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Dear Friends,

These last few weeks, we have watched with disbelief and have been shocked and saddened by the death, the disarray of the dislocation of families and the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. Amid these feelings, I have been overwhelmed by the positive response by the people of our nation, the world and especially, our congregation and our denomination. Members contacted the church by telephone and email asking what we are doing as a congregation and a denomination. Our immediate response was to put a call in our bulletin and on our web site to contribute to the church and note on the check *Katrina Relief*. These funds will be forwarded to the United Church of Christ which has pledged three million dollars to support long term hurricane relief and recovery.

Also, monies have already been sent by our denomination from our offerings to One Great Hour of Sharing and pledges have been made to Church World Service, which is leading hands-on emergency relief and rescue, and to Slumber Falls Camp, the South Central Conference's outdoor ministry in New Braunfels, Texas, which is housing evacuated residents of the Gulf Coast Region, to name only two.

To learn more about what our denomination is doing, including the relocation of students from Dillard University which is one of the

UCC's historically black colleges and was severely impacted by the hurricane, go to our web site and click on links and then click on UCC. You will also learn about The 'Hope Shall Bloom' Covenant of Compassion. It is a commitment that we as members of the UCC may make promising to help both now and in the future. If you are not computer friendly, (I know the feeling), you are welcome to contact the Church Office and we will make a copy available to you. Along with our financial assistance, let us remember that the people affected by this hurricane and who are assisting in the recovery need our prayers, too.

Amanda Osterby Update

As you may know, Amanda's last bone marrow transplant failed and she has been waiting to undergo another one. Amanda and her mother, Judy, will leave for Seattle, Washington on September 19, where, after undergoing tests, she will receive the bone marrow transplant on October 11. At the present time, the plan is for them to be there for four months. We ask for your continuing prayers and support for Amanda and her family. To keep in touch with Amanda's progress, you may go to her web site: caringBridge.com/ct/amandaosterby.

Thank you for caring.

Faithfully,

*The Church Council
cordially invites you to attend a reception for
Nancy Blanchette
on October 2, 2005
following the 10 a.m. Service of Worship
in the Auditorium*

A donation toward Nancy's gift may be made by check to: The First Congregational Church and note on check "Nancy's retirement".

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

WEDDINGS

August 26, 2005

Crystal Jean Marcarelli and Kyle Edward Bowker

September 3, 2005

Renee Lyn Terry and Gary Eugene Carle

DEATH

We extend our sympathy to the family of:

Wayne Jacobs

Died: September 1, 2005

Father-in-law of Cassie Jacobs

AIM

(Action in Maturity)

The AIM group will meet on Wednesday, October 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. Our speaker will be Thom Parker, who will bring us up-to-date on the latest changes and information in the Medicare program. This is important for all of us to know and understand. If you have any questions, now is the time to ask. Janice Tompkins and Betty Wennberg are in charge of the meeting. If you are not a member of AIM, but would like to hear Thom, you are welcome to join us.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Something different! The next meeting will be a catered luncheon on Tuesday, October 4 at noon in the Dining Room. The menu is quiche, garden salad, rolls and carrot cake for dessert. The price is \$5. In order to get a count of the number of people that will be there, please call Arlene Wilson at 582-5649 before September 29 if you are planning to attend. Our speaker will be Sue Howard, of the Bristol Police Department, who will bring us a program on "Safety Awareness", something we should all be interested in.

An Adult Small Group Experience in Spiritual Formation

COMPANIONS IN CHRIST

Beginning Tuesday, September 20 at 7:00 PM

Limited to 10 participants Cost: \$20 per person

This 28-session course is for those who seek a deeper spiritual life. It is an opportunity to enter the world of scripture, deepen prayer, explore personal opportunities for discipleship and discover partners in faith. As we journey together, using our *Companions in Christ* workbooks for guidance and reflection, we will learn what it means to be a committed Christian.

