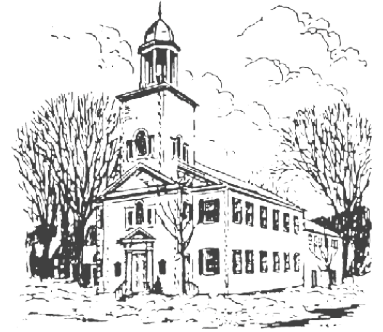


The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ
May 2011



*Services: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
 Worship & Communion, 1st Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m*

Pamela Wyeth, Editor

30 Main Street, P.O. Box 392, Salisbury, Connecticut 06068 ~ 860.435.2442 ~ www.salisburycongregational.org

"No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Welcome!

During the Sunday service on April 10th, the church welcomed six new members, including our own Pastor Diane and her husband, Joe Catania. In the photo to the right the new members are being introduced by their sponsors.

With gratitude to the Hospitality Committee, a special cake welcoming each new member by name was enjoyed with coffee and fellowship after the service. *(More pictures on the website.)*



From the left: Mike Fitting, Rod Lankler, John Arnold, Theresa Carroll, Pastor Diane, Joe Catania, Nancy Tuckerman, Peggy Heck, Mary Robertson, Kate Beatty, Carol Magowan, and Rick Beatty.



From the left: Nancy Tuckerman, Joe Catania, Pastor Diane, Rick Beatty, Kate Beatty, Mary Robertson



Prayer Shawls being blessed with the help of the children.



THE WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR
 Sunday, May 22nd - 4:00 p.m.
 The Meeting House

See page 4 to learn more



What's Inside....

Pastor's Letter	2
Community Caregivers	2
An Invitation	2
Language of Faith	3
May Friendship Day.....	3
End of Life Planning.....	3
Tyrol Family Thanks	3
Save the Date - Retreat	3
Pastor Steve Exit Interview.....	3
Alden Tyrol Appreciation.....	4
Watoto Children's Choir.....	4
Prayer Shawl Thanks.....	5
Book Discussion	5
Calendar & Birthdays	6
Kid's Corner.....	7





The prayer of the heart opens the eyes of our soul to the truth of ourselves as well as to the truth of God. The prayer of the heart challenges us to hide absolutely nothing. (From "The Way of the Heart", Henri Nouwen)

May 1st. It feels like New Year's Day. The life of the church is so clearly ordered

around Christmas and Easter that once Easter is over, everything seems different. All of a sudden it seems that there is more time, more energy to try new things, more attention paid to the details of church life.

This year, May 1st appropriately marks the day of our semi-annual meeting. It is a time for taking stock, reflecting on our first four months together, and making plans for the future. It is also the day that we will commission our newly trained Community Caregivers during the worship service.

Our church life will be active on several fronts over the next few months. The first will be the change of leadership and committee members that will take place after the annual meeting. I hope that you will join me in thanking all those individuals who commit their time and energy to make our church such a wonderful place and honoring those who have served and might be moving on to other endeavors.

The second will be my installation as your sixteenth settled

pastor on Sunday, May 15th at 4:00 p.m. I invite all of you to join me that day for a joyful worship service and reception. Come to experience, first hand, the United Church of Christ's Order of Worship for Installing a New Pastor. You, the congregation, are a vital part of that service as we enter into covenant with one another to serve God and this church into the future.

Our third event, on May 22nd, will be the Sunday school children's presentation of the biblical story of Zacchaeus. We will be witness to the exuberance and vitality that young voices bring to our worship service. Please come and support the children, the future of our church.

Later that same day, May 22nd, we will host the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda at 4:00 in the Meeting House. This promises to be a highlight of the year as we join with the Falls Village Congregational Church and the Canaan Congregational Church to welcome these young traveling ambassadors from Africa.

So, Easter is over, but we have a wealth of opportunity during the next few months to spread our Christian love far and wide. We will honor the multitude of gifts that are evident in our church family by extending an extravagant welcome to all as we step boldly into the future answering God's call for this church.

