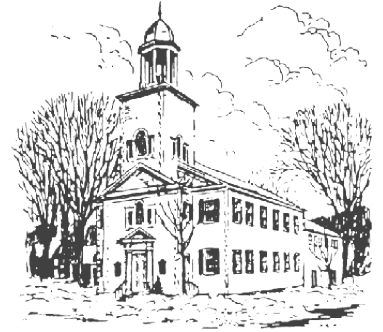


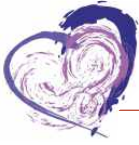
The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

February 2012



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!

**Bear one another's burdens,
and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ**

(Paul's letter to the Galatians 6:2)

**Fundraiser for Theresa Carroll
Saturday, February 25th, at 5:30 p.m.
Parish Hall
Salisbury Congregational Church**



Dear Church Family,

The Board of Deacons is organizing a **Fundraising Dinner** with live entertainment to raise money to assist Theresa Carroll and her family with costs associated with her care.

Please contact Cynthia LaPier, who is organizing food contributions for the event, if you can help in any way: (cynthia.lapier@gmail.com).

Please consider volunteering. Many hands make light work!

It should prove to be a great evening, so bring your family, bring your friends, and bring your good cheer! If you are unable to attend and would like to make a monetary contribution, please contact Pastor Diane.

As a Christian community, we journey together, supporting one another in times of hardship and celebrating together in times of joy.

May this day bring you blessings of God's abundant grace.

Pastor Diane

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER
Wednesdays during Lent, 6:45 - 7:15



Beginning on **Wednesday, February 29th**, we will continue our practice of joining for a time of prayer on Wednesday evenings during Lent. We will gather in the Meeting House at 6:45 and hear words of prayer, reflection and inspiration – interspersed with periods of silence. We will conclude at 7:15 with a musical benediction. All are welcome!

FIRST MONDAYS!

Starting on **Monday, February 6th**, the women of the church will gather to discuss the previous week's sermons, readings and any other spiritual issues that might come up. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us by the fireplace from noon – 1:00. Friends are welcome.



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Growing in Faith Together



BE STILL

In the silence that follows, I invite you to prepare yourselves to worship God.

These are the words at the beginning of our worship service each Sunday. After announcements and prayer concerns we spend a minute or two centering ourselves for worship. Ideally, during this brief time we are able to put

aside the pressures of our daily lives and simply open ourselves to God's presence. Ideally. In reality, one or two minutes are not enough time to prepare oneself for worship. This month, as we begin Lent, I invite you to consider other strategies that you might employ to prepare yourself.

The first and easiest tactic I suggest is to sit in silence when you enter the Meeting House. Each Sunday morning, our gifted musician Al Sly provides you with a prelude. All you have to do is rest in the beauty of the music and let the stresses of the week evaporate. Take a few deep breaths. Close your eyes. Invite God in.

A second, more involved approach is to prepare yourself at home. This is the one that I use. Get up a bit earlier on Sunday morning and find a quiet place to sit with your coffee. Read from the Bible or a devotional book and reflect on what the day's reading means to you. Choose a few words or phrases to use as "breath prayers" during the rest of the day. This approach allows you to arrive at church prepared for worship.

Another option might be reading the selected readings for Sunday ahead of time. The Sunday readings are most often selected by Tuesday and by calling the office, or sending me an email, you can find out what they are. Read them over and reflect on what the words mean to you. When you come to worship on Sunday, the readings will be familiar to you and perhaps you will experience them in a new way.

Lent is a season of preparation. Traditionally, people have given something up or adopted a new discipline as a way of preparing for Easter. This ritual can be helpful in drawing your attention to God in new ways. You will also have an opportunity for contemplative prayer on Wednesday evenings and book discussions on Thursdays during Lent.

