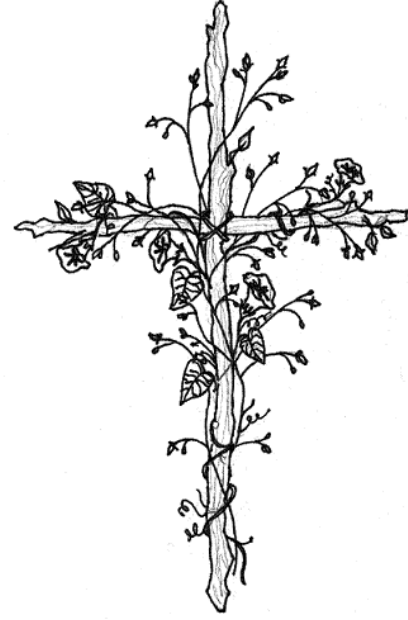


Congregational News
First Congregational Church of Geneva
United Church of Christ
321 Hamilton St.
Geneva, Illinois 60134

September 2011

Return Service Requested

Congregational News



Growing in the
Spirit,
Come Grow With
Us!

September 2011

Church Staff

Rev. Rebecca Clancy, Pastor
Rev. Catherine Erwin, Minister of Christian Education
Karen Howard, Music Director
Patricia Alcorn, Organist
Lynnly Buchanan, Church Secretary
Phil Potoczek, In-Care Seminarian
Kyle Tade, In-Care Seminarian
Jillian Lindeen, In-Care Seminarian

Church Officers

Dave Buchanan, Moderator
Dayle Malone, Vice-Moderator
David Fauntleroy, Treasurer
Dan Brand, Financial Secretary
Open, Historian
Gail Schlesinger, Clerk

Board Chairs

Barb Malone, Worship
Sharon Jones & Kim Valentine, Deacons Board
Daniele Gibney & Lynnly Buchanan, Christian Education Board
Becca Clancy & Carolyn Fabian, Missions Bd.
Lynnly Buchanan, Properties Board
Mike Rosier, Stewardship Bd.

*The First Congregational Church of Geneva
United Church of Christ
321 Hamilton St
Geneva, IL 60134
(630) 232-7143
geneva-ucc@sbcglobal.net*

**visit our web site at:
geneva-ucc.org**

Wind on the Hill

By A.A. Milne

No one can tell me,
Nobody knows,
Where the wind comes from,
Where the wind goes.

It's flying from somewhere
As fast as it can,
I couldn't keep up with it,
Not if I ran.

But if I stopped holding
The string of my kite,
It would blow with the wind
For a day and a night.

And then when I found it,
Wherever it blew,
I should know that the wind
Had been going there too.

So then I could tell them
Where the wind goes . . .
But where the wind comes from
Nobody knows.





Sunday Schedule

09:00 am Choir Praactice
10:00 am Morning Worship
11:00 am Coffee/ Fellowship

Birthdays !

9/1 Karen H	9/21 Daniele G
9/9 Kara F	9/23 Cameron B
9/11 Sheree W	9/24 Mary Lou B
9/12 Sarah B	9/24 Dan B
9/13 Barb S	9/26 Dayle M
9/13 Tom C	9/26 Jay R
9/14 Esther W	9/26 Nell G
9/16 Karen S	9/28 Elsie H
9/19 Barb M	9/28 Louise B

Anniversaries !

Karen and Les H	47 Years
Pat and Steve A	17 Years

If your birthday or anniversary isn't listed above, please call the church office to update our records.

For the Record...



Pulpit Associate volunteers for the coming months:

September Open

October Open

If you are interested in serving as Pulpit Associate or Usher talk with Barb Malone, Worship Board Chairperson.

