

Contact

United
Church
News



Published by the Connecticut Conference of the UCC • Vol. XVII No. 8 • Connecticut Conference Section • Edition • Oct 2001 • Three sections • Section A • 600008

*We remember the dead,
grieve with the living,
and try to find strength in faith.*

Sept. 11

BY HAL CHORPENNING • PG. 3

A Consistent Message of Love



The Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, Conference Minister

"When we have seen what hate can do, how can we support retribution?" With these words, Lee Hanson has challenged each of us not to let his son's death become the cause for more hate and violence. A member of our Conference Board of Directors, Lee had called to ask me to bring the message at the memorial service for his son, Peter and his wife, Sue, and their little daughter, Christine, who had

died onboard one of the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center. "I want this to be a consistent message of love," he said. And love it was that day – an outpouring of God's love and the extended community's love for one another in the face of acts of hate. Three churchfuls of people came together, from

Boston and Detroit and Los Angeles, and amid our tears was the bond of love. The wrenching pain of these weeks is indeed soothed by the encompassing and surpassing love of God! Times of crisis are the times when nations pull together. We are unified in our "hate of

hatred," in our determination to put an end to terrorism, in our desire to support our leaders. As I have traveled about the Conference in the wake of the disaster, I have heard a consistent message of love and peace. In our hearts, as Christians, we know that responding in like measure to acts of hate only feeds the hate. As we read in Romans 12:17, our Christian mandate is to overcome evil with good. The issue for all of us in this moment is how to be Christ's people as our nation prepares for war.

How do we overcome evil with good when the evil is an insidious terrorism?

Like you, I struggle to find an answer adequate to the challenge. I don't pretend to know all there is to know. Yet, I do know that one of the tasks facing God's world is to make terrorism obsolete. At least four things would contribute to that goal. 1) We must be a prayerful people, calling upon God, who is known to us in Jesus Christ, to turn this evil to the good, to transform this world, and to empower us to take the Christly path. 2) We must, as the American people,

consistently demonstrate our love for all God's people by acts of charity and justice. What if every Afghan refugee were greeted at the border by acts of love – food, water, shelter, garments, security and safety? If we were a nation known for our generosity and commitment to justice and mercy, the people of the world might well refuse to harbor those who want to terrorize us. 3) We must engage in a national dialogue about the ways in which we as a nation have given rise to hatred by our greed, our xenophobia, and our partisanship within and among other nations. I do not mean that we are responsible for the acts of September 11, but as Christians always begin with confession, it is appropriate to challenge our nation to do the same. And, 4) we must respond to these horrific acts by following the peaceful path of Christ.

I know that these thoughts will be controversial for some of you. In these days of recovery, we need to treat one another tenderly because disasters fry the collective nerves. Yet I would be remiss if I did not address the issue of war and peace right now. With every fiber of my being, I believe the Christian faith requires us to press for peace and a disciplined restraint in our nation's response. I am proud of the great many pastors who have preached eloquently during this crisis, and of the outpouring of love and support that has characterized our churches. I pray that we will be a nation, not of vengeance and violence, but one of determined action to love the world into a new future.

ORIGINAL SPIN • THE REV. HAL CHORPENNING

A Day to Remember

For people my age and younger – born in the 1960s or later – there are no memories of Pearl Harbor, no recollection of where you were when JFK was shot, and only scant images of the Vietnam War, if any.

But we will remember September 11. And we will know where we were when we heard the news.

And we will store the horrific images from the television in our minds for the rest of our lives.

One of the things I will also carry with me is the way our churches, our conference, and our denomination responded. Sure, everyone is responding. Some people are flying the flag. Some grocery stores are collecting money. And that is all well and good. But when God asks, "Who will go for me, and whom shall I

send?" our churches have answered, "Here I am, Lord. Send me."

Of course, most of us haven't been on the front lines in New York or Pennsylvania or the Pentagon, but we have been there to spread a word of faith in the midst of tragedy and terror. We have been

there with open church doors, with prayer vigils, with prayers for peace, with helping people to understand that God didn't cause this to happen.

And as of the 20th of September, UCC members from Connecticut have sent more than \$10,000 for the UCC's "Hope from the Rubble" appeal. Initial funds went to support spiritual and emotional caregiving of survivors, families of victims, and rescuers. That has expanded and will continue to widen as funds come in and needs emerge.

Our theology has been affected, as well. Jerry Falwell attributed the events of September 11 as God's wrath at a nation filled with abortionists, homosexuals, feminists, and the ACLU. (He later apologized for his statement.) I give God thanks that most churches at this time and in this place are spreading love, and not trying to assign this tragedy to God's anger, in a facile attempt to explain away a confusing, horrific chain of events that change the way we feel, think, and live.

