



# THE CIRCUIT WRITER

News from the United Methodist Church of Naugatuck

January 2010

*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)

## Getting Older

A century ago, Albert Einstein shocked the world through his theory of relativity. One of the insights he discovered has something to do with the lapse of time. He maintained that time is something that is not fixed but relative. I know this much about his theory.

Contrary to our intuition, time does not run at the same speed around the universe. If someone is able to travel, theoretically, into the space at the speed close to that of light, he could survive for hundreds years compared to the life span of human beings on earth. It sounds quite absurd, but scientifically true.

It may be Einstein who discovered the mystery but we are always aware that the lapse of time 'feels' very relatively. Oftentimes, I am amazed the way I feel the flow of time. For example, when I watch my favorite baseball game, three hours feels like just thirty minutes. (I hope you feel same way in our Sunday service.) We say that time runs faster as we get older. My own experience witnesses the truthfulness of the statement. I really didn't feel much the lapse of time until I got to my mid-thirties. Time has seemed to be on acceleration as years pass by since.

Why do we feel time runs faster as we grow older? There may be various reasons for that. For example, as we grow older we have to deal with more complicated life situation so that we feel time runs faster. Above all, I think we feel time runs faster and faster as we grow older because we are unconsciously aware of the limitedness of our lifespan clearer than before. In essence, we are not

measuring the speed of time but counting the remaining days of our life on earth. The fewer we see our remaining days are, the faster we feel time runs.



So, do we have to lament of the limitedness of our life on earth? I don't believe that is the way we should react to it. Rather, we'd better take the phenomenon as an inspiration for us: an inspiration about the true meaning of life, paying attention to our eternal destiny, and pondering on the way of life that would last in eternity. What kind of fruits would God want us to bear as we grow older? As for me, I'd like to become a person, more loving, generous, understanding, forgiving, reconciling, encouraging, and patient. As long as we are fruitful in bearing divine characters,

we don't have to lament of the lapse of time but celebrate it.

Happy New Year!

In Peace...

Pastor Steven Kim

## Bird Feeding Tips for the Urban Yard

Are you interested in back-yard bird watching of our feathered friends? If so, then check out this story on NPR at

<http://www.npr.org/2010/12/07/131854573/bird-feeding-tips-for-the-urban-yard>

Here is a recipe for helping the birds make it through our New England winter months:

### Suet Dough Bird Feed Recipe

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup melted lard
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 2 cups quick oats
- 2 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup all-purpose flour

Directions: Melt lard and peanut butter together in the microwave or on a low burner. Remove from heat and combine with dry ingredients. When cool, store in jars; no refrigeration needed. Offer crumbled in an open dish or packed into a suet log.



## May I Take Your Order?

Lynn and Bob Behlman send a big HUG for the love that was shown to them at the pageant luncheon.

Bob said, "The only thing they left undone was to send someone up to stir his coffee."



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### *A Breath Prayer*

For Resting in Christ Alone

"In Christ alone my soul finds rest... Selah"  
(inspired by Psalm 62:1, 5).



The United Methodist Church  
of Naugatuck, Connecticut  
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A community of God seeking, serving,  
and growing in Christ with open hearts,  
open minds, and open doors.

The Reverend Steven Kim, Pastor

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## Mission and Outreach

Ethel Grant  
Chair of Mission and Outreach

### Happy New Year!

Thanks to everyone's generosity during the Christmas season, we supported the Fuel Bank with our Mission Tree donations. In conjunction with the Sunday School Pageant-Potluck, we were able to reach out to our members who may have difficulty with stairs by setting up the Memorial Room for refreshments and entertainment after the Pageant. This was a radical move, which proved to be successful and appreciated, even though the weather may have kept some of those members at home. We will probably try this fellowship venue again for special events.