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective

James 5:16

This month's Prayer Team Focus is on for all teachers/ mentors to the students of learning, to grant them wisdom and patience to deal with the enquiring minds. Additionally, please keep the following individuals in your prayers this week:

- Karen H's friends and family (illnesses);
- Pat A's friend, Ericka (illness);
- Pat A's friend, Buzz (illness);
- Pat A's father-in-law, Ken (illness);
- Louise B's mom, Jeanette (surgery & recovery);
- Dave B's friend, Laura (illness);
- Catherine E's friend, Lynn (illness);
- Barb S's brother, Steve (illness);
- The W Family (struggles);
- Nancy H's family friend, Avery Elsner (illness)
- Please remember our ill and home-bound members: Emma Gene B, Betty D, Nell G, Elsie H, Leona J, Barb K, Lucille L, and Esther W.
- Please pray for those serving in the military
- Please pray for those affected by the drought in the Horn of Africa



Food For Thought...

"One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries."

A. A. Milne



From The Pastor

Grace and Peace to you.

As you read this, our nation is preparing to mark the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

That terrorist attack caused the death of nearly 3,000 people from 90 different nations. 55 soldiers in the Pentagon were killed, but the rest of the victims were civilians – including 343 fire fighters, 23 police officers, 37 Port Authority officers, and 15 paramedics. More than 6,000 people were injured. But even as I cite statistics, I am struck that the loss of life was incalculable.

We all remember where we were when we heard of the attack, just as Americans in the 40's remember where they were when they heard of the attack upon Pearl Harbor. I was riding my bike to Geneva listening to a walkman. I was on a lonely stretch of the path. There was no one around. I remember stopping to cry, then feeling an urgent need to return to the security of “civilization”.

Probably too, we all remember what we thought or felt when we heard of the attack. For many, it was stark fear. Was this the end, or just the beginning? For others, the problem of evil was raised. Why is evil allowed to wreak such havoc? For me, I experienced, along with elements of these things, a tremendous sense of insecurity, not just national insecurity, but personal insecurity – as though the world was not a safe place to live anymore, as I supposed. I quickly realized that I had lulled myself into a false sense of security. That is easy enough to do, since the boundary markers have fallen for us in pleasant places. In fact, the world is not a safe place to live. I could cite more statistics...

As the anniversary of 9/11 recalls to us, among other things, that insecurity is a real and unchangeable feature of human existence, it should also recall to us that our faith is equal to that insecurity. It proclaims amidst that insecurity that Jesus Christ has secured

for us eternal life, that in him and through him all things will, finally, “hold together.” And so we recall too at this time that the victims of 9/11 now know security. We commend them to God's care in Jesus Christ.

With you in His service,

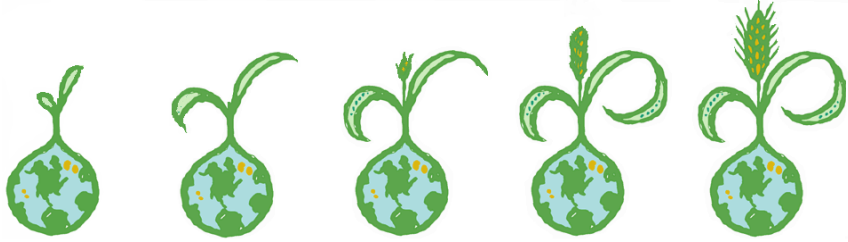
Becca

From The Moderator

We have a very important meeting coming up on September 18, at 11:15am, following services. It is a congregation-wide meeting to vote on some significant property improvements and a related Capital Improvement Drive. It is important that everyone make an effort to attend the meeting, hear the committee's presentation, and vote on the proposals. The proposed improvements mainly include the installation of an elevator lift system and the renovation of our bathrooms (and increasing the number from four to five), the replacement of the sanctuary roof, and a few minor improvements to the building. These are improvements that will affect everyone, so please plan to attend.

Until next month,

Dave



Here's how we're Growing in the Spirit...
Come Grow with Us!

Sun, Sept 4 11:30 am Missions Board Meeting

The Missions Board will meet at 11:30am following coffee hour. We will discuss where our current budget disbursements are going, including projects such as the School Supplies Drive, the Hat, Scarf and Mitten Drive, the Food Pantry Drive, Change for Change, and others, as well as the status of ongoing projects. Anyone is welcome. We meet in the conference room at the Peterson House.

