



The Webster Word

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 8  NOVEMBER 2008

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 8

- Annual Bazaar & Craft Show (See p. 3)

Sunday, Nov. 9

- Stewardship

Saturday, Nov. 22

- Quarter Auction, 7:00 PM

Sat & Sun, Nov. 22 & 23

- Youth for Christ Retreat in Ocean City

Sunday, Nov. 30

- Farewell Service & Dinner for Pastor Lonna (See p. 8)

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Pastor's Message

Dear Webster Family,

This is the last letter I will be writing to you as your pastor. So, I want to tell you all how much you have blessed my ministry. I will always remember "Children's Time", when the little ones would have so many insightful responses to questions, which showed the success of their learning in our Sunday school. I especially enjoyed the trips to Harford Memorial Hospital when the children and their parents would go to sing to the patients and staff, going through the halls, and bringing joy to all who listened to them. The youth trips to Ocean City for Youth for Christ were just the best times, especially when our youth would come to the front with hundreds of young people to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The wonderful times we had together are priceless.

I remember Halloween parties with hayrides through Webster Village, the cakewalks and games, the great costumes and all the fun we had together. Easter egg hunts and breakfasts, Vacation Bible School, spraying the teachers' hair blue and getting slimed.... Christmas caroling on the flat bed truck with the music playing on the laptop, and the fun we all had when we decorated the hay wagon and "marched" in the 4th of July parade. I remember our confirmation classes, when we would have snack time that turned out to be roasting hot dogs on the grill and having dinner together. What wonderful memories! I will cherish them forever. Thank you all for gifting me with your family pictures. I have pictures of new babies, families, times together and graduation pictures. They are still on my fridge and I will keep them displayed in my new home when I retire.

Since I will still be living in Havre de Grace, I hope when you see me in the grocery store, or downtown at First Fridays, or at the movies, or just anywhere, you will come up and give me a hug and let me know how you're doing. I know you will grow up so fast, and I will keep you in my heart. When your new pastor gets settled, I would love to be invited back to Webster to worship with you. I was present at Lily's birth, and yesterday, I was at Upper Chesapeake when little Aurora Ysabel came into the world. Thank you for inviting me to these very special times in your lives.

By the end of November, I will have baptized 58 members of the Webster family, and you have brought me such joy in these experiences, I will treasure the memories.

The choir has been another source of joy for me. I remember coming to practices on Thursday nights, and singing along with you. Many times the children were included in the concerts. Christmas parties were always so nice, and even practicing in my living room years ago, when the furnace would act up, and it was just too cold in the sanctuary.

We would fix hot tea and have a snack after practice. The family would rely on each other to get through the tough times.

For the members of the congregation, I thank you for inviting me to stand by you in times of sickness, loss and grief. Your faith in God's healing hand and your trust in me to be with you during those times has blessed me in ways that will remain with me always, and I will remember you with respect and admiration for all that you are.

In the exit interview, I was asked to share three wishes for the future of Webster Church. Here they are:

1. I hope the children who were born into and baptized at Webster Church will grow up here, be confirmed and grow to serve Christ, following in their parents' and grandparents' footsteps.
2. The unchurched people will find their church home here with our community and grow to love Christ and each other.
3. The new pastor will thrive and will be loved and honored by the membership, that he will stay a long time, and that all the relationships between the pastor and the congregation will be happy and healthy, and that both the pastor and congregation will live by the UCC Statement of Faith and the Webster Covenant.

For me, I look forward to spending my time at Christmas with my daughter Pam, her husband Will and sons Austin and Dillon in San Diego, California. The family is a Christian family, while Pam home schools Austin and Dillon and they enjoy a loving church home. When I come home from California, during the winter months, I plan to visit my cousins in Melbourne, Florida and then on to Boston to see my best friend from seminary, Cricket Potter who was just ordained and accepted a call to ministry. During this time, I plan to rest and renew myself, and leave possibilities open for my future.

