

A JOYFUL NOISE!

June 2011

Last year at this time we were gearing up for our 150th anniversary. What a wonderful time that was. Four out of our five former pastors were with us. We recognized our members who have been active the longest. We took a photograph of everyone who was present which is celebrated every time it is seen in the church hallway. It was a great day in the life of our church. And it doesn't need to just be a memory.

Commemorating our grand celebration, the last Sunday in June is now Anniversary Sunday. While we will not be marking the day with as much pomp and circumstance as last year, we will note that it is our 151st year, we will recognize our members who have sustained our ministry the longest, and we will celebrate our history as well as our future. I hope you will be able to be with us on June 26th.

Our church has a marvelous history. How many churches do you know that started a college? The efforts of our ancestors to not only start a church from scratch but a school of higher education as well is astounding and should not be forgotten. How many churches that have moved from one building to another, continue to have the former building remain standing and in use? The fact that we can visit our former sanctuary, now a gift to the community in the form of a museum, is a continued blessing. The intriguing architecture combined with the interactive learning of our area serves as a living memory. I hope you have taken time recently to take a tour. If you haven't been in a while, please do. The fact that the Mills Community House is as actively used as it is, is a joy. I love to hear promotional ads for shows and lectures on the radio for the Mills. And to know that the building, part of our story, is still used for education warms my heart.

The museum and the Mills are part of our story and they are continuing on as we are. What does the future hold for our congregation? Your church Council has been asking this same question. We are making plans for a visioning process where we will gather in small groups and large to talk about our dreams for the future. What impact do we want to make in our community? Where is God calling us to serve? Do we want to build on our past achievements or start something completely new? As we celebrate our 151st year, let us begin to pray and to contemplate the direction we will walk together in faith in the years to come.

Pastor Dan

Caring Friends

On Palm Sunday, April 17, our church launched a new initiative called Caring Friends. About two years ago, there was discussion about bringing back Stephen's Ministry, a lay visitation program. For several reasons, we were unable to revitalize the Stephen's program, so instead we pursued the UCC version, Called to Care. When promoted, eleven members and friends signed up for the five week training.

These eleven were commissioned in worship on Palm Sunday and are now serving our church by assisting Pastor Dan in visitation of our members and friends who are home-bound, in assisted-living or nursing home facilities, or hospital situations. If you would like a visit from a Caring Friend or you know someone who you think could use a visit, please contact the church office or Pastor Dan for arrangements. A second training will be offered in the summer of 2011.

Women's Fellowship News

It is Health Kit time again and we are going to try to collect complete kits. If you would like to complete one or more kits, here are the instructions.

- One hand towel approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One WIDE tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original package)
- Six standard-size Band-Aids

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove the excess air from the bag and seal. **SO NOT ADD TOOTHPASTE.** Toothpaste will be added at a later date by CWS.

If you can't supply a complete kit, you may contribute some of the items needed, excluding BAND-AIDS. The hardest items to collect are the hand towels and WIDE tooth combs.

A basket will be placed in Fellowship Hall for collection of the kits and items. We will collect items through Sunday, June 19.

The Women's Fellowship Slate of Officers for 2011-2012 is:

Chair	Barbara Brian	Courtesy	Penelope Olson
Vice President	Rosemary Miller	Kitchen	Pat Kinske
Secretary	At large (people will take turns)	Social Concerns	Anne Young
Treasurer	Ruth Catton	Receptions/Coffee	Carol Dye
Wider Mission	Chris Jones		

CLASSIC JUNQUE SALE



Before we know it, the Classic Junk Sale will be here. It will be held Friday, July 8th, from 8-3 and Saturday July 9th, from 8-12. Set-up will be on Thursday, July 7th, from 8 – 2. We will need workers for the setup for 2 hour shifts. For the sale, we will also need workers for 2 hour shifts, with the most workers needed from 8 – 10 on Friday. That is when we get the most people coming to the sale. Watch for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

As you clean out that junk in your garage, spare room and basement, look at the items and see if they would be appropriate for the sale. Appropriate items include gently used linens, pots, pans, kitchen utensils, jewelry, knick-knacks, household items, toys, furniture and the like. We do not want clothing, electrical appliances, computers or computer accessories or books (take those to the Benzonia Library). Remember that we ask you to price the item before bringing them in, so to make it easier on yourself and do it now while you are doing your cleaning.

Items will be accepted at the church beginning Sunday, July 3rd. Until then, please keep them at your place. We appreciate all your assistance with this project. All proceeds go towards the missions of the Women's Fellowship. If you have questions, please contact Penelope Olson at 383-0488.

News from the Deacons

Come join us for a tailgate party and a Traverse City Beach Bums game! The price is FREE! The church has purchased a listing on the "Faith Page" in the game program and in return has received 100 free tickets vouchers



On Monday, June 20th, we will meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. for a tailgate party then car pool to the game. There will be a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board. If you can't join us for the tailgate party and just want to join us at the game, please indicate that on the sign up sheet, so we will know how many hot dogs to grill.

Everyone is invited. This is a great opportunity to invite your neighbor or friend to come and meet us and enjoy an evening of fun together.