Wed, Sept 7 7:00 pm Choir Practice Resumes

Choir practice resumes on Wednesday the 7th. Everyone is welcome. We meet in the church Sanctuary.

Fri, Sept 9 7:00 pm Christmas Tea Comm. Meeting

The annual Christmas Tea is a big fundraiser for us each year. It gives us an opportunity for fellowship and fun, in addition to raising money and the community's awareness of the work we do. The planning committee meets on the 9th to discuss what needs to be done between now and December 2nd. Anyone is welcome to come, even if you just want to listen. We will meet in the church's Mayflower Room.

Sat, Sept 10 2:00 pm Annual Golf Outing & Pot Luck

Our annual golf outing and pot luck supper will be on Saturday, September 10th. Golf and mini-golf start at 2pm, the pot luck supper starts at 6pm. See the Golf Outing article in this newsletter for more information.

Sun, Sept 11 10:00 am Rally Day !!

The kick off to our Sunday school years starts with a Rally Day fun fair on Sunday the 11th. We offer food, games and prizes, and the kids can bring friends if they wish. See Rally Day article in this newsletter for more information. Kids will attend church, and go to the fun fair after the children's sermon.

Sun, Sept 11 11:30 am Youth Mission Trip Presentation

On Rally Day, after coffee hour, Claire Buchanan will give a presentation about her mission work trip with the United Methodist Church down the street, and will give some preliminary information about our participation in next year's trip. See article in this newsletter for more information. We will meet in the church's Mayflower Room.

Fri, Sept 16 1:00 pm JULIETs meet

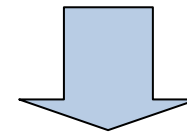
Just Us Ladies Involved in Eating Together, a women's group that meets monthly, will meet on Friday the 16th at the Holmstad, in the Friendship room. See article in this newsletter for more information.

Sat, Sept 17 8:30 am Men's Breakfast

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday the 17th. See article in this newsletter for more information. They will meet in the church's Fellowship Hall kitchen.

Sun, Sept 18 11:15 am Congregation-wide Capital Improvements Meeting

A congregation-wide properties improvement meeting will be held on Sunday the 18th, following services, for the purposes of discussing and voting on proposed significant improvements to our church property. See article in this newsletter for more information. We will meet in the church's Fellowship Hall immediately following services.



Sun, Sept 18 12:15 pm Council Meeting

The church council will meet on the 18th following the congregation-wide meeting. We will meet in the conference room at the Peterson House.

Sun, Sept 25 10:00 am Night Ministry Visit and Lunch

On the 25th, Night Ministries will visit with us to speak about their work with the area's homeless. They will join us for a Missions Board sponsored lunch, following services, in Fellowship Hall.

Sun, Oct 2 11:15 am Spiritual Green Connection

The Spiritual Green Connection will meet with us during coffee hour on the 2nd to discuss what their organization does.



DAISIES

It is possible, I suppose that sometime
we will learn everything
there is to learn: what the world is, for example,
and what it means. I think this as I am crossing
from one field to another, in summer, and the
mockingbird is mocking me, as one who either
knows enough already or knows enough to be
perfectly content not knowing. Song being born
of quest he knows this: he must turn silent
were he suddenly assaulted with answers. Instead

oh hear his wild, caustic, tender warbling ceaselessly
unanswered. At my feet the white-petalled daisies display
the small suns of their center piece, their -- if you don't
mind my saying so -- their hearts. Of course
I could be wrong, perhaps their hearts are pale and
narrow and hidden in the roots. What do I know?

But this: it is heaven itself to take what is given,
to see what is plain; what the sun lights up willingly;
for example -- I think this
as I reach down, not to pick but merely to touch --
the suitability of the field for the daisies, and the
daisies for the field.