I hope you will all celebrate with us on November 30th when the Chesapeake Association, Webster Church and I have a service of recognition and farewell. This will be a time when I will ask for forgiveness for the mistakes I have made, I will share my gratitude for the ways my leadership has been accepted, and as I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

I will continue to keep you in my prayers, and I ask the Lord to bless you and encourage you as you continue your loving relationships with your Savior and with each other.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Lonna

Moderator's Message

At our house, we are birthing lambs and putting the garden "to bed". These are signs of the season here at the farm, and they help to remind us of the cycle of life and changes in nature. When we reflect on these changes, we can often discern God's plan for us, and even for our Church.

Many plans are afoot as we prepare for the transition to an interim pastor and say farewell to Pastor Lonna. These activities related to transition are part of our plan to handle and accept change:

- The Interim Pastor Selection Committee has begun its work and has prayed for knowing what the Spirit wants for us.
- The Pastoral Relations Committee has conducted an Exit Interview with Pastor Lonna, and has gleaned useful thoughts about the Webster past and future.
- Plans have been made for our November 30th



Ann Helton, Moderator

Celebration Service and Dinner to honor Pastor Lonna. (See information in this newsletter).

Last month in the Webster Word, I mentioned I would use my column to give updates on the transition process and keep the congregation informed. I will also answer your questions. Some members have asked me to explain the \$5,500 pay out owed to Pastor Lonna when she leaves. This is a housing equity amount that has accrued at the rate of \$500 per year for her eleven years of service. Housing equity payments are typically paid to pastors in lieu of their building equity in a property they purchased instead of living in a parish house. The rate of pay out was established in our Pastor's contract when she began her service here at Webster Church, and has remained unchanged. The Governing Board has budgeted this expenditure.

Please let me know about your questions and concerns for future columns.

The Webster Word

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Contributions to the newsletter may be left in The Webster Word mailbox at the church office or e-mailed to websterucc@comcast.net by the last Sunday of each month. Submitted text may be edited for content and space.

A Note from the Deacons

Gary Lyttle, Chairman

As we move to the heart of the fall season, it is time to enjoy the change of colors and glorify in God's beauty. I hope that when you read this issue of The Webster Word that you were one of the many people who were at the Octogenarian service on October 19. It had been five years since we had this celebration and many of the members from the first event had passed on. I think we all were surprised that we still have fourteen octogenarians on the rolls of our church and it was a great honor for all the deacons to be involved in organizing and planning this wonderful service to honor their lives and ministry here at Webster church.

The Deaconate is now in the planning stages for the services during the Advent season. It has been made clear to the Deaconate and church leadership that we will not have an Interim Minister until the first of the year; most likely the second week of January. Rev. Elsie Marie Niiler had agreed to do the December 7 service, which will be the Hanging of the Greens service and also Communion Sunday. On December 14 the pulpit will be filled by a member of the church. December 21 will be the Cantata by the choir, and on December 28 we hope to have a pulpit supply minis-

ter from another denomination. January 4 will again be covered by Rev. Elsie Marie Niiler. So as you can see, we are moving forward and are working hard to make the church function as normally as possible. I want to thank all of the deacons in their efforts to make this transition as normal and spiritual as possible.

Pastor Lonna and I, with the aid of Woody Hower, will be working on her Retirement service to be held on November 30. The retirement dinner will be held in the Social Hall and will be catered. This will allow all of us to participate in this important day and really enjoy our time with Pastor Lonna. I know we will have some special guests coming that day and it will be a great event. Please mark your calendars for November 30!

I hope by now everyone has been contacted by their deacon and that you all know whose Shepherds list you are on. If you have not been contacted please let me know and I will make sure you get a call from your deacon. Great times are ahead for Webster Church and I hope you are excited about the future of Webster Congregational Christian United Church of Christ. We still are part of God's plan!