And I think the events also change the way we think about the way God is active in the world. If God didn't cause this to happen, where was God? Why did God let this happen? What part did evil play in the events? What is evil? There are no simple answers.

For me, one of the most comforting sentences comes from the United Church of Canada's "New Creed," printed in the center spread of Contact: "We are not alone." I have had emails from our partners in Korea and Colombia, from UCC partner church in Honduras, and I've even heard from a childhood friend who lives in Canada. We are not alone. We are surrounded by those who stand in solidarity with us. God is with us. Thanks be to God.

September 11

BY HAL CHORPENNING
Each of us has been touched by the horrific events of September 11. We have been changed as individuals and as congregations. We remember the dead, grieve with the living, and try to find some strength in faith that will enable us to move forward through the pain and confusion.

For members of Connecticut's UCC churches, it has been a time to be thankful that so few of our members lost their lives, but it is a time when many of us are reeling in the wake of the events. Some members of our churches are feeling intense grief, others who were in New York feel "survivor's guilt," and still other experience past emotional pain that is reinvigorated by the trauma we witnessed.

Amazingly, only a handful of members of Connecticut's UCC churches were killed in the terrorist attacks on September 11. Numbers, great or small, cannot reflect the tremendous suffering that these horrific events have caused among families of victims or our surviving members who know friends, colleagues, or neighbors who perished.

"Our church is like a lot of others in Fairfield County, with a lot of indirect involvement," comments the Rev. Jeanette Olmstead-Sawyer of the First Congregational Church in Norwalk. Olmstead-Sawyer describes the profound reactions of members of her church, which range from shock to numbness. "We've had people lashing out verbally with others in a very uncharacteristic way," she remarks.

In worship, Olmstead-Sawyer says that Psalm 91 has been one of the most comforting for the survivors. "They ask why they were saved and others weren't. In our sermon, we let people know that it's okay to be alive, and that they have a mission to be the open arms of love to the grieving," she recalls. "We need to be there for those who are suffering, just as Jesus was."

It is a time when everyone seemed to need to be in touch with God, and many turned to our churches. "We've had five services in the last week," said the Rev. Susan Craig of First Congregational Church in Greenwich. And the stories are similar elsewhere: clergy expending tremendous energy organizing worship and being with people

who needed spiritual guidance or counsel or just a listening ear. Craig was also scrambling to put together a program for the parents of elementary and preschool children, to help enable them to talk about the tragedy with their children.

Interfaith services have been held around the state, including a prayer service at holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Fairfield, according to the Rev. David Spollett of the First Church, Congregational, in Fairfield. "A Muslim prayer center was vandalized, and we needed to do something," says Spollett. The Fairfield interfaith clergy group took their message to a local newspaper to appeal for respect and love for all members of the community.

One of the most visible expressions of faith occurred at the First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Farmington, where parishioners created a string of prayers that resembled Tibetan Buddhist prayer flags. The Rev. Ned Edwards explained that it was the idea of a church member; they put up a clothesline and people attached their prayers written or drawn on fabric or paper.

By the end of the day on September 11, the Connecticut Conference had supplied pastors with prayers and liturgical resources and a letter from Conference Minister Davida Crabtree via email. Ordained members of the conference staff also held communion services for our clergy in eight locations around the state on Saturday the 15th, providing pastors with spiritual care and support.

A special appeal called "Hope from the Rubble" was launched on September 12 by the United Church of Christ to aid survivors and the families of victims. According to Florence Coppola, Executive with the National Disasters Ministry of the UCC, this long-term effort could last for years. Already, the funds sent by the UCC have helped provide spiritual and emotional support for persons affected by the tragedy.

Funds are still being collected. If you wish to contribute, please make your check payable to "The Missionary Society of Connecticut, and write "Hope from the Rubble" in the memo. Please send checks to The Connecticut Conference, UCC, 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

Revised—New Speakers

The Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting

Special guest keynote: Dr. Dale Bishop and Dr. Jane I. Smith



Dr. Dale Bishop

Dr. Bishop is executive minister for Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ and before the restructure of the UCC was executive vice president of the United Church Board for World Ministries.

The author of a number of articles on Iran, Lebanon, and the Israeli-Palestinian issue, Dr. Bishop served for 17 years as the Middle East Area Executive for the UCBWM and also was director of the Middle East Office of the National Council of Churches. He came to the national staff of the UCC from Columbia University, where he taught in the Department of Middle East Languages and Cultures.



Dr. Jane I. Smith

Dr. Smith is professor of Islamic Studies at Hartford Seminary, where she also serves as co-director for the MacDonald Center for Christian-Muslim Relations. She has done extensive work on Muslim communities in American, historical relations between Christians and Muslims, Christian theology in relation to Islam, the role and status of women in Islam, and Islamic conceptions of death and afterlife.