~ Mary Oliver ~
(*Why I Wake Early*)

One of the reasons I love poetry is that in poetry you can, in a more concise way than in prose, raise questions that need to be asked, and that we rarely expect, in that poem, to be answered. It's perfect because often times there is no answer, or at least not just one answer, and in being given the space to consider the question posed, and not just rushing to see what answer is given by the writer, room is left for learning. Poetry often sets up the situation, but does not show us the resolution. Poetry makes us think, ponder, learn, and provide a plausible, if not perfect answer. It leaves both those who seek to know if they are "right" and those who think they are "wrong" with no concrete revelation, no specifically declared ruling. Many of us crave either the "right" answer or a declared answer to push against! For those who want concrete resolution, they turn to exploring and research and just plan thinking. For those who looked for a barrier to knock down and spread out beyond, the door is already open, and perhaps surprised, they walk through. All may find joy in the engaging in the quest. Regardless, learning, growth, transformation can be the results. Poetry is indeed a gift from our creating, transforming God.

No matter what our age, fall signals the beginning of another year of learning. What fields are opening up for you? What wonders of life are you looking to explore, investigate, immerse yourself in and be transformed by this year? What paths can we travel together?

Amen.
Catherine



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men's group, Society of the Sons of God (SoSoGo), will have their next breakfast meeting on Saturday, September 17th, at 8:30am in Fellowship Hall. All men and boys are welcome. The group meets on the third Saturday of each month for breakfast and light chores.

Feed My Starving Children Opportunities



We have made several trips to Feed My Starving Children, in Aurora, and are beginning to feel like old hands now. We have one more pre-set date, **Saturday, January 14th, 2012**, at 9am – 11am.

Watch your bulletin and newsletter for more dates when available. There are a couple special pack dates that FMSC will be holding soon that you may be interested in. These are Sundays, a day that FMSC is not normally open. They are necessary because FMSC has made a commitment to ship an additional 5 million meals to those countries in the Horn of Africa that have been most affected by the terrible drought that region is facing. Those dates are as follows:

- Sunday, August 21: 1pm – 3pm OR 3:30pm – 5:30pm
- Sunday, September 18: 1pm – 3pm OR 3:30pm – 5:30pm
- Sunday, October 16: 1pm – 3pm OR 3:30pm – 5:30pm

You can sign up for any or all of these dates by logging onto the FMSC website, www.fmsc.org.



The Juliets will meet on Friday, September 16th, in the Friendship Room at the Holmstad's Ekstam building, from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. Everyone in the church is welcome, if you need transportation please call Ruth or Nancy.



The Chicago Aids Run & Walk will be held on Saturday, October 1st this year. Since its inception in 2001, more than 20,000 participants, raising more than \$3 million net, have converged in Grant Park to *get moving* against HIV/AIDS. Join the fight with thousands of others this year and help the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) raise more than \$500,000 net! If you would like to run (or walk), you can visit their website: <http://afc.aidschicago.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1242> or if you would just like to sponsor a team, you can sponsor the Open Door Clinic's team by talking with Carolyn Fabian.

Open Door Clinic Fund Raiser



See **the Miracle Worker** at the Arcada Theater in St. Charles! September 18th, 2:00pm The afternoon starts with the showing of Patty's Academy Award winning film "The Miracle Worker" After the film there will be a 'Question & Answer' interview with Patty.

Tickets are \$25.00 each, or a VIP ticket can be purchased for \$55.00. The VIP ticket includes the film, Q&A and a 'Meet & Greet' opportunity with a photo of your choice for Patty to be personalized. Patty will also have many photos to choose from her collection. You may also bring your own camera to take photos with Patty. Light Hors D'oeuvres will be served at the 'Meet & Greet' with a cash beer & wine bar. All proceeds benefit Open Door Clinic. Tickets can be purchased on the Open Door website, http://www.opendoorclinic.org/patty_duke



Annual Church Golf Outing

The annual church golf outing is scheduled for **Saturday, September 10th, at 2pm** at the Geneva Golf Club. Several members have expressed interest in playing golf in miniature as they feel they may not be ready for full sized golf yet, so that option is available for anyone who wishes to practice their putting rather than their ball losing skills. A pot luck supper will be held at the Buchanan's house following golf (about 5:30pm). You are welcome to come to golf and supper, golf only, supper only, or any other combination you can think of. If you plan to attend any or all activities, please contact Mike Rosier or Dave Buchanan.



