

Meetinghouse Crier

September 2011

Volume 11 Issue 8

Pastor's Note

September at a Glance

- Sunday School Begins
- Kids are back to school
- 9/11 Communion Sunday
- 9/11 - First Sunday Evening Worship Service 6:30 PM
- 9/5 Women's Study Group, Mondays @ 6PM
- Summer Ends!
- Fall Begins!

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Contemporary Phenomena ... a phrase which means merely, things that happen (phenomena) now (contemporary), that didn't happen in another, earlier day. Take this recent storm for example...

Roughly 100 years ago, *no one* had any electricity, and there was *no* crisis. We were prepared for eating, dressing, bathing, toileting, getting around, etc... all the activities of daily living. There was no dependence on outside, inanimate sources of "power" to get done what we needed to get done. We knew how to survive without external power sources. In addition to that, neighbors - realizing that they had a responsibility to the community - were always there at the ready for one another, helping one another to survive life's ups and downs.

Now, in 2011, we don't even know our neighbors,

and without the external power source of electricity, we're all pretty much dead in the water! In other words, this dependence on outside, inanimate things, and the absence of interdependence on neighbors, are both contemporary phenomena. We wonder how people ever survived without electricity, but it's only been 100 years or so! I spoke to one young lady who said she gets sick when forced to sleep without air conditioning, and *that's* only been around for 70 years! You see, our understanding of how things are, is very heavily influenced by how things are NOW. But things were not always like they are now, yes?

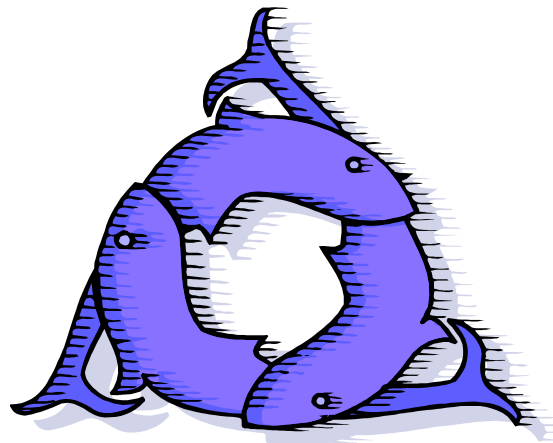
Here are some questions we must ask ourselves in light of this truth. "In what ways has our understanding of God been influenced by things, which are only contemporary?" Or, "What

things are there that I believe about God which are not historical truths, and perhaps *could not* have been true a thousand years ago?"

You see, Truth never changes. Culture changes, technology changes, contemporary phenomena change. But the heart of man remains the same; and the Heart of God remains the same. Therefore, let us endeavor to learn of God those things which are commensurate with His eternal and immutable (unchanging and unchangeable) nature. *God never changes.*

Lamentations 3:21-25 "*This I recall to my mind, and that is why I have hope. It is because of The LORD's lovingkindnesses that we are not consumed, because His compassions never, ever fail. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, says my soul; therefore will I hope in Him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that continually seeks Him.*"

Lights on, or lights off... water or no water... AC or no AC... Seek the Lord. Learn of Him. Know for yourself, His unchanging character; His unchanging loving kindness and Grace. *Pastor*



The Heart of Christ in the Center of Town

A man losing his eyesight asked God, "Lord, can there anything worse than losing your eyesight?"

"Yes, He replied. "Losing your vision!"

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



Worship with the Saints of God, this Sunday

Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when you're in trouble.

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

²⁶For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³²But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. ³⁵Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

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Women's Study Report

Our weekly women's study group was delayed a week due to the power outage, but it's underway now!!

"The Holiness Of God", by R. C. Sproul will be the topic of discussion.

Contact Lynda Chapman for more information at:

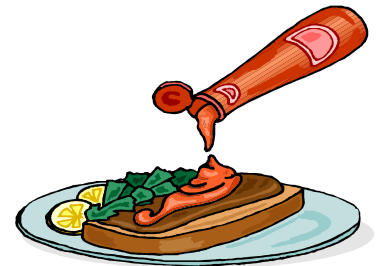
Sunshine4lyn@sbcglobal.net



Please
sign up
for
**Church
CleanUP**

Special Guest Speaker!

Mrs. Anna Hewitt will be speaking to us second Sunday evening at our evening service. She will be sharing her experiences in a Nazi death camp, which she survived. We'll be worshipping and thanking God for our Freedom in Christ. Come celebrate the LORD!!



Don't miss the Fellowship Luncheon,
Tuesday September 20th.

We gather in the church parking lot @ 11:45am.

Please sign
up for
**Coffee
Hour**

It's a "steering wheel" that directs us in the right path throughout life.



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

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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

Special Thanks...

...to Franklin's own, **New View Tree Service** and its owner, Mark Roberts. Had it not been Mark's generosity in taking down our dangerous tree, we'd probably not have a shed, or a barbecue pit, or a deck on the house, after Tropical Storm Irene! If you see Mark around town, be sure to thank him. Or, if you'd like to stop by his house or the church with a thank you, that would mean so much, too. Lastly, if you know of anyone who needs tree work, **please send them to Mark**. Mark is Better Business Bureau approved, and a great guy!

**New View Tree Service,
122 Meeting House Hill Rd,
Franklin.
860-377-6325**

Thank You, Pastor.

Contributors Wanted:

If anyone has any materials they would like considered for entry into the

Meetinghouse Crier, our newsletter, then please submit them to Pastor Peter at...

