



# HCUCC Happenings

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2011

Holmdel Community Church  
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## Rusty's Ramblings

### Inside this issue:

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### Upcoming Events

- \* Rally Day—Sept. 11th
- \* Couponing for a Cause—Sept. 18th & 25th
- \* Allaire Picnic & Bike Ride—Sept. 24th
- \* Cardboard City for Youth—Sept. 30th
- \* Country Bazaar—Oct. 15th
- \* Crop Walk—Oct. 16th

Welcome back to the new church year! Rally Day is on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate the blast off of our Sunday School classes and will welcome returning teachers and children. We'll also welcome back our church choir, who have been resting their voices all summer, and who will be in top form. This is also our Visitor Sunday; please consider inviting a neighbor, friend and/or family member to join us as we kick off a new year.

Of course, September 11<sup>th</sup> is also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the devastation of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Towers and Washington. It has been a painful and heart-wrenching journey of healing and recovery for our country after the trauma of those attacks, and families who lost loved ones are still reeling. We will take time in worship to reflect on the decade, and what it has meant to us religiously

and spiritually.

Our faith is constantly a tension between rejoicing and lamenting, between celebrating the joy of forgiveness and renewal in Christ; and weeping with those who mourn and joining with those whose lives are harsh and painful. As St. Paul said in Romans 12: "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another." September 11<sup>th</sup> is a shining example of this; we will rejoice as we begin another church year with our sanctuary filled with laughing, squirming children. Yet, we will also shed tears as we recall the violence, bloodshed, and hatred that continues to tear apart our nation and world.

We have hope in our Savior who experienced all of this: facing dreadful sorrow and suffering



on the cross; and yet also knowing the joy of friendship, sharing and caring - and finally new life arising from the darkness of death. Let us walk in the footsteps of Jesus, facing uncertainty and harsh realities with confident hope and joy in resurrection faith.

See you in church!

*Rev. Rusty*

## Don't Miss This!

**Rally Day! Sunday, September 11th**



Rally Day marks the beginning of the church season here at the Holmdel

Community Church - when our Sunday School begins again, after our summer sessions, and children are registered for the new year. Our Adult Choir will be up in the loft again, singing their glorious anthems. This is also our Visitor Sunday when we invite people to bring a neighbor, relative, friend or acquaintance to church. This is ideal time to introduce new friends into the life of our church, as we begin a new season. We'll have extra hand-outs and a special welcome.

**Couponing for A Cause! - September 18 & 25th after church**

Sue Field will demonstrate how to work with coupons and sales to enable you to secure extraordinary discounts for food and household items that can then be donated to local food pantries and soup kitchens. This is in anticipation of the United Church of Christ's Mission 1 drive to raise food and funds for the hungry. For more information about

**MISSION:1**  
| | | | | - | | | | |  
That they may all be 1

Mission 1, visit [www.ucc.org/mission1/](http://www.ucc.org/mission1/)

**The History & Identity of the United Church of Christ - October 2nd, 19th & 16th at 11:30am in the Church Office.** Come join Dr. William Field as we walk through the development of the United Church of Christ as a reform church rooted in Calvinist doctrine to the present day where we stand still as a beacon of inclusion and hope to the world. William is offering a three part series October 2, 9, and 16. We'll see how and why the protestants separated from the Catholic Church, what John Calvin gave the Pilgrims and Puritans, how the evangelical and reform churches contributed to our identity, and what the UCC is all about today. Come join us for conversation and discovery. For more information, feel free to chat with William after church.

**Allaire Picnic & Bike Ride to Manasquan—Saturday, September 24th at 3pm**

Children and adults are welcome to come to a fun outing at Allaire



State Park with a ride down the easy 5 mile Edgar Felix Bike Trail to Manasquan. We'll ride at 3:30pm and return for a simple picnic with shared food. Sign up in Fellowship Hall so that we know how many to expect.

**Cardboard City for Youth - Friday, Sept. 30th**

Our youth group will be taking part in a "Cardboard City" this month, to raise money and awareness of issues of homelessness in our area. Youth and leaders sleep overnight in cardboard boxes, and dine from a soup-line to connect with the struggle of homelessness. (They will ask sponsors to donate to them for this event.)

This event benefits the programs of

Family Promise of Monmouth County, and helps boost public awareness of local homelessness. Family Promise runs church-based shelters for local homeless families. If you have a really big cardboard box, please hold onto it, and give it to Rev. Rusty and/or members of the youth group. Thanks!



