

# Pastor's Letter



What a long, strange trip it has been. Well, okay it hasn't been long at all and really not very strange. But it has been fun for me and I hope you enjoyed it as well. My time as interim minister will come to a close in a few weeks. I am so grateful that you have allowed me to serve you this summer. Thank you for all of the positive comments and constructive criticism you have so freely shared with me. Your support and feedback have been very helpful and have taught me much.

Please join me on September 16 as we welcome Todd back from his sabbatical. Hopefully, he will be rested and recharged with the Spirit and ready to continue spreading the Lord's message and doing God's work. The 16th will also serve as Rally Day to start off a new year of Sunday School. This year, Todd will also be holding Confirmation classes. If you would like your child to attend, please contact the church office.

This transition period brings with it mixed emotions for me. I am overjoyed to welcome Todd back, as I am sure we all are, but I am saddened that my service to you has ended. This time also marks a new phase in my schooling and I will be moving on to serve the First Congregational Church in East Longmeadow as a Field Education student. Rachel and Charlotte will continue to attend BUCC and we look forward to having our new daughter baptized by Todd this winter. I will not be far, though, and please feel free to contact me if there is anything I can do for you.

Thank you again for all of your support and friendship. I will certainly cherish this time that we have spent together as I continue on in my ministry.

Peace,  
Tom

Thanks for a wonderful summer, Tom. We'll miss you!

All of Us at BUCC



## The Helping Hands Cupboard Food Pantry at Belchertown UCC...



is running successfully, Thanks to a great bunch of people! I would like to extend a sincere thank-you to all the volunteers that work with me and make my job so much easier as the coordinator. This summer has been exceptionally tough for me as my Mom - Eleanor Green battles breast cancer; I would not have been able to continue with the Food Pantry this summer without the help, support and prayers from all of you...Thank - you again.

If there is anyone who would like to join this superb group of people feel free to come join us, along with work we do have a bit of fun! We distribute food on the 3rd Thursday of every month and pack the food on the Tuesday before. Leave a message with the church office or come talk to me when you see me. We will be having a meeting in September to update everyone and get back on the same page...watch for future announcements!  
God Bless,  
Cindy Fuller

Also if anyone finds a light blue glasses case that has a dent or two in it (with glasses in them) they belong to me. I may have lost them at the food pantry or in the "tag sale" room. If found please leave them with Terry in the church office. Thanks

## 100,000 People For Peace

At the UCC General Synod in June, the Collegium issued a pastoral letter calling on the church to join Protest to Prayer in opposition to the war in Iraq. Since then, the United Church of Christ has launched a new anti-war campaign website, 100,000 People for Peace, with the goal of gathering 100,000 petition signatures supporting the pastoral letter. UCC Minister & President, Rev. John Thomas plans to take these names with him when he travels to Washington, DC in October. His trip will follow World Communion Sunday and he will present them - in person - as our unified call for peace, to leaders of Congress and members of the Administration. This is an ambitious goal, and your help is needed. Please go to [www.ucc.org/100kforpeace/](http://www.ucc.org/100kforpeace/) and sign the petition. Thank you.



## Our Worship Service on local access TV...

Help is needed in videotaping the worship services for broadcast on Belchertown Community TV. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please see Tom O'Brien.

## Belchertown Fair

Mark your calendars!

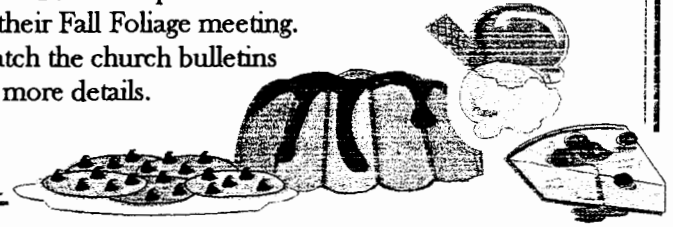
The 2007 Belchertown Fair will be held on a different date this year! The Fair is planned for the weekend of September 21, 22, & 23, which is one week earlier than usual. As in years gone by, our church will host a Turkey Dinner, our famous Taco Booth and will need help in the Parking Lot. Sign-up sheets are now located in the narthex of the church. Sign up early for the best slots! *And mark your home calendars so that you'll be free to join BUCC in all our '07 Fair activities!*

