

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

December 2010

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

Pamela Wyeth, Editor

BLESSED EVENTS ABOUND!

SEARCH COMMITTEE BRINGS GOOD NEWS!

The Search Committee has unanimously and enthusiastically selected Rev. Diane Monti-Catania as our candidate for the ministry of our church. As you recall, in February 2010, the members of this church entrusted the Search Committee with the responsibility of selecting a candidate for your approval. This process included reading 57 UCC Ministerial Profiles, checking innumerable references, listening to recorded sermons of approximately a third of the candidates, and traveling to listen to several in-person sermons. We then interviewed a short list of four candidates, and after a second interview, unanimously selected Diane.

Although you will certainly have an opportunity to meet and get to know Diane, here is some general

information about her life's journey. Diane was raised in Ridgefield, Connecticut, pursued her undergraduate studies at American University in Washington, D.C., and received an MA in Education/Development from the University of Maryland. She had a distinguished career in the non-profit world, beginning as Director of Battered Women Services at the Women's Center in

Danbury; followed by Associate Director of Stamford's YMCA, and then as a consultant at The Advocacy Institute in Bridge-water working with various non-profit organizations on issues of strategic planning and development.



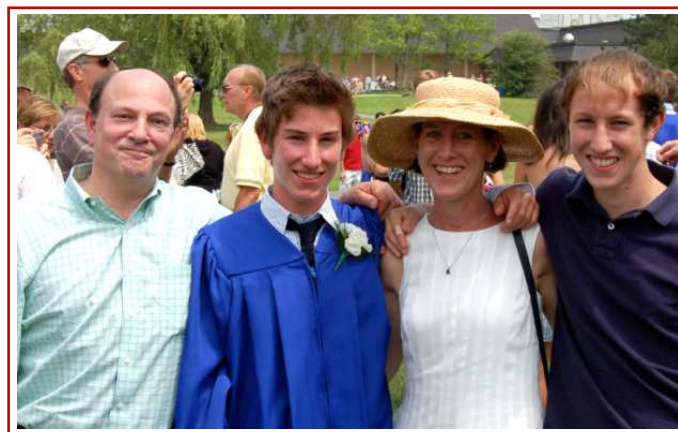
Diane Monti-Catania

Diane's spiritual path led her to become involved in Christian education and then to respond to a strong pull toward ministry. In 2003, she began her studies at Yale Divinity School and received a Master of Divinity degree in 2006. Since then, she has been the Associate Minister for Parish Life at Roxbury (Connecticut) Congregational Church. Diane has been married for

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What's Inside....

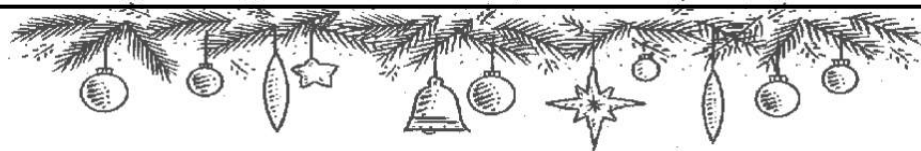
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Joe, Andrew, Diane and Joey Monti-Catania

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!





WHAT WE WANT FOR CHRISTMAS (IN OUR NEW PASTOR)

As we approach Christmas time with the backdrop of the exciting news coming from your search committee on Nov. 21st, I thought talking about your "wish list" for your new pastor would be appropriate. A

recent national survey was taken of church members across the country, researching what they felt were the ideal characteristics of a minister. The results interestingly, and alarmingly, showed that many of the traits identified were able to be paired up into what I would call "expectations in conflict" – traits which, by their very nature, are oxymoronic. For instance: our new pastor...

- is a dynamic preacher – and speaks no more than 7 minutes
- frequently condemns sin – but never upsets anyone
- works from 8:00 a.m. until midnight – and is also the church janitor
- makes \$60/week – wears good clothes, buys good books, drives a good car, gives \$80/week to the poor
- is 28 years of age – and has 25 years of ministry experience
- gives of him/herself completely – but never gets too close to anyone to avoid criticism
- speaks boldly on social issues – but must never become politically involved
- has a burning desire to work with teenagers – but

spends all his time with the elderly

- makes 15 daily calls to parish families; visits shut-ins and the hospitalized; spends most of his/her time evangelizing the un-churched; and is always in the office for drop-in appointments
- is a conscientious minister, ready and able to speak against sin, lead an administrative staff, and manage internal conflict – but is never confrontational.

