



Outlook

January 2014

Unity Hill

United Church of Christ

"Where God's Love Grows a Family"

364 White Plains Road, Trumbull, CT 06611

Web site: www.unityhillucc.org

E-mail: unityhillucc@snet.net

Phone: 203-374-8822

Fax: 203-374-1120

The Reverend M. Todd Shipley, Pastor

The Reverend Harold C. Smith D.D., Pastor Emeritus

Carole J. Fanslow, Music/Choir Director

Dorothy W. Pickens, Soloist

Louise Evans, R.N., Parish Nurse

Patricia Bowman, Moderator

Lucille Bayer, Vice-Moderator

Bob Krakovich, Treasurer

Dawn Brezina, Financial Secretary

Dorothy Vars, Church Clerk

Joanne Wickson, Office Manager

Calap Brown, Sexton



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Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Baptism & Church Membership

Anyone who is interested in scheduling a baptism,  
or who would like information on joining  
Unity Hill UCC please contact Pastor Todd Shipley  
at 203-374-8822 or [unityhill.pastor@snet.net](mailto:unityhill.pastor@snet.net)

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## A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE

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*By: Pastor Todd Shipley*



### IS THERE ANY OTHER TIME THAN NOW?

...and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Romans 13: 9b-11 (NIV)

There is no time like the present? There is no time BUT the present. Whichever clever way you choose to characterize time’s existence, in reality the past and the future do not exist. Every second of your life is lived now....right now. The truth of this does not keep us from allowing the phantoms of yesterday’s memories and tomorrow’s worries to suffocate the only thing you really have: the present.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 16:25-34 (NIV)

So when will you let your soul lead you instead of your head? We celebrated the birth of Jesus into the world, your world, only a few days ago. Listen for his voice now calling your soul to follow him. Your head will tell you a thousand reasons that now is not the time. What is your soul saying?

**“Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it!”**

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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## CHURCH UPDATES

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### PASTORAL CARE

If you, or someone you know, is hospitalized, please call the church office (203-374-8822.) Hospitals **do not** notify us when a parishioner is hospitalized.



Please contact the office if you would like to register for the 2014 Flower calendar list to have flowers placed on the altar in memory or celebration of your loved ones.



The life of **George J. Brezina** was celebrated at Unity Hill on November 26 with Pastor Todd Shipley and Rev. Bob Woodward officiating. George died on November 22, 2013 with his family at his side. A dedicated member of Unity Hill Church of Christ, he was chairman of the Stewardship Committee for many years and felt fulfillment with his hard work, dedication and commitment to the church and Christ. Our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to his whole family.

It is with sadness that we announce the death of **Ruth Schwarz** who died on November 6, 2013 in North Carolina. Ruth was active in the Women's Fellowship before leaving the area for her new home at Elim Park in Cheshire and later moving to NC. She was 102 years old – looked great and participated in everything until her death. A Memorial Service will be held for her in the spring.

Belated birthday wishes to **Elsie Rapposch** whose birthday is December 30.

**Unity in Loss groups** will begin meeting again in January on the last Thursday (small group) and last Sunday (large group) of the month.

**Men's Fellowship Super Bowl Kickoff** on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Men outside the church looking for spiritual guidance will be in attendance; this can perhaps increase our membership numbers. Topic will be From Wild Man to Wise Man.

**New Member Initiative Training** is January 31 and February 1<sup>st</sup>. Pastor will invite 5 church leaders to join him in creating a strategy tailored to Unity Hill to increase membership. It will take 6 months to put the plan in place. UCC is giving Unity Hill a \$1,000 grant to cover ½ the cost. Missions Committee is paying \$1,000 for balance. Support of the congregation is critical for the success of this program.

**Raise the Roof** was a great success; we raised money, but the fellowship at Unity Hill showed that when Unity Hill is in need, members rise to the occasion.

All those who attended the Oronoque Village variety show in October were treated to an enjoyable evening of comical skits and memorable songs. Bob Krakovich provided three solos, and then ended the program with a delightful duet of the song "Wunderbar" from the musical *Kiss Me Kate*. In November Bob also contributed his vocal gifts as a member of the company in Oronoque Village's risqué musical production entitled "Fifty Shades of Gray...Hair".

