



The Webster Word

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 6

SEPTEMBER 2008

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, Sept. 7

- Rally Day
- Sunday School Reopens
- Special Congregation meeting for facility improvement
- Communion Sunday

Wednesday, Sept. 10

- SCCW meeting, 7:00 PM

Sunday, Sept. 21

- Church Chat after service with pot luck lunch

Sunday, Sept. 21

- Webster Church Dinner Level Fire Hall, 4 - 7 PM
- Benefit Quarter Auction Social Hall, 7:00 PM

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Moderator's Message	2
A Note from the Deacons	2
Trustee's Report	3
Church Library	3
Village News	4
Pack 965 Happenings	4
News from Troop 965	4
Vacation Bible School	5

Pastor's Message

Dear Webster Family,

I would like to thank Larry Guess and Susan Cohen for giving so much of their time and talent to the "Word" for these many years. Everyone always looks forward to reading their "Word" each first Sunday of the month, as Sylvia Miller delivers the news to us with a smile, puts a check mark beside our name, and immediately and happily, we look toward the back pages for the pictures of our family doing the things we love best, gathering, sharing a meal, celebrating the joy of being a close family.

We thank you, Shawna Ashman for taking leadership in editing and publishing the "Word" for us. I have seen you work the computer with such skill with words and in arranging and distributing pictures of our events, and I feel confident that our Webster Word will thrive with you at the helm.

This month, I look forward to Rally Day, and the Blessing of the Book bags. We joyfully welcome our teachers back to Sunday school, and we get to meet and greet our new teachers who have agreed to help lead the children's program. Thank you, we are very grateful for sharing your time and talent with our precious children, teaching them about what it means to be a part of the Christian family, as well as helping them to learn about Jesus' love for them.

I was very sad to see Auggie leave his position of Organist and Music Director, but he has promised that he hasn't said "good-bye", but that he will be attending worship services and will remain a member of the congregation. I am hoping that he will join us for special services of celebration.

This month promises us lots of opportunities to gather together. We have a business meeting with luncheon on Rally Day, we plan to gather again on September 21st with a chat and a potluck, and our Annual Dinner is on September 27th at Level Volunteer Fire Company. I hope you will be able to join us for all the festivities. I plan to roll up my sleeves and help cook, serve and clean up for our Annual Dinner. Thanks to the Howers and the Outreach committee members for organizing this dinner, and truly devoting themselves to the mission and ministry of Webster Church.

As we watch the leaves begin to fall from the trees, and we enjoy the cool and clear mornings of fall, remember God loves us, each one, and has blessed our church richly, with the most loving, dedicated and generous congregation I have ever known.

My prayer is that you will continue to bless us with your presence as we journey on together in Christ's service.

With love in Him,
Pastor Lonna



Moderator's Message

"...I am about to do a new thing: Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" This passage from Isaiah 43:19 aptly describes our approach to a time of transition at Webster Congregational Church. Yes, we are on a pilgrimage through change and on to new beginnings. We have just hired a new secretary, Jo Ann Hayes; the music committee is working hard to secure a new organist, and we are organizing to assure a smooth transition from Pastor Lonna's tenure to an interim minister, and then a calling for a permanent minister. I want to assure the congregation that the governing Board and many other members will provide the leadership and fulfill the responsibilities required to bring us through this time of change. We are optimistic and somber in approaching all the necessary steps in this process. We recently outlined the process in the letter sent to the congregation as a beginning.

Even so, we celebrate the service and talents of Pastor Lonna and Auggie Somers for making our church a joyous and spiritual center for our lives. They have fulfilled their duties in a loving, caring way to assure we would always want to worship here in this sanctuary.

Ann Helton, Moderator

One of the most important responsibilities in bringing a new pastor to our pulpit is to communicate to all of you how we will conduct the transition and portray the future of Webster. As such, we have scheduled a Church Chat on September 21st, immediately following the service, with a pot luck lunch to be served. Reverend Patricia Barth from the UCC Chesapeake Association will join us and relate the assistance we can expect in the months ahead. Please bring your questions and concerns to this meeting so we can try to make these transition times as transparent as possible. We also have three questions for our members:

- 1) What do you love most about Webster Church?
- 2) Where do we want to be five years from now?
- 3) What does Webster Church do best?

Please give these some thought ahead of time because your responses will have great influence on what we communicate to a new Pastor and how we shape our future efforts. This we know: Our Church will remain strong as it freely moves into God's future.

The Webster Word

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**The Webster Congregational
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Contributions to the newsletter
may be left in The Webster Word
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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

The deaconate is happy to be back on the pages of the Webster Word and we want to thank Shawna Ashman for her work in compiling the articles for our church newsletter.

