist Church  
of Naugatuck, Connecticut  
208 Meadow Street 203•729•4236  
Naugatuck, CT 06770 [www.numcct.org](http://www.numcct.org)

A community of God seeking, serving,  
and growing in Christ with open hearts,  
open minds, and open doors.

The Reverend Steven Kim, Pastor

Gretchen I. Usawicz, Editor, [The Circuit Writer](http://TheCircuitWriter.com)  
[gusawicz@region15.org](mailto:gusawicz@region15.org) 203•729•0572

# OUR MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

## NEON

We continue to work with NEON (Naugatuck Ecumenical Outreach Network) providing free meals once month to those in our community who need a little fellowship and a warm meal. NEON also provided lunches for school children during the summer and during the winter break.

You can volunteer at any of these events or par-time of the fellowship and the meal. It all takes place at St. Michael's Church on the Green. The monthly meals are 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays. If you are volunteering to work, please arrive between 4:15 and 4:30 p.m. to receive instructions as to what you will be doing - serving, cooking, greeting, waiting tables, setup or breakdown.

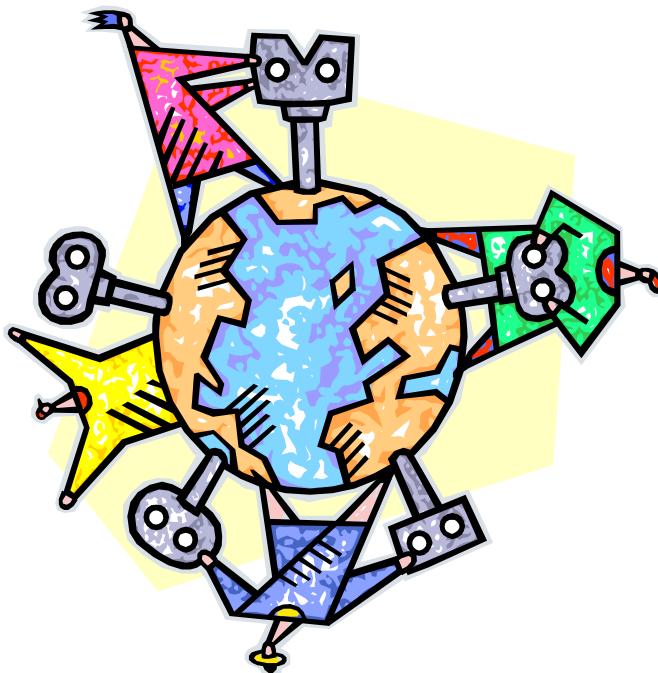
Some of our members have participated and found it very rewarding - Thank you: Pastor Steven, Ed Usawicz, Jeff Hunt, Dawn Mudry, Elma and Omari Solomon, the Lilback's, and the Herbs. Ask one of them about their experience. To volunteer, please contact Ethel or Pastor Steven or just show up.

## UM ARMY

We are planning an intergenerational mission event for the week of July 22, 2012, with the UM ARMY (United

Methodist Army) in Manchester, Connecticut. UM ARMY engages young people in serving communities with a Bible based philosophy This will be a week's overnight event. We will be staying at a local church and working with the surrounding community - we could work in a vacation Bible School, rehab of housing, tutoring, prepare food for summer

lunches for intercity children, etc. - we don't know, but we will certainly find out when we get there. Adults coordinate and monitor the youth. We have 2 adults going (Pastor Steven being one) and 4 youth right now. We welcome more people. We will be part of about 100 other United Methodist - fellowshiping and spreading the Word. To join us, please contact Debbie Torrice our UM Army coordinator for this event.



## CHANGE THE WORLD EVENT

Last year's Sunday Mission Day event was big success - with just about everyone participating in a mission activity outside/inside the Church building. Stay tuned for this year's event sometime in May. Start thinking about which project you would like do - painting, gardening, visiting shut ins, nursing homes, shelter opportunities, environmental, cooking, etc. If you have ideas let Missions or Pastor Steven know now.