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## CHRISTMAS CARD GREETINGS

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*Wishing You a Very Blessed & Merry Christmas*

**Instead of sending out individual Christmas cards this year, the following people chose to sign the “Blanket Fund of Church World Service” card, and send their best wishes and Christmas Blessings to you as one.**

**Dorothy Barwick**

**Lucille Baver**

**Hazel Berger**

**Patty, Trevor & Hannah Bowman**

**Deb Boyd**

**Florence, Dawn & Lori Brezina**

**David Mark, Sharon, David George,  
Kaelyn & Emily Brezina**

**Zena Buttress**

**Dolores Colaiacomo**

**Marian Conklin**

**Louise Evans**

**Carole & Allen Fanslow**

**Marion & Criss Gaetano**

**Diane, Cindy & Shari Henderson**

**Bob Krakovich**

**Renate Krakovich**

**Louise Magyar**

**The Pickens Family**

**Barbara Scala-Adams**

**Katie & Ronnie Schneider**

**Robert Schneider &  
Family**

**Marie Seavey**

**The Shipley Family**

**Rev. Harold C. Smith, D.D.**

**Trisha & Leo Tetreault**

**Courty & Dot Vars**

**Wally & Ed Yeager**

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## MUSIC MINISTRY

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*By: Carole Fanslow*

Handbell choir rehearsals will resume practice in February. New ringers are always welcome – check out the details with Carole Fanslow, and rehearsals for the Senior Choir will remain on Sunday mornings.

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## HEALTH CORNER

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By: Louise Evans, R.N.

### TEST YOUR EYE HEALTH FOR MACULAR DEGENERATION

This is a simple test to help the Ophthalmologist "Eye Doctor" diagnose Macular Degeneration.

#### Amsler Grid

##### How To Test Yourself With the Amsler Grid

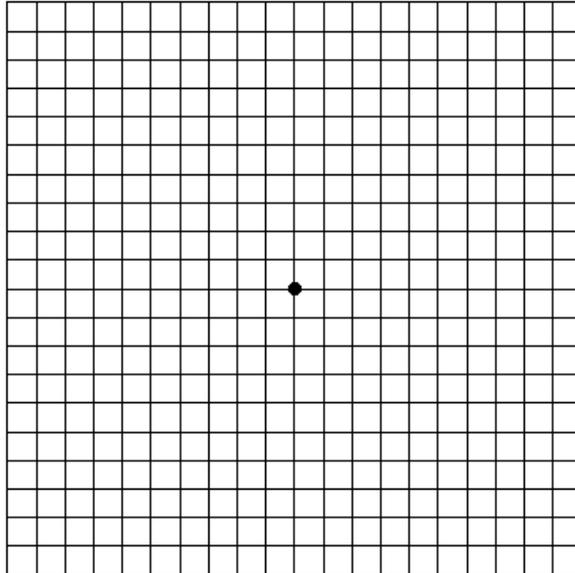
If you need reading glasses, please wear them while you use the Amsler grid. The grid should be at about the same distance from your eyes that any other reading material would be.

You may want to print this page and then take the test.

Cover one eye, then focus on the dot in the center.

- Do any of the lines look wavy, blurred or distorted? (All lines should be straight, all intersections should form right angles and all the squares should be the same size.)
- Are there any missing areas or dark areas in the grid?
- Can you see all corners and sides of the grid?
- Don't forget to test both eyes.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Report any irregularity to your eye doctor immediately. You can mark areas of the chart that you're not seeing properly and bring it with you to your eye exam.



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## CHURCH COUNCIL

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The next Church Council Meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 13. Year End reports are due at that time to be reviewed by Pastor and Moderator. Committee reports and agenda items need to be submitted to church secretary by January 6<sup>th</sup>.

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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

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### **Buildings and Grounds**

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*By: Henry Parker*

The roof has been completed. Water damage in the narthex is being addressed with the roofing company. The security & fire panel shorted out leaving us at risk for fire & break-ins. A new panel will be purchased and installed. Discussion on use of office for additional desk space for counters and Financial Secretary versus music equipment storage. Henry reported that the Committee had voted not to remove anything from the office and new storage area is only appropriate for folding tables and chairs. Pastor Todd will work with B&G to give Financial Team appropriate space by January.