Missions Moment



This month and hopefully every month, I will be letting you know what the mission board is up to and where the mission board is sending your donations to make a difference in the world. On the 3rd Sunday of each month we will have an insert in the bulletin describing each of the organizations receiving our support.

Each month we give \$500 to an organization. Last month we sent it to The Illinois Food Bank. Their mission is to create a hunger-free Northern Illinois. Last year 1 out of 10 Illinois residents received emergency food from the food bank. This year they expect the number to be higher. Summer months are the leanest at the food bank as giving is usually down for the summer. With that in mind, we selected the Illinois Food Bank to receive funds.

Each month we also give 2 \$50.00 donations as part of our Global Mission. Each month two groups that represent different missions around the world will receive a \$50.00 donation.

The Mission Board chose to give one of the monthly gives to support The Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program of the UCC. We sponsor two children with this program as a pledge to provide support for the children to be housed, clothed, fed and provided with basic health care until the age of 18.

Our second \$50 give goes this month to the Solar Cooker Project. This is a project of Jewish World Watch which is committed to protecting refugee women and girls from rape and other forms of violence because of having to leave the camp to look for firewood.

If you would like to donate to any of these organizations you can put it in the offering plate and mark it for that organization.

The Fox Valley Association Fall Meeting, *Tuning in Faith*, is scheduled for Saturday, September 24th, beginning at 8am at the New England Congregational UCC in Aurora. It includes a day of workshops covering ways to think outside the box and help your congregation grow in many ways. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office.

This month's Good Idea....Here is a list of 5 things that we should always buy Green:



1. Paint: Look for low or no-VOC paint
2. Paper: Look for paper products with a high post-consumer recycled content
3. Light bulbs: Look for Compact fluorescent. They come as spot, flood and vanity types too.

Not just the "naked" spiral anymore.

4. Appliances: Look for appliances with the Energy Star label. What you think you are saving with "cheaper" appliances you will pay for in energy use.

5. Fruits and Vegetables: Look for organic, local, in-season produce. Better yet, think about planting in the church garden next year!



Just a reminder that Open Door Clinic is in constant need of canned and boxed food for their pantry. The collection tub is at the entrance way to the church. Please try to remember to pick up some extra items the next time you go to the store. If you have coupons for items you may not use, why not consider buying them and donating the item to the collection? The clinic's client list grows weekly. Everything is needed, from baby items to school lunch items, to dinner items. They have clients of all ages, and all walks of life.



Representatives from the Night Ministry will be in church on Sunday, September 25th to talk about their program with us, and share a special lunch following services. Please plan to come learn about their important work.

We have a group of Quiltmakers who meet at our church. It is a very small, informal group who get together to talk about their quilts, share ideas, and sometimes work on a group project. There are 3 of our church members who belong and the others are area friends who have an interest in quiltmaking. Anyone who would like more information about the group can call Ruth M at, Marilyn C, or just show up at the next get-together on Mon., Sept. 12, at 7:00 PM in the church's fellowship hall. The meetings are usually held on the 1st and 2nd Monday evenings of each month.



This Summer, Claire Buchanan had the opportunity to go on a Missions work trip with the youth group from the United Methodist Church down the street. She had a great experience and can't wait to do it again next year. In 2012, our entire youth group will have the opportunity to join forces with the United Methodist group for a

missions work trip. In order to give everyone a good idea about what is involved, Claire will give a presentation about her trip on Sunday, September 11th, at about 11:30 following coffee hour. If you are interested in learning or hearing about the trip, or if you are interested in going on the trip next year (they need both youth and adults), you'll want to come. Heck, you'll probably already be there since it's Rally Day, so plan to stay and hear all about the Appalachian Service Project trips.