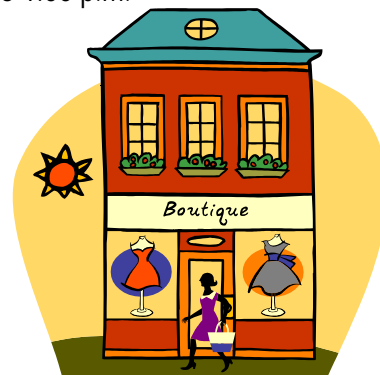
**The Future** - To be in missions, our goal is to make a *Christian difference* in the lives of others and ourselves. To that end, we are presently making plans for a Church-wide Mission Sunday sometime in March. On that day we want to engage everyone in a mission situation, either individually or in groups. We are currently looking for mission opportunities. The suggestions we have so far to do mission work at are: meal preparation at the Waterbury Soup Kitchen, St. Vincent Shelter, Salvation Army Shelter, free community lunch at the Church, member care, river/town clean up and nursing home ministry. If you have other suggestions, please give your suggestion to a Mission member. This mission opportunity promises to be a wonderful chance to put into practice Jesus' teachings. Stay tuned for more details and sign up sheets.

**Mission Trip** - One last thought – January 8-15, I will be on mission in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with the Reverend Paul Hibbard and the Watertown United Methodist Church. A team of 13 men and women will be helping to rebuild a small town that was devastated by last year's Iowa flooding. Over the last ten years, Reverend Hibbard has made several mission trips to this area and also to Mississippi. This will be a first for me and should prove to be quite rewarding and maybe a little interesting, given that it is really winter there. (brrrr) I will keep you posted. Please pray for our team and the people of Cedar Rapids and all those other places where there is devastation and suffering.

### The Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop continues to be a viable outreach in service to the community. There is an excellent variety of children and adult clothing. Who knows, you may find the "perfect" outfit at a very affordable price.

Come in and check out the racks. The Thrift Shop is open Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



## Christmas Caroling



Once again during Christmas, members went caroling to shut ins. Carolers visited Jean Diver, Elaine DeWitt, Frank Russell, Tish Yarrison, Sally Schilke, and

Karen Monaco.

We were happy to see our members, and they enjoyed hearing us. We even sang to a nice lady in the lobby as we were leaving Beacon Brook.

Following the singing we had a chili party at the Parish House. Young made a big pot of chili and other brought pot luck. Plan on joining our singing troupe of carolers this year.

## 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

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## Together We Make a Difference

Missions and Outreach Committee Members: Ethel Grant, Chairperson, Linnea Behlman, Bev Carrington, Lisa Herb, Diane Monsam, Kim Dilts Louey, Rob Petro, Elma Solomon, Ed Usawicz, Gretchen Usawicz, Marion Zirolli

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## The Meaning of Christmas

- Chris Herb



At this year's Advent Assembly, Sunday School students gathered in Fellowship Hall to hear Jack Lewis explain the meaning of Advent. Our youth attentively listened as Jack enlightened them

about patience and the preparation we take as Christmas approaches. At the conclusion of Jack's presentation, Cindy Fellows walked the students through the activity that they were about to perform for the Heifer Project. Children decorated bags that will be used to collect changes in hopes of purchasing a goat to help a community that lives in poverty. Heifer's mission is "work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth". In this season of advent our Sunday School is helping others. For more information about the Heifer Project go to [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).



## *A Breath Prayer*

For Just a Breath

"My life is a breath... Selah // I am a breath... Selah //  
My life is God's breath... Selah //  
I am God's breath... Selah"

(inspired by Psalm 39:5, 11).

## Administrative Council Report 2010

Bill Carrington  
Administrative Council Chairperson

In 2010, the Naugatuck United Methodist Church officially entered Cyberspace. I am looking at our new website, and I am amazed at how far we have come. The tireless dedication by members of our congregation humbles me. It appears that no task is too large or time-consuming to stop the forward progress of our Church. The Holy Spirit is firmly behind our congregation. This is the only possible explanation as to how this work gets done. Whether we are talking about pumpkins, turkeys, hams, tag sales, computers, electrical repairs, music, bells, choirs, teaching, cooking, sewing, selling, jewelry-making, thrift shop, missions, missions, and more missions; it is all so amazing to me.

Who are the people behind all of this work? Well it is you of course, all of you. Each in your own unique way, make all of this possible. God puts just the right amount of Spirit, into just the right amount of people, at just the right time to ensure His Bride is kept healthy and

moving in His intended direction. Thank God for every member of this congregation. Once again, we have proven we are up to the task as we complete another amazing year in our Faith journey.