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### **Christian Education**

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*By: Sharon Brezina*

Well, we had a busy month in December – we had the Children’s Service on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Buttress read the story about the Journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus as our children were the characters from the story. They all did great.

We would like to thank the following for their wonderful performance that day:

Laura as Mary

David as Joseph

Samantha as the Angel

Cooper and Will as the Animals

Sarah as the Shepard

Kaelyn, Edie and Maddie as the Wisemen

And behind the scenes we would love to thank the following for their help and support:

Emily, Gabby, Ness, John, Shakira, Sharitza and Pedro, Mrs. Buttress and Pastor Todd.

The children were also a big help preparing for the CE sponsored Church Holiday Luncheon. It was a great success and even Santa and Mrs. Claus paid a visit!!

Thanks to all who brought food in for the event – it is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all who cooked and stayed to enjoy the festivities.

The trip to Lancaster, PA to see A Christmas Miracle was a great success. Everyone had a great time!

CE would like to wish you and yours only the BEST in the New Year!!

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### **Youth Group**

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Due to the weather conditions, the Youth Group party will be moved to January – date to be announced.

~ Meetings on January 5 and January 19 ~

Junior Youth Group 5-6:30pm; Senior Youth Group 6:30-8pm.

Remember to keep in touch with the Youth Group! Watch the Facebook pages and your emails.

## Parent's Corner

Something to do... Something to do.... Especially during school vacations!

Tough being stuck inside with this cold weather.

We'll take a walk!!! The invigorating cold air can clear your mind and reduce stress!

Do it as a Family!

Allow at least 10 minutes to warm up. When it's cold, your heart and muscles need more time to get ready.

Wear a scarf or mask loosely over your nose and mouth to prevent the sting of icy cold air when you inhale. This is especially important if you have asthma or heart problems.

Enjoy what God has given us – just take your time!

Want to stay warm? This is the time to visit museums and famous Connecticut sites.

Yale Art Gallery is in New Haven and the British Art Gallery is across the street. They are both beautiful and free to visit.

Whatever you do, be safe and have fun!

## Celebration Corner

Congratulations to all those who made, Honors and High Honors in this past marking period.

Your hard work will pay off – we are so proud of you!!

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## Missions

*By: Wally Yeager*

As usual, Missions Committee extends their heartfelt “Thanks” for supporting our “Thanksgiving Baskets.”

Due to your generosity we were able to fill five baskets with the following items:

|                         |                                   |                                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3 cans of string beans  | 3 cans of mixed vegetables        | 3 cans of corn                        |
| 5 lbs of white potatoes | 1 large can of sweet potatoes     | 3 cans or 1 large can of turkey gravy |
| Fruit cocktail          | 1 pie crust & pumpkin pie filling | 1 can of coffee                       |

And of course a turkey and stuffing.

Plus, due to the generous donation of \$100 from a church member, we were able to put some niceties such as 2 candles with candlestick holders, tablecloth with napkins, 2 hand towels, 1 washcloth, 1 box of cookies and 1 box of after dinner mints, etc. We also made up bouquets of fresh flowers to brighten up the day.

As you can see, we gave 5 families a wonderful “Thanksgiving” all because of your generous donations.

The Christmas Fund: Remembering Our Veterans of the Cross—Those Who Serve Our Church ~ provides financial aid to retired and active ministers and their surviving spouses and children who face overwhelming financial demands, a ministry carried out by the Pension Boards. We collected the envelopes for this mission during the month of December ending on Christmas Eve.

On a personal note: Thank you to a wonderful group of people: Lucille Baver, Dolores Colaiacomo and Marion Gaetano. I am very grateful!

In closing, we wish everyone a very Happy New Year! Remember our church's motto: “God is still speaking!”

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## **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS**

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### **Fellowship of Unity Hill**

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*By: Dot Pickens*

Our next monthly meeting will be on Sunday, January 5 after worship.

20+ members and friends enjoyed our annual Christmas Get Together at the home of Rose Vars December 8.

New Year's Day will be at the home of Carole & Allen Fanslow in Stratford beginning at 3:00 p.m.

