

## Welcome Back Sunday ~ September 9

Rev. Susan Cartmell is preaching  
Bible Village Sunday School Kick-Off  
Youth Groups Begin  
Youth Choir Rehearsals

### Sunday Worship In September



Theme:  
**Neighbors**

#### September 2

Matthew  
22:36-40

*Love Your  
Neighbor - What  
does that really  
mean today?*

#### September 9

1 Kings 21  
*How to be  
Neighborly  
Today*

#### September 16

Luke  
10: 25-37  
*Who is My  
Neighbor?*

#### September 23

*Love Your  
Neighbor: It's the  
Law*

#### September 30

Leviticus 19-18  
*Neighbors  
Around the  
World - Living in a  
Pluralistic Society*

### *A Message from the Senior Minister - Rev. Susan Cartmell*

This week the front page news in Boston included a story that surprised many of us. It seems a woman in Hull has become very committed to feeding the birds in the area. Her exuberance for this project has grown to the point where she has attracted scores of birds all the time, and it having an effect on her neighborhood. What began as a nice aviary outreach program has become a neighborhood nuisance, the neighbors claim. They have taken the issue to court in an effort to get this woman to stop feeding the birds because the neighbors have too much bird waste in their yards, and they are aggravated.

Whatever you think about the flap in Hull, we all have neighbors. We all have to negotiate how we share our space. Robert Frost said famously that fences make good neighbors. Others pride themselves on avoiding fences and living in smooth harmony with the people nearby. Neighbors can be your best friends. They can also irritate the heck out of you. They can give you an idea that you decide to copy. They can make you run in the opposite direction so that you define yourself as the opposite of them in every way. Most of us have to figure out how to live with our neighbors.

This September our worship theme is Neighbor. Jesus talks a lot about loving your neighbor as a duty akin to your love for God. Jesus did not make up the idea of loving your neighbor as yourself. That is part of the Hebrew Bible. This month we talk about what it means to be a neighbor or live with them.

This topic is particularly compelling as we consider what it means to live in a world where we have friends, and colleagues from around the world. Many of our neighborhoods include citizens with many different cultural and religious heritages. Together I hope we will begin a rich conversation about what Jesus' words might mean in our world.

Blessings, Susan

As part of the series we will be ordering new books for *The Good Book*- our church bookstore-

- My Neighbor's Faith: Stories of Religious Encounter, Growth, and Transformation* by Jennifer Peace, Dr. Rose and Greg Mobley.
- Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel
- Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice and the Promise of America*, also by Eboo Patel. An American Muslim from India, Eboo founded the Interfaith Youth Core and serves on Pres. Obama's Interfaith Council.

## Music Ministry News by Dr. Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music



# Welcome Back and a Special Welcome to Kate Scott.

As we welcome back our Chancel Choir after Summer break, I would like to extend a special welcome to our new soprano section leader Kate Scott. Kate comes to us from Washington, DC, where she served as soprano soloist and section leader at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and sang for the Pope in Rome during the Sacred Music Festival. She attended Northwestern University, and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in vocal performance, and studied voice in Italy for one year. We also welcome back Maggie Furtak, alto section leader; Nate Ramsayer, tenor section leader; and Crosby Goshgarian, bass section leader. Please mark your calendars for this year's Christmas Concert: **Sunday, December 2nd** at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The Chancel Choir will perform Camille Saint-Saens *Christmas Oratorio* with soloists, strings, harp, and organ.

## Lift Your Voice in Song! Worship Through Music.

Music has such an important place in worship at the Congregational Church of Needham. Our summer services are filled with wonderful gifts of music from various members of our congregation. There is a spirit in our worship and music that lifts our hearts and minds to higher grounds. As our choirs return from a well-deserved summer break, please know that each and every one of you are welcome to join in this special ministry of music. Our choirs are welcoming and positive places to make music with others, all for the glory of God.

Our Joyful Noise and Hallelujah Choirs learn healthy singing technique and come to know the joy of singing with others in a choral setting. These young singers are introduced to fun and uplifting sacred music. They experience the friendships that develop in a choir, and learn to work with each other to make a beautiful sound.

The Shepherd's Staff choir performs sacred music of a more complex and challenging style, while continuing to foster friendships and the love of sacred music. Through its angelic sound, our Shepherd's Staff choir adds a remarkable dimension to our worship.

Our Chancel Choir performs classical and contemporary sacred music for almost all of our Sunday worship services. Weekly rehearsals, with the benefit of our section leaders, allow the Chancel Choir to perform music of the highest complexity and quality. Even with a rigorous rehearsal, there is much laughter and fun to share.