Thanks,  
Your Fundraising Committee



## Home Department

The next meeting of the Home Department will be on Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup> at Hawley's Restaurant. The group will meet at 1:00 PM for dessert. Looking ahead: The October meeting of the Home Department will be their Fall Foliage meeting. Watch the church bulletins for more details.



## From the Board of Christian Education 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tag Sale

The Board of CE would like to thank everyone who helped out during their recent Tag Sale held on August 25. Between both the tag items and the refreshment stand, \$550 was raised. Special thanks go to the Youth Group for running the refreshment stand and to both Dottie Carmody and Frank Lamacchia for coming out Friday night to help set up. And thanks to everyone who donated the great items that made up the sale. We couldn't have done it without you!



## CWS Health Kits

Due to the contributions received from so many, the Home Department was recently able to send 14 more Health Kits to Church World Service. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously. Please keep the contributions coming as we continue to put the kits together. Please note: CWS no longer needs contributions of toothpaste. They will be supplying all of the toothpaste in the future.

## Annual Craft Fair

The BUCC Craft Fair is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> and don't miss this great shopping opportunity (Did someone say Christmas?). Crafters from throughout the area will be here sharing their fine handmade wares and more! If you would like to rent a space, see Lucy Jamgochian or pick up an application from the church office.

Don't miss it!



## Rally Day

The first day of Sunday school & Youth Group will begin on Rally Day, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars! Don't miss the annual fun filled kick off! Watch the church bulletin for all the details.



## Confirmation Class

A confirmation class will be held this year for all students in grade 9 and older. It will begin in October. See anyone on the Board of Christian Education or Rev. Todd for more information.

## Help Brighten Each Sunday!

Please share your joys, sadness or encouragement with flowers for our congregation! A single vase of flowers from your garden or a potted plant would be wonderful to brighten the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. Please call Donna Brown (323-6334) for September & October.

Thank you, Your BUCC Flower Committee



## Ushers

Currently we have 5 ushers who rotate to serve us each Sunday. Would you like to join them? They'd love to have *you*. See Harry Covert if you are interested. Thanks.

## Church Prayer Line

All are welcome to participate in the Church Prayer Line. If you have concerns or celebrations you would like to share please call Jane Gabbie at 323-7832 or email [prayers@belchertownuucc.org](mailto:prayers@belchertownuucc.org). If you would like to participate by being a part of the line, please let Jane know.



## Choir

Do you like to sing? Do you like to hang out with fun people? Have you been wondering how you might give back to the church in appreciation? Then the BUCC Choir is where you should be! The Senior Choir now rehearses on Sunday evenings at 7 PM and is anxious to welcome you to the group. Interested but not sure who to speak to? Dan or any member of the choir will be glad to give more details. See them today!



## Have Extra Bounty from Your Garden??

*Over run with zucchini squash, tomatoes and beans? Please donate all your extras to our Helping Hands Food Pantry. Food distribution is the third Thursday of each month, so plan accordingly. Vegetables can be dropped off that week 9 - 12 or anytime the Parish House is open. Thank you!*

## *Our Schedule*

Sunday Worship is held at 9:30 AM with communion served on the first Sunday of each month. Sunday school and youth group meet each Sunday.

## *Events in Our Community and Beyond*

### Marriage Encounter



Looking for a way to include God in your marriage? Find out how on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend! Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones-and focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend can make! The next two UCC marriage Encounter weekends will be held on October 26-28, 2007 and November 9-11, 2007 at the Four Points Sheraton in

Meriden, CT. For more information or to register, contact Lynn and Bruce Hildreth at 978-663-4727 or [Hildreth4@concast.net](mailto:Hildreth4@concast.net)

### Job Opportunity

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts is seeking a Development Coordinator to work with the Development Team in all aspects of fundraising for the Food Bank, with specific responsibility for cultivation relationships, records management and reporting. See the bulletin board in Parish House for all the details.



## SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN

Is there someone giving you a hard time?

Is your relationship stressful or hurtful?

Do you find yourself needing a place to talk - to get advice - to get resources?

Please contact the church office (Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) for further information on dates and meeting times at 413-323-7442. Free childcare is provided.



### Piano Lessons

Daniel Monte is now offering piano lessons! Please see him after worship or call him at 413-695-0809 for more information.

## Hampshire Boy Scouts Golf Classic

Like to golf? Then October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Hickory Ridge Golf Course in Amherst will be the place to come to help the boy scouts in their Third Annual Golf Classic. The cost is \$125 and includes cart, greens fees and two meals. During the day there are contests of skill, raffles, and of course, golf. Contact District Executive Steve Roberts for more information (413-531-6720) or visit [www.boyscoutgolf.org](http://www.boyscoutgolf.org) for more information.

## Belchertown Firefighters' Association Annual Raffle

In order to continue to keep our local fire department up-to-date, fully equipped and highly trained, the BFA is holding their annual raffle. The

grand prize is \$500 with many more smaller prizes as well. Drawings will be held at the Belchertown Fair, September 21, 22 & 23. The tickets are \$1.00 each and are available from the church office, at the fire station or at their booth at the Fair. Please support our dedicated Belchertown Fire Department. Thank you.

**Amherst Survival Center Annual Furniture Sale**  
The Amherst Survival Center's Annual Furniture Sale "Trash To Treasures", is scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> on the Amherst Town Common. Hours for the 7<sup>th</sup> are 2 PM - 5 PM and on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM - 1 PM.

The sale prevents about 700 pieces of furniture from going into landfills each year as well as providing funding for the Survival Center's programs and provides inexpensive and good furniture to people in our community. Everybody wins! To donate call: Julia at 549-3968 ext. 205 or come out and shop. Thanks!

**Moving from Cancer to Wellness**  
Wing Memorial Hospital and the American Cancer Society will present "Moving from Cancer to Wellness", on Saturday, September 8, 2007 from 9 AM - 1 PM at the Scantic Valley YMCA in Wilbraham. This is a free event for cancer survivors and their families. Workshops, refreshments and prizes will be offered. Call 413-283-1172 to register.

## Diversity in the Media

**A**s an outgrowth of the United Church of Christ's historic commitment to civil rights, the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc. (OC, Inc.) was incorporated in 1959 to advocate on behalf of those who had been historically excluded from the media, especially people of color and women. OC, Inc., as it is commonly called, was the first voice to demand that those holding FCC licenses and authorizations act on behalf of the public interest and be held accountable as stewards of the public trust.

Through the years, OC, Inc. has sought to guarantee minimum hours of children's programming; worked in neighborhoods to help individuals secure responsible, quality and community-based programming and fair rates from their cable providers; joined with others to ensure that utility companies promote qualified women and people of color; worked in neighborhoods to end electronic redlining and defended the importance of the Fairness Doctrine.

Today O.C., Inc. continues to work to promote diversity in the marketplace of ideas. It supports efforts to establish low power FM radio and works to safeguard the right of all to affordable access to emerging technologies and the transmission of data. O.C., Inc. addresses issues of media consolidation and establishes basic corporate character requirements for those information age stewards who transmit images and data in our ever-changing world.



Church Office Hours  
Monday-Thursday  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Church Phone - 413-323-7442  
Please leave a message.

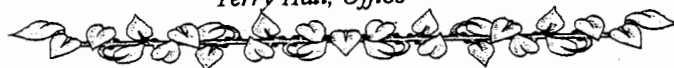
Church e-mail address - [belchertownucc@yahoo.com](mailto:belchertownucc@yahoo.com)  
Web site - [www.belchertown-ucc.org](http://www.belchertown-ucc.org)  
Submit information for the weekly bulletin by Wednesday at 10 AM.  
Thank you.