Dr. Smith is co-editor of The Muslim World, a journal dedicated to the study of Islam and Christian Muslim Relations and is the author of

Islam in America (Columbia University Press, 1999). She is a member of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Farmington.

WHO: ALL are welcome to attend as visitors
WHERE: Killingly High School, Danielson, Connecticut
WHEN: Friday, 19 October – Sunday, 21 October
INFO: Visit us online at www.ctucc.org or call 860-233-5564

Join us and hear Ched Myers

speaking about *Sabbath Economics*
an economic justice conference

sponsored by the Connecticut Conference
Justice & Witness Ministry Team

October 27, 2001 9:00 - 4:00

The Newington Congregational Church
For more info or to sign up, contact Cecile Gilson
at 860/233-5564 or cecileg@ctucc.org

Ched Myers has worked with several peace and justice organizations and movements, including the American Friends Services Committee, the Pacific concerns Resource Center and the Pacific Life Community. He writes regularly for *Sojourners*, *The Other Side* and *The Witness* magazines.

Contact Edition

Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ
125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105-2281
Phone: 860/233-5564
Fax: 860/231-8111
www.ctucc.org

Editor:
The Rev. Hal Chorpenning
e-mail: halc@ctucc.org

Editorial Assistant:
Ms. Cecile Gilson
e-mail: cecileg@ctucc.org

Designer:
James Baker

Send classified ads to
classifieds@ctucc.org
Send events listings to
events@ctucc.org

• **United Church News** •

United Church News (USPS 0764-070) is published monthly except bi-monthly January-February and July-August by the Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministry Team, Office of General Ministries, United Church of Christ, for members of the United Church of Christ. Address: 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115-1100, telephone: 216/736-2177; fax: 216/736-2223; e-mail: goldere@ucc.org; UCC on the web: ucc.org; United Church News on the web: ucc.org/ucnews/. Editorial opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the official bodies of the United Church of Christ.

Periodicals postage rates paid at Cleveland, OH and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to United Church News, P.O. Box 247, Bellmawr, NJ 08099-0247. For subscription questions, phone toll free: 800/363-0575.

National Edition

The Rev. Robert Chase
Publisher
The Rev. W. Evan Golder
Editor

Barbara A. Powell
Associate for Production
Randy Varcho
Graphic Designer/Writer

Jimi Izrael
Writer
Gayle Starling-Melvin
Editorial Assistant/Writer

Ron Buford
Advertising Manager
Lee Foley
Business Manager

Prayers for Peace

We invite you to use these prayers as part of your own practice or in your congregation.

A New Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and other by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.
— The United Church of Canada

Buddhist Litany for Peace

As we are together, praying for Peace, let
us be truly with each other. *Silence*
Let us pay attention to our
breathing. *Silence*
Let us be relaxed in our bodies
and our minds. *Silence*
Let us be at peace with our bodies and
our minds. *Silence*
Let us return to ourselves and become
wholly ourselves. *Silence*
Let us be aware of the source of being
common to us all and to all living things. *Silence*
Evoking the presence of the
Great Compassion, let us fill our hearts
with our own compassion—towards our-

Jewish Peace Prayer

Cause us, our Father, to lie down in peace, and rise
again to enjoy life. Spread over us the covering of your
peace, guide us with your good counsel and save us for
the sake of your name. Be a shield about us, turning
away every enemy, disease, violence, hunger and sor-
row. Shelter us in the shadow of your wings, for you are
a God who guards and protects, a ruler of mercy and
compassion. Guard us when we go out and when we
come in, to enjoy life and peace both now and forever,
and spread over us the shelter of your peace. Blessed
are you Lord, who spreads the shelter of peace over us,
over your people Israel, and over all the world. Amen.
— from the Daily Service

elves and towards all living beings.

Silence

Let us pray that all living beings realize
that they are all brothers and sisters, all
nourished from the same source of life.

Silence

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be
the cause of suffering to each other.

Silence

Let us plead with ourselves to live in a
way that will not deprive other living
beings of air, water, food, shelter, or the
chance to live.

Silence

With humility, with awareness of the exis-
tence of life, and of the sufferings that
are going on around us, let us pray for the
establishment of peace in our hearts and
on earth.

Amen.