I encourage each of you to consider joining one of our choirs. No matter what your age or ability, there is a group of eager singers waiting to welcome you. I ask all parents to encourage your children to sing in one of our choirs. The gift of music is without price and what better gift could there be but to sing for God!

Choirs will begin weekly rehearsals after Labor Day in the choir room:

- Joyful Noise (grades K-2) & Hallelujah Choir (grades 3-5): Sun. morning, 11:30 -12:00
- Shepherd's Staff Choir (grades 6-12): Sun. afternoon, 4:00-5:00
- Chancel Choir: Thurs.evening, 7:30-9:00pm

Please contact Bobby for more information at [drderegis@verizon.net](mailto:drderegis@verizon.net).

### FOCUS

Focus is published monthly. Contributions from members and friends of the Church are invited. Please submit materials by e-mail to [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org).

October issue deadline:  
**Thurs. September 20.**

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## Youth Ministry News with Rev. Jamie Green, Youth Minister

Welcome back! I am very much looking forward to beginning my third (!) year on the ministry team here at The Congregational Church of Needham. I hope you all had a wonderful summer; I can't wait to hear all your great stories! Here are just a few important notes and dates from me:

**Bible Village Sunday School Kick-off: September 9th** during morning worship. All parents **MUST** register their child in order to participate in Sunday School. Please arrive early to register (in the narthex outside the sanctuary) or fill out and email or print a registration form online (<http://needhamucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/CE-Registration-2012-2013distributed.pdf>). Sunday School is for all ages, crib/toddler through 12th grade. On Sept. 9th, crib/

toddlers, preschoolers, and 7th-12th graders meet directly in their classrooms at 10am. K-6 meet in sanctuary for worship and leave for Bible Village after the children's time. The theme for the fall is "Who is God?" and will focus on the creation story.

**Sunday School ALL PARENT Meeting: September 9th**, after worship at 11:30am in the chapel. Please meet with Rev. Jamie for a brief 15 minute meeting for some important Sunday School announcements! **BRING YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Youth Group Kick off is September 9th.** Junior High (6th-8th grade) meets 5-6:30pm, Senior High (9th-12th grade) meets 7-8:30pm. Both groups meet in Stevenson Hall. All are welcome. Featuring fun games and make-your-own-ice-cream-

Sundaes!

**Youth Group ALL PARENT Meeting: September 16**, after worship at 11:30am in the chapel. Please meet with Rev. Jamie for a brief 15 minute meeting for some important Youth Group announcements! **BRING YOUR CALENDARS AND CHECKBOOKS!**

**Mission Trip Report Back:** Hear about the Senior High Youth Group Summer Mission Trip to Vermont, after worship at 11:30am in the chapel **Sunday, Sept 23rd.**

If you ever have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [revjamie@needhamucc.org](mailto:revjamie@needhamucc.org), 781.444.2510 ext 104, or come visit me in the office most weekdays from noon-2pm.

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

### September 9

SS: 10-11am  
 11:30am: All Sunday School Parents Meeting  
 JH: 5pm-6:30pm -kick off ice cream party  
 SH: 7pm-8:30pm -kick off ice cream party

### September 16

SS: 10am-11am  
 11:30am: All Youth Group Parents Meeting  
 JH: 5pm-6:30pm  
 SH: 7pm-8:30pm

### September 23

SS: 10am-11am  
 11:30am: Mission Trip Reportback  
 JH: 5pm-6:30pm  
 SH: 7pm-8:30pm

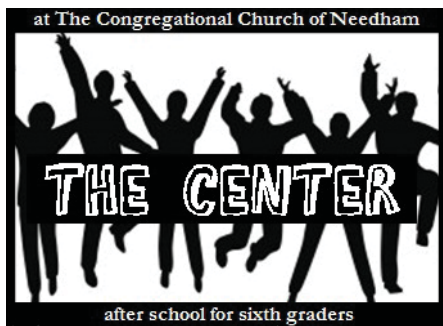
## Wish List for The Center

Updating your basement? Cleaning out the garage? Get rid of those items just collecting dust! The Center (after school for sixth & seventh graders) may be in need of what you no longer want, specifically the following items:

- \*PG-13 or lower movies - DVD or VHS.
- \*Wii and Xbox video games
- \*USB thumbdrives
- \*Computer games, programs and software
- \*Digital Cameras
- \*Books, especially fiction, for teenagers. Used books are welcome!
- \*Puzzles, board games, or craft activities suitable for teenagers
- \*School supplies
- \*Lego Sets
- \*Air Hockey Table
- \*Calculators- scientific and regular
- \*Grocery Store Gift Cards

If you are interested in donating anything to The Center, please contact Rev. Jamie at 781-444-2510 ext 104 or [revjamie@needhamucc.org](mailto:revjamie@needhamucc.org). Thank you! Your Support is Greatly Appreciated!