Looking ahead to 2011, I can predict five things; **Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Missions and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.**

These are the five principles that we made a commitment to as the result of our 2010 planning retreat. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we hope to incorporate these five key practices into every facet of our Church life. Starting with the youngest Sunday school students to the oldest members of our Church family, we can all measure ourselves by how we do in these five areas and by striving to improve in each one. If we follow these practices as one body, we can be assured of a bright and fruitful future.

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## Breath Prayer

By Bill Gaultiere © 2006, 2009

I like doing Breath Prayers as a way to meditate on a beloved verse from the Bible. I use the natural rhythm of my breathing to help me pray by whispering a phrase of Scripture as I slowly breathe in and out. Breathing a prayer is a way of using your body to engage your mind on the Word of God. Whispering the words of Scripture as you are breathing in and out, slowly and deeply, over and over can help you to "abide" in Christ (John 15:4,5,9). Richard Foster in his book, *Prayer*, refers to this kind of meditative prayer as "prayer of the heart" (p. 141). Quiet, reflective prayers are a way to overcome the mind's tendency to wander and get distracted. It's a way to increase your consciousness and appreciation of God's presence. It's a way to "let the word of Christ dwell in your richly" (Colossians 3:16).

**"Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me."**

## Christ is Born



At our Annual Christmas Pageant, we had smiles, excitement, love, peace, our faith, and each other! For those who attended, they received a tremendous gift from our Sunday School students. In a world that tends to forget the meaning of Christmas, we had the essence of it in our

sanctuary. It was a special day witnessing the reenactment of the birth of Christ. Pews were filled from front to back. Those in attendance made a lasting impression on our children about what our Church and Christmas is truly about.

After the Christmas Pageant, not a seat could be found in Fellowship Hall, as we shared in a potluck lunch. Food, fellowship, and the spirit of our Lord surrounded us all. After luncheon, we sang Christmas carols and received a visit from Santa Claus. Children lined up to see Santa and remind him of how good they were this past year and the gifts that are on the top of their list.

Thank you to Rich and Lisa King, Cindy Herb, Ruth Lilback, and Cindy Fellows for organizing the potluck. Thank you to Cherelle Solomon, Omari Solomon, Sean Kim, the Bell Choir, Jeff and Barb Hunt and Clara Carson for the special music. Thank you to Sherrie Ploof, Jennifer Barrett, Cindy Fellows, Melissa Teator, and Karen Thompson for getting the children in their costumes and for doing the readings. Thank you to ALL of you who contributed to the potluck. A big thank you to Pastor Steven for his spiritual leadership, earnest love of his family, our Church, and God! Finally, THANK YOU to the High School class for their efforts in making this pageant happen, and to all of the Sunday School students who participated.

We are truly blessed to have such a loving and faithful congregation.

## Super Bowl(s) of Chili



On Super Bowl Sunday (February 6) we will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Super Bowl(s) of Chili. Rich King will make his award winning chili for you to take home to enjoy during the game or as a

meal on another night. Orders must be received by Sunday, January 23 and will be ready for pick up at the church on Sunday February 6 by noon. Keep your eyes open for an order form in the bulletin. For more information see Rich King or Chris Herb.

## Faith In Action

The High School class recently decided on some of the activities that they would like to be involved with in the New Year – keep your eyes open as this talented group put their “faith in action”. Here is a preview of their upcoming activities:

- January 9, they are hosting Fellowship Hour,
- January 30, they will be doing the readings, ushers and greeters, and Children’s sermon during the 10:15 a.m. service, and
- February 13, they will do the Children’s sermon.

The class is also considering a trip to New York in the Spring to tour St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and potentially a camping trip to a local park. Also, the class will begin planning an Easter egg hunt and party for the Sunday School students the Saturday before Easter.

These gifted young men and women are the future of our church - when you see them, please extend your appreciation and encourage them in putting their faith into action!

## January Servers

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

- 2 January ..... Wayne Zirolli
- 9 January ..... Jeff Hunt
- 16 January ..... John Hope-Ross
- 23 January ..... Deb Torrice
- 30 January ..... Ethel Grant

### Ushers

Our newly appointed Usher Coordinator is John Hope-Ross, 203-723-4091.

