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Under the Dome...

Dunbar United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

April, 2010

Who shapes you? What has shaped your character to make you what you are today? Your family? Your genes? Money? TV? The Bible? Your country? Your political party? Jesus? Greenpeace? The National Rifle Association? Barak Obama? Rush Limbaugh? Every day we are shaped by the food we feed our minds.

A 51 year old mother of ten will run for president in Austria's next election. Her name is Barbara Rosenkranz and she will run as a candidate of the Freedom Party. For the past twenty years she and her neo-Nazi husband have warned their fellow Austrians: "stop immigration, protect yourself from Muslims, ban minarets, save the family, don't trust gays, expel feminists, stay German." She denies the Holocaust and believes that the law banning the glorification of the Nazis is a violation of free speech. Mrs. Rosenkranz is shaped by her love of an idealized Germany and her aversion to people and institutions that are not German. In that respect, she is like us. We are shaped by what we love and hate. What we love the most influences our character more than anything. That's why of all the six hundred thirteen laws in the Bible, the First Commandment is the most important: "I am The Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me."

We are plastic. Thoughts shape our identity like a piece of clay in a potter's hands. We change our shape according to the words, images and ideas that cook each day in the crock-pot of our minds. That's why Moses told the Jews to meditate on God's laws day and night, and teach them to the children, and talk about them in the house. Because what we think forms us -- our character is shaped by our thoughts.

When the Pharisees asked Jesus which command was most important, he said: "Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself." They said: "Who's my neighbor?" And do you remember who Jesus said our neighbor is? Actually, he didn't say. He told a story about a foreigner who was good and the local people who were not good. It was a story about foreigners and health care. The hero of the story was the enemy of the Jewish people, yet he rescued a Jew and paid his medical bills. After telling this story, Jesus told the crowd: "Now go do the same -- be good neighbors like the Samaritan."

Who is my neighbor? It depends on who has shaped us, and the eyes with which we see. If God is the potter, and Jesus is the craftsman of our soul, then our neighbor is any one who needs help, regardless of nationality, race, gender or religion. Jesus didn't care if a person was a citizen of his country or not. And if we follow him, it can't matter to us either. Jesus even told us to love our enemies -- to pray for them and do good to them. Many politicians don't agree with this. Many in the media, on TV and radio, don't agree with this. Many journalists don't agree with this. But who are we following? Who is our first love? Jesus? -- or all these other, little gods?

*Yours, your neighbor, your friend, your plastic fool,
George*

If you or someone you know would like a call or a visit, please contact Rev. George Manukas at 287-8106 or revonweb@sbcglobal.net



Birthday Wishes Going Out To.....

(April 3rd) Amanda Kane

(April 6th) Nancy Braen

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

To date we have collected enough funds to cover the purchase of the equipment and repay our loan to the church. The committee is also asking for donations of a Picnic Table and benches for use while the children are playing. Monetary donations will be used toward future maintenance and improvements.



RUMMAGE SALE ♦ Saturday ♦ APRIL 17th ♦ 9am-12pm

HOPE EVERYONE HAS BEEN SAVING ALL THOSE EXTRA ITEMS YOU ARE NOT USING!

- CLOTHES •KITCHEN ITEMS •PAPERBACK BOOKS •KNICK-KNACKS •TOOLS
 - TOYS •INFANT ITEMS
 - HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, ETC.
- ARE ALL NEEDED!!

(I USE A RULE: IF I HAVE NOT WORN IT OR USED IT IN A YEAR, I DON'T NEED IT)

Set up is April 16th, 6-8p.m., drop off can be during the week at church, at my house, during set up time or very early (8:00a.m.) the day of the sale. The rummage sale will also have a bake sale supported by Christian Education.

Any questions, please call me. (203)281-3241, thanks, Debbie

♥ Can't wait to see you ♥

The JORDAN MICHAEL JACQUES

Scholarship Foundation 2010

35 Scott Street , Hamden, CT. 06514

203-676-9272

Dear Friend,

*I would like to take this time to thank all of you who have supported us in the past. This will be the ninth year that the **J.M.J. Scholarship Foundation** has been giving out awards to Hamden's elementary school children. With your help, we are honored and pleased to be able to do this again this year*

*The **J.M.J. Scholarship Foundation** was named in honor of my son Jordan. He came down with Leukemia back in 1995. He had a Bone Marrow Transplant in 1996 at Children's Hospital up in Boston Ma. Jordan and his twin sister Taylor started at Wintergreen Magnet School when it first opened. They were the first K—8th class to graduate from Wims.*

