

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

May 2013



Pamela Wyeth, Editor



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

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

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



FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Parish Hall Renovation Project is nearing its conclusion, and the work of the Building Committee is evidenced by our beautiful new public space.

One of the early missions of the Building Committee was to mirror the simple elegance of the Meeting House in the new parish hall, while adding a wee bit of gentrification. I am hoping that everyone agrees that we have accomplished that goal.

However, we're not finished yet. The cork floor and new rug for the stage have yet to be installed; the grills on the north-facing windows are being reviewed; the new lights for the stage are being considered;

the stainless steel counter tops in the kitchen have yet to go in; and the globes for the lights in the entryway need installing; and then there will be the inevitable "punch list." More to come, but the essential style is there for all to see. Please go try out the hand dryers in the new bathrooms!

All in all, with a budget of \$510,000, as delegated by you the congregation last June, it appears that we will end up slightly below this monetary level. It's been a great project with wonderful participation from all concerned. It's truly a Congregational Parish Hall.

Ward Belcher

Progress!



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If you can't come in person, be sure to check out the on line gallery of photos that's been chronicling the renovation. You'll find a link on the home page of the church's website.



Growing in Faith Together



The Lord said to Moses: You shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, given in order that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you. You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. (Exodus 31:12-14)

When you receive the May issue of *The Meeting House Times*, Joe and I will be on vacation in California. As I write this, I am looking forward to our time away with anticipation of much needed rest, relaxation, exercise and fresh air.

My favorite definition of Sabbath is *any special day of prayer or rest*. God commanded Moses, and therefore us as well, to pay attention to the importance of having time set aside in our lives to rest from our labors.

God said that by this rest we would know that we were sanctified. Sanctify is a verb that means “to make holy; set apart as sacred; render legitimate; to entitle to reverence or respect; conducive to a spiritual blessing.” God’s promise is that if we take the time for special days of prayer or rest that God will bestow His blessings upon us. God wants us to pause every once in awhile and ponder what is good and gracious in our lives. Most people would say that they do a good job of obeying the ten commandments, though I do think this fourth one is perhaps most challenging for us. We have no trouble understanding that we must not kill or covet or worship idols – but setting aside a day for prayer? This goes against our sensibilities of busyness as a hallmark of success. For many of us, stopping or even slowing down once a week, seems old fashioned. We are on the move, attending to the many tasks that make up our lives. I am hoping to use my time away to deliberately pause and reflect on God’s presence in my life. I particularly cherish the opportunity to do this outside, in the magnificent geography of California.

I invite you, during this beautiful month of May, to give yourself the gift of Sabbath. Commit to a particular time each week (maybe start with an hour or two) when you will turn to God and simply bask in the glory of being one of God’s beloved creatures. This is a great practice to develop as a family.

As we continue our sermon series on Virtues and Values, pay attention to developing the virtue of patience and the practice of prayer. We will continue to explore ways that we can “Live Our Values Everyday” and practicing Sabbath is one of those habits that will only enhance your life as it becomes a part of who you are.

I will hold all of you in my prayers as I travel and I look forward to my return to this beloved community.

Wishing you peace on your journey,

Pastor Diane

Email: pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org

PENTECOST CELEBRATION AT TRINITY LIME ROCK

Sunday, May 19th at 10:00 a.m.

Mark your calendars for our joyful, joint service to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. This will be our third Pentecost Service with our neighbors from St. John’s Episcopal Church and Trinity Lime Rock Episcopal Church. Trinity will host us this year and everyone is invited to come to the 10:00 service, wearing something red. The choirs will join voices and the children will participate in the service (no Sunday school). There will be no service in our Meeting House this day.



SERMON SERIES ON VIRTUES AND VALUES CONTINUES THROUGH MAY

Join us for Sunday worship throughout the months of May and June as we explore the virtues and values that govern our lives. Learn how to incorporate your faith into your daily life by developing habits that feed your soul. Let the fire of the Holy Spirit come to rest on your head this Easter season as you come alive to your faith.

BRINGING GOD’S LOVE TO OUR NEIGHBORS

Each month Pastor Diane leads worship at Noble Horizons (second Sunday at 2:00) and Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation (5th Friday at 2:00). The services are simple, usually a modified version of our Sunday service, lasting about 40 minutes. The residents of both facilities welcome visitors (especially those who can lend their voices to our hymns). If you would like to attend and spread some cheer – please let Pastor Diane know.

Save the Date!

DREAMING, PLANNING AND TRAINING

Saturday, June 8th in our Parish Hall

Please mark your calendars for a special event being held from **9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 8th**. We will gather to continue our conversation on the future of our church, to define our vision and mission and to make plans for moving forward.

Everyone who has an interest in the life of the church is invited. This is a particularly important session for people who are new to committees or leadership roles. We will use the “World Café” format of small and large group discussions. Lunch will be provided for those who would like to stay after noon. Pastor Diane will facilitate.

UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY CTUCC AND/OR SILVER LAKE

You will find links on our church website to flyers
and event descriptions for all these:
www.salisburycongregational.org.



