

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

October, 2009



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

Pamela Wyeth, Editor

Homecoming Sunday

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CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS

The Deacons provided a splendid welcome back breakfast for returning church school families on Sunday, September 13th. What a delicious and hospitable way to begin another school year! Thank you, Deacons.

The children had a chance to meet their teachers and leaders -

Stephanie and Holly Tierney, Judy Stewart, Theresa Carroll, and Cynthia LaPier - and Sue Ritchie told us about the CROP walk. Thank you, Rebecca, Ellie and Olivia for showing us that it's a lot easier to turn on a faucet than to carry water in heavy jugs.

Church School classes for children from Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 5 will be using *The Whole People of God* curriculum, which is based on the three-year cycle of Scripture readings from the Common Lectionary, Revised. As we begin Unit I, "Come Join the Circle," we are just over halfway through the Season after Pentecost and nearing the end of year B. The color of the Season after Pentecost is green, symbolizing growth. We are celebrating the growth of the church after Pentecost and exploring what it means for us to grow and live out our faith, following Christ's example in our world.

A wonderful group of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders have begun instruction for Confirmation which will take place in May. Barbara Collins and Pastor Steve Austin will be the teachers.

Barbara Collins
Coordinator of Christian Education

Sue Ritchie explains how heavy water is for people in third world countries to carry.



Deacons Breakfast



Change...the Naughty Word



Many people have asked me, "How are people reacting to all the change?" "Positively," I've responded. I do question, however, whether the descriptor "*all* the change" might be an exaggeration.

Most people who have spoken to me have tended to be the ones wanting those changes. They seem to be a crowd that has been waiting, perhaps praying, for certain elements of change and growth to take place in their surroundings, their experience, their ministries. In their perception - perhaps even in reality - those changes are beginning to happen.

So what about those folks who *don't* necessarily want change? Those "other" voices, quiet or otherwise? What are we to make of those who do not support change (or hesitate to embrace it) and hold on to tradition as they understand it? What about those congregation members who feel they must resist the trends toward deconstructing their experience of worship and faith, fearing that it will only be *reconstructed* with what some would describe as post-modern or (worse) 'alternative' expressions? What do we say to these supposed protectionists?

I say, thank God for them.

The very nature of change is often controversial, sometimes even adversarial, and can promote a dichotomy of both support and disagreement, of both enthusiasm and antagonism. We should not be afraid of these seemingly conflicting elements of change or transition, as they are not only *normal* - they are *healthy*.

Times of change are often referred to as "the days when the devil plays," and this concept is in truth a two-faced paradigm, a paradox of sorts. On one hand, those who engage the anticipated change with excitement and a sense of renewed purpose view those who don't as stagnating the church and holding back the hand of God or progress. But those who *don't* welcome such change often fear that the integrity of our faith, our systems of belief, and our valued traditions may wane - as relativism scours our nation and cynicism plagues our churches in this country and in our generation.

Both perspectives are neither fully right nor fully wrong - but both, definitely, are needed. Neither is able to fully capture the truth of what, finally, the church will look like

once a period of transition is completed. But neither, I would propose, is able to *see* that truth clearly without giving consideration to the other's perspective. Very often it is the balance, and collaboration, between the two that brings about the best of results.

I think it may be inevitable that change and transition will happen wherever it is truly wanted, though sometimes on a much different timetable than those who are eager for it. We know this even when studying secular history. But the most healthy - and, indeed, the most godly - of changes in the church setting are those in which the old and the new are somehow both given honor, both held in "healthy tension." The traditional is shown respect for what it has offered up until now, and new ideas are considered and eventually embraced with energy and a sense of expectation - and both merge to take on a whole new life and expression.

And to that end, may we forge on... for if we are sure of nothing else regarding the will of God, we can be sure of this: that showing one another love and respect - and preference - *is* God's will...as it is our mandate as followers of Christ.

Pastor Steve

Email: rev.steve@salisburycongregational.org
Blog: <http://salisburycongregational.wordpress.com>

Mark your calendars

CONGREGATIONAL DIALOGUE SESSION V

**"SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS II:
THE QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR
NEXT PASTOR"**

**BE SURE TO PLAN ON JOINING US
SUNDAY MORNING, NOV. 15 @ 11:30 A.M.,
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE,
FOR OUR NEXT DIALOGUE SESSION.
WE WILL DISCUSS THE STRENGTHS AND TRAITS
YOU DESIRE IN YOUR NEXT PASTOR,
AND THE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE
HE OR SHE WILL NEED
TO LEAD YOU EFFECTIVELY INTO YOUR FUTURE.**

**YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE !
...AND WE WON'T WANT TO MISS YOU !**

Are you the type who likes to dress up for church?
Well, how about REFORMER dress up?