Can't wait for Spring and Missions Day!

## 2011 Church Conference Volunteer Awards

The following Volunteer Awards were presented at the 2011 Church Conference.

We want to recognize our sponsor, the Giant Pumpkin Patch Tag Sale, for supplying our wonderfully appropriate award trophies. If you would like to recycle your award, please do so at the next tag sale. So, without further ado, please listen carefully and when you hear your name, come on up to receive your well-deserved award.

**You Gotta' Have Heart Award** - In The Wizard of Oz, the Tin Man's lament was having a hollow echo in his chest instead of a heart. The recipient of the You Gotta' Have Heart Award has a big heart. Ready and willing to volunteer at the Pumpkin Patch and Flower Sale and praising God in the choir, Richard Hassenfeldt certainly deserves the You Gotta' Have Heart Award.

**Heaven's Kitchen Award** - Move over Gordon Ramsey...we have our own chef extraordinaire! He is a very competent cook and there is no X-Rated bleeps going on in his kitchen. Our Heaven's Kitchen Award goes to the man who can create pulled pork sandwiches that people are still raving about. Come on up Rich King, our Heaven's Kitchen Award, goes to you.

**Road Runner Award** - Remember the road runner cartoons? The road runner bird would always outrun Wile E. Coyote, who was always thwarted in his attempt to capture that faster than the speed of sound bird. With his usual "meep meep," the Road Runner would speed off and be on to his next adventure. Appreciation is extended to our ever tireless and always running from one project to another member, Chris Herb. Thanks Chris for all you do, and Meep Meep!

**Fishing Award** - Who said fishing is boring? Not at our church. This past summer, our Island Odyssey took place and was a spectacular success – people are still sharing positive conversations. Thanks Ruth Lilback, our deserving recipient of the Fishing Award, we had a week-long fun filled and spirit-lifting event.

**Cheers! Award** - Once a month, we get together in the Memorial Room for happy hour. See what you've all been missing! And you thought we were having Church Council. The Cheers! Award goes to a man who maintains a positive direction, charted our journey's path, and cares very deeply

about the life of our church. Without further ado, the Cheers! Award goes to Bill Carrington.

**K'witcher Whining Award** - Our next award, the K'witcher Whining Award, goes to two deserving members. No matter what they take on, Sunday School, installing chair lifts, ushering, stewardship, auditing, they remain positive and never 'whine!' Our big thank you goes to Mary and John Hope-Ross, co-recipients of our K'witcher Whining Award..

**We Cannot Lie Award** - Derrière, we say it? The 'We Cannot Lie Award' goes to a member who doesn't rest on her bum laurels. Our bell ringers are sounding better than ever and their repertoire is growing. The recipient of the We Cannot Lie Award leads and challenges our Bell Choir to be the best! Barbara Hunt, please come forward to receive the We Cannot Lie Award.

**Iron-Man Challenge Award** - The judges were in complete agreement that the Iron-Man Challenge Award definitely goes to a member who worked tirelessly to iron out all the wrinkles in the renovation project. The daunting task of countless hours of overseeing this project would have flattened the best of us but not our Iron Man – Carl Herb!

**Glass Slipper Award** - Cinderella wasn't the only princess to wear a glass slipper to the ball. Our Glass Slipper Award recipient truly is deserving of this recognition. She waves her wand and beautiful flowers are arranged for our inspiration, she ensures Fellowship Hour happens, creates banners, works in the kitchen, to name a few of her contributions. Bev Carrington is our Princess and we thank her for her tireless devotion and creativity.

Continued ...

2011 Church Conference Volunteer Awards, continued...

**Get A Grip Award** - The motto, Keep Calm and Carry On, was a running theme for Great Britain during World War II. Well, we too have a motto here in the Naugatuck UMC, GET A GRIP. Anyone who has raised or dealt with teenagers usually finds themselves muttering, "I've got to Get A Grip," as a mantra. The Get a Grip Award is bestowed on Susan Agamy who leads the youth of our church, always calm and assured, we know we are in capable hands with Susan.