## Smooth Sailing @ Vacation Bible School

Thank you, thank you, **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped out with Vacation Bible School this year!!! We had 28 children and their parents join us for our first Vacation Bible School in July. In spite of terribly hot weather, the days unfolded according to plan, with dramatic stories, great 'stations' with crafts, science, origami, cooking, and more - and then songs and games. Many thanks also to the many volunteers who ran the stations and made it all possible. From lending us tents, to putting up and taking down those tents. To donating juice boxes and/or ice pops during what I am sure was the hottest week of the year. For giving us your time and talents. All the prayers and well wishes for a successful week were very much appreciated as well. While we would like to list all the names of everyone who helped us, we would leave **NO** room in the newsletter for anyone else to contribute. What a wonderful blessing that is - to have that much support from so many. While it hardly seems enough, we would like to say thank you again to everyone for helping make our first VBS so successful. It exceeded our brightest hopes and expectations. We can't wait for next year!!

- Jen, Susan and Amanda



Sailors on the ship with Jonah



YUMMY!



Singing in the cool of Fellowship Hall



Science project: floating animals in an ark

## Crop Walk



**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Red Bank CROP Walk**  
**We Walk with the World**  
**Sunday, October 16, 2011**

Please mark your calendars and reserve Sunday afternoon, October 16<sup>th</sup>, for the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Crop Walk to help our neighbors locally, nationally, and worldwide to alleviate hunger. Twenty-five percent of the funds that are raised by the Walk are distributed to our local partners, which include organizations our church directly supports such as Calico Cat Food Pantry; Project Paul, and the Kitchen at St. Mark's. Other local groups that receive funds from the Walk include ASLAN, Lunch Break, HABCORE, Manna House, AACC Food Pantry, Monmouth Day Care Center, Meal at Noon, HORIZONS Student Enrichment, Family Promise (formerly the Interfaith Hospitality Network), The Center in Asbury Park, Long Branch Concordance, and St. Anthony's Food Pantry in Red Bank. The rest of the money goes to Church World Service projects to help with refugee and disaster relief and development projects in eighty countries, including the United States.

Last year, even with the economic downturn and the bad weather on the day of the walk, over \$120,000

was raised and 1,100 pounds of food were collected for local food pantries. We're the biggest walk in NJ and the first in NJ to raise over one million dollars over the walk's history! We can be proud that our congregation provided \$2,500 and many jars of peanut butter. Please help us keep up the forward momentum.

We will have our CROP Walk registration table set-up in Fellowship Hall after church on September 25<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> for you to pick up information, sign up as a walker or volunteer for the day of the Walk, or to make pledges to those who are walking or volunteering in other ways for the Walk. There will also be information for setting up the procedure for pledging online. This is simple to do and a great way to ask for pledges from friends and family members who don't live in NJ.

We will also be collecting jars of peanut butter, rice, and dried beans to be distributed to local food pantries after the Walk. Please buy boxes of rice instead of bags because boxes are less likely to tear when being distributed. Please put your donations in the box in the narthex no later than right before our church service on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> because we will be bringing the food to the Walk and have to leave immediately af-

ter church to get there in time.

For more information about The Red Bank CROP WALK, go to <http://www.redbankcropwalk.com/> and for Church World Service projects, go to [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org).

For questions or materials about the Walk, contact

Eric Knies, 732-495-4478,  
[eric\\_knies@yahoo.com](mailto:eric_knies@yahoo.com).

Thanks for your support!!

## Grace Notes



Welcome back to the "formal" church year! The **Adult Choir** returns to the loft for the 10:00 service on Rally Day, which is September 11.

The Adult Choir began rehearsing again on August 25. Anyone 7th grade and older wishing to join our adult choir is welcome. If you'd like to be a part of a special, caring community, the choir community is a fantastic bunch of people to join. If you have a challenging schedule and are not sure you can follow through on a long-term commitment, you're welcome to give it a try and see how it goes, or talk to me about it. We meet on Thursday evenings and start to sing promptly at 7:30 on the main floor of fellowship hall. We finish at 9:00, unless we are preparing for special seasons, in which case you are forewarned in advance before being invited to stay later.

Thank you, everyone, for a terrific summer music program! All those who participated in **Family Choir**, whether for just a Sunday or two or for the duration, made a huge and meaningful contribution to the worship experience. The last chance to sing in this group is this Sunday, September 4! Thanks also to our very talented vocalists, instrumentalists, and small groups throughout

the summer. I appreciated very much those of you who were able to participate in my absence so our musical worship experience was sustained, and I loved the opportunity to collaborate with those of you whom I accompanied all the other Sundays. Please consider sharing your talent for a Bright and Early service or two.