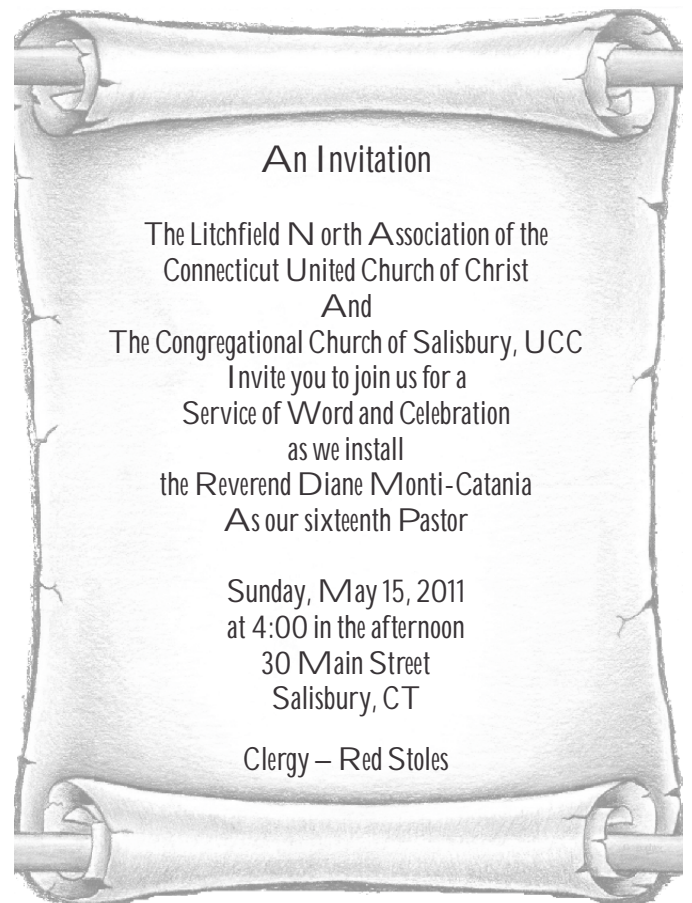
Pastor Diane

COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS ARE COMMISSIONED

On Sunday, May 1st, the congregation will officially commission a group of volunteers to take on the role of *Community Caregivers*. The *Caregivers* will be assisting the pastor in spreading God's love throughout the community by visiting with people who are homebound, isolated, grieving or ill.

Reaching out to people who may not be able to attend worship services is an integral part of our church life. The *Caregivers* participated in a specialized training session last month and will be in continuous contact with Pastor Diane regarding their visits. If you know of someone who would benefit from a visit, please call the church office at 860-435-2442 or email Pastor Diane. Visits need not be limited to members of the church. We are reaching out to the community at large, extending a hand of Christian love, wherever it might be welcomed.

Community Caregivers is a project of the Board of Deacons.



An Invitation

The Litchfield North Association of the
Connecticut United Church of Christ
And
The Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC
Invite you to join us for a
Service of Word and Celebration
as we install
the Reverend Diane Monti-Catania
As our sixteenth Pastor

Sunday, May 15, 2011
at 4:00 in the afternoon
30 Main Street
Salisbury, CT

Clergy – Red Stoles

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF FAITH

Children are formed in faith as the adults in their lives practice their own faith. This sentence begins the description of a roundtable discussion I recently attended in Southington. Presented by the Connecticut Partners in (Christian) Education, the workshop was entitled, "Learning the Language of Faith." It was a stimulating and thought-provoking discussion about how we can encourage and equip adults, particularly parents, to become comfortable using the language of faith with our children.

Just as parents model loving relationships, honesty, good manners, healthy habits, etc. for their children, they are also the primary nurturers of their children's faith development. But many parents feel uncomfortable talking "faith" with their children. They think, "What if my child asks me a question I can't answer?" Guess what? Faith talk isn't about right answers, it's about sharing

memories and ideas and feelings and beliefs and prayers that will help the child grow in faith. In addition, children often have profound insights which can help an adult see things in new ways!

