

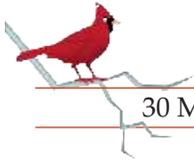
The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

February 2011

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



A FAREWELL & GODSPEED

AND A HEARTFELT WELCOME!



January was certainly an action-packed month! On January 9th, after two years as interim pastor, Rev. Steve Austin preached his final sermon at the S.C.C. At a reception following a moving "Ceremony of Departure," Steve said his good-byes to the congregation. We are grateful for his time with us and wish him success and joy wherever his path leads him.

On January 16th, we were blessed to welcome Pastor Diane Monticantania as the 16th Settled Pastor in the church's 266 year history.

Please visit the *Church Events* page on the website for additional photos from January 9th and 16th. Thanks to Tom Zetterstrom for many of them.



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



What a winter! Snow, ice, rain, cold...enough to make a person want to stay inside until the crocuses sprout. I have always believed that snow days are a gift from God – a gentle reminder that sometimes we have to sit still and stay home. My suggestion for you this month is that you embrace these winter days as an opportunity to bring some spiritual light into your lives. Reading is a natural activity to take up when we have quiet time on our hands. Why not read one of the great spiritual books as an exercise in prayer? I recommend any of the following:

Life of the Beloved or Return of the Prodigal Son, by Henri Nouwen;

The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer;

Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity Essays by Abraham Joshua Heschel by Susannah Heschel;

Out of the Ordinary by Joyce Rupp

When You Pray by Reuben Job

The Sanctuary of the Soul by Thomas Kelley

Actually, any books by the above authors provide spiritual insight and opportunities for prayer.

Another option, when you are stuck in the house, is to use your computer as a tool for prayer. There are countless websites that provide daily devotions delivered right to your email box. You can start each day with a prayer, a bible verse, and a reflection. Some of my favorites are:

Daily scripture and reflection from UCC writers group;

www.henrinouwen.org Daily quote from the Henri Nouwen Society;

www.renaissanceunity.org Daily Quote, Reflection and Prayer from Renaissance Unity

www.reminder@d365.org Daily bible quote and reflection from the Passport Project of the Presbyterian, Baptist and Episcopal Churches.

January 18th's quote from the Henri Nouwen website addresses the feelings many people have when they cannot leave their home:

Finding Solitude

All human beings are alone. No other person will completely feel like we do, think like we do, act like we do. Each of us is unique, and our aloneness is the other side of our uniqueness. The question is whether we let our aloneness become loneliness or whether we allow it to lead us into solitude. Loneliness is painful; solitude is peaceful. Loneliness makes us cling to others in desperation; solitude allows us to respect others in their uniqueness and create community.

Letting our aloneness grow into solitude and not into loneliness is a lifelong struggle. It requires conscious choices about whom to be with, what to study, how to pray, and when to ask for counsel. But wise choices will help us to find the solitude where our hearts can grow in love.

So, rather than feeling trapped by the cold, snowy weather, I invite you to thank God for the blessing of quiet time. Use your time inside to build your spiritual strength so that when the crocuses bloom you are ready to sing songs of praise and glory to the one who created it all.

Grace and Peace to you on the journey,

Pastor Diane

Email: pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org
Blog: <http://salisburycongregational.wordpress.com>



THANKS TO THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Members of the Hospitality Committee recently received a gracious note of appreciation for the refreshments following a memorial service, which reads as follows:

“Dear Heather,

We can't tell you how much it meant to us that you, Linda and Barbara came forward to provide refreshments for our mom's memorial service. It was a great relief to not have to worry about that when our hearts and minds were otherwise occupied. The cookies, sandwiches, goodies and drinks on lovely tables provided such a welcoming atmosphere for our friends and relatives to stay and reminisce about our mother. It was very comforting. We really appreciate all the time and effort you put into arranging it all.

With Warm Regards,

The Burgess girls: Jane, Sarah, Margaret and Carol”

Besides the committee names mentioned, about ten other of our church women helped with cookies and sandwiches, setting up and serving and cleaning up afterward. This note reminds us of the value of occasions such as this for grieving family and friends, and makes it all worthwhile.