Welcome New Members

On Mother's Day, May 8, we welcomed two new members, **Carolina and Mike Jones**. Mike is the son of Derryl and Chris Jones. He graduated with a Master's degree in Forestry and joined the Peace Corps in Honduras. There he taught reforestation and ran a series of co-ops doing sustainable woodcutting. After his three years as a volunteer, he worked for the Peace Corps as a trainer for another six years. In Honduras he met Carolina. She was in medical school. They were married while she did her internship. After Liam was born Carolina continued to work. In Honduras you don't pay for medical school, but you are required to work for the government afterwards. After Mia was born they came to the U.S. Liam is now six and Mia is three, and they are delightful youngsters. Mike is working for the Benzie Conservation District, a good job match for his education and experience.

On Sunday, May 22, we welcomed another new member, **John Milks**. John was baptized in the old church that is now a museum by Rev. Gehring. John is the father of Katrina Smith and the grandfather of Calvin and Mercedes. His mother was Vivien Miner, a long-time member of this church. We are happy to have him join our church family.

Also in May, **The Rev. Dr. William Hirschfeld** became a member of our church by letter of transfer. Pastor Bill was the interim pastor of First Congregational UCC in Cadillac and is currently the pastor of the Thompsonville Congregational Church. In the UCC, a pastor needs to have a membership in a UCC church to retain their standing or their authorization recognized by the local Association. The church in Thompsonville is not affiliated with the UCC, so he asked to transfer membership to our church. As he is pasturing another church, he could not be with us on a Sunday morning nor will we be able to greet him often. Please pray both for his ministry as well as the ongoing mission of the Thompsonville church.

Welcome New Staff Members

In the month of May, we officially recognized **Mary Ellen Wagner** as our Church Organist. Mary Ellen has been our interim organist since January, 2009. Upon the recommendation of our Music Committee and Board of Trustees, we warmly recognize and thank Mary Ellen for continuing to bring her musical gifts to our church family.

The Board of Trustees is happy to announce that we have hired **Hope Kochis** as our new custodian. Hope will be cleaning the building three days a week for a total of ten hours a week; she will not be working on Sunday mornings. Hope also cleans St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the Benzie Area Historical Museum, and many local homes. Welcome Hope!

What's New in the Library

The 10 Habits of Happy Mothers...written by Dr. Meg Meeker, a Traverse City pediatrician who has been in practice for 25 years and herself a mother of four, this book offers tips, habits to conquer and mistakes to avoid. Among the 10 habits that every mother utilize are to:

- Maintain key friendships
- Value and practice faith
- Create a 'healthy relationship' with money
- Make time for solitude
- Live simply

The book offers lessons from her own experiences, both personal and professional. It seems to me this book would be of value to all mothers, regardless of the age of their children..

'Tis...You may have read Frank McCourt's earlier book *Angela's Ashes*, his childhood memoir of growing up in Ireland. This is the continuing story, that of the young adult who arrives in New York at the age of nineteen with no money and no marketable skill but graduates from college with a teaching degree and proves himself to be an excellent storyteller.

Thanks to the anonymous donor,.

Water for Elephants...Before there was the movie there was the novel. The story teller is Jacob Jankowski, either 90 or 93 years old, who is living out his days in a nursing home and hating every minute of it. Here he reminisces about his young adulthood. The week before he is to take his veterinary exams his parents are killed. He was left with nothing in Depression-era America. He runs away and joins a circus, a very poor circus with crazy employees. Naturally he falls in love with the beautiful and talented woman who is the wife of the unbalanced, sadistic circus boss. The author has all the right vocabulary for the circus giving the story a "you-are-there" feeling. If you like animal stories and don't mind a bit of romance, this is the book for you.

This edition is in LARGE PRINT.

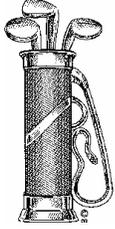
ESPECIALLY FOR SUNDAY READERS...there is large print copy of the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible in the Library. This is the same version as the pew Bibles and the one Pastor Dan prefers we Sunday readers use. It might make it easier to see what you are reading when you are up in front. It will be found laying down on the shelf just beyond the TV.

Christian Education News

Youth Sunday will be held on June 5th. The youth will participate in the service and be recognized for their accomplishments. We will also recognize our graduate at this time.

The One Room School will begin on June 11th. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board. Please sign up for one Sunday this summer.

A float will be entered in the July 4th Parade and all are encouraged to come and help. More information about this will be in the bulletin.



Golf Team

It's that time of year again!! If your golf clubs have been calling your name, the church golf team has played once and is looking forward to more opportunities. Again, this year we will gather most often on Friday's at local golf courses. This year, if there is interest, we may play in local fundraising tournaments. If you would like to be a part of the 2011 Golf Team please contact Pastor Dan at: pastordan@benzoniacongregational.org or call the church office.

UCC Sister Church of the Month

For the past year, in worship we have been praying for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited in June to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of **First Congregational United Church of Christ in Cadillac**. Their pastor, the Rev. Carol Reynolds, preached in our church as we served as a neutral pulpit for their search committee. Pastor Carol has now been their pastor for over a year. Please remember our friends at First Congregational UCC in Cadillac throughout the month of June.

