

# Meetinghouse Crier

October 2011

Volume 11 Issue 9

## Pastor's Note

### October at a Glance

- Blue Slope Days, Oct 1st and 2nd.
- Kids are back to school
- 10/02 Communion Sunday
- 10/02 - First Sunday Evening Worship Service 6:30 PM
- 10/03, 10 & 17, Women's Study Group, Mondays @ 6PM
- Chicken Time! Chicken BBQ, Saturday, 10/22

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**Yard sales.** I've never really liked them. But when we were preparing to move from our home of twenty years, we decided it was a must. It was a way to clean out the clutter, make a little money, and not haul out yesterday's treasures to today's trash.

We displayed our lovely attic décor on makeshift plywood tables and waited for the bargain babes to descend. We were not disappointed. Two hours before the advertised opening time, treasure hunters began congregating outside the closed garage doors. Then, upon the unveiling, the swarm attacked.

Among the valuables from my past sat an electric, ceramic 12" Christmas tree with various colored lights ... no doubt a gift from the eighties. One particular woman perused the lovely display and came upon this "magnificent work of art."

"I've always wanted one of these!" she declared with excitement in her voice. "How much is it?"

"Three dollars," my husband, Steve, answered.

"Humph," she grunted and walked on.

Steve and I just looked at each other and stifled our laughter.

Let's rewind the scene for a moment. This woman said she had always wanted a ceramic Christmas tree just like that one. (I'm not here to judge another person's dreams. That's just what she said.) Always. Her whole life. And here it was! For a mere \$3, her dream could have come true! The search over! Most likely we would have

sacrificed this masterpiece for \$2, but she didn't even ask. She just shrugged and walked away.

Then my mind began to wander through a rummage sale of its own. As I watched the woman walk away, I thought about the Pharisees in the Bible. For years they waited for the coming of the promised Messiah. Prayed about it. Preached about it. Prepared for it. Then when Jesus showed up, they turned their backs and walked away. "Humph," they said with a shrug. "No thanks." How many times do we long for a particular dream to come true in our lives? Long for it. Search for it. Obsess over it. A husband. A child. A job. A home. Then one day, there it is! It can be ours! The search is over. We say our "I do's," bring home the bundle of joy, log in our first eight hours, hang the last curtain. But then, a little time passes. The husband is not as romantic as we had hoped, the kids are not as obedient and loving as we had imagined, the job isn't as rewarding as we had envisioned, and the house is a never ending maze of maintenance. "Humph," we grumble. We think we want something, and then when we get it, we decide we really don't want it after all.

Let me take it one step further. How many times do we

long for love, joy, and peace in our lives? We search for it, long for it, and pray about it. Then someone points us to the cross and says, "There is it. It can be yours for the asking. It's not even \$3, \$2 or \$1. It's free!"

"Humph," we shrug. "No thanks." And we walk away to rummage through the yard sales of life looking for treasure among other people's clutter.

Dear friend, God is holding out His Holy hand with the most magnificent Gift of all time. Love, joy, and peace personified in His Son, Jesus Christ. He is what you have always been longing for, searching for, watching for. Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life and have it to the full" (NIV). Will we take him up on the offer, or say, "Humph, no thanks," and walk away?

filled with the peace, love, and joy of Jesus, I will spill that love onto those around me.

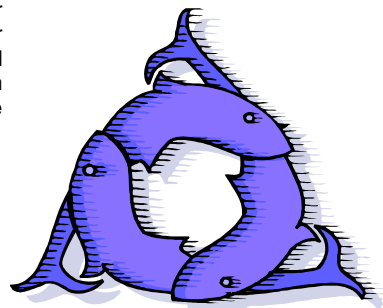
### Now It's Your Turn

Have you ever searched and searched for something in particular, and then when you found it, you realized it wasn't so great after all? Make a list. If you're like me, it is probably long ... if you're honest.

Now let's look inward. Are there longings in your life that you are expecting other people to fill, but in reality, you know that only Jesus can really fill?

If so, what will you do?

*Jesus said: "I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of," (John 10:10b The Message).*



***Worrying does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLE, it only takes away today's PEACE.***

### KEEPING OUR CHURCH CLEAN

*Please take a turn at cleaning the church. There is a sign up sheet/calendar in the Fellowship Hall, so you can help out at your convenience. If enough people help out, each one will only work every two or three months!*

***Many Hands Makes Light Work***



### Step Up!

**There are a few committees that have vacancies, and are in need some assistance.**

**Volunteer today for either the Stewardship Committee, or Nominating Committee.**

8 things God won't and will ask on the day in which you meet Him ...

1, He won't ask what kind of car you drive, but how many people with out transportation you drove.

2, He won't ask the square footage of your house, but how many people you welcomed in.

3, He won't ask about the clothes in your closet, but how many you helped to clothe.

4, God won't ask what your highest salary was, but whether you compromised your integrity to obtain it.

5, He won't ask your job title, but whether or not you did it to the best of your ability.

6, He won't ask how many friends you had, but to how many you were a friend.

7, God won't ask what neighborhood you lived in, but how you treated your neighbors.

8, God won't ask about the color of your skin, but about the content of your character.

But above all, and in spite of all, He'll ask, "What did you do with my Son?"

Look to Him today, and tell God that you've taken His Son as your own, for the forgiveness of your sin... and live in the presence of God eternally!

Women's Study Report

Join in the Blessings, every Monday at 6PM !

"The Holiness Of God", video series by R. C. Sproul is underway, and being well attended.

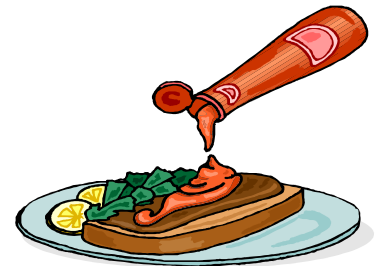
It's not too late to participate.

Contact Lynda Chapman for more information at:

[Sunshine4lyn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sunshine4lyn@sbcglobal.net)



Please sign up for **Church CleanUP**



Don't miss the Fellowship Luncheon, Tuesday October 18th. We gather in the church parking lot @ 11:45am.

**Join us at the Evening Service on First Sunday, for a wonderful time of fellowship, song, testimony, prayer**

**and praise!**



Please sign up for **Coffee Hour**



Franklin Congregational Church

Meetinghouse Crier

Franklin  
Congregational Church

31 Meetinghouse Hill Rd  
Franklin, CT 06254

Phone: 860-642-7887  
FranklinChurchCT.com  
E-mail:  
pastorpeter@FranklinChurchCT.com

# Pass it Along

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Come Check Us Out; hear messages,  
teachings, get calendars... ENJOY!



Weekly Services:

- ADULT CHRISTIAN ED 8:45 AM
- CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30
- WOMEN'S STUDY, MON 6 - 8 PM (SEASONAL)
- BIBLE STUDY, WED. 7-8 PM
- CONTEMPORARY SERVICE, FIRST SUNDAY
- EVENINGS 6:30 PM

### Did You Know...

**How many of our parishioners run local businesses?**

We have a seamstress, an automotive repair shop, a carpenter, several contractors, a fine farm stand, an insurance pro... and more!! If you don't know who they are, ask! Please patronize our local business, especially our those belonging to our own parishioners!

Thank You,  
Pastor.

### Contributors Wanted:

Have any materials you'd like considered for entry into the **Meetinghouse Crier**, our newsletter,?

Please submit them to Pastor Peter at...  
pastorpeter@FranklinChurchCT.com