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### **Women's Fellowship**

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*By: Betty Vida*

~ Executive Board meeting is Thursday, January 9 at 12 noon.

~ The Soup and Sandwich Luncheon is on Thursday, January 23 at 12 noon. The movie "Singing in the Rain" will be shown along with popcorn. The meetings are open to all.

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### **UCC New England Women's Celebration IX**

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*By: Carole Fanslow*

*UCC New England Women's Celebration IX* is coming—March 28—30, 2014 in Portland, Maine. Sponsored by the New England's Leadership Conference. The theme: "Together We Can." Last call for registration at \$100 is until January 15 when prices go up to \$125. There is a bus going to Portland (\$63.00) Please see Carole Fanslow if you need info or see their web site [www.uccwomenscelebration.org](http://www.uccwomenscelebration.org). It's always a great weekend.

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## **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

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### **Middlebrook Farms Worship Service**

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Service will be held on Thursday, January 2, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

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### **Trumbull Interfaith Committee**

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No meeting in January.

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## **Golden Hill Community Suppers Program**

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The Fellowship of Unity Hill cooked and served at the Community Suppers Program on Wednesday, December 25th at Golden Hill United Methodist Church. Many thanks to the following elves helped serve a delicious dinner: Ed and Wally Yeager, Carole and Allen Fanslow and the entire Rondon Family – Mandi, Nick, Izzy, Maddy, Will & Brooklyn Grace – helped and they even brought a Christmas dessert. We served 50 first timers. Special thanks to Mabel and Paul Buttress for sponsoring our Christmas Day meal. Our next turn will be on Wednesday, February 26.

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## **Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport**

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Week of Prayer Service sponsored by the Council of Churches will be held on Sunday, January 19 at 4:00 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, Bridgeport.

### **Save the Date!**

**Saturday, March 29, 2014 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm ~ Broadway Comes to Bridgeport!** The New Paradigm Theater (with real Broadway performers!) will present a musical tribute to Broadway in a cabaret-style format. United Congregational Church, 877 Park Avenue, Bridgeport  
Honoring Salem Lutheran Church with CCGB's 2014 Faith and Community Award  
Invitations to Follow! Need more information NOW? [pattyjensen@ddgb.org](mailto:pattyjensen@ddgb.org) or 334.1121 x 243

### **Youth Services**

Needed: **HOST HOMES!** A Host Home is a family, household or individual who opens their home to a youth between the ages of 11-17 years old who needs temporary shelter, board and care. They offer a stable and caring environment; the average stay is less than 10 days. Certified Host Homes will receive a monthly stipend for child care. If you would like to know more information, please contact Dale Holder, Youth Services Director, at 203 367-8441 x 221 or [daleholder@ccgb.org](mailto:daleholder@ccgb.org).

**Adult Services** needs any of the following hygiene items (in quantities of 50): Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Shampoo, and Feminine Hygiene Pads. Please contact Dan Braccio at [danbraccio@ccg.org](mailto:danbraccio@ccg.org) or 203 367-8441 x 231

### **Hunger Outreach** ~ *Coordinating Area Feeding Initiatives*

**Needed: Non Perishable FOOD!** The 32 feeding programs in CCGB's Hunger Outreach Network served over 2.5 million meals to hungry people a year for the past three years, accomplished with the help of private and foundation grants, as well as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds Please consider renewed efforts in collecting non-perishable food items ~ If you'd like information on what kinds of food to collect or a list of feeding programs, call Byron Crosdale at 334.1121 x 249 or [byroncrosdale@ccgb.org](mailto:byroncrosdale@ccgb.org). To those who serve in community suppers and pantries all year long, our hearty thanks.

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## **Pastoral Counseling Center of Trumbull**

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*Pastoral Counseling Center of Trumbull at Unity Hill UCC* ~ The Rev. Dr. John Sandel is in his office at Unity Hill UCC usually from 3-9 on Thursdays and 8-12 on Fridays. He can be reached at 203-386-9345.