## The Center News



Beginning, September 5th, 2011, The Center, will open for its **SECOND** year, to not only sixth graders but seventh graders as well! The Center will be open Monday through Friday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. every school day listed on the Needham School District calendar. Through participation in a wide variety of activities under the supervision of nurturing adults, The Center will provide a safe and supportive place for youth to connect, grow and develop to their fullest potential-physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually.

Three more open houses have been scheduled at The Center for families in the community to tour the space, meet the staff, and learn about the registration process; Tues., Sept. 4th, 1pm-4pm (High Rock Walk

Through is 2pm-2:45pm), Wed., Sept. 5th, 7pm-8pm (First day of school and The Center), and Thurs., Sept. 13, 7pm-8pm

The Center offers:

- Flexible, drop-in hours. Youth may come to The Center during any open days and hours of the program once registered and issued a Membership Card. In addition, families need only pay for the days their youth attends (\$30 a day or \$25 a day if paid in advance)
- Trained and certified adult staff members (CORI checked, CPR/First Aid Certified)
- A quiet room for homework and reading with school supplies and books
- A computer lab, with computers, printer, scanner, and other devices
- A game room, with a pool table, ping pong table, foosball, piano, Wii sports and board games
- A gathering space for sports, team building, group activities and planning community service such as raking leaves, picking up litter, or volunteering at local nursing homes
- Healthy snacks

For more information or to register for the program, visit [www.MyYouthCenter.org](http://www.MyYouthCenter.org), email [info@MyYouthCenter.org](mailto:info@MyYouthCenter.org) or call the Director, Rev. Jamie Green, at 781.444.2510 ext 198.

## Church Group News and Special Events



OPEN AND AFFIRMING  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### ONA Focus on Bullying!

The ONA Ministry Team is delighted to offer an adult education series this fall called *“Creating Safe and Respectful Environments for Everyone - Addressing Bullying with Stories and Strategies.”* The sessions will take place on four successive Sundays after worship (**October 28 and November 4, 11, and 18**), with light lunch provided.

Each session will include a short film and a speaker or discussion facilitator. The films will inform participants about bullying in general, bullying based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression or some aspect related to bullying. Films will be followed by facilitated discussions. The films are “Let’s Get Real” (produced for middle school students), “Bullied” (a powerful film from

the Southern Poverty Law Center), “What Do You Know?” (a film designed for children aged 6-12) and “The Corey Johnson Story” (about a high school football captain who comes out as gay to his team). Speakers, facilitators and panelists include a survivor of bullying who now tells his story of hope, a panel of church parents who are mental health professionals and counselors, the executive director of Greater Boston PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and the national director of Welcoming Schools (Human Rights Campaign).

Watch for the Adult Ed Series pamphlets to sign up. We are hoping for wide participation for this compelling and important topic.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month as well as LGBT History Month. October 11 is “National Coming Out Day.” Watch the ONA Board for more information about these October activities.

## Church Group News and Special Events

### *The Friendly Society News*

Friendly Society's first regular meeting for 2012-2013 will be the annual pot luck supper on Wednesday, September 19, at 6:00 p.m. in Linden Hall.

All church women are welcome. Please bring your favorite dish-main dish, salad, or dessert- enough for eight servings.

If you are interested in joining Friendly, now is the time as the new year begins. Dues are \$10.

We are delighted that Heike Werder will talk to us about her bike trip this summer.

The next Friendly Board meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library.

### Community Dinners

Food is a wonderful way to reach out to our neighbors and friends. We would like to try something new: serving a free monthly dinner to our neighbors and each other. With the help of Outreach, we have some start-up money. Here is how you can help:

1. Cook a main dish at home; recipes provided.
2. Help shop for additional items – salad, drinks, dessert.
3. Help set up Linden Hall.
4. Help serve dinner to everyone who comes.
5. Have dinner with your friends, or meet new people from our church's neighborhood.
6. Stay around and help clean-up.

We hope to hold our dinners on the first Tuesday of every month, starting in October. Please call Rev. Heike 781-444-2510 if you would like to help out.



## ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

The award winning Environmental Ministry Team formerly know as the Green Church Task Force will be meeting on **Sept 4 at 7:15pm** at the church to plan for 2012-2013. Please join the team if you have an interest in helping us to be stewards of God's creation

### Climate Change Café Sunday, October 14!



Immediately following coffee hour, at 11:30, join the Environmental Ministry Team for a CCC presented by Alan Clayton-Matthews in Linden Hall. Alan is a professor at the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs; Department of Economics at Northeastern University. He'll explore trends in the rise of greenhouse gasses

and the effects of climate change from an economist's perspective. Light refreshments will be provided.

#### **COMING EVENTS:**

In March 2013 we will have a Climate Change Cafe about biking and bike maintenance. More info to come!

### The Immigration Task Force has expanded!

Our church's Immigration Task Force has expanded beyond the Congregational Church to become the **Immigration Justice Task Force**, with representatives on it from First Parish UU, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, the Needham Human Rights Committee and the Wellesley Friends Meeting--with invitations out to people from other faith communities and groups to join us.

Anyone from this church is welcome to become part of it, as well. Our good news at this point is that we are co-sponsoring a public forum with Needham's League of Women Voters on **November 29th**. Save the date and watch for further details.

### **Men's Breakfast, Sunday September 16. "Parables in the Twenty-first Century"**

The Men's Breakfast is a lively time of fellowship and vigorous, honest talk once a month before worship. We get together in the Library on the third Sunday of the month and enjoy breakfast fare provided by volunteers. We have always welcomed men of all ages and can always accommodate those with scheduling challenges. Arrive at 8:15 AM for fellowship and breakfast or by 9:00 AM for the discussion.

On September 16 we will reprise the summer sermon theme with a discussion of parables and how they affect people today. Join us! Contact Keith McClelland ([kmmlkm@rcn.com](mailto:kmmlkm@rcn.com)) for more information.



## Celebrates 25th Anniversary With an October Forum

The Guatemala Partnership will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the partnership between Santa María Tzejá and the Needham Congregational Church with a forum **Saturday, October 20**, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church. A potluck supper will follow at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The goal is to share ideas that promote social justice, discuss the impact this unique partnership has had on our communities and explore where the partnership is headed in the coming years.

The general session, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., focuses on celebrating a transnational community between people of different cultural, ethnic, economic and political backgrounds. Speakers are:

- \* **Paula Worby**, associate director of the Multicultural Institute in Berkeley, CA. She worked more than a decade with the UN High Commission for Refugees in Guatemala.
- \* **Ross Lohr**, director of the Newton Tanzania Collaborative. Since 2006, the NTC has worked to improve educational opportunities for Tanzanian children through participatory development initiatives and relationship building between schools and communities in the United States and Tanzania.
- \* **Jim Wallace**, a founder of the Cambridge Sister City Project. Since 1987, the city of Cambridge and San José las Flores in El Salvador have worked together for human rights, social justice and cultural exchange.
- \* **Clark Taylor**, retired professor from the College of Public and Community Service at UMass Boston, co-founder of the Guatemala Partnership, author of several books about politics and rebuilding community in Guatemala and a member of the Needham Congregational Church.

Attendees will have a choice of three tracks, each offering three sessions. Sessions will be at 10:15 a.m., 11:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.:

### Building a transnational community

- Celebrating a 25-year partnership: Santa María Tzejá perspective
- Celebrating a 25-year partnership: Needham Congregational church perspective
- Anticipating the next 25 years in a maturing transnational community

### Promoting peace and justice

- External Threats and the Response of a Courageous Community
- Standing in Solidarity
- Immigrants by Choice

### Experiencing Santa María Tzejá

- A Virtual Visit to the Village
- A Taste of Santa María Tzejá
- Rehearsal for the 'Despedida' (Farewell)

The program is designed for broad appeal—from people who have visited the village to people who wish to learn more about Guatemala and the partnership between the Needham Congregational Church and Santa María Tzejá. The forum is designed to appeal to people of middle-school age and older. The potluck supper is for everyone—children through adults.

Forum registration of \$15 includes snacks, beverages and lunch. A registration table will be set up during Coffee Hour Sept. 30, Oct. 7 and Oct. 14. Or you can register on-line at [guatepartnershipforum.EventBrite.com](http://guatepartnershipforum.EventBrite.com).