— Thich Nhat Hanh

Islamic Prayer

What actions are
most excellent?
To gladden the heart
of a human being.
To feed the hungry.
To help the afflicted.
To lighten the sorrow
of the sorrowful.
To remove the wrongs
of the injured.
That person is the most
beloved of God
who does most good
to God's creatures.
—The Prophet Muhammad

A Prayer from Archbishop Desmond Tutu

God you too have a dream. You dream that we your human creatures
will come to realize that you created us for community, for togeth-
erness, for friendship, for gentleness, for caring, for sharing for family;
that we are members of one family, the human family, God's family,
where there are no outsiders, none on the fringes, but ALL are insiders
— black and white, red and yellow, rich and poor, Christian, Muslim, Jew,
Hindu, people of every faith and of none, that we belong together, and
that we share a common humanity created in your own image. We
laugh, we love, we cry, we hurt we die, all without exception. But we
have so frequently shattered your dream. We have bought and sold our
sisters and brothers treating them and owning them as if they were
things. You have wept as we your children have sought to wipe out
whole peoples in acts of genocide and holocausts; we have dropped
nuclear bombs on members of our family; we have caused untold
anguish and suffering through the awfulness of racism as happened
with apartheid and Jim Crow and rubbed the noses of our sisters and
brothers in the dust in the humiliations of caste and we have unleashed
acts of unbelievable horror and terror on members of your family, our
family as happened here so recently.

Forgive us God for our blindness. Fill us anew with your grace, open our
eyes that we may see the other a your child too, as our sister, our
brother and let us help you to realize your dream and then there will be
peace and laughter and joy, and gentleness and caring and sharing,
justice and forgiveness and reconciliation and love and life.
Oh let it be so, let it be so, let it be so. Amen, Amen, Amen.
Love and blessings,
+Desmond

Interreligious Service of Memorial and Healing Hartford, CT September 14, 2001

Holy One, gracious God, we have truly lost our
innocence. Our sense of security lies in rubble.
And so we come to You in prayer, united by our
pain and our compassion, reaching out to You
and to one another across dividing walls of our
own construction, barriers of faith, language
and nationality. We come to You with sighs too
deep for words, with unspeakable anguish, with
anger that urgently needs Your gentling touch.

O healing Christ, we do pray for ourselves, but
far more do we pray for each victim, for every
person who waits now for word of a loved one,
for families who know the deepest grief, for
emergency workers, for Arab Americans and
Muslims and others who face hatred and
racism, and for our President, Governor and all
government leaders. Grant to each the sure
knowledge of your presence in these days, and,
O God of all, give them such faith that they may
learn anew to rely on You in full trust, for You
are the only Power that can turn this world
around. Only You can erase the memories of

Dear beloved sisters and brothers,

In this time of uncertainty and sadness due to the
recent tragedy in the United States, we want you to
know that we are accompanying you, extending our
love and solidarity to our family in the North.

In a country where the fear, anguish, and pain of war
are seemingly permanent, we understand your hurting.
We share your grief, confusion, and incomprehension.
We too abhor this war that takes us further from
Jesus' principles of justice and peace....

This is an opportunity to evaluate the concepts of jus-
tice and reconciliation and reconfirm promises to non-
violence and the construction of peace. As seekers of
light, we have the assurance that God will accompany
us in these dark moments of pain and chaos.

A fraternal hug, crossing borders and united in faith,

Justapaz and the Justice and Peace Committee of the
Colombian Mennonite Church

survivors with a feather touch that begins to
restore wholeness and hope. Only You can
encompass this horror and turn it to good. We
earnestly pray, O God, that as You work among
us, we might be Your responsive and obedient
people.

We stand before you now a people under a
severe test of our character. How can we
respond to such searing evil, O God, and not
become that which we deplore? Even as we ask
the question in the hollows of our hearts, we
know Your answer: we must be a people who
resolve to do justice, to love mercy and to walk
humbly with You. We must be followers of the
peaceful path of Christ even as we call for
accountability. Only with the guidance of your
Holy Spirit, O God, can we possibly be the peo-
ple You want us to be in this hour. Send your
Holy Spirit! Make of us a model of Your vision, a
sign of Your hope, a beacon of a different
future. In the name of Jesus Christ and for the
sake of the world, we pray, Amen.

Offered by the Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree
Conference Minister, United Church of Christ,
CT

In these days,
TV news programs
report that a great
terror caused a lot of
damage in New York.
I hope that you and
your church mem-
bers have suffered
no damage. I do hope
all of your family are
safe. Although there
is little consolation
in a note, I want you
to know that our
thoughts are with
you at this sad time.
Have courage and
never give up hope.

Lee Kyung-Rim,
pastor of the
Hasanwoon
Presbyterian Church

The Islamic Dimension:

AN INTERVIEW WITH JANE SMITH

Understanding the religious implications of the tragic events of September 11 will be a long-term endeavor, but Contact editor Hal Chorpenning met briefly with Islamicist Jane Smith, codirector of the MacDonald Center for Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary to get an initial response. Dr. Smith will be one of the keynote speakers at the Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting this month and is a member of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Farmington.

