



LINK 'N' TOWER



Collenbrook United Church

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) United Church of Christ
The Rev. Scott L. Barton, Pastor

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MY (PASTORAL) SPACE

NEW SIGNS

The last step in our recovery from the vandalism at the end of August is now being taken. Woodmasters on Eagle Road has removed and taken both our large signs to their shop, and will be repainting and putting a durable (and cleanable) finish on them. The Council decided on a new color; but I won't tell you, and let it be a surprise! In some ways, the vandalism was a blessing. The signs needed to be redone. And I hope they will make an attractive, inviting welcome to newcomers to Collenbrook, that the rest of us can build on.



Karl and Connell of Woodmasters removed the Township Line Road sign and prepared posts for painting.

NEW PRINTS

I hope you've noticed the four new prints we have up around the church. We bought

them from an abbey in Missouri, as we continue to look for ways to be both welcoming to others, and as much as a "home" as possible to the rest of us. They're in the hallway at the bottom, midway, and at the top of the stairs.

NEW ADVENTURE

I'm gulping with both fear and anticipation! Gayle and I have just bought our plane tickets to Malawi to visit our friends who are mission workers there. Malawi is in southeast Africa. You may remember that the Mzuzu, Malawi Crisis Nursery, sponsored by the Ministry of Hope (which was founded in Malawi but also has a U.S. board) was our Mission of the Month in August. Ministry of Hope runs feeding centers, medical projects, and two crisis nurseries in Malawi; and our friends, Paul and Darlene Heller, have been running the nursery in Mzuzu as Presbyterian mission workers for a year. We will actually be their first guests from the U.S., and they're very excited about our coming. They're already making a list of things they want us to bring, including a starter's pistol. It turns out that when there's a robbery (apparently, not infrequent where they live), if you fire a gun in the house, the intruder runs away. Yikes! We leave the first of the year for two weeks. We'll have lots to tell you when we get back.



Paul and Darlene Heller and brood in Mzuzu.
See www.suffer-the-little-children.blogspot.com

NEW ADULT CLASS

I don't know what it will be yet but I hope the group meeting for the last of the *Questions of Faith* series on October 29 will have helped decide. If there is a topic you're particularly interested in learning about or leading, please see me or Elizabeth Petrylak. *Questions of Faith* has been a great series, with fifteen participants. Let us never stop learning and growing in faith.

Grace and peace, and see you in church,
Scott

NEWS FROM GALE BUPP

Please look on the last page for a letter from the wife of Collenbrook's founding pastor, Marty Bupp.

NOVEMBER

MISSION OF THE MONTH -- NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Through the **Neighbors in Need (NIN)** offering of the United Church of Christ, the church expresses a common commitment to justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

One-third of NIN collections support the work of the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), which is the voice for American Indians in the United Church of Christ. CAIM supports the work of local churches and their pastors; encourages youth and young adults; supports persons preparing for Christian ministry; empowers American Indians who are members of non-Indian congregations; and advocates for justice on issues affecting American Indian life.

Two-thirds supports program initiatives and direct grants offered by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Small but essential grants are made throughout the year to congregations and organizations engaged in community organizing, public policy advocacy, and direct service. Although grants are made to address a wide range of justice priorities, a significant portion of these grants are made to address issues of hunger and poverty.

Justice and Witness Ministries uses its portion of NIN for program initiatives and grant-making, so that funds are directly supporting grassroots advocacy and outreach efforts.

RECENT MISSIONS OF THE MONTH UPDATE

Grant applications are reviewed regularly by ministry teams and decisions are made in keeping with funding guidelines and the availability of funds. Most grants are small and non-repeating but are allocated to congregations and organizations where the larger UCC's solidarity can be used to enhance and strengthen the project's overall effectiveness.

Although the number and amount of requests far exceed the amount of dollars available, allocated funds are used to plant seeds in congregations and organizations for programs that creatively address systemic issues of injustice on the local, regional, national, or international level. Careful attention is given to make sure that every NIN grant recipient reflects the UCC's vision of being a church of Jesus Christ that is multi-racial, multi-cultural, open and affirming, and accessible to all.

Please use your Mission of the Month envelope, or a brown pew envelope, or mark M.O.M. on the memo of your check.