REFORMATION SUNDAY October 25

Come to church dressed as your favorite biblical
or historical character.

And if you're really daring,
put together a short mini-bio of your character
to share with the church prior to our
"March of the Saints"
parade that will conclude the service.

This will be a unique opportunity
to learn from each other
in both a worshipful and fun environment,
to celebrate the historical Church,
and honor those who gave of themselves
to make it what it is today.

Don't miss out...
come dressed up!



Report from the Board of Trustees

Larry Blades has drafted a new form agreement and fee schedule for anyone wishing to use the parish hall for an event. After consulting with other area churches to review their policies, Larry has put together a straight-forward agreement usable for any event. Final review by the Trustees will take place within the next month or two.

Long range planning for a capital budget continues. Ward Belcher and Jack Ritchie started the process by itemizing all potential capital improvements anticipated over the next ten years. Now they are getting estimates of potential cost for such expenses as replacement of the twenty year old parish hall roof.

The Trustees are currently deliberating next year's budget. Members of the congregation will receive the proposed 2010 budget in the mail two weeks prior to the November 1st Annual Meeting.

We are grateful to John Arnold for all his work on the budget, and to Larry, Ward, and Jack for looking for ways to make us more efficient and to prepare for the future.

Sue Morrill, For Board of Trustees

Musical Interlude

October 9th at 7:30 - The Galliard Chamber Players, presented by the Salisbury Association: Judy Dansker, oboe, Patricia Spencer, flute, Laurie Friedman, clarinet, Todd Low, viola, and Christopher Oldfather, piano, playing works by Mozart, Loeffler, Bartok, Britten, Gershwin, SaintSaens, and others. Tickets are \$15 and reservations can be made at 435-0566.

October 23rd at 7:30 - Al Sly Concerts presents the final in a series of concerts honoring Wanda Landowska. Six young people from CT and MA will play music from the Baroque era on piano and/or harpsichord, with comments from Cori Ellison, dramaturgist of the New York Opera Co. This is a free concert, and all are welcome.



Prayer Group Workshop

The Prayer Group will be offering a workshop on Prayer and its meaning for us today sometime in the upcoming weeks during the 2nd Hour study after worship.

Should we pray? Why should we pray? Do you pray?

We will examine together what the Bible teaches us about Prayer, and also look at what science tells us; so that we can begin answering the *Why?*, *How?* and *When?* questions concerning Prayer. Exact date will be determined soon - so look for the announcement.

From the Prayer Group



IT'S A PARTY!

THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED
TO PASTOR STEVE'S NEW HOME
FOR AN OPEN HOUSE PARTY
SUNDAY OCTOBER 25

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

55 Lime Rock Rd. • Lakeville

** Beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be served **

Tuesday, October 20 ~ Submission deadline for November newsletter



Fall Festival

Columbus Day Weekend

Friday, October 9th ~ Saturday, October 10th ~ Sunday, October 11th

Friday & Saturday ~ 9 am - 4 pm; Sunday ~ 11 am - 4 pm

By the time you read this, the Fall Festival will be almost upon us. As always, your participation is crucial to making this weekend a success. Are you already signed up to be part of a particular activity? Please don't wait to be asked; contact **Jenn Good (435-4710)** and she'll be happy to suggest where you can help. Or call the following activity organizers directly:

Country Kitchen: Linda Estabrook 824-5896; She will be needing all sorts of home-made goodies for fairgoers to buy and enjoy.

Treasure Trove: Barbara Collins 435-0051

The Café: Janet Kaufman 435-1350 and Steve Austin 435-2442

Hot Dog Tent: Roseanne Lamson 435-0053

Silent Auction: Sara Wardell 435-4902

Saturday Street Fair and Children's Activities: Cynthia LaPier (413) 229-0180 and the Youth Fellowship

Global Crafts: Peg Heck 435-2977, Susie Belcher 4435-3049

Decorations: Debbie Mark 435-0468, Sarah Rydingsword 435-9479

Greeters: Jane Capecelatro 435-2359

And the CCS **Famous Fudge** is back; the Tuesday evening confectioners will be under the watchful eye and capable direction of fudge-maker Jeanette Weber 435-4804.