*When Jordan reached the mile-stone in 2001 of being 5 years cancer free, we decided to honor him with starting a scholarship fund in his name and give one boy and one girl from Wintergreen School an award. We later included one of Hamden's other schools and this raised the awards to two boys and two girls from each school. We have been doing this for the past four years and want to continue the tradition. We can only make this happen with your help. Please send your tax deductible donation to the **J.M.J. Scholarship Foundation**, 35 Scott Street, Hamden, Ct. 06514.*

This year Jordan turned 17 years old and remains cancer free. He is in his second year at Hamden High School. He remains committed to helping those in need. His past accomplishments included: Ct Rep for the Jimmy Fund Clinic, Bob's Stores, American Red Cross, Relay for Life(Cancer Society) KC101 Home –Town Hero and Hamden Notable to name a few.

*If you have any questions regarding the **J.M.J. Scholarship Foundation**, please feel free to call me at 203-676-9272. Thank You from the bottom of my heart,*

Paul C. Jacques

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES CONTINUE WITH STORIES OF JESUS AS A YOUNG MAN MINISTERING TO THE PEOPLE, OFTEN FACING CHALLENGES, BUT STILL UNWAVERING IN HIS COMMITMENT. OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS "FIELD TRIP" TO SEE PATRICK LAFFIN'S PRODUCTION OF "GODSPELL JR" AT THE SQUARE FOOT THEATRE IN HAMDEN WAS GREAT - THE LESSONS AND STORIES OF JESUS' MINISTRY PUT TO SONG AND DANCE!

SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND SO HAS THE ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

TUESDAY, MARCH 30TH - CONFIRMATION CLASS

SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH - EASTER EGG HUNT (RIGHT AFTER SERVICE) & PLAYGROUND DEDICATION
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - CHILDREN WILL STAY IN CHURCH

SATURDAY, APRIL 17TH - BAKE SALE DURING RUMMAGE SALE - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY DONATIONS OF BAKED GOODS FOR THE SALE.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20TH - CONFIRMATION CLASS
(NOTE THAT THIS IS A DATE CHANGE -THE 3RD TUESDAY, NOT THE LAST TUES.)

SUNDAY, APRIL 25TH - CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

***SUNDAY, MAY 2ND** - COMMUNION CERTIFICATE & BIBLE SUNDAY

*COMMUNION INSTRUCTION CLASSES WILL BEGIN ON FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7:30 PM IN APRIL. EXACT DATES TBA. OPEN TO 3RD GRADERS AND UP - ANY FAMILIES THAT ARE STILL INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT CINDY LONG: 203.230.8984.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
CINDY LONG
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD



Dunbar United Church of Christ Communion Class Registration Spring 2010

Student's Name: _____

Birthday: _____ Age: ____ Grade: ____

Parents/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Special Needs/Allergies: _____

____ The best day of the week for my child to attend is: _____

____ The best time of day for my child to attend is: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

(Please return to the Church at your earliest convenience. Completed forms may be returned by mail or left in the Church Narthex.)

767 Benham Street, Hamden, 06514

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF DUNBAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

This fund shall be known as The Women's Fellowship Scholarship Fund of Dunbar United Church of Christ.

1. Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the fund shall be to encourage and assist Active Members or children of Active Members of Dunbar United Church of Christ, to further their education.

2. Gifts to the Fund

The Women's Fellowship donated the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) as its original gift to the fund. This amount may be increased at any time through further gifts from the Fellowship or from individuals or from other departments of the Church or from any source, such as bequests, living trusts, or special projects.

3. Administration of the Fund

The Women's Fellowship is responsible for administering the Fund. The Fund shall be deposited in a separate savings account selected by the Women's Fellowship, and subject to accounting by the Treasurer of the Women's Fellowship.

The firm deadline for accepting applications, with no exceptions, shall be May 15th of each year. Only Official Applications, which are available through the Church Office, will be accepted. Applications are to be addressed to the president of the Women's Fellowship.

Eligibility for a scholarship through this Fund shall be determined by a committee, consisting of:

- 1. President of Women's Fellowship, Committee Chairman**
- 2. Four other members of the Women's Fellowship chosen upon recommendation by the Women's Fellowship Executive Board.**

Any applicant or recipient of the Scholarship may re-apply for a Scholarship in another calendar year, and will be considered with other applicants on the basis of merit.