❖ Silver Lake Adult Work Day (new!) - May 4th

Join the Silver Lake Board of Directors to help get the property ready for summer, share fellowship and food, and enjoy a spring day at the Lake. No experience needed -- just bring work gloves and energy! Event link available.

❖ Silver Lake Open House (new!) - May 5th

Open House at Silver Lake Sunday, May 5th, 2:00 -4:00 p.m. Come and check us out! Event and flyer links available.
RSVP to jennc@ctuucc.org

❖ 3rd Annual Youth Revival - "HERE 2 DECLARE" - May 10th

Save the date and plan to join us for the 3rd Annual CTUCC Youth Revival! Gather at United Congregational Church of Bridgeport with friends from all over the state for lively music and powerful faith stories by youth speakers. Rev. DaVita McCallister, ACM for Youth and Young Adults will be preaching. Worship begins at 7:00 p.m. Event and flyer links available.

❖ On the Edge of Fire: A Father and Son Retreat - May 17th - 19th

Dads with sons age 14 and older are invited for a weekend of outdoor bonding. The cost is \$350 per father and son pair. Sign-up, events, flyer, and registration links available.

❖ Choir Day Event (new!) - May 25th

Announcing an exciting event for all churches, music ministries, and choir members to come out to Silver Lake on May 25th and join this inter-church initiative. Join us in the sacred practice of singing praise, trying out music of different styles, and working with two different leaders, and let's see what we can bring to the Fall Annual Meeting to celebrate with! Event and flyer links available.

A gift for Mom

The three young children told their mother that she wasn't to lift a finger on Mother's Day. They were going to do all the cooking. So, they got out three pots, two frying pans, six measuring spoons, three mixing bowls, a double boiler, a chopping board and eight serving dishes. Mom said it was the best Jell-O she had ever tasted!

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ACTION



In addition to organizing the Global Crafts Fair, Crop Walk, and Giving Tree at Christmas, the Board of Christian Action is responsible for carrying out the mission of the church in the wider community - locally, nationally, and internationally. The funds are provided by the generous support of the congregation through the Every Member Canvass, the careful stewardship of the investment accounts conducted by the Trustees, and the proceeds of the Fall Festival.

This year the Board decided to support projects and organizations that focus on children and teens, on education, and on victims of domestic violence. They recently voted to make the following donations:

- \$5,000 to Silver Lake camp
- \$1,000 to EXTRA's enrichment program at Salisbury Central School
- \$500 to SOAR's after-school program at Salisbury Central School
- \$500 to HVRHS for an alcohol-free "Project Graduation" party
- \$500 to Housatonic Day Care
- \$500 to Grace Smith House which aids victims of domestic violence
- \$500 to sponsor a child from Grace Smith House to attend Silver Lake camp
- \$1,000 for two future dinners at the Bridgeport United Church of Christ
- \$1,000 to sponsor two children from Bridgeport to attend Silver Lake camp
- \$500 to Chore Service
- \$500 to SVNA
- \$500 to Operation Fuel
- \$500 to Simply Smiles for tools for a summer project at the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota
- \$500 to Holly Tierney, who is interning in India at a school for children with cerebral palsy, for special equipment
- \$100 to mulch town trees in Salisbury and Lakeville as an Arbor Day church project

These donations are made possible by the generosity of the members and friends of our church. Thank you!

Jeanette Weber, Board of Christian Action

God writes spiritual Mysteries on our heart,
where they wait silently for discovery.

- Rumi

FROM THE DEACONS

"In the time of your life, live – so that in that good time there shall be no ugliness or death for yourself or for any life your life touches. Seek goodness everywhere, and when it is found, bring it out of its hiding place and let it be free and unashamed.

Place in matter and in flesh the least of the values, for these are the things that hold death and must pass away. Discover in all things that which shines and is beyond corruption. Encourage virtue in whatever heart it may have been driven into secrecy and sorrow by the shame and terror of the world. Ignore the obvious, for it is unworthy of the clear eye and the kindly heart.

Be the inferior of no man, or of any men be superior. Remember that every man is a variation of yourself. No man's guilt is not yours, nor is any man's innocence a thing apart. Despise evil and ungodliness, but not men of ungodliness or evil. These, understand. Have no shame in being kindly and gentle but if the time comes in the time of your life to kill, kill and have no regret.

In the time of your life, live – so that in that wondrous time you shall not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite delight and mystery of it."

– William Saroyan, *The Time Of Your Life*
– submitted by Chico Aller



BELL CHOIR

The Bell Choir has concluded its 37th Season with concerts at Noble and Geer Village on April 2nd. These concerts included four new selections ready to share with the congregation in the fall.

During the holiday season this past year the choir participated in The Hanging of the Greens Service at the Salisbury School and a benefit concert for the Goshen Congregational Church. In addition to the Christmas Concert at church and an extended prelude to the Christmas Eve Service the choir played concerts at The Church of St. John's in the Wilderness in Copake Falls and Geer Village.

Bell Choir members included Jo Loi, Betsy Beck, Karin Noyes, Sue Spring, Gordon Whitbeck, Steve Ohlinger, Larry Burcroff, Eric Chin, Jennifer Weigel, Wayne Gaynor, new member Emily Bartram and long time substitute, Heather Davidson.