**You Light Up Our Life** - Each Sunday, our acolytes process at the start of our worship service bringing in the light of Jesus. It is no easy task lighting up our life. We appreciate the coordination of recruiting and scheduling our acolyte light bearers. By now you know, Esther Ruocco is the recipient of our You Light Up Our Life award.

**TGIF Award** - What's better than a cup of freshly brewed coffee - Friday's and the start of the weekend! Combine the coffee, Friday evening, and live Christian music and you have a wonderful way to spend an evening. Rob Petro is the recipient of the TGIF Award. Thanks to his dedication, hard work, and inspiration, we have our Good Fridays Coffeehouse ministry. Thanks, Rob, for all you do. We appreciate it!

**The GPS Award** - The GPS Award, is given to a member of our faith community who continues to reorient our faith journey in the right direction. She is a committed church member and committee chair and definitely understands what stewardship is all about. Our own Kim Dilts is deserving of The GPS Award, which really stands for The Good Person Steward. Thanks Kim for helping us broaden our approach and for helping us become problem solvers!

**The Big Stick Award** - Have you ever had a window that needs a stick to hold it open? This next award, The Big Stick Award, goes to a well deserving person. This lady earns this award because she supports her husband allowing him to volunteer countless hours to our church. Of course, we all know that Lisa Herb is the recipient of The Big Stick Award. Thank you Lisa for encouraging Chris, taking care of two lively boys, teaching, doing your own volunteering here at

church, and smiling through it all. We appreciate you and your gifts.

**There She is Ms. America Award** - As everyone knows, Ms. America contestants wear a banner with the name of their state on the banner. The winner of The There She is Ms. America Award is THE source of inspiration for the creation of new banners for our sanctuary and worship service. She is enthusiastic, has a beautiful spirit and smile, and we are very blessed to have Caroline Raj in our presence. Thanks, Caroline, for your inspiration and devotion. And congratulations are in order for Caroline for the There She is Ms. America Award, and being a source of inspiration.

**The Google Award** - From time-to-time, do you find yourself thinking about a question and wondering what could possibly be the answer? Such as how to remove stains from the bathroom sink?, or how to complete a Sudoku puzzle?, or what color is vermillion? or even more importantly, who were the characters from the original Old Maid game? Google is our "Go To Source" if you need an answer to those nagging questions. Google's mission is to, "Organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful." In our church, we, too, have a Go To Source, for a wide variety of items, especially in the kitchen. If you need to know what temperature chicken should be cooked to, or safe kitchen practices, our own Go To Source is also organized, accessible, useful, correct, and he is not an impersonal internet company but a genuinely kind person. The recipient truly deserves our Google Award, and it is Bernie Grant.

**Fly the Friendly Skies of United Award** - The Fly the Friendly Skies of United Award goes to a man who lives, breathes, and strives for unity. We thank this person sincerely from our heart for being our role model who exemplifies respect and who is our leader on our spiritual journey. The Reverend Steven Kim is the recipient of our Fly the Friendly Skies of United.





# Just Ask Bill...

## *What's Happening!*

MAJOR EVENTS CHAIRPERSON  
Need More Information?  
Contact Bill at: 203-729-4075  
E-mail: Billcarr51@aol.com

### The *Inviting* Church

Our mission, as a church, is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. How can we accomplish this? As I pondered and prayed about my new position, Major Events Chairperson, the answer was right there staring me in the face. We start by inviting people. We could become known as the *Inviting Church*.

This year, if the congregation is willing, we can use each fundraising event as the perfect opportunity to invite people. We start by inviting them to our events; and at that time, we also extend a personal invitation to join us at our worship service. We will not only have ticket sales, but more importantly, we will have extended the invitation for becoming a disciple.