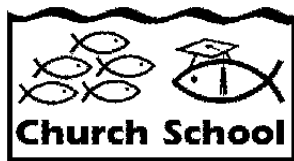
It may sound somewhat humorous and exaggerated, but it tells a story about the difference between *expectation* and *reality*. Nevertheless, many of those expectations still reside in the minds of some parishioners, unable to see how they represent a paradox that cannot be reconciled.

But for a moment, I'd like to take a different approach, and suggest what might be on *her* list of hopes and needs, as you jointly pursue a healthy pastor-congregation relationship. Among them might be...

- the church's faith and excitement regarding their future
- personal satisfaction in the job
- cooperation and collaboration among both staff and lay leaders
- support (in the forms of enthusiasm, energy and passion; active participation; creativity; positive attitude; social and family support; and prayer)
- a commitment to good communication
- a goal of attaining unity amidst diversity

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NEWS FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Board of Religious Education and those who volunteer in our church school are always looking for ways to make our children's church experience more meaningful and effective. Please help us plan for the future by considering this very important congregational question: **What do you think our young people should be learning and experiencing during their time with us?**

We want to hear from you. You may email your response to Barbara Collins (barb@leecollins.com), mail your response to Barbara at home (5 White Hollow Road, Lakeville), or fill out the form which you will find in your Sunday morning bulletin on December 12th and December 19th and place it in the offering.

Thank you in advance,

Barbara Collins, Coordinator of Christian Education

Search Committee Announcement *(continued)*

23 years to Dr. Joseph Catania, a general surgeon at Sharon Hospital since 2008. They have two sons, Joey, 20, a junior at American University, and Andrew, 19, a freshman at Villanova. Diane and Joe love hiking, gardening, and cooking.

Diane brings many gifts to our church – strong preaching, creative leadership, maturity and wisdom, compassion and a delightful sense of humor – all wrapped together and joyfully given to us! As one reference said, “Your congregation will be enriched by her deep faith, her wealth of experience in life and work, and her amazing ability to guide you in all the day-to-day work of ministry while holding before you a vision of what the Church is yet to become.””

The Search Committee very much hopes that you will come to the all-church reception on December 4th, from 2:00 - 4:00, where you will meet Diane and Joe in a more informal setting. We hope you will also attend the Sunday morning worship service on December 5th, which Diane will conduct, followed by a Congregational Meeting to receive a more detailed report from the Search Committee, to discuss the terms of the Call Agreement, and to vote on the recommendation to call Diane Monti-Catania as our new pastor.

Copies of the Call Agreement will be available after the vote in the Church Office. At press time, there has not been a specific date established for Diane's beginning her ministry with us, but it is anticipated that it will be soon after the first of the year.

We believe, as does Diane, that God has led us to an exciting moment in the life of our church. We very much look forward to your meeting Diane and joining with her in celebrating the good news!

The Search Committee

WITH GRATITUDE

TO PASTOR STEVE



Pastor Appreciation

Our church has been blessed by Steve Austin's interim ministry, and we could not possibly have gotten to where we are today without his patience, guidance, and vision.

This is a joyful time in our church because we have selected a candidate as our settled pastor, but let's also remember that Steve has been an important part of this search process and getting us to where we are. He helped our congregation transition from a time of feeling lost-at-sea, leading us through the invaluable discussions about where the church has been and where we want it to go.

Steve's help in gathering crucial information made it possible for the Search Committee to do its job. Look where we are now – about to select the first woman pastor in the entire history of this church!

We look forward in the very near future to celebrating Steve's ministry with us, as well as welcoming Diane. In the meantime, the Committee would like to shine a spotlight of gratitude on Steve for all that he has done! Many thanks, Steve!

The Search Committee



Every Member Canvass

Annual Stewardship Campaign

It is that time of year again. Thanksgiving is behind us and the Christmas season is upon us with all its many splendors. We are reminded that this is the season of gifts and giving, of joys and merriment, and of a child born in a manger who came to give us so much.

The Every Member Canvass recently went out asking you to give to our goal of raising \$160,000. It's a daunting amount, especially in these delicate times. I wish that there was some Christmas magic that would drop this large sum down our parish hall chimney. We could scoop it up and deposit it in the bank and be done with this task for another year.

I do believe in the magic and the miracle of Christmas, but I believe that the magic comes from within all of us. We are the ones who make magic happen because we believe in the mystery and the miracle of Christ. Which is why I believe that even in these challenging economic times we will make our goal of \$180,000 because you will all rise to this important occasion and give as much as you can.

Thank you for all that each of you do to make our church the blessed place that it is.