The **8:15 "Bright and Early Service" is returning as of September 11**. The service is similar to the Space for Grace service, including weekly communion. It is a bit shorter, less formal, more contemplative, with music accompanied primarily with piano and/or guitar. **Don Pope** will join in our musical endeavors once again. As I mentioned, this is another great opportunity for those who would like to share in special music through vocal or instrumental solos or small groups. Although this service was originally introduced with the intention of being an alternate option to the 10:00 service, I personally have enjoyed "double-dipping." It allowed some of us who need to focus on the "work" of the 10:00 service to worship and participate on a more intimate level. So whether you're double-dipping, looking for an earlier worship time or seeking a more intimate experience, I hope you'll utilize the 8:15 Bright and Early service.

**Joyful Noisemakers** will begin rehearsing again on September 25.

We will make an announcement in church and notify you by email. Joyful Noisemakers participants will have time to grab a cookie and some juice at Fellowship Hall, and then **Dave Mackey** or I will ring the bell to announce that it's time to return to the sanctuary for rehearsal. We usually meet for no more than a half hour. **Tracy Mackey** is a terrific tutor to the early readers. We are looking forward to working with the children again, and we have some great new music! Any child reading age or older up to 8th grade is welcome. Encourage your children to come make a joyful noise!

**Susan Davies Muhler**

Minister of Music

Cell: 908 415-0447

susanmuhler@comcast.net

## Cherub Chatter



Thank you!  
Thank you!  
Thank you to everyone who helped volunteer this summer -

especially Dina D'Ambrosi with the younger kids and Cynthia Polly with the older kids!

I also want to thank everyone that helped with our evening Vacation Bible School during the summer! It was very successful and we are looking forward to having it again next summer!

Welcome back to all our regular Sunday school teachers!

Now we're back in the swing of things. We will start up with our regular Sunday school program on Rally Day on September 11. We will be resuming our SPARKS program from last year. An important part of this program encourages the children to USE their bibles, not just hold them. So, we are STRONGLY encouraging each child in grades 3-6 to bring the bible they received at the end of second grade EACH WEEK. We will be providing materials to help them make their bibles easier to navigate such as tabs to find the books, special highlighters, etc. We want the children to become comfortable with their bibles and have it become a "favorite". (If

your child has not received their own bible, see me.)

I would like to remind everyone that our older youth (grades 7 and older) are welcome to come over to the Parish House basement during Sunday School time for age appropriate discussion and activities. I am looking for one more volunteer that would be willing to team up with Janet Clapp to lead this class. The curriculum is provided for you. Please contact Janet or myself if you are interested!

Welcome to a new school year!

Take care and God Bless,

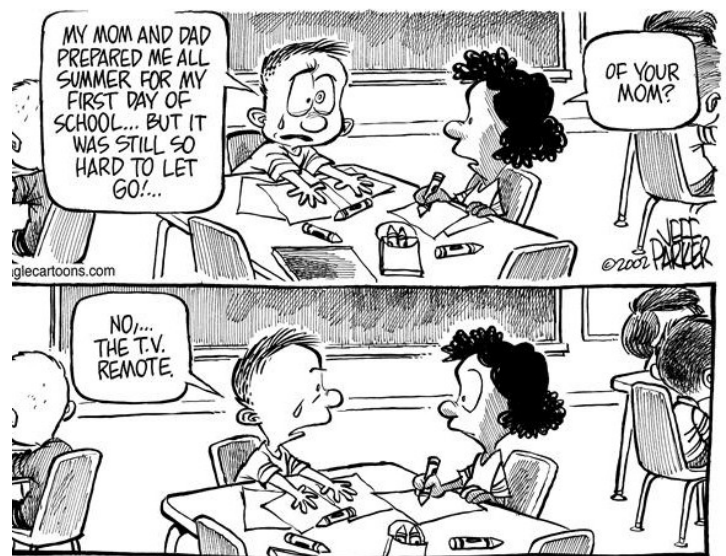
**Amanda Spagnolia**

**A**LL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandpile at Sunday School.

These are the things I learned:

- Share everything.
- Play fair.
- Don't hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.
- Clean up your own mess.
- Don't take things that aren't yours.
- Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
- Wash your hands before you eat.
- Flush.
- Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
- Live a balanced life -
- Learn some and think some
- And draw and paint and sing and dance
- And play and work everyday some.
- Take a nap every afternoon.
- When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic,
- Hold hands and stick together.
- Be aware of wonder.