This year we will again take advantage of the increasing number of Sunday activities (and the many people in town) by opening three of our activities on Sunday from noon to 3:00 the Treasure Trove, the Country Kitchen, and the Global Crafts room will be open for sales. And as in years past, the Global Crafts will remain open on Sundays in the church parlor through the first weekend in December.

Mike Fitting (413) 229-2917 is in charge of setting up on Sunday afternoon, October 4th. There will be two takedown sessions: Saturday afternoon, the 10th, at 4:00, and Sunday afternoon at 3:00. Strong backs and arms are needed both times.

And for those who can't be with us that weekend but who want to help, **we always welcome financial contributions to help underwrite the many costs involved.** Every dollar that we don't spend is another dollar that goes toward the good works our proceeds make happen. You may send a check to the Congregational Church Fall Festival, PO Box 392, Salisbury, CT 06068. Many thanks!

Remember to invite family and friends to all that's going on this weekend. It's a special time to celebrate the wonderful talents of our church neighbors, plus many of the businesses in the village.

Questions? Please contact any of the Fall Festival Committee. It's time to get involved!

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Chairman:</i> Lee Collins | 435-0051 |
| <i>Coordinator:</i> Mike Fitting | (413) 229-2917 |
| <i>Secretary:</i> Janet Kaufman | 435-1350 |
| <i>Recruitment:</i> Jennifer Good | 435-4710 |
| <i>Publicity:</i> Deb Pastore | 596-4090 |
| <i>Treasurer:</i> John Estabrook | 824-5986 |

Did you know....?

Columbus Day is celebrated throughout the Americas (North, Central, and South America) on the same day, although the celebration, and its reasons, varies widely.



In Hawaii, it is Discoverer's Day, combining Christopher Columbus's explorations with those of Captain James Cook, who charted the Hawaiian Islands and celebrated the ancient people and their culture. In most states in the U.S., Columbus Day is met with parades and salutes to Italian American Culture.

In Canada, Columbus Day is celebrated in conjunction with Thanksgiving. In most of Latin America, the Día de la Raza ("Day of the Race") celebrates the first encounter between indigenous people and Europeans. In Venezuela, the day is now known as "Día de la Resistencia Indígena" ("Day of Indigenous Resistance").

The church is the great lost and found department. ~Robert Short





FALL FESTIVAL GLOBAL CRAFT BOUTIQUE

Once again this year, The Salisbury Congregational Church will host its **“Global Craft Boutique.”** The boutique showcases unique gifts, accessories and home décor from the nonprofit fair trade organization, **Ten Thousand Villages.** The organization markets hand-crafted products made by artisans from more than 130

artisan groups in 38 countries. Artisan partners thrive with the opportunity to build on traditional skills and expand their artistic vision in the creation of new crafts. Your fair trade purchase of handmade jewelry, home décor and gifts helps improve the lives of thousands of artisans in Asia, Africa, Latin American and the Middle East.

PLEASE COME SUPPORT THIS WORTHY CAUSE
AND DO SOME EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

BOUTIQUE HOURS

Friday & Saturday, OCTOBER 9TH and 10TH - 10AM - 3 PM
Sunday, OCTOBER 11TH 12 - 3 PM

The Boutique will also be open from 11:15 to 12 pm following Sunday worship services from October 18 - November 22, and then again on December 5th for *Downtown For The Holidays.*



For some years now I have read through the Bible twice every year. If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant.

— *Martin Luther*

Calling All Bakers and Makers

Once again this year, the Fall Festival's “Country Kitchen” needs your help. We need pies, cakes, cookies, breads, or any other type of baked goods, jams, jellies, and fudge.



We will be open to sell items on **Friday, October 9th and Saturday, October 10th,** and if there are leftovers, on **Sunday afternoon, October 11th.**

Items can be left at the Church on Thursday evening before 8 pm, and Friday and Saturday, before 9:30 am. They should be tagged with “Congregational Church,” since other churches and groups will also be bringing goodies for sale.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 824-5896. Early mornings between 7 and 8 am, or evenings between 6 and 10 pm are the best times to reach me

Linda Estabrook
Chairperson, Country Kitchen

A Special Hymn

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon; with great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

And then finally, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

He sat down.

The song leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn # 365: "Shall We Gather at the River."