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## OUR TREASURER'S CHECKBOOK

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By: *Bob Krakovich*

| <u>Income</u>       | <u>As of 11/30/13</u> | <u>As of 11/30/12</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Offerings           | \$ 61,794.00          | \$ 64,635.00          |
| Investments         | 29,595.65             | 26,968.35             |
| Designated          | 65,665.35             | 13,543.15             |
| Miscellaneous       | 4,832.18              | 40,281.20             |
| Investment Draw     | <u>100,000.00</u>     | <u>70,000.00</u>      |
| Total Income        | \$261,887.18          | \$215,427.70          |
|                     |                       |                       |
| <u>Expense</u>      |                       |                       |
| Building & Grounds  | \$ 57,494.73          | \$ 59,297.68          |
| Christian Education | 5,103.55              | 5,670.81              |
| Church Council      | 29,179.07             | 29,216.10             |
| Diaconate           | 95,346.40             | 85,302.79             |
| Mission & Outreach  | 9,015.18              | 20,600.00             |
| Stewardship         | -0-                   | 114.75                |
| Designated          | <u>22,513.58</u>      | <u>11,141.90</u>      |
| Total Expense       | \$218,652.51          | \$ 211,344.03         |
|                     |                       |                       |
| (Shortage)/Overage  | \$ 43,234.67          | 4,083.67              |



NOTE: 2013's overage includes \$41,350.00 balance withdrawn towards roof replacement final bill.

### Outlook Deadline

We welcome contributions to our monthly newsletter and invite you to share information or something more creative! The February 2014 issue of the Outlook will be published at the end of January. All submissions, special announcements, articles or events provided by the deadline of January 20, 2014 will be included in the publication.

## January 2014

| Sunday                                                                                          | Monday                                   | Tuesday                                                                    | Wednesday                                          | Thursday                                                                                                              | Friday                                  | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------|
|                                                                                                 |                                          |                                                                            | 1                                                  | 2<br><b>2:00pm</b><br>Middlebrook Farms<br>Worship Service<br><b>3-9pm</b> John Sandel<br>here                        | 3<br>John Sandel<br>not here            | 4        |
| 5<br>FUH meeting<br>after worship<br>YOUTH<br>GROUP<br><b>5-6:30</b> Jrs.<br><b>6:30-8</b> Srs. | 6                                        | 7                                                                          | 8<br><b>11am-3pm</b><br>Kennedy Center<br>cooking  | 9<br><b>12noon</b><br>Women's<br>Fellowship<br>Executive Board<br>Meeting<br><b>3-9pm</b> John Sandel<br>here         | 10<br><b>8-12am</b> John<br>Sandel here | 11       |
| 12                                                                                              | 13<br><b>7:00pm</b><br>Church<br>Council | 14                                                                         | 15                                                 | 16<br><b>1:00pm</b> Diaconate<br>Meeting<br><b>3-9pm</b> John Sandel<br>here                                          | 17<br><b>8-12am</b> John<br>Sandel here | 18       |
| 19<br>YOUTH<br>GROUP<br><b>5-6:30</b> Jrs.<br><b>6:30-8</b> Srs.                                | 20                                       | 21<br><b>7-8:30pm</b><br>Overeaters'<br>Anonymous<br>Intergroup<br>Meeting | 22                                                 | 23<br><b>12 noon</b> Women's<br>Fellowship Soup &<br>Sandwich Luncheon<br>& Movie<br><b>3-9pm</b> John Sandel<br>here | 24<br><b>8-12am</b> John<br>Sandel here | 25       |
| 26                                                                                              | 27                                       | 28                                                                         | 29<br><b>11am-3pm</b><br>Kennedy Center<br>cooking | 30<br><b>3-9pm</b> John Sandel<br>here                                                                                | 31<br><b>8-12am</b> John<br>Sandel here |          |

### Celebrating a birthday this month ... HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

|                    |                             |                   |                    |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Ruth DeNomme     | 5 Dolores Colaiacomo        | 6 Trevor Bowman   | 9 Vicky Buttress   |
| 10 Indira Wong     | 11 Rev. Harold Smith        | 13 David Vars     | 14 Shari Henderson |
| 14 Mabel Buttress  | 18 Jonathan Sanchez         | 18 Daniel Finizio | 21 Erika Aanensen  |
| 22 Lisa Panebianco | 23 Brooklyn Grace<br>Rondon | 25 Louise Evans   | 30 Alicia Pickens  |