Becoming a Safe Church

Ann Helton, Moderator

At the October 13, 2008 meeting of the Webster Church Governing Board, the members approved the adoption of a Safe Church Policy. As a community of Christian faith, it is important to know why this is necessary in today's world, and how this affects our church ministries.

A Safe Church is a congregation that has taken intentional steps to ensure children and youth are protected as much as possible while participating in the ministries of the church; and in becoming a Safe Church, we will undertake a process and formulate policies that protect the most vulnerable in our midst and in our community of worshipers. In doing so, Webster Congregational Christian Church shows its commitment to creating and maintaining programs where all members, friends, staff, and volunteers, can worship, learn, and work in an atmosphere free of all forms of discrimination, harass-

ment, exploitation, or intimidation. Among other things, the policy decides what sort of screening it wishes its volunteers to have, how to handle reports of child abuse, and who would need to know what. Such processes and policies are becoming more common in churches and are fairly standard in other organizations that work with young people.

During the weeks and months ahead, as we implement the Safe Church policies, please keep your hearts and minds open to how God is working through us to help make our faith community a safer place for young people. And, of course, pray for the young people of our congregation that they may be safe from harm in all the places their lives take them.

If you would like to learn more about this policy, a copy of the specific details and procedures is available in the Church office, or see the Moderator, Ann Helton.



Trustee's Report

Graham Silsby, Chariman

September was free of unanticipated maintenance tasks except to replace a pair of photocell switches for the security lights and a call to the plumber to clear a blockage in the parsonage kitchen drain.

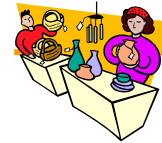
The sanctuary roof remains leak free after its maintenance and, pursuant to the vote on the recommendations of the committee reviewing our immediate facilities needs, the leaky roofs over the two vestibules will soon be replaced. The concrete slab on the parsonage porch as been torn out and replaced, and Art Helton's crew are busy on the other improvements that will help our facility to be more desirable to renters. The parsonage will need some preparation prior to painting following Pastor Lonna's retirement, but the place is in much better condition than after the departure of past pastors, due to the installation of several additional supports prior to her call that have stopped the major subsidence that has continued in the past.

We received our first check from Abitibi Bowater for our recycling efforts; over \$20 for 18 tons of material in three pickups. This is not much, and people should realize it is not economical to make special trips to leave off material, particularly with the steep price of gas. Leave it off when you come to church or on the way to other errands. The money goes to the youth group for purposes such as helping to pay for lodging at their Ocean City

retreat. Recycling also helps keep down the amount we have to pay for trash removal. Thanks all for participating.

October has been a very exciting time for Webster. The improvements approved by the congregation are being completed. The doors into the Sunday School rooms have windows and the two vestibules have new composition shingles that match the slate on the rest of the roof very well. The appearance of the rear staircase has really been improved with the addition of wallboard. The energy-saving door to these stairs and the associated storage area are nearing completion. The parsonage front porch slab is done, and is stronger than the foundation that it is attached to. Many thanks to Art Helton and his crew for a great job.

In other news, more and more people are using the Abitibi Paper Retriever and our recycling receptacles around the church, and plaques memorializing recent major gifts to the church are on order. Please continue to call problems to the attention of the Trustees so we can address them before they grow. With Lonna's eminent departure, we are seeking volunteers living near the church who are willing to come over to turn up the thermostats a few hours before services or other events.



SCCW Report - Bazaar & Craft Show

Doris Lyttle

On Saturday, November 8, 2008, from 9 AM to 2 PM, the SCCW of Webster Church will hold their annual Bazaar and Craft Show. The SCCW will have a Country Store/ Craft Table, Bake Table, White Elephant Table, and our famous Silent Auction. We are looking for items for any of these tables. White Elephant Table items should be clean and like new. NO clothing please. These items may be brought to the church starting Sunday, November 2nd. Country Store items are plants; dried flowers; jellies; home canned fruits, vegetables, etc. and crafts. We are planning on baking apple and pumpkin pies for our Bake Table beginning at 9 AM on November 7th. We would appreciate