ONGOING MISSIONS :

- Organ Fund
- Piano Fund
- Chester Eastside Ministries Food (urgent)
- Seasonal Clothing Donations (to be put in the bin outside of the church office)

Many thanks to all who helped host the recent Philadelphia Association meeting!

Our *September Mission of the Month* was divided between the Philly A.I.D.S. walk in which our newest members, Brian Beiner and Theresa Batsford-Beiner, walked; and the ongoing Organ Fund. \$541 was given towards the A.I.D.S. Walk, and \$474 towards the Organ Fund. Treasurer Marie Dolton notes that the Organ Fund, with gifts this year totaling \$2,514, now stands at \$8,736.

Our *October Mission of the Month* was Church World Service's CROP Walk. By the time you get this, members will have taken our CROP Walk on November 1. Total gifts so far have been \$933. Treasurer Dolton says, "This is a favorite mission for Collenbrook!"

These gift totals can make us all cheerful; and as we know, "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7)!

***At Collenbrook, we give with
cheer
Each month; and surely all the
year
We help each other, and
embrace
The news of God's unending
grace!***

JACK BRYSON'S RECENT TRIP

One of our members has made fifteen trips to the Gulf Coast to help rebuild after Katrina. Here's his account of the trip from which he returned last week.

We spent the whole week working on a "New Build" house (as opposed to a rebuild). The owner is Rebecca Rowley, whose original home on the site had to be demolished after Katrina. She lived in a FEMA trailer for more than 2 years, and then FEMA put a "FEMA Cottage" on the site, in which she is currently living along with her 3 Spitz dogs and at least one cat.



The above picture shows the house before we got started. It had rough flooring on the 1st floor and was on piers about 11 feet in the air. The owner had received a grant from the state to construct the piers, and the rest of the home is being financed through various church groups and the owner. With the exception of the piers, all the labor is volunteer efforts.



The previous picture shows Mrs. Rowley, her granddaughter and 3 Spitz dogs on the steps of her FEMA Cottage.

During the week, we framed the exterior and interior walls on the first floor, built 2 decks, put in the floor beams and flooring for the second floor, put up the exterior plywood walls on the 1st floor, and got three walls up on the 2nd floor.



This picture shows the progress made before we had to leave Friday afternoon. Our team was joined Friday by a crew of five men from northern Alabama who were going to work through the weekend and probably have the house under roof by Sunday evening. When completed, it will be a Cape Cod (in Mississippi!) with lots of windows.

We had eight folks on this trip, myself and 7 others from the Richmond area, 6 men (all of whom have been on many or all of the trips) and 2 women who joined us for their first trip. The weather was great for most of the week, although rain forced us to take most of the afternoon off on Thursday.

We are currently planning a 16th trip to the Gulf in January, tentatively scheduled for the 9th thru the 16th. We'll probably be doing interior work on Mrs. Rowley's house. If anyone is interested in joining us, please let me know. If you'd like to help financially, please make checks payable to Collenbrook United Church with the note Katrina Relief. Your assistance has been fantastic throughout this effort.

-Jack Bryson

NOVEMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH, OLIVIA POWELL



Olivia (Liv) Powell was born in Long Branch, New Jersey in September of 1942. She was the oldest of four siblings and helped raise them while going to grade school and high school. She grew up in Oakhurst and graduated with honors from every school she attended. She was baptized by full immersion with her mother and sister when she was 13 years old in the Long Branch Baptist Church. At that young age she memorized scriptures and won scholarships to Baptist Summer Camp in north Jersey.

Olivia left New Jersey to attend Eastern (Baptist) College in 1960. She worked at the U.C.C. headquarters from 1966 through 1968 where she met Nancy Krody. Eventually, Liv married Marc Reibstein from Philadelphia and raised their only child, Joshua Scott. She now enjoys Josh's children (her grandchildren), Felicia aged 14; John Joseph aged 8 and little Joshua Christopher aged 5. Their mother is Tasha who works as a Unit Secretary on the Maternity Floor at Virtua Hospital in Voorhees, New Jersey.

Eventually, Olivia returned to school in Glassboro, New Jersey (now Rowan University) to study Psychology. She was voted unanimously as the President of the Glassboro Psychology Club and served for two years in 1987 and 1988. She graduated summa cum laude in 1988. Shortly thereafter, Liv moved into Drexel Hill while doing

her graduate work in the field of Clinical Social Work at Bryn Mawr Graduate School. She became licensed as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in 1995. She started to attend Collenbrook United Church and became a member in the late 1990's. Liv enjoyed becoming an Elder and serving on Collenbrook's Council for two years.