### Together We Make A Difference Through Shared Ministry Apportionments!



Thanks to our support, the three campgrounds owned by the New York Annual Conference are fully insured for the more than 18,000

who use the camps annually. The vision for these outdoor ministries is to “build a healthy body of Christ through the generation and regeneration of Christian love in community with all of God’s creation, our sacred gift and trust.” Epworth Camp and Retreat Center has six lodges and a wilderness camping area with shelters. The camp is focused on promoting permaculture, a model for living practices and land use that are in tune with nature and good stewardship. Camp Quinipet, located on Shelter Island, offers a retreat center, new welcome center, Christian overnight camp, sailing for youth and adults, summer day camp, and environmental and adventure education for schools. Kingswood, in the Catskills, offers tent and trailer camping amid forests and rolling hills. There is a swimming lake and trails for hiking. Thanks to our support, these camps have helped build and shape three generations of pastoral and lay leaders from more than 100 churches in our conference!

**Our Shared Ministry Sunday  
is the 16<sup>th</sup> of January.**

## Angels Walk Among Us

### A Tribute to Georgia Young

-By Ruth Harrison

So many good people walk the face of this Earth - just like the angels in heaven. We have met a few in our day; Georgia Young was one of these angels.

Georgia wore no halo or wings, only hats and scarves and had a heart full of love. She made our lives happy. Georgia was granted a long life (101) to touch our lives for the rest of ours. Some of us may have been strangers, however, most were family and friends. Whoever they were, they were smitten by Georgia.

Georgia’s beauty was unlike no other! Her infectious smile, as well as her candor made us feel like her own extended family. Her innocent eyes shining through to the window of her soul, letting God’s love seen daily. Her comforting hands, with a tender touch and words of wisdom, speaking with the grace of an angel; and her heart singing joyfully as she left us to go to the Lord’s out reached hands, remind us to love one another.

Now, you can smile because she lives, open your eyes and see all she has left. You can be full of the love that she shared, you can cherish her memory and let it live on. You can do what she would have wanted us to do:

Smile, open your eyes, love one another, let the light of the Lord shine through. Yes, angels walk among us, they are everywhere - sent from the Lord - and Georgia Young was one of them. Wear your halo and wings proudly. Georgia, you are forever in our hearts!



## Thank You - Stewardship 2011 Continuing the Faith Journey

*"When God's people are in need,  
be ready to help them.  
Always be eager to practice hospitality."  
Romans 12:13 (NLT)*

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly  
will also reap sparingly, and whoever  
sows generously will also reap  
generously."  
2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV*

Thanks to everyone for your pledged commitments totaling \$64,660.

We'll be in touch with opportunities for you to help based on your time and talent commitments.

Thanks to all who contribute weekly without pledging, we are grateful for your stewardship.

**In Christ and Peace,**

**The Stewardship Committee**

Kimberly Dilts, Chair

John Hope-Ross ❖ Jeff Hunt ❖ Paul Harrison

Bill Carrington ❖ Audrey Kirdendall

Pastor Steven ❖ Cindy Herb





# Happy New Year

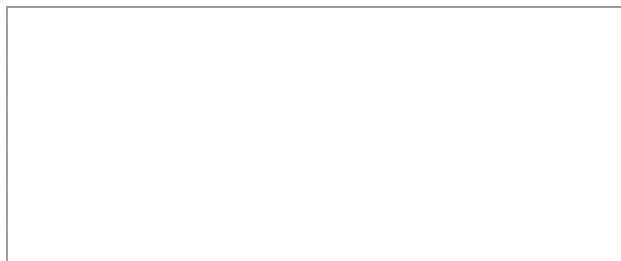


When I picture this vulnerable little ball turning in the universe and I study the thrust of the dreams people bring me, I'm convinced that consciousness is trying to move from power to love. If we're going to be a global village, members of that large community, receiving each other with all differences, we need to accept ourselves as imperfect human beings. That involves a whole new understanding of what love is.

- By Marion Woodman

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The People of the United Methodist Church of Naugatuck  
*A community of God seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.*

The Deadline for  
 the FEBRUARY  
 Issue of  
The Circuit Writer  
 is January 19  
 Thank You.