Parents, grandparents, here are some sample "faith talk" conversation starters to try with your child:

1. What was something that made you happy today?
2. Tell about someone you really like. What makes that person special?
3. Tell about a time you did something wrong. What made you feel better?
4. Draw a picture of what you think God might look like.
5. What happens when a person dies.
6. Name something you want to thank God for.

Barbara Collins, Coordinator of Christian Education

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY

Church Women United of the Northwest Corner will celebrate May Friendship Day on **Friday, May 6th**, at Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon at 12:00 noon. A luncheon will be served.

The service will give thanks to God for 70 years of work in CWU and to ask for continued guidance in the years ahead. All are invited. If you need a ride call Heather Schaufele at 860-435-0439.

The Tyrol family would like to thank everyone who so graciously gave many hours for the beautiful service and reception for Alden on April 2, 2011.

Our family appreciates your concern, kindness, support and love,

With God's Grace, Ruth, Donald, Marcia, Anne, Derek, Gavin, David, and Natalie

END OF LIFE PLANNING

The Ethics Committee of Sharon Hospital is sponsoring an information session on Thursday, May 19th, at Noble Horizons from 6:00-8:00 p.m. addressing the importance of end-of-life planning.

A panel including doctors, ethicists, hospice workers, attorneys and clergy will offer their perspectives on the legal, moral, ethical and emotional aspects of planning for the end of one's life.

The event is free and open to the public.

EXIT INTERVIEW WITH PASTOR STEVE AUSTIN MINUTES AVAILABLE

On January 31st, an exit interview was conducted with Steve Austin and the following people: Janet Kaufman, Michael Ciba, Sue Morrill, Barbara Collins, Lee Collins, Sara Wardell, David Rich, and Diane Monti-Catania.

The purpose of the meeting was to reflect together on Pastor Steve's ministry at the Congregational Church of Salisbury. Minutes of the meeting are available in Pastor Diane's office or via email (upon request). Additional copies will be available at the Annual Meeting on May 1st.

SAVE THE DATE –WHAT IS GOD CALLING US TO DO?

On June 4th, from 9:00 to 1:00, members of church committees and church officers will gather for a time of retreat and reflection. Our tasks are specific. We will:

1. Work together to write a mission statement for our church. Mission statements should be no more than 10 words and should clearly define what the church does. Start thinking about this.
2. Each committee will meet to discuss their role and responsibilities in accomplishing our agreed-upon mission.
3. We will examine our bylaws to determine where changes might be needed.
4. We will celebrate the rich history of this congregation as we look forward to our future together.

This gathering will be held in the Parish Hall and is open to anyone interested in the future of the church. All committee members and church officers are asked to attend. Lunch will be provided. For more information, speak with Pastor Diane.



I was 8 years old when I first met Alden Tyrol. It was 1988, the summer before my fourth-grade year, my first summer conference at Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon. He was an imposing figure in his plaid shirt, thick blue pants and big work boots. He was like my grandfather, but scarier.

I returned to Silver Lake every summer and while I kept my distance from Alden — kids who misbehaved were sent to

him, so I was good — I heard story after story of his wisdom, his strict, guiding hand and his mischievous sense of humor. I remember the mix of pride and fear I felt when I was 14 and Alden said to me, “Be sure to get an application for staff before you go home.”

Alden hired me for Camp Family the following summer, but then retired — what a gyp! I worked for five summers at Silver Lake, learning from those who learned from him. We struggled to carry on his ministry without him. The Lake felt his absence, but was never without his guidance. He taught us well, and we carried his message of God’s love and acceptance to everyone who came to Silver Lake.

I didn’t fully realize his influence on my life until I was an adult, interviewing Alden for a story for this paper. Silver Lake was launching a capital campaign to replace some of its aging buildings, and I spoke with Alden to get an idea of the history of the property. He explained to me that the first winterized building at camp was isolating in its design. He felt it wouldn’t work with the kind of community programming he envisioned.

So he designed his own retreat center.