There has been a lot going on since our last Webster Word had been published. The deaconate was part of the Communion classes held at our church and taught by Pastor Lonna. We were very impressed by the knowledge and understanding that so many of the children put forth. It is very rewarding to see these young people partaking of the body of Christ during communion service.

The deacon's have taken over the supervision of the Prayer List and Deacon Hower has put this on a computer disc. We hope that you will continue allowing us to keep friends and family in need of prayer on the list. Our hope is that we can keep the list current and accurate and timely. We have not made any changes to the military personnel serving our country and they will stay on the list until we are told to take them

off. If you would like to let us know where they are serving we can add that to the list.

The deacon's now have a Sheppard's List; what this means is that the entire congregation has been divided up and each person/family assigned to a deacon. On average each deacon has about 23 members assigned to them. Hopefully by the time of the publishing of the Webster Word you will have been contacted by the deacon who is serving you. We hope that in times of need or if you are unable to contact the Pastor you would call your deacon for assistance.

As we head towards the Season of Advent and as we go through the changes that are coming up in the church, the deaconate wants to assure you that we are here to serve you the congregation. We know it will be a stressful time for many of you, but with God's guidance and our faith we will get through this transition period and our church will go on thriving and growing.

May the peace of Jesus Christ always be with you and your family.

Trustee's Report

The summer has been rather quiet following expensive but needed repairs to the slate roof. It was a nice job and has stopped the leaks that were causing problems with the ceiling and walls. A number of smaller repairs and improvements were done, the most major of which was to fix the stopped-up drain from the small toilet in the Ladies Room. This involved digging up the floor, and thanks to Art Helton's guys, the repair looks better than the original. A number of these actions were accomplished without much fuss (or even notice by anyone) by members of the Board of Trustees or others and keep the church facilities running smoothly and improve our appearance. Thanks go out to the people involved. Please continue to bring problems to the attention of a member of the Board of Trustees as soon as noticed. This includes being low on toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap, and other amenities in the rest rooms.

Webster is committed to recycling to help preserve our environment. People have noticed our Abitibi Bowater Paper Retriever recycling container and have been bringing in paper for recycling. Webster Church gets a bit of money from this, earmarked for the Youth Group. Talk to your neighbors and encourage them to recycle here. The paper is recycled into newsprint. Abitibi supplies all of the newsprint for the Baltimore Sun and half the newsprint for the Washington Post. The Trustees have been monitoring the contents and have found only a few minor problems. What is sought is clean, white paper such as newspaper, bond paper and old mail. The cellophane windows need not be removed from envelopes, but please refrain from including Tyvek envelopes, plastic wrappings, bubble wrap, cardboard, Kraft paper, and boxboard. Staples are OK. Their mantra is "No cardboard, plastic, or glass, and nothing from the kitchen." In addition, we solicit donation of your clean aluminum cans,

Graham Silsby, Chairman

which have been bringing in a good price. I have been pulling out any cardboard or plastic bottles from our waste stream and putting it out with my recycling at home. Rinse out bottles and cans and put them in the recycling containers around the church. Please keep cardboard boxes clean and break them down if possible, and leave them in the basement near the rear entrance. This averts our having to pay for special trash pick-ups, particularly after events. A dollar saved is a dollar earned.

We have had a continuing problem with a refrigerant leak in one of our three relatively new air conditioning units that will be addressed later this month.

The Trustees and the congregation have an important issue to face as this issue of the Webster Word hits the streets. Webster Church has faced a considerable budget shortfall in the last year. The Stewardship Committee has been vigorously promoting rental of our facilities to generate some income, and it is obvious that we need to spend some money to make some money. A special Facilities Upgrade committee was set up by the Official Board to look at our long-term needs, to prioritize these, and to recommend what actions could be taken in the short term towards our overall goal. A summary of these tasks and their costs has been prepared and presented to the congregation in bulletin inserts over the past several weeks, and are also available on our website. The bottom line is that the Official Board has called a special congregational meeting on 7 September 2008 and recommends that the congregation vote to spend \$14,181 to deal with the most pressing needs, primarily improvements to the Social Hall.

Church Library



The church library has just recently been cleaned, books reviewed, and an additional bookcase has been installed. A system is being used to make it very easy to sight out a book. All books are numbered. Simply write your name on the provided sheet with the number.

Anyone with books that are based on biblical facts are welcome to donate them to the library. I am sure

Marie Wehland and Levin Heath

that many of us have books that were written by outstanding writers that would be of high interest. If you have such books, please give them to Marie W.

Please do not use the room for storage. It was built for use by authors. It was also named "The Quiet Room" in order to provide a place for small groups to meet or for counseling, etc. We hope that this area may be used by many of our congregation.

Village News

The summer ended too quickly. First day of school resulted in dragging tired students home with bookbags full of papers to complete. I heard it was a boring day.

The summer brought a big "60" for Cathy O'Brien, 28 years of marriage for Joe and I, Emily Dillon turned 86 years young, Eveylyn Simkovich turned 84, and George Knight turned 85.