Give yourself the gift of preparation. In the words of the psalmist, *Be still and know that I am God.*

Wishing you peace on the journey,

Pastor Diane

Email: pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22nd (Ash Wednesday). The next day we will start our Lenten Book Discussion on Francis Collins' compilation of essays, *Belief*. We will read one essay each week and discuss it on **Thursdays from 10:00-11:30** in the Parish Hall. The book is available from Amazon.com for prices ranging from around \$6.00 to \$13.00.

From Amazon: "Francis Collins, New York Times best selling author of *The Language of God* and renowned physician and geneticist, defends the reason for faith in this provocative collection. Collins is our guide as he takes us through the writings of many of the world's greatest thinkers -- philosophers, preachers, poets, scientists -- both past and present, including such luminaries as C. S. Lewis and Augustine, and unexpected voices such as John Locke and Dorothy Sayers. Despite the doubts of a cynical world, this essential companion proves once and for all the rationality of faith."

From the Introduction: "In the twenty-first century, many seem to have concluded that the spiritual experience and the life of the mind ought to occupy separate domains, and that disruptions, conflicts, and disenchantments will result if the firewall comes down. Surely humanity's ongoing search for truth is not enriched by such limitations. In the words of Socrates, the key to a fully mature and richly rewarding life, both for us as individuals and as a society, is to 'follow the argument wherever it leads,' unafraid of the consequences. If this collection of essays provides even a small encouragement in this direction for the seeker, the believer, or the skeptic, that will be gratifying indeed."

MISSION TRIP UPDATE

The contracts are signed. The plane tickets are reserved. The list of participants is growing. If you or someone you know would like to join us on the trip to Oaxaca, Mexico July 21st - 28th, please contact Pastor Diane. Visit www.simplysmiles.org and click on "downloads" for the volunteer guide. It will give you all of the information you might need about the trip.



Fundraising for the trip will start in March. We need the support of the whole congregation for this trip to happen. One of the important ways to help is sponsoring someone who is going on the trip. If you would be interested in providing scholarship assistance (partial or full) please contact Pastor Diane. The expenses, before fundraising, are \$1,400 per person for 15 people.

A signed agreement and \$500 deposit will be due on **March 1st** for all participants.



Photo by Desmond Sprague

The Meeting House, 1954

We have been blessed with a beautiful, Federalist-style church building which reflects the grace and simplicity of the Congregational approach to worshipping God. In our approach to good stewardship for this building and our endeavor to enhance the beauty of the structure, we have removed the yews which served as foundation plantings along the front and south side of the structure.

In making this decision, we were guided by the fact that foundation plantings were introduced in the Victorian Era (raised buildings being in style) and were generally not appropriate for classical Federalist structures. Certainly the design and workmanship in our building's foundation indicate that it was meant to be seen. In addition, I have a number of photographs of the church, dating from before the first addition and through the later additions, and there were no foundation plantings. And from a more practical standpoint, the yews were in bad shape and had become a high maintenance item.

To further simplify the church grounds, in the spring the garden will be modified to have mostly low maintenance woody plants (shrubs) and eliminate most of the high maintenance annuals. The bench will be reoriented and fence sections will be added to provide privacy for both the reflective and the reception area aspect of the garden. The garden will also be reconfigured to be solely on church property. At present it spills into the adjacent grounds.

The cost of this, which we plan to minimize, should essentially be covered by the normal grounds budget. Cost of shrubs to soften and identify the new Library St. steps will be covered in the renovation budget. About ten feet out on both sides of the steps we will place an ornamental tree. These trees will be suitable for dedication to someone by members of the congregation.

In the near future, after the worship service, we will have the new plan of the grounds for review and will explain the reasoning for the improvements we plan to make.

Tom Key

THAT'S ONE STRONG CUP OF COFFEE!



We are now selling Simply Smiles Coffee in the parish hall. The coffee is a product of the people in Oaxaca, Mexico with whom Simply Smiles works. Proceeds from the coffee go directly to help sustain the farmers and their families. Cost is \$10 a bag - available in caffeine and decaf.