This was the moment the light bulb went on in my head. My experience at Silver Lake, which guided me through some difficult teenage years and shaped the woman I am today, was carefully orchestrated by Alden. It is no accident that thousands of children over 31 years remember Silver Lake as a watershed moment in their lives.

Alden was a quiet, humble man. He didn’t need to preach to make his message heard. He led by example, and a simple sentence at just the right moment had life-changing implications.

Alden dedicated his life to Silver Lake, but his legacy is the community he created. When you’re stuck in traffic in the center of Salisbury this weekend, it is because hundreds of those Alden touched have gathered to mourn his passing. And I’m sure that he will be smiling down on us, proud that we have come together in his name.

— Jennifer Kronholm Clark, March, 31, 2011, Lakeville
Reprinted from *The Lakeville Journal*, copyright 2011.

WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR FROM UGANDA ~ MAY 22ND - 4:00 P.M.

Christian Action is excited to present the Watoto Children's Choir in concert on **Sunday, May 22nd, at 4:00 p.m.**

The concert, which will be held at the Salisbury Congregational Church, is being given in collaboration with the Falls Village and Canaan UCCs. All are welcome; please bring your families and friends!

A short reception will follow in our Fellowship Hall. Please come and meet the children and their chaperones! CDs of their music will be available for purchase.



moral values, so that each child becomes a responsible and productive citizen. Watoto is currently caring for over 2000 parentless children by providing physical, emotional, educational and spiritual care.

Since 1994, the Watoto Children's Choirs have toured internationally as ambassadors for the orphan children of Uganda bringing a message of hope to countries such as Australia, Canada, Europe, USA, South Africa, Brazil, and

Israel. “Concerts of Hope” inform people of Watoto’s vital work and afford audiences the opportunity to participate in restoring hope and dignity to some of Africa’s most needy children.

Each child in the choir has experienced tremendous personal tragedy, having lost one or both parents in the African AIDS crisis or other calamities. Now through their music and dance, they share Watoto’s vision:

“Rescue a Child, Raise a Leader and Rebuild a Nation”

The choir’s music and multimedia presentation is a soulful fusion of gospel and contemporary African style. Dressed in colorful costume, the children’s enthusiastic song and energetic dance has moved audiences worldwide.

~From a Watoto Choir press release

You can see a video of the choir on our website, clicking on “Save the Date.”



There will be a **potluck supper** on **Friday, April 20th, at 6:00** for anyone and everyone who would like a casual evening out. Bring a large main dish or salad (either homemade or take-out) to share. Bread, dessert and beverage will be provided.

Bring a friend. Bring a family. The children and friends will rehearse "Hurry On Down" after supper while the others enjoy conversation and another cup of coffee.

There is no need to RSVP. Do you need a ride? Give one of us a call: Barbara Collins (860-435-0051) or Sarah Rydingsword (860-435-9479).

The Sunday School and Friends

will present the musical play

"Hurry on Down!"

Sunday, May 22, 2011

during morning worship

"Winter is many months of the year

But now at last Maytime is here;

And birds sing from a leafy screen

In the trees and hedgerow freshly green;

And the wood-anemone is out in the shade,

With its blushing petals which too soon fade;

Once more the bracken is unfurling there,

And bluebells gently perfume the damp air."

- Veronica Ann Twells, *Maytime*

A Thank You Note*

Dear "Ministry of the Prayer Shawl"

I came to Lakeville after World War II - 1945. I was married to Rodney Aller whose family had a long history in our church. Dr. John Calvin Goddard was minister for over 40 years. He raised 8 children in our Parsonage. His oldest daughter, Carrie, was my husband's Mother. My membership goes back 66 years.

I think one of the very nicest gifts I've ever received is what I found in our small mail boxes here at Geer...is the "prayer shawl" and the note and the poem sent by you. It reminds me of the years of activities; superintendant of the Sunday School for 18 years, meetings of "Up-Keep," Church Women United.

Joy and Love that flows from above and around, through the Spirit, , and the joy, peace and love that is your special gift that you now share with us.