Hughes reunion numbered at least 62, which was held at the church. Our "stripper" Don Tracey and Terry Lynn Morgan said there I do's on August 16th. Honeymooned before hurricane hit down in the islands. Hope Ella is feeling better and over her fever. Sad to see Auggie go. He sure made the organ "come alive." Doris L. looking good. To D.C. - hope your choice brings you happiness and that all works out well. Lance Corporal Roman Corpuz awaiting orders for Iraq. Amelia has secured permission to graduate October 18th even

though she finishes classes in December. Roman can attend the graduation which is in Norfolk, Virginia. His father, Rafael returned again from the Philippine Islands. He goes there several times a year with fellow Philippino native born friends in the medical profession to help their poor with health needs. Lily turned 18 months and is headed for "shots" on her next visit. Congratulations to Angie and Barry who will be grandparents of a granddaughter due in January 2009. His son lives in New York. Can't imagine their long distance bill.

Clean out those attics, basements, and closets. Recycling those old useable items work wonders for those who need them. The Lutheran Mission in Havre in Grace and Good Will in Aberdeen provide those items to those in need for a small nominal charge.

On the political front, get out there and vote. You won't have a right to complain, if you don't try.

Carol Galion

Pack 965 Happenings

Pack 965 was pretty busy over the summer. We went biking along the Susquehanna Greenway the first weekend in June. It was during that bad heat wave that gave you pause about the rest of summer, but the trail is shaded and we brought drinks so it turned out to be a nice ride. We even explored the fishing area below the Conowingo Dam. A week later, many of our boys attended the weeklong Day Camp in Bel Air, along with almost 700 other Cub Scouts. They got to play sports and games, build things, and earn lots of badges.

The beginning of July found us participating in the Havre de Grace Independence Day Celebration. We made our parade float to look like a couple of sailboats and won 2nd place for our division. A week or so later a couple of our oldest boys went to resident

Jeff Schoenberger, Cubmaster

camp at Camp Oest at Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation in Harford County. Here they got to swim, canoe, shoot bb and archery, go on a nature hike, build a fire, and even sleep under the stars.

Things slowed down for a few weeks until our Pack Picnic and fishing derby in August. The food was good, every boy caught at least one fish, and we couldn't have asked for better weather or company. For our final summer activity, we attended an IronBirds game where we paraded on the field and saw the players up close. To top it off, the IronBirds won the game!

Now school has started and we look forward to welcoming new families into Pack 965 and going on a whole new host of adventures.



News from Troop 965

Troop 965 kept busy this summer with various activities including summer camp at Camp Horsehoe in Rising Sun, volunteering leadership skills in support of Cub Scout Day Camp in Bel Air, and cleaning up their assigned stretch of Route 155. Under the leadership of Eagle candidate Max Knight, the troop completed his Eagle Project for Darlington Elementary School.

Two high adventure outings were scheduled this summer. New River Adventure is a week-long outing in the mountains of West Virginia where the

scouts participated in white water rafting and canoeing, climbing, and mountain biking. The second high adventure outing, Florida National Sea Base in the Florida Keys, provides an opportunity for scouts to participate in sailing, snorkeling, and fishing among beautiful coral reefs. Unfortunately, this outing was cut short due to Tropical Storm Fay.

This month, the scouts are looking forward to their canoe weekend outing where they will participate in an exciting seven hour float down the Brandywine river from Lenape, PA to Greenville, DE.

Webster Church supports the youth of the community in many ways, including being a Chartered Organization with the Boy Scouts of America. This involves providing leadership and promoting outdoor experiences, advancement, recognition, and Scouting's values. Webster Church currently sponsors two BSA units: Cub Scout Pack 965 and Boy Scout Troop 965.

Vacation Bible School

Susan Cohen, Christian Education

Webster Church once again participated in VBS with Hopewell Church and Wesleyan Chapel. Hopewell hosted, and more than 100 children attended. The theme was Power Lab. On the last night, the children "slimed" several of the adults (including Pastor Lonna) - a "reward" for raising more than \$1,600 for our missions projects (PlayPumps & Grace Place). VBS 2009 will be at Webster Church.



The Webster Word

Webster Congregational Christian Church of the United Church of Christ

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Place mailing address here.



Remember the ten things God won't ask on that day:

- 1) God won't ask what kind of car you drove, He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
- 2) God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
- 3) God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
- 4) God won't ask what your highest salary was, He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
- 5) God won't ask what your job title was, He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
- 6) God won't ask how many friends you had, He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
- 7) God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
- 8) God won't ask about the color of your skin, He'll ask about the content of your character.
- 9) God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation, He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven, and not to the gates of Hell.
- 10) God won't have to ask how many people you told this to, He already knows your decision.