Liv has been working as a therapist for group practices in the Broomall, Sharon Hill, Media and now Radnor area. She especially loves working with Christians on their spiritual journeys, life's challenges and couples of all kinds. She loves serving the Lord in various capacities: (1st Grade Sunday school teacher, assistant youth director, choir member throughout her youth). She now serves in a leadership capacity for a Christian singles' group. Liv shines as well by being a group facilitator for Fresh Start, a recovery group for singles who have lost their partner to death/divorce.

Olivia resides in nearby Lansdowne where she is renovating an old Victorian Style home. Besides gardening joyfully in her back yard garden, Liv enjoys doing digital photography and being in God's natural and beautiful wonders wherever and whenever possible.

She is grateful to be semi-retired and to lead a very active social life with her single friends in a group called Focus in Wayne, PA. Her close friend and boarder, Randy, helps to keep their Victorian home running. Their two cats round out their family and their joy together.

SEAN'S RECITAL

Sean McElwee, our organist and choir director, is having his senior recital, Saturday, November 7th, at 4 p.m., at Gates Recital Hall, School of Music at West Chester University, 817 South High Street, West Chester, PA 19383.

It will feature works by Stefano Donaudy, Claude Debussy and a premier by composer Daniel Paul Lawson.

A reception will follow, and we're all invited!

NAME(S): _____ check # _____

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

At Christmas time it is always a joy to decorate the church sanctuary with poinsettias. This special time allows us to honor those we love and care about. The poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary starting December 13th. Therefore the last day plants can be ordered is Sunday, December 6, 2009. Please place orders with Ricky Heinze, at the church, by phone at (1-570-472-3024) or by mail at:

Miss Ricky Heinze
46 Lilac Lane
227 Country Club Estates
Thornhurst, PA 18424

The poinsettias will be the 6½” size and will be \$7.00 each. Once again, we are requesting payment by check at the time you place your order. Please make checks payable to Collenbrook United Church, earmarked poinsettias. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Please indicate the number of plants of each color you desire:

_____ Red _____ White _____ Pink

_____ total number of plants at \$7.00 each: _____ TOTAL COST

Please complete the wording for inclusion in the bulletin:

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Check here if there is no message _____

Thank you!

A note from Gale Bupp, wife of the Rev. Marty Bupp, who served as pastor from 1972-1986, during which time Collenbrook United Church came into being with the merger of Northminster Presbyterian Church on this property and St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Springfield.

We are moving to Wyomissing in November. We sold our house (in 4 weeks) with much help from the kids and their blessings. Marty had a difficult summer. He fell down the garage steps - did not break anything - ended up in the hospital with pneumonia and a 104 temp for 4 days. He then went to Pine Run Rehab for another week. He is doing ok and now has a "new" set of wheels since his balance is improved and he can do a 4-wheeler walker. He has had PT which has been great! He cannot drive due to nerve damage in his right leg. We felt it was time for a CCRC and the kids strongly encouraged us to make the decision. We will be 5 minutes away from Stephanie (great for babysitting) and will be on a one-floor apartment in the center of the facility where Marty does not have to walk far to activities, etc. The kids all came to help with the downsizing and at present I have no idea where anything is since they cleared the house out so we could "stage" it to sell. What a different world real estate is these days with the internet, etc. My computer will be down the end of this month until I get set up in the computer lab at the Highlands.

We are looking forward to new changes and challenges!

We celebrate our 50th Anniversary in December, so change and challenge have always been a part of our lives.

Peace and Love, Gale

CALENDAR

- 10:30 Each Sunday, worship.
- Council, Nov. 9, 7:30
- PA Southeast Conference, U.C.C., Amityville, 9:00-2:45, Nov. 21
- Presbytery of Philadelphia, Ardmore, 4:00, Nov. 24
- Advent 1, Nov. 29

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 02 | Gil Cox, Jr. |
| 08 | Charles Hepler |
| 08 | Katie McElwee |
| 12 | Caryl Jones |
| 18 | DeAnn Scherer |
| 23 | Brian Priddey |



Hawk perched on steeple recently.