— Robert Fulghum



## Prayer Concerns

Our prayers are needed by several within our faith community:

For the ill and suffering: Bette Reinhold, Everett



Poling, John Waldron, Dave Robertson's father, for Lauren Spierer, Bruce Dokurno, Bill Charles, Denise Dimarzo, Conrad De Zepo, Bea Veladiez, Marsha Steadman, for those with mental illness, those who are unemployed, those who are grieving,

for the UCCP, for the Mbiriizzi Elementary School in Uganda, for our church's building campaign, for those serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, and for innocent victims of warfare and violence.

## Thanks for Your Hard Work!

### A Special Thank You:

- To **Jen Brenner, Susan Muhler & Amanda Spagnolia** for organizing our first Vacation Bible School this summer!
- To our **Summer Church School Teachers** for their faithful service to our kids; and to **our year-round teachers** who will be starting up their teaching on Rally Day this September.

- To **Janice Liebenow and the Caring Friends**, who visit and call those in need of care.
- To **Landy & Trish Gilbert** for running the Youth Group this year.



### And Congratulations:

- To **Brian & Alexis Livesey** on the birth of their daughter, **Eleanor Winifred** on August 9th!
- To **Lauren Gould** who is starting college at Johnson and Wales College in Providence, RI in the culinary arts.

## Helping Hands

	Greeter	Reader	Flowers
9/4	Pru Frechette	Linda Brown	Amanda Spagnolia "In honor of summer weekends"
9/11	Karla & Dave Robertson	Linda Brown	Linda Brown "In celebration of her sister Carolyn's birthday"
9/18	Stephen Polly & Cynthia Ann Lee	Linda Brown	Louise Fratto "In memory of Ken"
9/25	Ron & Amy Schmidt	Linda Brown	Marlis Steadman "In memory of her mother, Trudy"



## Pledge Update

June, July and August income received were just about as projected.. Thank you for all you who have prepaid your pledge or have kept up your pledge over the summer. Capital donations over summer have amounted to \$39,000 Thank you for those donations!

If you have any questions about your pledge, please speak to the new Pledge Secretary, William Field. You can reach him at (732) 370-3135 or [whfield@optonline.net](mailto:whfield@optonline.net). William is also usually in church and you can catch him during coffee hour.

Category	June-July '11 Total	June-July '11 Budget	% of Budget	Variance to Budget	Year to Date	Budget to Date	% of Budget	Variance to Budget	Full Year 'Budget
Pledges	58,953	51,930	114%	7,023	58,953	51,930.17	114%	7,023	249,081
NonPledges	2,085	3,500	60%	(1,415)	2,085	3,500.00	60%	(1,415)	21,000
Loose	953	750	127%	203	953	750.00	127%	203	4,500
Easter	20	0	0%	20	20	-	0%	20	3,500
Christmas	-	0	0%	-	-	-	0%	-	5,000
Dividends	1,401	1,000	140%	401	1,401	1,000.00	140%	401	4,000
Facility Usage	5,807	3,420	170%	2,387	5,807	3,420.00	170%	2,387	11,000
Flowers	200	250	80%	(50)	200	250.00	80%	(50)	1,500
Country Bazaar	-	0	0%	-	-	-	0%	-	6,500
Miscellaneous	594	769	77%	(175)	594	768.83	77%	(175)	4,613
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 70,012.03</b>	<b>\$ 61,619.00</b>	<b>114%</b>	<b>8,393</b>	<b>\$ 70,012.03</b>	<b>\$ 61,619.00</b>	<b>114%</b>	<b>8,393</b>	<b>\$ 310,694.00</b>

Category	August '11 Total	August '11 Budget	% of Budget	Variance to Budget	Year to Date	Budget to Date	% of Budget	Variance to Budget	Full Year 'Budget
Pledges	12,287.00	19,715.08	62%	(7,428)	71,240.00	71,645.25	99%	(405.25)	249,081.00
NonPledges	1,170.00	1,750.00	67%	(580)	3,255.00	5,250.00	62%	(1,995.00)	21,000.00
Loose	341.00	375.00	91%	(34)	1,294.05	1,125.00	115%	169.05	4,500.00
Easter	-	-	0%	-	20.00	-	0%	20.00	3,500.00
Christmas	-	-	0%	-	-	-	0%	-	5,000.00
Dividends	-	-	0%	-	1,400.53	1,000.00	140%	400.53	4,000.00
Facility Usage	1,690.00	1,710.00	99%	(20)	7,496.50	5,130.00	146%	2,366.50	11,000.00
Flowers	85.00	125.00	68%	(40)	285.00	375.00	76%	(90.00)	1,500.00
Country Bazaar	-	-	0%	-	-	-	0%	-	6,500.00
Miscellaneous	-	384.42	0%	(384)	593.95	1,153.25	52%	(559.30)	4,613.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15,573.00</b>	<b>24,059.50</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>(8,487)</b>	<b>85,585.03</b>	<b>85,678.50</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(93.47)</b>	<b>310,694.00</b>