- Carol Magowan



**A REMINDER TO VISIT
THE
GLOBAL CRAFT BOUTIQUE**

Salisbury Congregational Church

The opportunity to purchase wonderful Global Crafts, with additions from SERRV, will be open to the whole community on **Saturday, December 4th from**

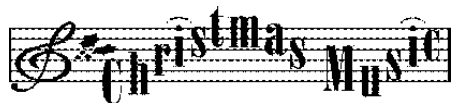


10:00 to 4:00 and Sunday, December 5th from 11:30 to 3:00 during Salisbury's Hometown Holidays. (SERRV is a nonprofit organization with a mission to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide.)

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to take advantage of the opportunity to purchase crafts from third world crafters.

Peggy Heck, Board of Christian Action

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God."
—C.S. Lewis



The choirs will be busy, as usual, this season. **The Bell Choir**, under Mary Davidson, will play for the "Hanging of the Greens" at Salisbury School on **December 3rd at 3:00**. They also will

play for the morning worship service on **Sunday, the 12th**, and at the **Christmas Concert that afternoon at 2:00**. There will be a Bell Choir concert at **Geer Village on Monday, December 13th at 7:00**, and they will play for the Christmas Eve service in the Meeting House.

The Senior Choir will head the **Christmas Concert on December 12th at 2:00**, singing four carols and Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and lead the congregation in many traditional carols. Soloists for the Vivaldi piece are members of the choir, directed by Albert Sly. They, too, will sing at the Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas eve.

You and your friends are cordially invited to attend any or all of these offerings.

**AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING**



Add someone to your Christmas list this year who doesn't "already have everything." In early December the **Christmas Giving Tree** will be set up in the Parish Hall. The ornaments on the tree list gifts for families in need.

On **Sunday, December 5th and December 12th**, members of the congregation who wish to participate should choose an ornament and purchase the gift indicated. The wrapped gift, *WITH THE ORNAMENT ATTACHED*, should be placed under the **Giving Tree** on or before **Sunday, December 19th**.

Our gifts will be given to families in Amenia and Millerton and to mothers and their children living in a shelter for abused women. Your past generosity to people in these stressful situations has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated!"

Jane Capecelatro, Board of Christian Action



**POT LUCK &
CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP**

There will be a potluck supper on **Friday, December 3rd, at 5:30** 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. There will be Christmas crafts to make and we will conclude the evening with a short Advent Candle Lighting service in the Meeting House.



Please join us for this evening of fellowship. There is no need to RSVP. Do you need a ride? Are you wondering if winter weather has cancelled the event? Give one of us a call: Barbara Collins (860-435-0051) or Sarah Rydingsword (860-435-9479).



You Are Cordially Invited. . .

The Search Committee very much hopes that you will come to the all-church reception on **Saturday, December 4th, 2:00 - 4:00**, to meet Diane and Joe Monti-Catania.

Please also join us for the **Sunday morning worship service on December 5th**, which Diane will conduct.



Neighbors in Need Helps Make Another World Possible

The Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering, which we will receive on **Friday, December 24th**, is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the U.S.

One third of the NIN funds support the Council of American Indian Ministries. Two thirds of the NIN offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives. In 2009 NIN helped support a progressive news publication for young people called *Indykids*. *Indykids* was founded in 2005 by a group of independent journalists, students, parents, teachers

and activists based in New York City. This group wanted to reach out to young people in grades 4 through 8 to help educate and inform them about issues of social justice, racism and human rights. This publication has become a vital current events resource for teachers, parents and students in more than 200 classrooms in 30 states across our nation.



Please give generously to support this important work.



At 6:00 on Friday evening, December 24th, we will gather for our traditional Service of Lessons and Carols. The Christmas gospel and prophecies relating to the birth of the Messiah will be read by members of our church family. Between readings we will sing carols and listen to musical offerings from our wonderful Senior Choir. The service ends with candlelight and joyful hugs. Plan to arrive early to hear the Bell Choir prelude.

During the service **children are invited to bring wrapped new toys forward during the offertory for the benefit of local children served by Salisbury Family Services.**

All Aboard the Christmas Caroling Bus Tour

On **Sunday, December 19th at 5:00**, we will board a bus to take the message of God's love at Christmas to our members and friends who are not able to get out of their homes for holiday activities. Singers and non-singers of all ages and abilities are invited to take part.



We will return to the parish hall at about 7:00 for our traditional giant sub sandwich.