Q. Is there a way to understand the events of September 11 in the context of Islam?

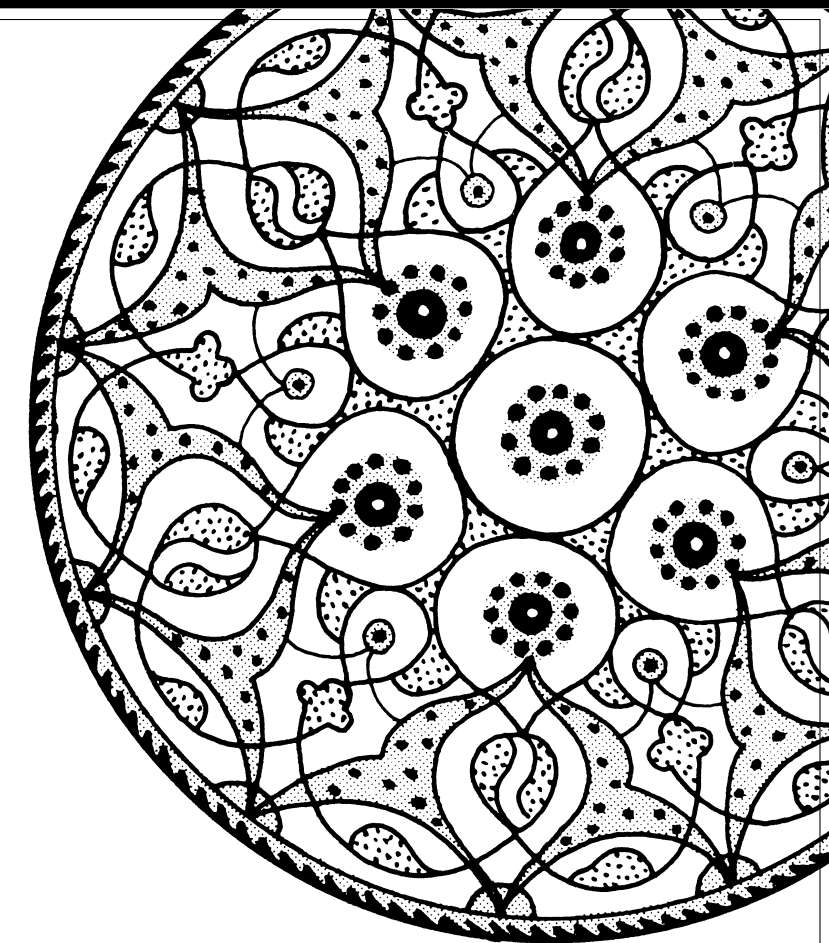
A. Kelton Cobb [of Hartford Seminary and a member of Immanuel UCC in Hartford] has written a piece for *The Hartford Courant* in which he basically says Muslims will decry this as not having anything to do with Islam – Islam is a religion of peace, and they would never endorse it and this must not be true Muslims doing this, and that's correct. Kelton raises this question: don't we have to somehow say there is something within the structure of this religious tradition that, at least on the edges, on the fringe, allows for this? His main point is that every religious tradition somehow sanctions violence hanging around the edges, and he doesn't say that it is more pronounced in Islam than in any other tradition.

We are at a particular moment in the history of Islam and of the world. The twentieth century has been a tremendous struggle for Muslims to come to terms with the fact that in many ways they want to catch up with the west and appropriate much of western learning and technology; at the same time they don't want to be like the west.

Some Muslims in the US are trying very hard to be active American citizens and claim their rightful place in the public square, others are drawing back and saying this is a culture that has much in it that we don't approve of and which is not Islamic and is basically unethical and immoral, and we want to define ourselves over against that. So all of these currents are going on, it provides an atmosphere in which those who feel that feel that the ends really do justify the means.

Q. In terms of international Islam we are seeing different reactions from different places? Indonesia is the largest Muslim nation in the world, and the U.S. is getting an affirmative response.

A. This is so fascinating to me to watch it play out. It is interesting to hear the president of Pakistan, Musharraf talking, too. They're talking politically, they're religiously, they're talking economically. These countries, particularly Pakistan and Egypt, simply desperately need to have American aid, they need to have American intervention in international aid, they need to have business with the World Bank. On the other



hand a major part of their constituency raises real questions and a smaller part of the constituency is violently opposed to any kind of an alliance with the west for this whole range of reasons. These leaders have to figure out, it's a guessing game, and there's dangers whichever way we go and what's the better way to go and of course America has to say yes Indonesia is on our side and that's helpful to us and they will hope that it will be helpful to them.

Q. Help me understand what a "mullah" is, what an "imam" is.

A. "Imam" is the title that you will hear most in the American context and in its most literal sense it simply means the person who stands up to lead the prayer. Anybody can do this. There is no ordination in Islam, so what you have in this country however is people who are more and more in a professional sense taking over the leadership of Mosques in ways that look very much like the leadership provided by priests, pastors and rabbis.