## Last But Not Least...



**GET READY,  
GET SET ....**

**THE COUNTRY  
BAZAAR IS  
COMING ON  
OCTOBER 15!!**

The sewing machines are whirring, the hot glue guns are gliding, and the jelliers are already preparing your favorite jellies for the upcoming Country Bazaar.

**October 15 is the BIG DAY**, so mark your calendars now. Please come, and encourage your friends and neighbors to come too! Choose a special fall decoration, do some early Christmas shopping, stock up on our world-famous hot pepper jelly, treat the family to lunch and a home-baked pie, and find a bargain at our "Trash and Treasure" section. All this and more are waiting for you from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Do you have a few hours to spare, and would you like to help out? Look for our sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall in mid-September.

Many hands make light work, and we welcome your participation! Please contact Liz Mueller (739-1315) or email her at [lizmueller@verizon.net](mailto:lizmueller@verizon.net). We will find the perfect way for you to help out!

**HELP PRO-  
VIDE BACK  
TO SCHOOL  
CLOTHING!**

The Calico Cat Cupboard will be helping local needy children with Back To School Clothes again this year. We will be giving a \$25 gift certificate and a \$15 shoe certificate for Payless Shoe Store to all school age children in need who are regular clients of the Calico Cat Food Pantry and Cupboard, and we also will give to children of parents who have recently lost their jobs but may not qualify for public assistance. This will be our 15th year of helping families in this very practical way.

You can help with your financial gifts and/or donations of gently used children's clothing & shoes. A Special Back to School Box is in the Narthex. Please make checks payable to the church and mark it "Back to School" Contact Janice Liebenow at [calico1015@aol.com](mailto:calico1015@aol.com) or 732-946-8525 with questions.

**JOIN THE TEAM!**

Can you make a pot of coffee? Purchase or bake a batch of cookies? Did you answer YES?



**CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE  
QUALIFIED TO BE A COFFEE  
HOUR CAPTAIN OR TEAM MEM-**




BER or maybe you can be a substitute. Please sign up to help.

Coffee hour offers vital fellowship opportunities in the life of our church:

- \*Getting to know each other better
- \*Meeting and welcoming visitors
- \*Becoming acquainted with new members
- \*Discussing matters that affect our church

Each team serves only about 4 times throughout the year. If you aren't already on a team, please sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Marilyn Sneed: [sneddynj@aol.com](mailto:sneddynj@aol.com) 732-203-9059

**Welcome**  We are blessed to have a seminarian from Princeton coming to our church to do fieldwork with us in September. Alex Haines is from California, though he grew up in the mid-West, and has many skills and talents to offer to our church. He will be assisting Landy and Trish Gilbert with our youth program, Rev. Rusty with Confirmation, and he will be active in worship leadership, education, and preaching, as well as other programs. **Please consider inviting him to lunch after church one Sunday to allow him to meet you and to fulfill his visitation requirements.** (We have a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.)

## Holmdel Community Church

Holmdel Community United Church  
of Christ  
40 Main Street  
Holmdel, NJ 07733

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*A caring, inclusive, tolerant community of  
shared ministry that transforms lives  
through Christ.*

Look for us  
on Facebook!



### Sunday Worship

8:15am and 10am

Sunday school during 10am  
worship

Nursery care available

### Church Staff

Rev. Russell Eidmann-Hicks, Pastor  
Susan Davies Muhler, Minister of Music  
Amanda Spagnolia, Church School Director  
Kam Kwong, Church Secretary  
Gina Brzezniak, Nursery Caregiver

### Church Council

Moderator—Gene Killian  
Treasurer—Hank Bauer  
Secretary—Donna Crook  
Pledge Secretary—William Field  
Missions—Sylvia Allen  
Pastoral Relations—Karen Strickland  
Worship and Music—Dave Mackey  
Church Life—Marilyn Sneed  
Christian Education—Taylor Burke  
Christian Care—Janice Liebenow  
Head Trustee—Kevin Gould