The soothing spirit of God is with us each week during the worship service and after the service as we gather for fellowship. I want more people to be able to experience this wonderful gift. By following the practice of inviting, we are beginning to bear real fruit for our Savior and becoming authentic practicing Christians.

This year, let's move from our comfort zone, become fruitful, take the great commission to heart, and know this, the people that you and I lead to this church will be a blessing to all of us - and us to them. This year let our congregation, as the body of Christ, become fruitful and, through our combined efforts, become true disciples. Together let us make our mark on our community as we become known as the Inviting Church. While one person can make a difference, we can move mountains as a congregation united.



## \*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregation and Our Assessment List

At our Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations retreat, we developed the following assessment list for church events and activities. Using our assessments will help our church grow in a healthy direction.

This activity/event promotes **radical hospitality** by:

- Discerning the needs of the people
- Inviting the public
- Properly welcoming and greeting people
- Including a follow-up plan

This activity/event promotes **passionate worship** by:

- Inspiring a passionate response
- Connecting with God's purpose
- Showing the way; providing an example
- Incorporating prayer

This activity/event promotes **intentional faith development** by:

- Providing an opportunity to grow
- Connecting to scriptural teaching
- Promoting a servant's heart

This activity/event promotes **risk-taking mission and service** by:

- Educating people about mission and the need to support it in ways that they are able
- Going outside our comfort zone and looking outward
- Its potential to transform lives for the better—given our resources

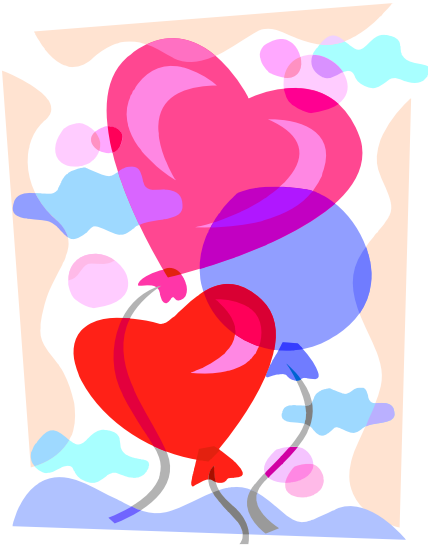
This activity/event promotes **extravagant generosity** by:

- Raising consciousness about the need to give with the goal of tithing one's time, talents, and service
- Connecting money with mission
- Creating a positive attitude with regard to monetary solicitation

*\*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase – Mr. Schnase contends that successful congregations often have certain characteristics in common. These fundamental practices demonstrate congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. They also help churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The five practices of fruitful congregations:

Radical Hospitality  
Passionate Worship  
Intentional Faith Development  
Risk-Taking Mission and Service  
Extravagant Generosity

# Stewardship Campaign Update



Thank you for your generous support during our Special Appeal and our Stewardship Campaign.

As a congregation, we have pledged \$83,430 toward our 2012 budget. Many of you make non-pledged stewardship contributions throughout the year, and these amounts are not included in this amount.

As we approach Lent, let us recall Christ's sacrifice and consider how we can share in this with a sacrifice of our own. By participating in this remembrance, we prepare ourselves for the promise and joy of Easter.

In Christ and Peace,  
The Stewardship Committee  
Kimberly Dilts, Chair

John Hope-Ross Jeff Hunt Paul Harrison Bill Carrington Audrey Kirkendall  
Cindy Herb Pastor Steven



# GET REDEMPTION

## *Plus Cash Back*

We are collecting used printer cartridges,  
AND  
we will receive \$3 for each one we redeem.

Drop off those used cartridges and get redeemed!

Questions? See Bill Carrington



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NAUGATUCK

*A community of God seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.*

208 MEADOW STREET

NAUGATUCK CT 06770

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.

US Postage

PAID

Permit #16

Naugatuck, CT

The Deadline for  
the March Issue of  
The Circuit Writer  
is February 15.  
Thank You.