Love, Mary Claire Ullram

**I received this lovely handwritten note from Mary Claire after leaving a prayer shawl for her with the receptionist at Geer Village - she was out the day I was there.*

Pastor Diane

Remember, if you're no longer knitting or crocheting but would love to be part of a prayer shawl, please bring your yarn to church and there will be space allocated to receive your generous yarn offerings.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

We are now officially on Facebook. Visit our new site listed as Congregational Church of Salisbury. This is a great way to share information about events happening in our church community.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP WILL CONTINUE

The Lenten Book Discussion Group has decided to continue reading and meeting - though not as often. Our next book will be, *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ*, by Philip Pullman. From Publishers Weekly:

This gospel retelling is relatively faithful in style, time line, and events to the four canonical gospels-though Pullman injects a very Pullman-like spin on it by splitting Jesus Christ into two men, among other creative twists. Twin babies are born of the virgin Mary, one called Jesus, the other Christ. After a childhood in which Christ is a goody-

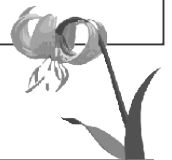
goody and Jesus the popular one, Jesus and Christ continue down separate but intertwined paths, with Christ sneaking around, spying on Jesus's ministry and writing down his every word and deed. Jesus becomes a philosopher-revolutionary and Christ is the politically savvy brother, who ultimately proves naive. Pullman's gospel version reveals how the politics and structure of the institutional church were plotted by power-hungry men, who used the renown of Jesus and his well-meaning, devoted brother Christ as pawns in their corrupt game-a critique that will

be familiar to readers of His Dark Materials. This is a tale of (almost comedic) mistaken identity and good intentions gone horribly awry. Readers will find the parables, the Good Samaritan, healings, and the Sermon on the Mount, among other familiar scenes.

The book is available on Amazon for about \$8. We are checking with the Library to see if they can get multiple copies for us through the inter-library loan system. We will read the whole book and meet in early June to discuss it. Check with the church office or on our website for more information.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 - Worship & Communion & Church School 11:15 - Annual Meeting Part II	2	3 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	4 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	5 <i>National Day of Prayer</i>	6 12:00 - May Friendship Day, Christ Church Episcopal, Sharon*	7
8 10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Board of Trustees <i>Mother's Day</i>	9	10 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	11 10:00 - Prayer Group 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14 9:00-5:00 - CT UCC Spring Meeting in Naugatuck
15 10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Board of Christian Action 4:00 - Service of Installation of Pastor Diane with reception following*	16	17 7:00 - Bell Choir Concert at Geer Village	18 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	19 7:00 - End of Life Planning at Noble Horizons*	20 6:00 - Potluck Supper*	21 <i>Armed Forces Day</i>
22 10:00 - Worship & "Hurry on Down" 11:15 - Church Council 4:00 - Watoto Children's Choir*	23	24	25 10:00 - Prayer Group 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28
29 10:00 - Worship - No church school; crib/toddler care available	30 <i>Memorial Day</i>	31	Christian Family Week, May 2nd-8th * Article in this MHT			



DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER: FRIDAY, MAY 20TH

May Birthdays

- 1st Susan Bohlmann
- 3rd Tanya Tedder
- 5th Fischer Rydingsword
- 7th Steve Ohlinger
- 7th Robert Storm
- 7th Landon Good
- 9th Ella Rydingsword
- 10th Mary S. Robertson
- 12th Myles Crain
- 13th Scott Bok
- 13th Kyle Good
- 18th Roxanne Bok
- 19th Nancy Bridge
- 19th Jane Capecalatro
- 22nd Angus Palmer
- 24th Mickee Ongley
- 25th Georgia Blades
- 25th Wesley Filkins
- 28th Barbara Lankler
- 31st Lillian Curry

The **Board of Christian Action** would like to share some good news! The total in LaBonne's receipts for the month of March is \$4,462.68! After the total is verified, LaBonne's returns 1% of that amount, which is then donated to Owl's Kitchen. Thank you, and keep those receipts coming in!