This is a great chance to be together with friends while bringing the joy of Christmas to the hearts of others. Students home for the holidays are especially welcome for a time of reunion.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	2	3:00 - <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> , Salisbury School 5:30 - Advent Potluck Supper & Workshop	4 2:00 - 4:00 Reception to meet our new pastor and her family.	
10:00 - Worship led by Diane Monti-Catania & Communion and Church School 11:15 - Board of Trustees 11:30 - 3:00 - Global Crafts Boutique 7:00 - Lessons & Carols, Hotchkiss <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	5	6	7	8 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Christian Action 2:00 - Christmas Concert <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	12	13	14	15 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18
10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:30 - Christmas Pageant 5:00 - Christmas Caroling <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	19	20	21 <i>First Day of Winter</i>	22 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	23 5:00 - Rehearsal Lessons & Carols	24 6:00 - Christmas Eve Service <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 
10:00 - Worship Service <i>No Church School. Crib/toddler care will be available</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31  <i>New Year's Eve</i>	

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY'S NEWSLETTER: MONDAY, DECEMBER 20TH



- 4th Robert Haiko
- 6th Emma Visnapuu
- 11th Colin Maxwell
- 11th Taylor Maxwell
- 14th Sharon O'Connor
- 15th Alice Gustafson
- 16th Armen Babigian
- 17th Bob Palmer
- 19th Brad Haiko
- 25th Gavin Reed
- 28th Donald Reed
- 30th Sal Accardo

The hard-working ladies in the photo to the right served the large crowd after the recent memorial service for Bill Binzen. Many others prepared and provided the food. Our Hospitality Committee is responsible for organizing and serving at such receptions and other church functions. They are always looking for volunteers.



L-R: Sue Ritchie, Linda Estabrook, Barbara Collins, Laura Flores, Jane Capecelatro, Kathy Mera (Not pictured: Janet Kaufman, Theresa Carroll)

IN MEMORIAM

FREDERICK WILLIAM BINZEN

September 21, 1918 ~ November 1, 2010

What We Want For Christmas *(continued)*

- having room and respect for her personal life
- grace, patience and forgiveness for inevitable mistakes made
- a warm and welcoming congregation
- clear expectations of her duties
- a reasonable schedule
- open-mindedness and an openness to change and new things
- honesty and consistency
- a good and fair compensation package

Knowing my colleagues, I would expect that these lists are a fair representation of what your next pastor will also be hoping to find here at the S.C.C., that they will also be on *her* Christmas wish list. There is little I could add to these lists, except, perhaps, for this: I want to grow in my next church position – to grow *with* them, *because* of them, *besides* them. I want to learn new things about God, and myself, as a result of my interaction with them, and my ministering to them. And I want to be a different, better, stronger, and a more seasoned Christian from having known them. Finally, I hope to find a place that is willing to view church life *first* as a place of spiritual awakening, renewal and transformation.

As we compare wish lists this season, think also of those waiting to become a part of you after the new year. And be aware of your own. It is an exciting time for reasons both anticipated and unexpected...and it is both our joy and our obligation to make the absolute most of them.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Pastor Steve

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

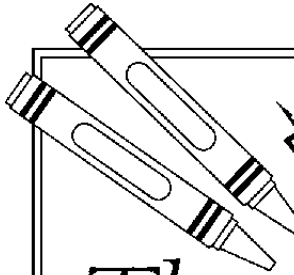


Church School Christmas Pageant

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH - 11:15

During Church School the children will be costumed as shepherds, angels, kings, and animals, and the annual **Christmas Pageant** will take place in the parish hall after morning worship. This informal but endearing retelling of the Christmas story takes about fifteen minutes and may be the most-photographed event of the church year! Extra hands to help costume the cast and help backstage are always welcome.

There will be no classes or activities for children on Sunday, December 26th and January 2nd, but crib/toddler care will be available for the littlest ones. Church school classes will resume on January 9th.




PUZZLE

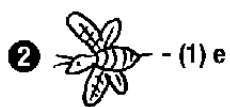
The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

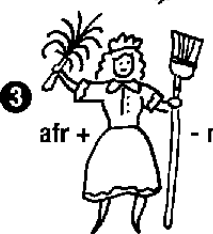
Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



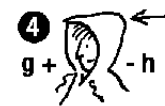
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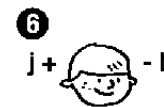
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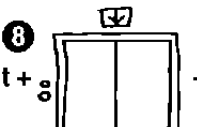
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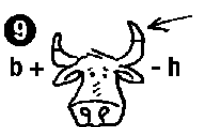
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6 j + - b



8 t + - d



9 b + - h

“Do _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____
 _____ 5 _____ of great _____ 6 _____ that will be for _____ 7 _____ the people.
 Today in the _____ 8 _____ of David a Savior has been _____ 9 _____
 to you; **he is Christ the Lord.**” Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. knot-k-not; 2. bee-(1)e-bee; 3. afr-maid-m-afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+door-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born
 “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11, NIV