All of us are busy people with crowded schedules. At our first meeting, we will, as a group, decide on a regular meeting date and time. We will not meet during the holidays. While a commitment to attend as many sessions as possible is expected, it is understood that there will be times when a member will have to be away.

For more information, please call Marcia in the Church Office or review the display on the classroom hallway bulletin board. If you would like to register, please complete this form and return it to the Church Office along with your check for \$20, made payable to First Congregational Church, with a note on check "Companions in Christ", to cover the cost of the *Companions in Christ* personal workbook.

cut and return

COMPANIONS IN CHRIST REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

Please return this form and the \$20 fee to the Church Office.

TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE SILVER LAKE RETREAT!

Friday, September 23 through Sunday, September 25

All Youth in Grade 7 through Grade 12 are welcome to participate in this annual retreat. Flyers with more information and a registration form are available in the Church Office. We have reserved space for a total of 45 youth and their adult chaperones.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Save the date! On Sunday, October 16, the Women's Guild will present "*A Victorian Tea*" featuring Kandie Carle, a performance artist. Ms. Carle, who is known as "The Victorian Lady", will speak from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and then tea and refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$10, non-refundable. Due to the seating arrangements, there are only 62 tickets available. However, for those who prefer the performance only, 50 tickets will be available for seating in the balcony for \$5-no refreshments. For tickets, please contact Arlene Wilson at 582-5649.

HOLISTIC CARING

September is Cholesterol Education and Awareness month. There is a great handout for your reading on the bulletin board as well as a web site you can visit.

IMAGINE: ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

Neighbors in Need Offering

On World Communion Sunday, October 2, we will take the Neighbors in Need offering for the United Church of Christ. This offering stays in the United States, going as grants to programs providing food and medicines, and to programs assisting minorities. Contributions will be directed to the Hurricane Katrina Rescue & Recovery. NIN monies also help fund Parish Nurse programs and educational programs. Please give from your heart.

AIDS CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

October 5, 2005

The AIDS candlelight vigil is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, October 5. Details will follow at a later date.

The deadline for the next Messenger is Monday, September 19.

BRISTOL THEATRE ARTS PRODUCTION

October 7, 8 & 9

On October 7, 8 and 9, Bristol Theatre Arts will present “All Night Strut” at the Starlight Theater at Lake Compounce. Their production is a musical celebration of the 1930’s and 1940’s. The show is being directed and choreographed by Mark Simpson. Sally Kish is providing the musical direction. Church members involved in the show include Jena Doolittle, Kimberly Doolittle, Jeff Merriman and Kim Villanti. On Saturday and Sunday there will be matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. The two evening performances will begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15. in advance and \$18. at the door. They may be purchased at the Federal Hill Café and Bakery or from any cast member.

BOTTLE AND CAN RECYCLING

Fall Youth Group Fund-Raiser

Saturday, October 15 – 8:00 a.m. to Noon

Church Parking Lot

This is the main fundraiser of our Youth Group, to help defray expenses for the Silver Lake Retreat and participation in Youth Quake in January. Please begin saving all your aluminum cans and your glass/plastic soda/beer bottles. Please be sure that they show “CT” for recycling – many bottled water containers are not accepted at the recycling center. Give your support and help us break the \$300 mark!

YOUTH GROUP COFFEE HOUSE OPENS TO “PUBLIC”

Sunday, October 23 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Remember the days of church basement coffee houses? They’re back! Starting October 23, and every fourth Sunday of the month thereafter, our Youth will present their own Church Coffee House. For a \$5 cover charge (\$15 total per family) you can gain admission to these events, hear musicians, singers, dancers and poets, and receive complimentary refreshments. Join us!