October Birthdays



| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 6th | Clare Rashkoff |
| 6th | Al Sly |
| 9th | Mark Alexander |
| 9th | Alfred Richardson |
| 10th | Michele Hanlon |
| 12th | John Hoffman |
| 12th | Jano Fairservis |
| 13th | Vince Hanlon |
| 15th | Patricia Palmer |
| 15th | Carolyn Ronayne |
| 16th | Colin May |
| 20th | Duane Estes |
| 23rd | Trudy Allyn |
| 24th | Jennifer Kronholm |
| 25th | Anne Williams |
| 26th | Chico Aller |
| 27th | Nancy Sills |

If a birthday has been omitted, please email pamela@salisburycongregational.org

Special dates

- ♦ World Communion Sunday, October 4
- ♦ Columbus Day Observance, Monday, October 12
- ♦ Reformation Sunday, October 25
- ♦ Reformation Day, Saturday, October 31

Special request

Dick Carley wonders whether you'd consider recycling your packing materials in his direction. He needs things like packing popcorn, foam, bubblewrap, etc.

Open Discussion - Sunday, October 4th

In an attempt to both educate our congregation on the state of CT's transition from civil unions to marriage for same-gender couples, and to open discussion on updating our church's policy to reflect this change, the Deacons will be offering a Question and Answer time on this topic during an extended fellowship and refreshment time on Sunday, Oct. 4 in the Parish Hall. If you have questions, input, both, or simple curiosity around the topic, please plan to attend.

The Deacons of Salisbury Congregational Church

October Calendar

Sunday, the 4th:

Worship with Communion and Church School - 10:00
Open Discussion - 11:00
Board of Trustees - 11:15

Friday, the 9th: Concert

The Galliard Chamber Players - 7:30 (*see details on p.3*)

Friday - Sunday, the 9th - 11th

Fall Festival

Sunday, the 11th:

Worship and Church School - 10:00
Board of Christian Action - 11:15

Wednesday, the 14th:

Prayer Group - 10:00

Sunday, the 18th:

Worship and Church School - 10:00
Church Council - 11:15
Pastor & Choir at Noble Horizons Chapel - 2:00

Friday, the 23rd: Concert

Al Sly Concert - 7:30 (*see details on p.3*)

Sunday, the 25th: Reformation Sunday

Intergenerational Worship - 10:00
No Church School
Open House at Pastor Steve's - 2:00 - 6:00 (*see details on p.3*)

Wednesday, the 28th

Prayer Group - 10:00

The Board of Deacons will meet at the end of October. Check the website for a date & time.

Adult Choir rehearsals every Wednesday at 7:30

Bell Choir rehearsals every Thursday at 5:15

Please check the church's website for any calendar updates or changes that may occur.

Annual Meeting, Sunday November 1st

Note from the Editor:

The church occasionally sends out notices and reminders by email. If you are not getting them and would like to, we need your email address.

Please send it to pamela@salisburycongregational.org.

Cookies for Friends

Autumn is the perfect time of the year to sow kindness and reap a "harvest" full of friendships. Make this special treat to share with someone.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1½ cups diced, roasted almonds
- 1 cup chocolate pieces
- Raffia or fall-colored ribbon (optional)

What you do:

1. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
2. Beat in egg, pumpkin and vanilla.
3. In separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon.
4. Add dry mix to creamed mixture.
5. Add almonds and chocolate pieces; mix thoroughly.
6. Drop by teaspoons onto well-greased cookie sheets.
7. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
8. Cool on racks. Makes about six dozen.
9. Stack two cookies on top of each other. Then tie them like a present with the raffia or ribbon. Give the cookies to friends and family to thank them for their friendship.

The Ten Commandments

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."



A harvest of...

Autumn brings many visible changes. God makes lots of foods and grains ready for harvest. He also tells us that if we sow in peace, we, too, can raise a harvest.

Find and circle the bold (dark) words from James 3:17-18, NIV.

"But the **WISDOM** that comes from **HEAVEN** is first of all **PURE**; then **PEACELOVING**, **CONSIDERATE**, **SUBMISSIVE**, full of **MERCY** and **GOOD FRUIT**, **IMPARTIAL** and **SINCERE**. **PEACEMAKERS** who **SOW** in **PEACE** raise a **HARVEST** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**."

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| G | I | P | U | R | E | S | O | Y | C | E | S | E | F |

A table blessing for children

We thank you, God, for happy hearts,
for rain and sunny weather.
We thank you, God, for this our food,
and that we're all together. Amen.