Flowers

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers for 2011. If you are interested in supplying flowers, please sign up for a certain date (or if you are unable to be in worship call the church office to make arrangements). You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist. If you would like the bulletin to reflect your donation, please let the church office know who the flowers honor or memorialize as well as identifying yourself as the donor.

Reminder

If you, a loved one, or a church member you know is in the hospital, please let the church office know so that Pastor Dan may visit. Due to privacy laws, hospitals no longer contact the churches to let them know church members are hospitalized. The church wants to know so that we can support you during this time of need.

GoodSearch.com

Remember that if you use the Internet, you can earn money for the church using www.goodsearch.com. One penny per search, or more for internet shopping, is donated directly from the website to our church. Designate us by entering our church name as the charity of your choice.

Newsletter Email

In an effort to save time, paper, and money, we are now offering our newsletter via email. If you would prefer the newsletter by email, please contact: secretary@benzoniacongregational.org.

We are also sending out weekly updates every Friday with prayer requests and upcoming events. To receive this email simply send our church secretary, Nancy, a note using the above email address. We also have a new church website. You may access it by: www.benzoniacongregational.org. Please check it out and tell your friends and neighbors.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

1	Brady Cole
5	Doug Joy, Sr.
8	Harold Case
9	Alan Appelhof
10	Virginia Kilburn
11	Barbara Nason
13	Leonard Case
14	Buck Hall
18	Roger Vance
21	Mitchell Webb
21	Kathy Neveu
25	Ethan Webb
26	Penelope Olson
27	Dorothy Lyons
29	Victoria Joy

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

2	Doc and Mary Ellen Wagner
10	Leonard and Brenda Case
14	Mark and Mary Thompson
17	Bob and Mickey Austin
22	Roger and Phoebe Vance



Congratulations

to Benzie Central graduate
and co-valedictorian,

Taylor Nye

the daughter of Ken and Rhonda Nye.

Farewell

On Thursday, May 12, Pat Kinske resigned as our Church custodian. She warmly spoke of her eight years here, enjoying her many tasks and mentioned that she is looking forward to some new ventures in her life. She brought gifts to our church above and beyond the limits of her job description and she will be missed.

A BIG THANK YOU **TO OUR JUNE VOLUNTEERS -**

COFFEE HOUR

June 5	Graduation - Coffee Hour Fund
June 12	Chris Stone
June 19	Harold and Marsha Case
June 26	Jo Danford

NURSERY

June 5	Linda Jenema
June 12	Chris Jones
June 19	Mary Rodriguez
June 26	Jessica Reed

GREETERS

June 5	Jo Danford
June 12	Genny Bowman
June 19	Liz Ehman and Ron Olson
June 26	Earl and Pat Schopp

HEAD USHER

Alan Appelhof

THANK YOU to Jean and Wally Edwards for all their work folding and labeling and stamping the May issue of The Joyful Noise.

THANK YOU to all of you who took part in the work bee. What a great turnout! A lot was accomplished and your hard work really shows.

Church Family Update

You are invited to remember some of our members who are home-bound or in assisted-living: Roland Roycraft, Marylou Patee, June Trost, Norm Stewart, John Robson, Marjorie Call, Buck and Dorothy Hall, Ruth Masters, Myrtice Maddock, Liz Ehman, Betty Peters, Barb Nason, Bernice Rankin, Ken Miner, Mona McElderry, Trudy Collins, Emily Haynes, and Virginia Kilburn.

Please also remember Harriet Stone, whose daughter Susie Stone died in May.

JUNE 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
			1 12 Noon - AA 1:00 Women's Fellowship 2:00 MS Support Barn	2 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	3 12 Noon LOWV	4
5 GRADUATION 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	6 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	7 10:00 Yoga-Barn 6:30 Christian Ed 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	8 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn 6:30 Deacons	9 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	10 12 Noon LOWV	11
12 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 12 Noon - Youth Group	13 10:00 CMH - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 7:00 AA - Barn	14 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	15 Circle Meetings 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	16 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	17 12 Noon-LOWV	18
19 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	20 10:00 CMH - Barn 5:00 Beach Bums Outing 7:00 AA - Barn	21 10:00 Yoga -Barn 5:00 Trustees 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	22 12 Noon - AA 10:30 Circle IV Noon Sarah Circle 2:30 Knitting - Barn	23 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 6:30 Music Comm. 7:30 Choir Practice	24 12 Noon LOWV	25
26 ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	27 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	28 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7 WAA - Barn	29 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	30		

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Daniel E. Furman Minister
Chris StoneTreasurer
Mary Rodriguez..Financial Secretary
James Sheets.....Church Moderator
Christy Case Choir Director
Rosemary MillerAssistant Choir Director
Gillian Soholt.....Youth Coordinator
Jean Edwards.....Newsletter Editor
Carol Dye & Katrina Smith.....Christian Ed Coordinators
Hope Kochis Custodian
Nancy EgglestonSecretary

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