Order your pies!
www.websterucc.org

other baked items to sell also. If you have any items for the Silent Auction, please see Doris Lyttle. We have numerous crafters who are bringing their wares. A new feature of the bazaar this year will be our famous all-you-can-eat breakfast from 9 - 10:30 AM. We will have our famous lunch of chicken corn soup, sloppy Joes, hot dogs, and slices of pie. If anyone has clean quart jars, with or without lids, you can donate for our chicken corn soup, please put them in the kitchen on the counter between the stoves. Reserve November 7th and 8th to help make pies, set up, and help at the bazaar. Please join us on November 8th to do some shopping and enjoy some delicious food.

Village News



Carol Gallion

- ◆ A trip to Norfolk, Virginia brought Amelia her degree in Business Administration and Core Development. She graduated with honors - Summa Cum Laude from Strayer University. She chose that location so Roman could come up from Cherry Point, N.C. and watch her graduate before being deployed. He stayed with us until Tuesday, October 28th so they could celebrate their second anniversary before returning.
- ◆ Wishing Robert Altwater a speedy recovery from pneumonia.
- ◆ Continued prayers to Martha Hancock on her recovery.
- ◆ Sympathies to the families of Sylvia Miller on the death of her mother, and Bessie Bowman on the death of her daughter-in-law.
- ◆ Please also keep in your prayers Roman's new nephew, Zachery David Schmidt, who was born at 26 weeks weighing only one pound and fifteen ounces. Roman's sister, Allison, is recovering at home while the baby remains at the hospital.
- ◆ Ran into Larry Guess at the grocery store. He is doing well and probably can't wait for that warm Florida weather.
- ◆ Prayers to all those coming down with those nasty bugs out there. Remember to wash your hands frequently!
- ◆ Keep Pastor Lonna in your prayers during her transition from employee to retiree. God will guide her. God help us! You don't know what you have lost, until you lose it. Then it is too late!
- ◆ Tom and Lisa welcomed Aurora Ysabel Flores Kutscher into the world on Monday, October 27, 2008 at 8:55 a.m. weighing in at 6 lbs. and 5oz. She is 19 inches long and has black curly hair. Big sisters, Barbara Josephine and Ann Margaret, are much joyed as this new addition to the family. Both parents will have Aurora baptised on November 16th, as well as become members of Webster Church. It would be nice if the members of the congregation individually pitched in to help this young couple with their new arrival. I will present them with any gifts, cards, packages, gift cards, etc. on the day of the baptism as a token of our love for these new parents. Remember, times of need could hit any of us at any time, and it would mean a lot for this family to start a new beginning with assistance. I will check with Lonna as to the best time either in the service (joys and concerns) or after. I personally am planning to purchase a clothesbasket and start from there. If you want ideas, please call me. My number is in the directory and phone book.

Pack 965 Happenings



Jeff Schoenberger, Cubmaster

In addition to our regular den and pack activities, October found members of our pack attending a couple of outings. The Flaming Fish, our 2nd year Webelos den, went to the Fall Camporee at Camp Spencer with Troop 965. There, they helped dedicate a pavilion to the late Senator Bob Hooper, a longtime friend and supporter of the scouting program. Then it was time for the games. This year's theme was "Far East Olympics". The Flaming Fish came in 4th for the competition, and even had a couple members take first place for the long jump and the basketball shooting competitions.



The end of the month found the entire pack traveling to Maize Quest at Brad's Produce to take on the challenge of their "jungle" of corn and to unravel some of the deepest mysteries of the rainforest. Fortunately, the winds and heavy rain from the day before had moved on to be replaced by a sunny and pleasant afternoon. After successfully maneuvering the corn maze, we took the hayride out to the pumpkin patch with dreams of carving that perfect jack-o-lantern.

Webster Church supports the youth of the community by providing a safe meeting place for local youth organizations.