The following article is reproduced from "*Illinois Vocational Progress*", Volume XVII, November, 1959, but eerily Elsie has hit on a problem in our day as well...

The Pay-off in Homemaking Education

NEW DIRECTIONS IN TEACHING
HELPS FAMILIES COPE WITH CHANGE

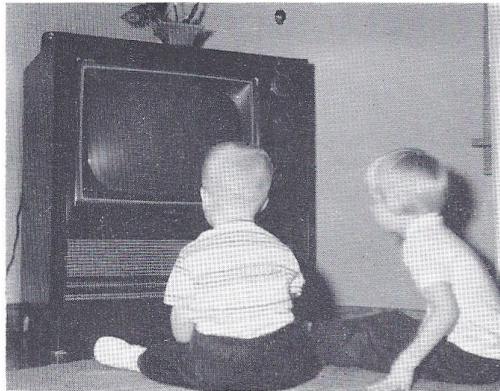
By ELSIE BUCHANAN, *Chief, Home Economics Education, Illinois Board of Vocational Education, Springfield*

Domestic science is as outdated as the washboiler, the feather duster, and high-buttoned shoes. Today's homemaking courses are cut out for modern living. They are designed

- to improve personality and develop leadership
- to help develop grown-up attitudes toward future responsibilities
- to aid in becoming a wiser shopper
- to improve present and future homes and family living by providing understandings and skills
- to strengthen use of resources - time, energy, money, and equipment

Gone is the day of the ball of twine, quilt scraps, and the grease bucket. The slogan, "Waste not, want not," has been shelved by the advertiser. Today's family brings joy to the manufacturer and the creditor. Two car garages, TV sets, picture windows, and

working mothers are becoming necessities if the family is to keep up with the Jones. The mad rush for gaining possessions and acquiring social acceptance leaves little time to live together as a family.



Gone is the day when parents alone educated their children for family living. TV serials, Hollywood movies, and cheap literature have cut in on the act.

Disillusioned youngsters base marriage on sex and romance. They are not equipped to handle problems as they develop. Immature dreams soon fade and unhappiness follows.

The world is moving so fast that the only thing certain is change. Are families prepared to cope with change? The increase in broken homes and delinquency indicate a weakness in the art of living. Americans have grown physically. They have advanced educationally, but they are slow to develop emotionally. Materialistic adults unconsciously provide a poor environment for their offspring. The basic food for emotional growth is love and acceptance. The desire to give children everything they want is damaging. Pampering has nothing to do with love. Discipline is a part of love.

Mother divides time between office and home.



We need to let out a few seams and add a few gussets to our thinking. Too often homes are reduced to filling stations in the day time and garages at night for the family. Days may pass before all members see each other. Different working hours, school and

social activities divide families. If mother has no time to help her daughter - if daughter is seldom at home - when can she receive her help? Homemaking education can help parents reinforce basic understandings so necessary to getting along with others. Homemaking education teaches skills in the use of time, energy, and equipment. Homemaking can equip the teenager to be a better buyer and lengthen the distance a salary will travel.

Today's youth are tomorrow's homemakers. America will be no stronger than its homes. It is not only the Sputniks the nation needs to fear, but the breakdown of American homes.

Successful homes don't just happen. Learning how to juggle children, cake mixes, and money is a major operation for a trained homemaker. Vocational homemaking education can help equip individuals for the biggest careers in their lives.

The last half of the century is a challenge to stagger the imagination of teachers. Cultural changes will not lag. Will teachers? They must recognize change and assist families to cope with it. A generation with purpose is not a "beat" generation.



Don't miss our annual Rally Day Fun Fair!

We hope your summer has been a blessed one. We are excited about our Children's Sunday School and the upcoming 2011/12 school year. The Sunday school year kicks off with a Rally Day Fun Fair, featuring games, prizes, a bounce house and snacks, on Sunday, September 12th. The kids will be in church until after the Children's Sermon, and then downstairs and outside for the fun. Don't miss this awesome kick-off day; bring a friend if you like!