"Mullah" simply means religious leader; it isn't usually used here unless somebody is from abroad. It is a term

more often used in India, Pakistan and Iran. There's the "Ulema," who are the persons who are trained in religious interpretation and are often very authoritative. They don't really function in this country.

Q. In terms of Islam in America what are you hearing if anything from local Muslim communities?

A. Fear, and being legitimately afraid. A few days ago a car was driven into the Mosque in Cleveland, this is gorgeous new Mosque, the Imam of which is a graduate of Hartford Seminary and is about to become a member of the Seminary's Board of Trustees, I've spoken at that mosque several times. It is the most hospitable, warm, welcoming group of people.

Q. How might local churches be supportive of Muslim brothers and sisters in their own communities?

A. Find out who they are. Most churches may have a vague sense that there are Muslims around, but may not know them. Contact them; call them. Tell them that as people of faith, "we are with you."

Domestic Violence: Raising Awareness

BY CAROLE CARLSON

The events of recent weeks leave us with profound feelings of sorrow and pain, anger and fear. And in the midst of the mass destruction carried out using airplanes as weapons of violence, faith communities are also called to remember the hidden violence that occurs in the privacy of family life.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month; those weapons of violence are found within our homes—kitchen knives and guns, hammers and hatchets, fists and boots, belt buckles and baseball bats. The weapons of destruction also include verbal abuse, constant threats, destruction of property and pets, denial of freedom to participate in church activities. The absolute control and power of the abuser can result in family life governed by intimidation, isolation and fear.

Home-based violence knows no boundaries, pervading the suburban homes of wealthy professionals, the farm homes of rural Connecticut, and the apartments of the urban poor. Violence occurs in 40-year marriages as well as new dating relationships, in heterosexual couples and in same-sex couples. And with increasing frequency, violence often is directed at elders. Although women occasionally are abusers, 95% of the domestic violence situations involve a male perpetrator and a female victim (and often her children); the risk of death increases by 75% when those who are victimized attempt to seek help.

During October, pastors and lay leaders are encouraged to lift up the issue of domestic violence and, in particular, to look at specific ways a faith community might respond; as most pastors already know, a sermon or a prayer on this subject often will

give women in the congregation the courage to come forward and seek help. But in addition to sermons and prayers, to liturgies and silent remembrances for the victims of violence, there are questions your church might consider.

Do the women's rest rooms in your church have small cards available with the phone number of the 24-hour domestic violence hotline? (1-888-774-2900)

Do you publicize the INFO LINE that provides information about a wide range of services, emergency shelters, counseling, and child support? (Statewide toll free 2-1-1)
Do your staff members always have readily available the phone number for your local domestic violence shelter?

Do you raise this issue in your training of Sunday School teachers and youth leaders so they know the procedures to follow if they

encounter children or families who are experiencing abuse?

Do the pastors recognize the "signs" of possible family violence that may emerge in the midst of premarital counseling, follow-up with newly married couples, or baptism counseling?

Do all staff members, including clergy, know of the dangers involved in attempting to counsel a couple (together) when violence is present?

There is help available for victims of domestic violence. As we seek justice globally, let us also pray for God's love and justice to bring us to a day when women and children no longer live in fear in their own homes.

The Rev. Carole Carlson is Associate Conference Minister for Clergy Concerns. She can be reached at carolec@ctucc.org

CLASSIFIEDS

Positions

BLOOMFIELD — Covenant to Care a Bloomfield Agency serving abused children is looking for a Program Assistant. This part-time position includes communications and coordination support, outreach and meeting support, activity recordkeeping support, CTC activities support and newsletter involvement. Microsoft Access and Excel experience a plus. Position is 15 hours a week with flexible scheduling. Contact: Send/fax resume and cover letter to 860-243-0100, CTC Search, 120 Mountain Avenue, Suite 212, Bloomfield, CT 06002. EEO/AA [10/01]

CHESTER — The United Church of Chester is seeking an enthusiastic part time organist/choir director for its adult choir. Major responsibilities include 10 am Sunday service. Flexible schedule—usually rehearsals before and after service plus seasonal weekday evening. Fun loving, loyal choir members. Very fine organ and baby grand piano. Excellent salary. Contact: Organist Search Committee, United Church of Chester, PO Box 383, Chester, CT 06412 Call the church for more details. 860-526-2697. [11/01]

COLOMBIA — Columbia Congregational UCC is looking for a Church School Coordinator for birth through 6th grade. Approximately 30 hours per month for mid-August to mid-June. Salary \$4500. Contact: Jackie Kittle, 860-228-9306 [11/01]