### Church Newsletter

Articles for *The Grapevine*, are due on the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month. Leave your announcement with the church office via e-mail, answering machine or call between 9 a.m. & 12 p.m. 413-323-7442 to speak with someone.  
Thank you.

*The Grapevine* is published monthly by  
Belchertown UCC  
Staff: Rev. Todd Farnsworth, Pastor,  
Dan Monte Music Director,  
Terry Hall, Office



**BACK,**  
**(September 16<sup>th</sup>)**

**Rev. Todd, Martha, Callie &  
Sam!**


**You were missed!**



Its Coming.....

THE ANNUAL BELCHERTOWN FAIR is  
just around the corner!

As usual BUCC will host a Turkey Dinner,  
Feature Our *Famous Taco Booth* and need lots  
of help with the Parking Lot.

Sign up sheets are already posted in the  
Narthex. If you want a certain job, sign up  
today or someone else will take it!! 

**FAIR DATES:**

September 21, 22 & 23

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR BIGGEST  
FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR AND LOTS  
OF FUN!!!**

**QUESTIONS? SEE LUCY JAMGOCHIAN**

## *Fire Safety on Campus...*

# Questions for everyone to ask

Between January 2000 and August 2007, 113 people have died in campus-related fires, both on- and off-campus, across the country and countless others have been injured, lost their housing, personal belongings and school work in fires.

When visiting a school or choosing housing, make an informed decision. This is critically important for off-campus housing, where 80% of the fire fatalities have occurred.

### Ask these questions...

- **How many fires have occurred campus in the past year? How about fires in off-campus student housing?**
- **Are residence halls, Greek Housing or off-campus housing equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system?** If not, why not? Sprinklers provide that vital first line of defense when it comes to controlling a fire. Ask for your student to be put in sprinklered housing.
- **Does every student's room have a smoke alarm?** Does it send a signal to campus security or the fire department? Fire alarm systems will give everyone the warning that there is a fire and it is time to get out.
- **How many false alarms have occurred in the residence halls?** False alarms cause students to stop paying attention to the alarms, which can be a fatal decision. False alarms ARE avoidable.
- **Is the fire department IMMEDIATELY notified whenever ANY fire alarm system is activated?** Some schools investigate the alarm first and then notify the fire department. This delay can put more people at risk. The fire department should automatically be notified of ALL alarms.
- **Are smoking, candles and Halogen lamps prohibited in the residence halls?** If not, they should be.
- **Does the school have policies that electrical appliances and power strips be certified as safe and reliable?**
- **How much fire prevention training does the residence hall staff receive?**
- **How often do the students themselves receive fire prevention education?** This should continue throughout their academic career, not just while they are living in the residence halls.
- **How often are evacuation drills conducted?** There should be at least one per semester.
- **What is the school's disciplinary policy towards students that cause false alarms or fail to evacuate during an alarm?**
- **Does the school provide fire extinguisher training for all students?**

**Make an informed, fire-safe decision!**

For more information, contact

# CAMPUS Firewatch

(413) 323-6002 • [ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com](mailto:ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com) • [www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com)

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# the bluegrass gospel project

*in concert to benefit*



**Ecclesia Ministries**  
*common cathedral*

*forming spiritual community with homeless people since 1994*

**Friday, October 12, 2007**

7:30 p.m.