Currently meeting regularly at the church are Girl Scout Brownie Troop 1111, Boy Scout Pack 965, and Boy Scout Troop 965.



News from Troop 965



Lisa Cox, Committee Member

Backpacking - Boy Scout Troop 965 had their annual backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail in October and we had perfect weather for it! The boys enjoyed a 15, 10, or 5 mile hike in beautiful sunny weather over a portion of the trail which included camping overnight along the way. The scouts also enjoyed several scenic overlooks of the area around us as we hiked. They had to filter their own drinking water from a spring at the camping area as well as cook their own meals and learn how to properly store food and "smellables" in bear bags overnight to keep away animals. We are all looking forward to doing it again next year.

Fall Camporee - Troop 965 was joined by a group of Webelos Scouts from Cub Scout Packs 235 and 965 for an exciting Fall Camporee

weekend at Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation in Whiteford, MD. Altogether there were 29 scouts and 13 adults in attendance.

The theme for the weekend was "Far East Olympics" and the scouts spent all day Saturday going from station to station doing the activities. Some of the activities included Stir Fry cooking, Mahjong, Spear Throwing, Standing Long Jump, and Confucius Scavenger Hunt.

This is the only outing during the year where the adults cook for the boys and, boy oh boy, did we eat good. Our menu included bacon, eggs, and homefries for breakfast, homemade chicken noodle soup with hot dogs for lunch, and homemade chili for dinner. The weather was beautiful and the fellowship was fantastic! Everybody had a great time and we can't wait to do it again next year.

Worship Assistant Schedule

Date	Usher	Acolyte	Reader
November 2	Joe Gallion & Carol Gallion	Amber S.	David Brown
November 9	Kelly & Woody Hower	Katie H.	Gary Lyttle
November 16	Janet Cohen & David Brown	Mark Z.	Doris Lyttle
November 23	Jim Duffy & Ken Joel	Woody H.	Graham Silsby
November 30	Jim Gorham & Jeff Meiselwitz	Patsy H.	Woody Hower Sr.

Good News!

Everyone who attended last Sunday's Octogenarian Service is painfully aware that we've had some major trouble with the organ again. There's been a static problem through the speakers for more than a year, and this past weekend it reached it's peak with a constant vibration and rattle that forced Neil to turn the organ off several times during the service. He finally gave up about halfway through and finished the service at the keyboard.

As the Music Committee representative, I contacted the company from which we purchased the organ and made arrangements for their technician to come out to see if the problem could be remedied. By the grace of God the noise continued once the organ had warmed up. He was quickly able to identify the trouble and repair it, so the organ is now

in great shape and sounds better than it has for a long time.

On behalf of the Music Committee and the congregation, I'd like to thank Neil for his cool head on Sunday. The decisions he made helped to keep the service running smoothly during a very difficult situation.

On another note, the Music Committee met last week to plan for the Advent and Christmas seasons. There'll be lots of your favorite Christmas hymns and carols throughout December beginning with the Hanging of the Greens service on December 7 and ending with the Epiphany service on January 4. A Christmas Cantata will be performed by the choir during the regular 11 a.m. service on December 21 and there will be a special Christmas Eve service on December 24. We're hoping to see you many times during these happy seasons to

Gwen Stoltzenbach, Choir Director

Members of the Community

Profiled this month: Ann Helton

Ann Helton, Moderator at Webster Church, was recently named chair of the CASA Advisory Board. CASA stands for Court-Appointed Special Advocate, and is a program operated by the Harford County Circuit Court. The program trains community volunteers to advocate for the best interest of children in the foster care system. Ann served as a CASA volunteer for eleven years prior to her appointment. She also serves as the Chair of the New Harford Democratic Club.