NEW HAVEN — Dixwell UCC is looking for a Director of Music/Organist. Responsibilities include directing the Amistad Choir, holding weekly rehearsals, playing for Sunday worship service as well as special services held during the year. Some weddings and funeral as well. Send or fax resume. Contact: Dixwell Avenue Congregational UCC, 217 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511 203-787-5839, fax 203-777-7341. [11/01]

STAMFORD—North Stamford Congregational Church seeks a part-time Christian Education Director to supervise the Church School, deliver weekly inspirational messages to the children and lead the Senior Youth Group. The ideal candidate is a creative, energetic person with prior experience working with teens, good communication skills and a sense of humor. The position requires a commitment of approximately 15 hours a week from September through May. Please submit a letter of interest and resume to Board of

Christian Education, North Stamford Congregational Church 31 Cascade Road, Stamford, CT 06903. (203) 322-1255. Fax (203) 968-8432.

TERRYVILLE—DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, to prepare teaching materials & events, recruit and train teachers/youth advisors, select curriculum, and work with youth groups. Flexible 25-hour week, 40-week year. Must work Sundays and Summer Vacation Bible School. Compensation is competitive within Conference guidelines. Prefer ACE certification or equivalent, plus curriculum selection experience. Send profile/resume to: DCE, Terryville Congregational Church, 233 Main Street, Terryville CT 06786. For further information call 860-589-0182.

THOMASTON — First Congregational Church is seeking a part time Youth Director for newly developing youth ministry program. Approximately ten hours per week. Must have some youth ministry experience. Please send resume and brief statement of belief. Contact: First Congregational Church, 135 Main Street, Thomaston, CT 06787 c/o Youth Director Search Committee first.congregational@snet.net or Carol Pytel, 860-283-4937 [11/01]

WEST HARTFORD — Anyone interested in working with the First Korean Congregational Church in the World? Anyone interested in working with wonderful kids who can speak at least two languages? Anyone interested in working with a 100-year-old dream now unfolding? Anyone interested in working with covenant? 3 - 4 hours per week, \$500 per month. Contact: Rev. Chang Ho Jun, First Korean UCC 860-582-0342 [11/01]

FREE
For Mac Computer: from subscription service, three years of church newsletter text material and graphics, including two years ('98 & '99) on monthly CDs. Lee Collins 860-435-0051.

Service— Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut offers a Church Pew Refinishing Service. MacDougall-Walker C.I. will refurbish church pews at a fraction of the cost of purchasing new pieces. Excellent workmanship and quality finishing are offered at reasonable prices. Work done by inmates provides training and a sense of accomplishment. Contact: Fax 860-692-7628, Telephone 860-842-1146, Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut, 24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109 [11/01]

EVENTS

Thursday, October 4, 2001 4-9PM Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT A Sacred Trust, A Forum on Religion and the Environment, Keynote Speaker, Paul Gorman, Executive Director, National Religious Partnership for the Environment. Cost \$15 includes dinner. Contact 860-509-9519, Janelle Jenkins

Sunday, October 7, 2001 4 PM • The First Congregational Church of Bloomfield presents "Off Center," The Connecticut Gay Men's Chamber Chorus in a concert of Broadway and traditional music. Donation \$10, \$7 for students/seniors. Tickets available by calling 860-243-9392 or 860-242-0776. Seating is limited, reservations are suggested.

Tuesday, October 9, 2001 12:30 - 2. Ministry Resource Center, Lower Bellamy Hall Yale University Divinity School, 409 Prospect St. New Haven, CT 06511 Involving New Audiences in Adult Faith Nurture Groups. Contact Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, 203-432-5319-email ministry.recource.center@yale.edu

Saturday, October 13, 2001, 9:30 - 3:30, United Congregational Church, UCC, 6 Institute Road, Worcester, MA "ONA: Growing in the Gospel" with the Rev. Arnold I. Thomas, Vermont Conference Minister, Guest Preacher. Contact Rev. Paul Nickerson (508) 875-5233 ext. 236. Cost \$15 per person.

Sunday, October 14 10:30 AM • First Congregational Church of West Haven • Special Home Coming Service • First Congregational Church is inviting former pastors and members to a special service to renew friendships and make new friends. Following the service will be a time of fellowship. Former members and friends who cannot be there are invited to send updates to be shared. Cost: Free Contact: The First Congregational Church, 1 Church Street, West Haven, CT 06516

Monday, October 15, 2001 1 - 2:30. Ministry Resource Center, Lower Bellamy Hall Yale University Divinity School, 409 Prospect St. New Haven, CT 06511 Hospitality in and around Events in the Congregation: Children's Choir, AA, Etc. Contact Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, 203-432-5319-email ministry.recource.center@yale.edu

Thursday, October 25, 12:30 -1:30, Ministry Resource Center, Lower Bellamy Hall Yale University Divinity School, 409 Prospect St. New Haven, CT 06511 Doing Biblical Exegesis with Youth and Adults Using Bible Dictionaries, Various Translations, etc. Contact Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, 203-432-5319-email ministry.recource.center@yale.edu

October 26 - 28, 2001 Silver Lake Conference Center Fall Into Action Weekend. Come to Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT for Fall Action, a weekend filled with fun, fellowship and of course "fall" work to help get the camp ready for the snow yet to come. Cost \$25. (860) 364-5526 for more information. Monday October 29, 2001, 7:30 PM First Church of Christ Middletown. Professor Daniel Robinson, professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University will speak on the subject The Will to Believe. Lecture free; call 860-346-6657 mail box 2 for reservations.