Old South Church  
645 Boylston Street  
Boston

\$25 General Admission / \$50 Patron

*for tickets, mail check to*

Ecclesia Ministries, 67 Newbury Street, Boston 02116  
Or phone 617-247-4927

*or purchase online at:*

[www.BluegrassGospelProject.com](http://www.BluegrassGospelProject.com)

• [www.ecclesia-ministries.org](http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org)

*Endorsed by the Homelessness Task Force, Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ*

The Western Area Leadership Academy (WALA)  
Presents

## *Creation, Sexuality and the Church*

**Saturday, October 20, 9:00 - 3:00 Rev. Dr. Leanne Tigert**  
Fellow, American Association of Pastoral Counselors; Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist  
*A Theology of Sexuality and Spirituality: Pastoral Care in Relation to "Controversial" Issues*

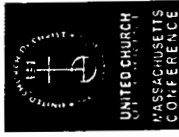
**Saturday, October 27, 9:00 - 1:00 Rev. Ann B. Day**  
Former ONA Program Coordinator for UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns  
*Sexual Orientation and the Open and Affirming Church*

**Saturday, November 3, 9:00 - 1:00 Rev. Dr. Nancy Taylor**  
Pastor of Old South Church Boston, Past Minister and President of MACUCC  
*Marriage, Sexuality, and the Church*

**Saturday, November 10 9:00 - 1:00 Rev. Dr. Beverly Prestwood Taylor**  
Executive Director, the Brookfield Institute  
*Conflict Transformation, Dialogue and Discernment within the Congregation*

All Sessions at Easthampton Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
112 Main Street, Easthampton MA

The Western Area Leadership Academy is endorsed by the Leadership Development Commission, MACUCC; supported by the Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Associations of the MACUCC; and is made possible through Our Church's Wider Mission and fellowship dues.



To register, please send this form by *October 5*, along with a check for \$120.00\* made payable to:  
"Western Area Office, UCC" to:

Western Area Office, UCC  
P.O. Box 443, Ludlow, MA 01056

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Scholarships are available. Contact Peter Wells at 413-589-7034 for more information

**The Massachusetts Bible Society**  
presents the  
**2007 Harrell F. Beck Lectureship**

⇨ Identical Lectures ⇨

**Sunday, October 21, 2007**  
First Parish Church of Weston  
349 Boston Post Road  
Weston, MA  
7:30 p.m.

**Monday, October 22, 2007**  
Helen Hills Chapel  
Smith College  
Northampton, MA  
7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 23, 2007**  
First Baptist Church  
111 Park Avenue  
Worcester, MA  
7:30 p.m.



**Barbara Brown Taylor**

Butman Professor of Religion  
Piedmont College, Demorest, Georgia

**Sabbath Resistance:  
Treasures Left Lying in a Field**

While a large majority of Christians defend the Ten Commandments as the ethical backbone of their faith, precious few remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. These are the Nine-Commandment Christians (or Eight, but that is another story), who use the Sabbath to catch up on their work, shop, or entertain, without ever linking their chronic exhaustion to the lost commandment. When did the fourth commandment slide off the tablets of law? What is the source of our continuing resistance to it? Was it Jesus who left this treasure lying in a field?

Barbara Brown Taylor is a teacher and writer who lives on a working farm in rural northeast Georgia with her husband Ed. An editor at large for *The Christian Century* and a sometime commentator on Georgia Public Broadcasting, she is the author of eleven books. Her latest, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith* (Harper/SanFrancisco 2006), won both the Association of Theological Booksellers' Theologos Award for Best General Interest Book 2006 and the 2006 Georgia Author of the Year Award for creative non-fiction.

All evening lectures are free and open to the public. Plan to arrive early, as seating is limited in all venues!  
Evening lectures will be signed for the hearing impaired. All sites are physically accessible.

Barbara Brown Taylor's will be available for purchase at each location.  
For additional information, please e-mail MBS at [admin@massbible.org](mailto:admin@massbible.org) or call (617) 542-2230.

**LECTURESHIP LUNCHEON REGISTRATION**

In addition to the above lectures, Barbara Brown Taylor will also address interested clergy and laity at luncheons to be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Boston and October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Springfield from noon to 1:00 p.m. Her luncheon topic is 'Parabolic Faith: Treasures Hidden in a Field.'