Heather Schaufele, for the Hospitality Committee



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

The church school is sponsoring a **special drive for OWL's kitchen on Super Bowl Sunday, February 6th.**

Everyone is requested to bring a can of soup to church on that day. You will also have a chance to donate any coins you might be carrying to support this effort.

Last year we collected 64 cans of soup and \$64 for OWL's Kitchen. **Let's break that record!**



NOTE FROM UPSTAIRS

In order to avoid scheduling conflicts, it would be much appreciated if the church office is consulted before making any plans that will be using church facilities.

COMMUNICATION



One of the hallmarks of a strong congregation is good communication between the pastor and the people. Creating a culture of openness and dialogue is one of my top priorities during this early stage in our relationship.

I would like to invite you to join me, after church on the Sundays in February, to share your thoughts and dreams about our life together. We will meet informally in front of the fireplace during the latter part of coffee hour. All are welcome (including children)!

Another good way to stay in touch is by email. If you have an email address and have not been receiving emails from the church, please make sure the office has it on file.

I look forward to hearing from you. *Pastor Diane*



SPEAKING OF COMMUNICATION ...

In trying to gather into a list all the church-related resources available to facilitate communication between the church and its members and friends, we came up with quite a few.

- **DVDs** of scripture readings and sermons from most (not all) Sundays are in a large white binder in the parish hall and are available to borrow.
- A frequently updated **member directory** is available in Al Sly's office. If it's difficult for you to get to his office, I'm sure he'd be happy to mail you a copy.
- **Website.** Check the calendar, birthdays, any newsletter since February 2009, and pictures of various events, among other things.
- **Newsletter.** In addition to arriving in your mailbox, it's also available on the church website, usually before the printed copy arrives.
- **Email.** Notices are often sent out via email, so if your email address has changed or if we don't have it on our list, please let us know what it is.
- **CATV,** channel 6 for Comcast subscribers, airs videos of most sermons. There is no set schedule, however, so you'll have to check the program listings on their website: www.catv6.com. We're working towards having the videos also available through the church website.
- **Personal hearing enhancers** are available for services. Just ask one of the ushers.

We hope you will make use of any or all of these ways to stay in touch with the life of the church.

ANNUAL OPEN RECITAL OF AREA MUSIC STUDENTS

Sunday, Feb. 27th - 3:00 p.m



The Open Recital was born in 1970 as an idea presented before the Berkshire Hills Music and Dance Association Board. The aims were: 1) to give students an opportunity to perform; 2) to encourage students in their musical studies. We did not want this to be a competition and left the choice of the student up to the teachers.

Students from kindergarten through high school are eligible. They (solo, duo, group) are to be chosen based on their ability at their age, their technique and musicality. Students can not participate two successive years in order to give as many students this opportunity. All the music teachers in Region #1 and neighboring states are asked to participate, as well as teachers from the private schools and those who teach privately. Dance, added later, brings an added dimension to the recital.

This year will be the 30th **Annual Open Recital, taking place on Sunday, Feb. 27th at 3:00 p.m.** at the Salisbury Congregational Church. The Church has been the home for the Recital all these years with thanks to the invaluable support of Al Sly, the consummate teacher, who continues to this day to promote, encourage and guide young musicians. Without his steady hand, who knows if the Recital would be in existence today.

This February we will be celebrating with not only new performers but also with returning ones (one from as far as Hong Kong), many of whom have kept music alive professionally or as an avocation. We are also getting responses from past performers to the question: What role does music/dance play in your life today?

From the responses we've received so far, it appears that music continues in one way or another in their lives and then extends to their children. One cannot underline more the value of music/dance/arts education. It is a gift for a lifetime, allowing all to tap into the creative spirit within. And that is all made possible by the many teachers who have instilled the love for their craft through discipline, practice, technique and encouragement. Support from the parents is the third foot of that three-legged stool.

Come and support the participants. All artists need an audience. The program is free.

*Committee: Jo Loi, Judy Dansker, Annette Hunt, Al Sly
Linda Estabrook, Heather Schaufele*

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." - Martin Luther

COME, FOLLOW ME

What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? How can we transfer what we learn at church to our homes, our communities, and the world? How can we live in God's way? What would Jesus do?