Christian Education Update

Susan Cohen

Christian Ed held its annual Halloween Party on Saturday, October 25th, which included a costume contest, cake walk, games, snacks, and lots of fun. Thanks to all who contributed baked goods for the cake walk. Please see the pictures of the Halloween Party in this edition of the Webster Word. We are in the process of planning a Christmas Pageant with Hopewell Church and Wesleyan Chapel Sunday Schools. It should be a spectacular event. We will hand out parts and start practicing in November. Thanks to all who bring their children, grandchildren, and the children's friends and relatives to Sunday School. We enjoy teaching and learning with the children.

New Church Organist

Neil Fung is currently a high school sophomore at the Baltimore School for the Arts, where he majors in piano. Besides the music curriculum, he has English, spanish, biology and algebra. He has been studying piano since he was eight years old. His first piano teacher was Mrs. Gladys Brandt. Mrs. Brandt occasionally gave Neil some organ lessons as a reward. When he was about eleven, he played publicly on the organ at the St. George Episcopal Church in Perryman. After four years of Mrs. Brandt's guidance, Neil was promoted to study with Mrs. Irene Yeakle. He studied with Mrs. Yeakle for two years. Since he was twelve, Neil has been playing for local church worship services. During the 7th and 8th Grades, Neil was a member of the Praise Team in Harford Lutheran School.

Neil enjoys many outdoor activities. In the summer, he shares swimming and badminton with his family, and soccer and football with neighborhood friends. But most of all he likes to play in the snow; sledding in the backyard, skiing and some snowboarding. Neil also loves listening to music, reading, and playing video games. Neil is a member of the Churchville Presbyterian Church, where he completed his confirmation class in 2007. Neil has a sister, Audrey, and an elder brother, Keith, and lives with his parents, Carole and Hang, in Churchville.

Clerk's Report

- Official Board adopts a Safe Church Policy for its employees and volunteers
- The improvements have begun with an improved parsonage front porch, windows in the Sunday School classroom doors, up-grade fluorescent lighting downstairs, removal of kitchen cabinets on the North wall and replaced with racks, and enclosing of the stairwell in the Social Hall.
- The \$3,000 from the grant and \$4,300 from the Ruth Reeder estate were placed in a 4% no penalty CD.
- A special celebration and release service are being planned for November 30th for Pastor Lonna. A catered



Doris Lyttle

- lunch will be by reservation. A good will offering will be taken to defray the cost.
- A form for reimbursements and/or advancements from the treasurer, Jim Duffy, for monies spent for items for the church has been adopted. The forms are located in a tray above the mailboxes.
- The Webster Bazaar and Craft Show will be November 8th from 9-2. The all-you-can-eat breakfast will be 9-10:30 followed by lunch.
- If you would like to receive the complete minutes from the Official Board meeting, pick up a copy in the narthex or let Doris Lyttle know and they will be emailed to you.

The Webster Word



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Rev Lonna C. Smith, Pastor

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Place mailing address here.



A Day of Celebration Sunday, November 30, 2008



On November 30, 2008, at our worship service, we will celebrate the ministry of our Pastor, Lonna Smith, as she departs from Webster Congregational Christian Church. It will be a very special service that will honor both her service to the congregation and blesses her in new paths she may take.

Immediately following the regular service, a Celebration Dinner will be held in the Social Hall. Because this meal will be a catered affair, it is necessary to make a reservation for the numbers of your family who will attend. Please give this information to the Church office at 410-939-1884, or at websterucc@comcast.net. Reservations will be taken up to November 23, 2008. There is no charge for the dinner, but a good-will offering will be taken.

We hope you all will plan to attend these special events as we offer a warm and loving farewell to Pastor Lonna.



Transition Prayer

Several years ago our church was growing but we had no one to lead our youth. The Outreach Committee asked the congregation to pray daily for a youth leader. God answered our prayers when Heidi volunteered to lead our youth, and then Woody joined her in this leadership.

Webster Church has been going through some difficult times and will be faced with a transition period with an interim minister and the search for a new minister. The Outreach Committee is again asking the congregation to pray daily for an understanding, cooperative, and loving congregation during this process. You may also want to read the 43rd chapter of Isaiah for guidance.