This committee shall consider the eligibility of the proposed recipient (s), according to the following sliding scale guideline:

1. Persons pursuing a degree in Christian Ministry, i.e., a Divinity School Candidate.
2. Youth who are members attending or planning to attend a full-time undergraduate program.
3. Youth who are children of members, planning to attend a full-time undergraduate program.
4. Adult members who are planning to attend a full-time undergraduate or graduate program.
5. Youth and adult members who are pursuing or planning to pursue a part-time undergraduate or graduate program.

5. Disbursements

Where possible, direct payment shall be made to the applicant.

In case the recipient fails to pursue stated educational plans, it is incumbent on the recipient to return the scholarship money awarded for that year.

6. Other Provisions

It is the purpose of the originators of the Fund that any grant made thereunder shall be considered a gift and not a loan to be repaid.

After what may be considered a reasonable number of years, should no person apply for a scholarship, or should no applicant be found eligible, the amount in said Fund shall revert to the Women's Fellowship for such alternative use as the then operating officers and executive board of the Fellowship may recommend and the Fellowship as a whole endorse.

7. General

This statement and the provisions thereof may be altered or improved by a vote at a scheduled meeting of the Women's Fellowship.

The Scholarship Revision Committee

Marjorie Jackson, Chairman, Libby Hofsas, Meg Nowacki, Polly Parmelee, Barbara Walters

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: We held two work meetings during March, working on small pillows for Hamden Health Center patients, and making attractive pot holders for sale at the Apple Festival. We will continue work meetings on April 14th and 28th from 9:30 until Noon.

Our big event for April will be the Rummage Sale on April 17th, from 9 until Noon. We will set up the Hall on the 16th from 6 to 8 P, with items to be dropped off then (OR on the Fellowship Hall stage anytime. Kitchen items are especially requested for the Life Haven Project, for women who are able to leave the shelter for their own place. See Debbie Laffin's write-up for more particulars.

A REMINDER: Scholarship Applications must be received on or before May 15th. See the March DOME for further information and the application form.

Barbara Walters,
President

APPLICATION FOR THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SCHOLARSHIP OF DUNBAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

767 Benham Street, Hamden CT 06514

Office: 203-288-2342

email: DUCC767@sbcglobal.net

-- Active Members or Children of Active Members may apply --

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Alternate Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Active Member of Dunbar United Church of Christ? _____ **Yes** - Date Joined _____**If no.** Name of Active Member Parent(s) _____ Member's Name _____College or other schools attended:
_____Did you Graduate? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**
Year _____ Degree _____ Major _____Name and address of school you plan on attending in September:

Full Time? _____ Yes

Part Time? _____ Yes - Number of Courses _____

Type of School:

_____ Seminary _____ 4 year College _____ 2 year College _____ Technical _____ Secretarial
_____ Nursing _____ Other/Explain _____

Please write a short essay, and attach, covering at least the following points:

1. What field you plan to study
2. Your future career plans
3. Why you applied for this scholarship

Mail to the Dunbar United Church of Christ, Attention: President of the Women's Fellowship -

Deadline for receipt: May 15th.

Scholarships awarded will be paid directly to the applicant

In case the recipient fails to pursue stated educational plans, it is incumbent on the recipient to return the scholarship money awarded for that year

Your Signature

Board of Deacons

The board of deacons for 2010 has 9 members. A great group of individuals. Each member chairs a sub-committee with the help and support from the entire group. We believe this is a great way to be more productive and efficient.

Our duties and our role in the church have been discussed and explained by Pastor George.

We have an exciting Easter Holiday coming up. We will be doing the Easter Plant Sale this year, along with the Easter Service. We will also be helping with palm on Palm Sunday 🌹 (Saturday service too.)

We will be having a Maundy Thursday Service...which all of us will take part in. Easter Sunday will also be Communion Sunday, which three deacons will assist Pastor George. Deacon Heather Sibley is working on the special music for the holiday as well. We will also have the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new playground after service on Easter Sunday. 🌹

We will soon be meeting with new members and at the end of April, we will be hosting a "New Member Dinner" for them. This is a great way to get to know each-other.

Deacon Bel Forte has been working with Pastor George with regards to those who need visits. This is an important issue to us all. I would like to thank all deacons for their support and effort in making this board really work.

God Bless, Paul C. Jacques (Chair)