Flower Request Form

Date request is for: _____

If another arrangement is already scheduled for the date requested please:

- Provide a matching arrangement
- Notify me so that an alternate date may be selected

Dedication: To the Glory of God and

- In loving memory of _____
- In celebration of _____
- In honor of _____

Given by: _____

Disposition:

- To Shut-in
- Will take

Special Instructions: _____

Contact: _____ Phone Number: _____

The cost of each Sunday flower dedication is \$35. Payment must be sent to the church's attention with a notation "Flower Fund" and received a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the requested dates. Please call the Church Office at (860) 583-6597 with questions.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism will be observed on Sunday, October 30, 2005. If you would like to have your child baptized on this date, please speak with Earl Keirstead, Marcia Eveland or call the Church Office.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following members and friends who are serving in the military in your prayers.

First Lieutenant Erich Atkins, friend of Joan Hedquist
Sergeant Griffin Bartman, Nephew of Betty Hinman
First Lieutenant Stephen Boada,
 Grandson-in-law of Thelma and George Anderson
Petty Officer Third Class Crystal Marcarelli Bowker
Petty Officer Third Class Kyle Bowker
Petty Officer First Class Ethan Dwyer, USCG,
 Son of Linda and Ron Dwyer
Lance Corporal Evan Fernandez, friend of Rick Pinkerton
Corporal Mark Giblin, Great-nephew of Patricia Manchester
Major Ralph Hedenberg, friend of Linda and Ron Dwyer
Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Humerick, USAF, Member
Chief Petty Officer, Navy Seal, Bill Jarvis, Relative of Rick Pinkerton
Paratrooper Ranger Sergeant E6, Joseph Kapaczewski,
 Grandson of Alice and Bob Churchill
Corporal Eric Kyne, friend of Rick Pinkerton
Airman Elizabeth A. Lasnier, Granddaughter of Lorraine and John Lasnier
Captain Jonathan Luminati, US Air Force, Grandson of Roland & Belle Brown
Captain Donald Lussier, Husband of Jessica Lussier
 (Daughter of Janet Focarelli)
First Lieutenant Katherine Lysaght, Wife of Patrick Lysaght
First Lieutenant Patrick Lysaght,
 Grandson of Phoebe and Harold Lorensen
Ensign Annie Ouellette, US Navy, Member
Rct. Michael Ouellette, US Marines,
 Son of Debbie Ouellette and Rob Ouellette
Senior Airman Thomas E. Pavelchak, Cousin of Cassie Jacobs
Captain Eric Pelletier, Cousin of Cassie Jacobs
Lance Corporal Joseph Petroski, Cousin of Dan Casey (Gail Hartmann)
Staff Sergeant Peter Roe, Brother of Ken Roe
Major Thomas Roe, Brother of Ken Roe
Staff Sergeant Andrew Rondon, Son of Barbara Rondon
Sergeant Todd Steiger, friend of Becky Pinkerton
Captain Mark Taum, California National Guard, friend of Marcia Eveland
Mark Welch, Nephew of Barbara Place.

If you know of someone who is serving in the military and would like their name added to our prayer list, please contact the Church Office. Those listed do not have to be serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

THE TOWER WILL BE LIGHTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD ON

Date _____

In loving memory of _____

To wish a happy birthday to _____

To wish a happy anniversary to _____

Other _____

By _____

This information must be in the Church Office at least two weeks prior to the date to appear in the bulletin. Your contribution of \$5 must accompany your request. Thank you.

The Tower was lighted to the Glory of God on

Friday, June 18

in loving memory of Esther Clark, by her daughter, Jennie Griffin and family;

Thursday, June 24

in loving memory of Louis Orsvath, on his birthday, by his family;

Monday, June 27

to honor my mom, Nancy E. L. Lempicki, on her birthday, with love from Lynn;

Wednesday, July 7

in loving memory of Murielann Orsvath, on her birthday, by her family;

Wednesday, July 28

in loving memory of Richard Clark, by his aunt, Jennie Griffin and family;

Thursday, August 5

in loving memory of Calvin Clark, by his daughter, Jennie Griffin and family;

Monday, August 9

in loving memory of Ernest L. Carlson, on his birthday, by his daughter, Carole Rossetti and family.