In January, the Sunday School began a special unit entitled, "Come, Follow Me!" This theme will be our focus for the rest of the year as we explore the stories of Bible people whose lives were changed because they encountered Jesus - the shepherds, the wise men, Anna and Simeon, John the Baptist, the disciples, the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha. It will be so hard to pick and choose! We will also hear stories about people who have followed Jesus since Bible times, even up to the present day, including some of the members of our own congregation.

The Board of Religious Education wants to give the children opportunities to learn through a variety of hands-on activities, including music, movement, art, drama, photography, journalism, cooking, and carpentry. What is your special interest or expertise? You may just be the one we're looking for. Won't you volunteer one or two Sunday mornings of your time to give us a hand? You'll be glad you did.

Barbara Collins, Religious Education

ONE MORE THOUGHT...

Dear Pastor Steve,
Can you believe
two years have come and gone?
You leave behind a legacy for us to carry on.

May we be humble, seeking grace,
forever holding to our faith.
For all of this and so much more
We'll miss you passing through our door.

Remember Steve, now as you go
we pray your life be ever so;
all you practice and have preached
patience, love, abiding peace.

We're grateful for the road you chose
That brought you in amidst our throes.
In our hearts you will remain
and this shall be our firm refrain:

Change for us, no easy task,
brings harmony within our grasp.

*Representing the Board of Deacons, this was read
by Janet Kaufman at Pastor Steve's departure Sunday.*

SUMMER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR SILVER LAKE PROGRAMS

Registration for summer conferences at Silver Lake Conference Center, the Connecticut Conference's outdoor ministry in Sharon, is now open. Forty offerings include themes around music, swimming, sports, clowning, creativity, service, and more!

The very youngest conferees might spend their first week at camp with their parents and siblings in one of the Family Camp sessions, or with their mother in "Mom & Me," or even following the adventures of a fictitious friend in "Diary of a Wimpy Camp Kid." Fifth and sixth graders can lay aside the need to be "superperson" and be themselves in "True Selves, Capes Optional," or find the means and morals of a famous fantasy series in "Muggles and Wizards." Junior highs might spend "40 Hours in the Wilderness" learning about themselves and their world, or explore God's "AMAZING gRACE," or create a musical worship service during the week in "Sing Praise."

High schoolers can find both the energy of a rock star and the solid rock in "Rock



of Ages," create some of "Silver Lake's Funniest Videos," and glide through the water in "Questions, Commas, & Canoes." Those interested in returning as counselors can get special instruction and support in the "Counselor-in-Training" conference the week of June 26th. "Hammer and a Nail" conferees will travel to Orland, Maine, to help a local mission agency in its work with the rural poor. And at the end of the season, young people from Connecticut and from China will spend a week together exploring "New Horizons" of faith and friendship.

Regular weekly activities for Silver Lake conferees include creative daily worship, swimming (and climbing the inflatable "Mudge Mountain"), enthusiastic clapping and singing after great meals in the dining hall, conversations around

faith and life issues, group and individual challenges, running and shouting, the staff show, night hikes, and more. Friendships sprout quickly, and blossom into life-long relationships of deep trust and support. More than anything else, young people find at Silver Lake a sense of the sacred, and bring home with them the experience of God's presence in one place in the world, prepared to seek God further in other places, too.

Silver Lake has maintained the base price of a week-long conference at \$410 in order to lessen the burden on families in a difficult economy. Some conferences cost more because of their special activities. The true cost of a week at camp, however, is actually \$510, and the Conference Center is able to keep the price low because of the great generosity of Connecticut's UCC churches and members. Online registration, now open requires a \$150.00 non-refundable deposit. The church will offer families help with tuition costs, as it has in the past. For more information visit www.ctucc.org/silverlake or talk to Pastor Diane.

MAKING THE PARISH HALL MORE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

As part of an on-going examination of building maintenance and renovation needs, the Trustees have focused on ways to make the Meeting House and Parish Hall more readily accessible to all.

Preliminary drawings outlining placement and dimensions of both an elevator and a first-floor, handicapped-accessible bathroom for the parish hall will soon be ready for review. Long Range Planning Committee members, Ward Belcher, Larry Blades, Jack Ritchie, and Ted Sands, have been working with architect Christopher Vlcek to develop an initial picture of the space demands and costs of both projects.