Tuesday, October 30, 2001, 8 PM, Wesleyan University's Russell House, Professor Daniel Robinson, professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University will speak on the subject Moral Realism. Lecture free; call 860-346-6657 mail box 2 for reservations.

Tuesday, October 30, 2001 11:30 - 1, Ministry Resource Center, Lower Bellamy Hall Yale University Divinity School, 409 Prospect St. New Haven, CT 06511 Group Biblical Interpretation Related to our Life Experiences

Acknowledging Various Learning Styles With Youth and Adults. Contact Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, 203-432-5319-email ministry.recource.center@yale.edu

November 2-3, 2001 First Church of Christ Congregational in New Britain, CT Pre-retirement Seminar for all over the age 50. Cost \$30 includes 2 lunches, 1 dinner. Contact Sue Furness, 860-233-5564 or Hugh Penney at 860-223-1980 for more information. Sunday, November 4, 2001, 1:30 - 5 PM Prospect Congregational Church, Youth Forum for Youth and Adults "musicism". Gather with others and share your creativity and ideas. Contact Rev. Lee Ireland, 860-535-0379 or revleei@snet.net

Sunday, November 4, 2001 2-5 PM First Congregational Church of Guilford, A Connecticut UCC Musicians' Gathering: Our Ears' Divine Commands. All CT UCC Musicians are invited to a first-time support group where church musicians can share ideas about covenant, recruitment, faith, teaching, clergy/musician/music relationships and more. Contact: Jane Leschuk, 203-484-0795, clavico@hotmail.com.

Thursday, November 8, 2001 9 AM- 4:40 PM • Mercy Center, Madison, CT • Anchoring Your Well-Being, Christian Wholeness in a Fractured World • This Clergy Day offers participants a chance to discover new meaning for themselves as they seek to live the abundant life that Christ came to give. Dr. Howard Clinebell, presenter, is one of the most well known innovators in the fields of pastoral therapy and wellness. Cost: \$55 includes tuition, refreshments and lunch Contact: Rev. Robert Blackard, PO Box 298, Brooklyn, CT 06238

Stay Connected!

Through FIDO*, our Email Information System

Information on disaster response, programs, advocacy, and the latest news from the Connecticut Conference, UCC

Discuss the implications of the crisis, learn about ways to make a difference, obtain stewardship information, and more.

To sign up, go to www.ctucc.org and click on FIDO*. Fill in your name, email address, etc. and then you choose the discussion forums and information you'd like to receive via email

www.ctucc.org

The Conference website has sermons preached on September 16, resources for caregivers, disaster response information, and a plethora of information about being the church in Connecticut.

Contact

Chances are you've already got a subscription, so tell a friend at church! Contact subscriptions are free of charge! A once-a-year letter will be sent asking if you would like to help support Contact. You can sign up by sending the form below to Cecile Gilson, Connecticut Conference, UCC, 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105

name _____
street address _____
city, state zip _____

telephone _____
email _____
your local church, town _____

Annual Meeting Drive

The Wider Church Ministry Team of the Connecticut Conference is planning for another exciting opportunity for Christian service at this year's Annual Meeting. Last year the churches of the Connecticut Conference donated almost a ton and a half of school supplies and over the counter medicines to our partner church in Colombia. This year we are asking the churches to donate Health Kits and School Kits, for distribution by Church World Service (CWS). Your church can send pre-assembled kits or send the materials listed on this page.

Each Health Kit includes:

- One hand towel
- One washcloth
- One comb
- One metal nail file
- One bar of bath soap
- One toothbrush
- One tube (4-7 oz) toothpaste
- Six band-aids

Bundle all items into the towel and tie it together with ribbon or yarn.

Each School Kit contains:

- One pair blunt scissors
- Two pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2 X 11", containing 150-200 sheets of paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One 2-1/2" eraser
- Twelve sheets colored construction paper
- One box of 24 crayons
- One 12" X 14" cloth bag with cloth handles
- Bundle these items in the cloth bag, fold top
- Over, and secure with two large rubber bands.

For further information contact Jill Shaw at gmslaw@juno.com or 203/792-0596.