### August Delegation Report-Back, September 16th, 11:30 am

Our church's 50th delegation to Guatemala recently returned from its visit to Santa Maria Tzeja. Our group will share its experiences on **Sunday, September 16** after church at 11:30 am in Linden Hall. Come and hear what we learned, our stories, and impressions on development in the village. Light refreshments will be served.

### Recruiting for February 2013

**Delegation:** Space is still available for adults/youth to join the church's February 2013 delegation to Guatemala. Travel dates are **February 13-24**. Don't delay in speaking with leader Brenda Metzler, since tickets (for travel during school vacation) must be purchased in late September/early October. Please contact Brenda ([bmetzler7@verizon.net](mailto:bmetzler7@verizon.net) or 781-449-5696) for details or questions.

## **Adult Education** by Rev. Heike Werder, Associ. Minister



### Fall Adult Education Classes Start on September 16, 2012

Throughout the fall and early winter, the church is offering a great variety of programs for all ages. A detailed brochure will be ready at our first Sunday back, September 9th. But if you are curious, here is a list of programs already scheduled:

***(A Brief) Intro to the New Testament: Historical Context of Early Christianity***

**Sunday, September 23, 30, & October 7; 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Linden Hall)**

Presenter: Nate Ramsayer, Biblical scholar & archaeologist

***Living Life to the Fullest – a Program for Seniors and their loved ones about embracing the challenges of aging***

**Sunday, September 16, 23, 30; 2:30 - 4 p.m. (Fellowship Hall); Open to the public**

Presenters: Dr. Janet Jankowiak, Rev. Heike Werder, William Rees, James Turner, members of the Needham community

***Climate Change Café – The economic effects of climate change***

**Sunday, October 14; 11:30 a.m. (Linden Hall)**

Presenter: Alan Clayton-Matthews.

***Creating Safe and Respectful Environments for Everyone - Addressing Bullying with Stories and Strategies***

**Sunday, October 28, November 4, 11, and 18; 11:30 - 1 p.m. (Linden Hall)**

Presented by: The ONA Ministry Team

***Guatemala Partnership 25th Anniversary Forum***

**Saturday, October 20; 8:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

Attend a day filled with workshops, panel discussion, presentations, and fellowship to celebrate our partnership and explore the future of our partnership

with our friends in Santa Maria Tzeja.

***Catholics in the United Church of Christ – Exploring our Spiritual Journeys***

**Monday, October 15, 22, 29, & Nov. 5**

Presenter: Rev. Heike Werder who counts on the input of participants

***De-Stress for the Holidays – NIA and Yoga***

**Monday, Nov. 26, December 3, 10, & 17**

Leaders: Carol Oberle & Jane Clayton-Matthews

**Other opportunities:**

Why not join a faith circles or a family support group?

Or join us for lunch at the church on the first Thursday of the month throughout the year, and every Thursday during the Advent and Lenten season.

Looking for a way to reach out into the community?

Consider getting involved with a new venture – Community Dinners – on the first Tuesday of the month, starting in October.

Do you have an idea for an Adult Education Class? Please call Rev. Heike (781-444-2510). Your input is very much welcomed.

For more details about all of the scheduled programs, please look for the **Fall 2012 Adult Education brochure, located in the pews and the Adult Education bulletin board.**



### **SAVE THE DATE**

**3rd Annual Talent Show**

**Friday, October 12, 2012; 6 to 9 p.m.**

Come and join us for an evening of food, fun, and entertainment to kick off our Stewardship Campaign!

If you have a talent, please share it. If you like to participate, please talk to Rev. Heike Werder who will be the MC for the evening.



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# The Village Marketplace Fair

## Join us at the Fair!

On **Nov. 17, 2012**, local artists, hand-crafted items, home-made baked goods, and so much more will be featured at this year's event. Many "good old" favorites will be back such as the Used Book Store, the White Elephant Table, vintage jewelry, and an auction. Lunch will be served all day. Proceeds will benefit the church.

If you like to volunteer to lend a hand either on Fair day or before, please call the church at 781-444-2510. Many hands are needed!

If you know an artist or craftsperson you would like to see exhibit, please contact Danielle Jurdan at 781-444-2510.

## Village Fair Auction News!

The tradition continues! Once again, as part of our Village Fair on **Saturday, November 17, 2012**, we are planning to hold a silent auction. Anyone wishing to donate items or services to the auction, or who is willing to staff the auction tables for a couple of hours during the Fair, please get in touch with Jane Brand at [ajbrand@comcast.net](mailto:ajbrand@comcast.net), or 781-455-0595. Thank you!

address

stamp

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