Bell ringing demands complete commitment from its members. I am grateful for their time, their joyous spirit and enthusiasm as we share this special music-making together.

– Mary Davidson, Director

CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTS

Several sociological factors are affecting grandparents' role. Because families are spread out geographically, "long-distance grandparenting" is now common. On the other end of the spectrum, many grandparents are actually raising their grandchildren.

Despite modern-day challenges and changes, grandparents are more important than ever for providing kids with a sense of history and heritage. Whether through social media and Skype or special outings and storytelling, the older generation has a variety of avenues for connecting with grandkids.

In the process, grandparents can share their Christian faith. "One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4, NIV).

TABLE FOR FIVE ... *Thousand!*

The Sunday School and Friends will present "Table for Five ... *Thousand!*" on **Sunday, May 12th**, during morning worship. This musical play, written by Tom S. Long and Allen Pote, tells the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

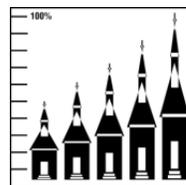


Five thousand men, plus women and children, had gathered on a grassy hillside to hear Jesus preach. As evening approached, they were hungry but there was no pizzeria or deli nearby. The only food available belonged to a young boy - just five barley loaves and two fish. From this small offering, all were fed. Not only that, there were twelve full baskets of leftovers!

Martin Coperhaven, one of my favorite UCC Stillspeaking authors, writes: "We tend to devalue small things. Jesus never does. Instead, he points to the power in small things that we might so easily overlook. The Realm of God is like a mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds, which grows to be a tree large enough that birds can call it home. The pinch of yeast that leavens the whole loaf. The scrap of bread you brought with you to the hillside that is used to feed five thousand - if you offer it, but only if you offer it."

Please join us on May 12th as we share this story with you.

Barbara Collins, Coordinator of Christian Education



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MONTHLY REPORT

To date pledges total \$718,141.79 with \$546,716.79 already received. As you know, we will be having the organ digitized this summer and will need funds to pay for this.

We are, therefore, asking those individuals with outstanding pledges to keep sending in checks so that we can get this expenditure taken care of without borrowing from the endowment.

Thank you all so much!

– Ted Sands, Chair, Capital Campaign

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>10:00 - Worship & Communion & church school; crib/toddler care available. OWL's Kitchen collection.</p> <p>11:30 - ANNUAL MTG. PART II</p> <p>3:00-Litchfield North Assoc. Annual Mtg., Winchester Ctr. Congregational Church</p> <p>2:00 - 4:00 - Silver Lake Open House</p>		7	<p>7:30 - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6:00 - Trustees Meeting</p> <p><i>National Day of Prayer</i></p>		<p>Silver Lake Adult Work Day *</p>
	6		8	9	10	11
			<p>7:30 - Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>3rd Annual Youth Revival, Bridgeport*</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>10:00 - Worship & church school; "Table for Five Thousand," children's presentation at Worship*; crib/toddler care available.</p> <p>11:30 - Bd. of Christian Action</p> <p><i>Mother's Day</i></p>	13	14	15	16	17	18
			<p>7:30 - Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>Father and Son Retreat, May 17th - 19th, Silver Lake *</p> <p>5:00 - Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>4:00 - Scoville Wedding</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>10:00 - Joint Pentecost Service at Trinity Lime Rock - No church school or toddler care.</p> <p><i>Pentecost</i></p>	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<p>12:00 - Women's Brown Bag Lunch</p>		<p>7:30 - Choir Rehearsal</p>			<p>Choir Day Event, Silver Lake *</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>10:00 - Worship; crib/toddler care available.</p>	27	28	29	30	31	
	<p>Memorial Day Parade</p> <p><i>Memorial Day</i></p>		<p>7:30 - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5:30 - Deacon's Meeting</p>	* Information in this MHT	

DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER: SATURDAY, MAY 18TH



May Birthdays

1st Susan Bohlmann	18th Roxanne Bok
3rd Tanya Tedder	18th Ellie Wolgemuth
5th Fischer Rydingsword	19th Jane Capecelatro
7th Steve Ohlinger	22nd Angus Palmer
7th Robert Storm	24th Mickee Ongley
7th Landon Good	25th Georgia Blades
9th Ella Rydingsword	25th Wesley Filkins
10th Mary S. Robertson	28th Barbara Lankler
12th Myles Crain	30th Will Mulder
13th Scott Bok	31st Lillian Curry
13th Kyle Good	

PROJECT GRADUATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Housatonic Valley Regional High School will hold graduation on **June 19th** this year. Salisbury Congregational Church has joined the community in supporting Project Graduation, a post-ceremony party for the students to be held at the school.



Project Graduation tentatively will start with check-in around 9:00-9:30 p.m., and activities will take place throughout the night until about 6:30 the next morning with a breakfast.

Volunteers are needed to help staff the various rooms/activities, including the game room, movie room, and to help serve food.

Also, donations of gift cards for raffle prizes are appreciated.

If you can help, please contact Matt Harnett, HVRHS principal, at Mharnett@hvrhs.org

- Pastor Diane