The Capital Projects Committee (CPC) is forging ahead with continued planning for the Phase II alterations to our Parish Hall. Since my last article, we have broadened the original committee by adding several sub-committees: Interior Design, Kitchen, Storage, Finance and Construction. These sub-committees are all meeting simultaneously (or nearly so) and reporting out to the CPC. The CPC reports to the Board of Trustees and, of course, all this work and preparation will be presented to you, the congregation, for approval. While we probably have too many committees, we are hopeful that this organizational structure will allow as much efficiency and participation as possible.

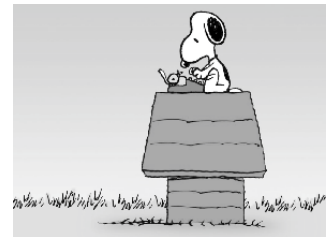
Our efforts are being guided by two words: **Obligation** and **Opportunity**. We are obligated to be handicapped accessible by bringing at least one church entrance up to code, as well as installing a handicapped bathroom. The new door into the Meeting House, the ramp leading to the entrance of the Parish Hall, and the new hand railings have all been completed. The automatic doors have been ordered and are soon to be installed. We are also obligated by code to upgrade and modernize our kitchen. A Kitchen Design individual has been hired and the Kitchen Committee is hard at work. We are obligated by local regulations to complete these elements of the overall project.

Beyond these obligatory aspects, we also have an opportunity to upgrade the Parish Hall. The Parish Hall has not been modified since the 1960s. All of the design aspects are being reviewed by the Interior Design Committee to give our secondary meeting space a new and renovated look. This review is progressing shepherded by the economic realities of the times. Speaking for the CPC, we are excited and enthusiastic about this important project for our church.

Ward Belcher

AUTHORS AMONG US

Did you know that we have a few recently published authors here in our congregation? Check out these new publications:



Horsekeeping by **Roxanne Bok**, a memoir of the development of their horse farm,

Growing Up on the Farm: A Sharon Mountain Story by **Richard Carley**, a memoir of growing up in Sharon,

Parabola, a monthly journal, has published **Bruce McEver's** August 2010 sermon, "Poetry: A Bridge to the Sacred." (If you would like to read it, go to the 2011 sermon page on our website.)

If you have published anything lately, let us know and we will include it in future newsletters. Congratulations to our SCC authors!

Pastor Diane

31ST ANNUAL OPEN RECITAL



The **31st Annual Open Recital** under the auspices of the Al Sly Fund will take place in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, February 26th at 3:00 p.m.** The Church has been the home for the Recital all these years with thanks to the invaluable support of Al Sly.

Al Sly, the consummate teacher, 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.

Students in Kindergarten through secondary school have been recommended by their teachers to participate based on their skill level, musicality and promise. Come and support them as they develop their creative art, whether as a soloist or in a group. All performers need a supportive and appreciative audience.

The Recital is free and open to the public and especially appropriate for children of all ages!

Thank you!

Committee:

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

CHRISTIANS ARE JOYFUL SINNERS

Does worship in your church include a prayer of confession? If so, it is probably near the beginning of the service. One reason for this placement is that God's presence reveals things to us. In God's clarifying presence we see things about our lives that we might not see otherwise. So when Isaiah had a dramatic encounter with God in the temple, his first response was confession. And it can be the same for us in our worship.

Some congregations no longer include a prayer of confession in their worship because the practice is considered too "negative." They contend that people have enough difficulties in their lives without the church adding to the burden. But confession is not about adding a burden. Quite the opposite. It is about being unburdened. Ultimately, there is no joy in denial. But there can be great joy in receiving forgiveness.

As Christians we don't need to traffic in denial. We can afford to be realists. We are free to face the truth about ourselves: good and bad are inextricably intertwined within us. Sometimes we act nobly, but even then our motivations can be mixed. This is not a hopeless admission. We are free to be realists because our hope is in God. In confession, we rely not on our own goodness, but on God's forgiveness. The God in whose presence we see our lives with jarring clarity at the same time shows us that we are loved, nonetheless.