~ Please return this registration form before Friday, October 12th to make your luncheon reservation. ~

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: \_\_\_\_\_ Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street, Boston\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Western New England College, Wilbraham Road, Springfield (Attendees are guests of the college)

\* Boston luncheon only: Please make your luncheon selection below:

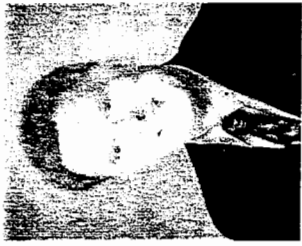
Number \_\_\_\_\_ non-vegetarian or \_\_\_\_\_ vegetarian meals @ \$12.00 per person

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If directions are needed, please check \_\_\_\_\_ Send this form to: The Massachusetts Bible Society, 14 Beacon Street, Suite 510, Boston, MA 02108

Endorsed by the Leadership Commission of the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ

Access a digital version of this flyer at [www.massbible.org/actions/programs/beck\\_lectures/2007/beck\\_taylor/beck\\_2007\\_UCC.pdf](http://www.massbible.org/actions/programs/beck_lectures/2007/beck_taylor/beck_2007_UCC.pdf)



**An Evening Conversation with Tony Robinson**

Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007, 6:30-8:30 PM

Norwell UCC, 460 Main Street  
Norwell, MA

(For directions: [www.uccnorwell.org](http://www.uccnorwell.org))

Lay and clergy teams for local churches are invited to engage Tony Robinson in conversation on *What's Theology Got To Do With It?*

Most will recognize this topic is also the title of one of Tony's recent books. The topic is also important to all, as we in the Massachusetts Conference have identified adult faith formation as one of our priorities.

Tony Robinson's current ministry has four dimensions:

1. Speaker and teacher;
2. Consultant and coach;
3. President and founder of the NW leadership formation and education program, The Columbia Leadership Network; and
4. Author and columnist;

Tony was the keynote speaker for the Pastoral Excellence Program for Clergy prior to the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference. He has served four congregations, in both rural and urban settings, serving small and large congregations, and churches that are multi-cultural and multi-racial, as well as primarily euro-American. In 2004, Tony completed 14 years of ministry at Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC) in Seattle, Washington.

The evening conversation with Dr. Robinson is a "gift" to the local churches of the Massachusetts Conference from Norwell UCC, who is generously sharing Tony's time with all. We thank them for their generosity!

There will be copies of Tony's book, "What's Theology Got to Do With It?" available for sale and signing.

Please RSVP to the Plymouth Office at 508-746-8330 or by email to [semae.ucc@verizon.net](mailto:semae.ucc@verizon.net) no later than Monday, September 17, 2007.

There is no charge for the event but we want to make sure there will be ample seating for all



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
MASSACHUSETTS  
CONFERENCE**

**The Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ**  
...nurturing local church vitality and the covenant among our churches.

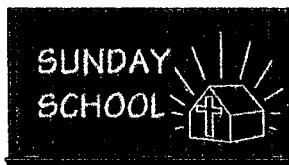
This event is endorsed by the Barnstable, Old Colony and Pilgrim Associations of the Southeast Region



# September 2007



Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat



							1
2 9:30 AM Worship & Communion 7 PM - Choir Practice	3 Labor Day Observed	4	5	6 6:30 PM - Meeting, Board of Christian Education	7	8 8 AM - Buildings & Grounds Workday	
9 9:30 AM Worship 7 PM - Choir Practice	10	11 1 PM - Home Department, Hawley's Restaurant 7 PM - Board of Deacons Meet	12	13	14	15	
16 RALLY DAY! 9:30 AM Sunday School & Youth Group Begin!	17	18	19	20 4-7 PM, Food Distribution	21 BELCHERTOWN FAIR	22 BELCHERTOWN FAIR	
23 BELCHERTOWN FAIR 9:30 Worship on the Common No SS or YG 7 PM - Choir Practice	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30 9:30 Worship, SS & YG 7 PM - Choir Practice	<p>Looking Ahead...</p> <p>Wednesday October 3rd - Cabinet Meeting, 7 PM</p> <p>Saturday November 3rd - Annual Craft Fair, Parish House</p>						

*Hello Todd!*

*Good bye, Tom!*

and of course.....