Once the preliminary drawings are complete, the Trustees and the Congregation will have the information needed to evaluate the plans and decide how and when to proceed in this effort to make our church as welcoming and accessible as possible to all.

Sue Morrill, for the Board of Trustees

GATHERING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Communion is one of the most important parts of our worship experience. When we gather at the table to remember Christ's death and resurrection we are affirming our belief in the Christian story and recommitting ourselves as followers of Christ. We do this as a community to share our love of God and our love of neighbor. We are nourished at the table, by the bread and wine, to go out into the world and spread the good news.

Starting with the first Sunday in February, we will welcome the children of the church to the communion table. Rather than Sunday School, the children will join us for the entire worship service on each Communion Sunday. Our goal is twofold – one to give the children an experience of worship and two, to acknowledge the children as an integral part of our faith community. While there is much to be learned in Sunday school, there is also much to be learned by watching Christians in action.

I invite you to actively welcome the children of our congregation into our body as we work together to cultivate the future of our church.

~ Pastor Diane

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	2 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3	4	5
10:00 - Worship & Communion No Church School <i>Crib & toddler care available</i> 11:15 - Board of Trustees <i>SOUPer Bowl Sunday</i> <i>Boy Scout Sunday</i>	6 7	8 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00 - Prayer Group 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	10	11	12
10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Board of Christian Action	13 14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	17	18 6:00 - Pot Luck Supper	19
10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Church Council	20 21 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	22	23 10:00 - Prayer Group 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	24	25	26
10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Board of Deacons 3:00 - Annual Open Recital	27 28		African-American History Month			

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH



- 2nd Gabriella Gladding
- 2nd Sarah Gladding
- 3rd Adam Rashkoff
- 4th Don Buckley
- 4th Eric Chin
- 5th James Wiggins
- 8th James Habacker
- 8th Bruce McEver
- 9th Merrick Noyes
- 9th Hannah Ohlinger
- 12th Daniel Rashkoff
- 13th Ivy Curry
- 13th Jonathan Capecelatro
- 14th Rod Lankler
- 15th Laura Flores
- 16th John Merwin
- 17th Cynthia LaPier
- 18th Ashley Tedder
- 19th Jack Anderson
- 19th Mary Arnold
- 20th Jack Ritchie
- 21st Christina Rogers



- 24th Jim Filkins
- 24th Hope Fitting
- 25th Ginny Filkins
- 26th Stephanie Tierney
- 28th Cora Rydingsword

POT LUCK SUPPER Please note new time

There will be a potluck supper on **Friday, February 18th 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. Cartoons for the kids. There is no need to RSVP. Do you need a ride? Wondering about a cancellation due to winter weather? Give one of us a call: Barbara Collins (860-435-0051) or Sarah Rydingsword (860-435-9479).



PIECES OF LOVE



Send special reminders of your love by creating messages that people can assemble and enjoy.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft sticks
- Tape
- Permanent markers
- Scissors
- Zipped sandwich baggies

What you do:

1. Make a rectangle out of seven craft sticks by placing them next to one another, long side against long side.
2. Tape the sticks together.
3. Turn the sticks over and draw a special picture or message. You can include this Bible verse: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV).
4. Cut through the tape to separate each craft stick.
5. Put all the sticks in a baggie.
6. Give your special messages to family members, friends or teachers along with directions for viewing them.



A Love Letter

In the New Testament, John writes a letter about God's love and the love we should show to other people.

DIRECTIONS: Working from left to right, write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's. Then read about love, from 1 John 4:11-12, NIV.

lives 3	in 3	us 3	Since 1	and 3	God 1	so 1	loved 1	his 3
us 1	love 3	we 1	If 2	also 1	is 3	made 3	we 2	ought 1
to 1	love 2	love 1	one 1	complete 3	one 2	another 1	In 3	us 3
another 2	God 2							

1 John 4:11-12, NIV

Answers: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

WHICH WAY TO HEAVEN?

Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven."

The boy replied, "I don't think I'll be there... You don't even know your way to the post office."



"Glad you could make it. This congregation is very ecumenical."