*Martin B. Copenhaver, Senior Pastor
Wellesley Congregational Church, UCC, Wellesley, MA*

CHRISTIAN ACTION THANKS

I would like to thank the members of the Board of Christian Action for all their hard work, dedication, initiative, and readiness to take on any task during our busy fall and holiday season. All of the events that Christian Action carried out during this time happened without a hitch thanks to our hard-working members: Jane Capecelatro, Jeanette Weber, Jenn Good, Sue Ritchie, Cynthia LaPier, Susie Belcher, David Rich, and Rosie Bell. Thanks also go to Jennifer Weigel, Kathy Mera, and Peggy Heck for their guidance and assistance!

The next Christian Action meeting will take place on Sunday, February 12th at 11:30, at which time we will begin the process of determining what, of the many, humanitarian needs and programs we will address in 2012, both at home and in the world.

Mindy Fitting, Board of Christian Action

Save the Date!

Saturday, June 2nd, will be the day of our **Spring Retreat**. Location and topic to be announced. Contact Pastor Diane with ideas or questions.



SOUPER BOWL

SUPER SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

At the time of this writing, the final contenders for this year's Super Bowl are still unknown. Will it be the Patriots or the Baltimore Ravens against the 49ers or the Giants? Only time will tell. What we DO know, however, is that on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th, we will have **SOUPER BOWL Sunday** at church.

On that day, everyone is invited to bring cans of soup or monetary offerings which will be donated to OWL's Kitchen. Will it be chicken noodle or tomato against cream of broccoli or pumpkin bisque? Only time will tell.

FOR RENT BEAUTIFUL MAIN STREET HOME

Know anyone looking for a handsome, spacious home to rent? Please let them know that our parsonage is available.



Located within walking distance of churches, stores, the library, and parks, # 3 Salmon Kill Road could accommodate a large family, any family wanting to try small town life, or have a place to escape to on weekends. With living space on three floors, the white, frame colonial offers five bedrooms, a large kitchen, and gracious living room with fireplace.

More information available from the church Trustees.

Sue Morrill, for the Trustees.

LETTER FROM THE DEACONS PRELUDE TO WORSHIP

Dear Friends,

Last month the Board of Deacons started a series in which we will research and address the different aspects of our worship service at Salisbury Congregational Church. We will take a look at each part of the order of worship. We hope to get all of us thinking about worship and the service and why we do things the way we do.

When you look at your bulletin, the first thing in the order of service is the prelude. Prelude is defined this way by Merriam-Webster: *prel' (y)ood* 1. *An action or event serving as an introduction to something more important.* 2. *A musical composition serving to introduce a religious ceremony.*

What is the purpose of the Prelude in worship?

Think of it as preparation for worship, and a time to meditate, to prepare for worship, to pray, a time of silence to use in whatever way the congregation finds useful, but preferably not as background for conversation.

A really quiet worshipful church for ten minutes before the service begins allows one to separate their outside church life with their inside church life. If quiet seems less welcoming to you, try to think of it as a part of the worship service. Quietly greeting each other, especially visitors, during the chords and melodic strains of the prelude may be viewed as a joyful noise from one perspective, but it feels disruptive and noisy to others.

At Salisbury Congregational Church the prelude is usually an organ piece played by Al Sly. Mary Davidson directs the hand bell choir in a Prelude on special occasions. Sometimes a guest musician or vocal soloist will play the Prelude. No matter which musician is playing the Prelude, he, she or they have spent thoughtful time choosing a musical piece which will introduce the theme of that day's worship.

We in this congregation treasure our music and musicians. Please join us in entering into prayerful silence during the prelude.

Please let the Deacons know how you use the prelude.

*Blessings,
Theresa Carroll*



Many people have asked Betsy Beck for the recipe for our communion bread, so she has kindly agreed to share it with everyone. This is a recipe that Pastor Diane brought with her.* *(If you would like to print out a full page version, there is a link on the Home page of our website: www.salisburycongregational.org.)*

COMMUNION BREAD

(Brought to us by Diane Monti-Catania)

2 cups boiling water *(Pyrex in the microwave works well!)*

1 cup quick oats

2/3 cups molasses

1 Tbsp salt

3 Tbsp oil

1/4 cup slightly warm water

1 teaspoon sugar

2 packages of dry yeast

About 6-7 cups of unbleached white all-purpose flour (the amount is less important than the proper consistency)

Note: I use a big mixer with a dough hook, though the recipe can just as easily be made by hand.

- Bring 2 cups water to a boil (I use a Pyrex measuring cup in the microwave).
- Add boiling water to oats in a big mixing bowl.

- Add the molasses, salt, and oil; stir, let cool to 110 degrees.

- While it is cooling, stir the sugar into the 1/4 cup slightly warm water in a separate 2-cup measuring cup, add the yeast and let it proof (watch it -- it might puff up and escape from the cup).

- Add the yeast mixture and 2 cups flour to the mixing bowl and mix on medium speed for 2 minutes.

- Add 1 cup flour and mix on high for 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally.

- Add flour 1/2 cup at a time and continue to mix on slow speed. Once the dough gets too unwieldy for the mixer, turn it out onto a lightly floured board and continue kneading until the dough is smooth and bounces back when pressed.

- Place the dough back in the lightly floured bowl, cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled in size. It will take anywhere from 1/2 to 2 hours. (Note: if you use Rapid Rise Yeast, this time will be shorter.)

- Turn the risen dough out on a floured board and roll it out to about an 18-inch diameter circle (fairly thin).

- Cut the circle into four quarters with a sharp knife, and fold the edges of each quarter under to form a ball, making sure the edges are pinched together underneath, using the edges of your hands to work the dough into a ball. Flatten the ball somewhat.

- Grease a large baking sheet (a cookie sheet works well), and place the four dough balls on the sheet. Use a sharp knife to cut a shallow cross in the top of each loaf.

- Cover with plastic wrap and a towel and let the loaves rise to twice their bulk. (Note: You can cover with plastic wrap and put the loaves in the refrigerator for 2 - 24 hours. Let the loaves sit out for 20 minutes before baking.)

- Bake at 425 for about 20 minutes until the loaves are dark brown and give a hollow *thump* when tapped on the bottom. Place on cooling racks until thoroughly cooled before wrapping.

**This recipe is credited to Ann Cover, a member of Pastor Diane's previous church in Roxbury.*

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
African-American History Month			1 10:00 - Prayer Group	2 Groundhog Day	3 7:00 - Men's Inter-faith Bible Breakfast	4
10:00 - Worship, Communion, 5 New Members Welcome No church school; crib & toddler care available. SOUPER Bowl Sunday* 11:30 - Board of Trustees	6 12:00 - 1:00 - Women's First Mondays brown-bag lunch, Parish Hall*	7	8 7:30- Choir Rehearsal	9	10 7:00 - Men's Inter-faith Bible Breakfast	11
12 10:00 - Worship & Church School. 11:30 -Bd. of Christian Action	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 10:00 - Prayer Group 7:30- Choir Rehearsal	16	17 7:00 - Men's Inter-faith Bible Breakfast 6:00 - Potluck Supper*	18
10:00 - Worship & Church School. 11:30 -Church Council	19 President's Day	20	21 Ash Wednesday	22 7:30- Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00 - 11:30 - Lenten Book Discussion, Parish Hall*	24 7:00 - Men's Inter-faith Bible Breakfast 25 6:00 - Dinner & Live Music - Fund-raiser for the Carroll Family*
10:00 - Worship & Church School. 3:00 - 31st Annual Open Recital* First Sunday in Lent	26	27	28 5:30 - 7:00 - Bd. of Deacons	29 10:00 - Prayer Group 6:45 - 7:15 - Contemplative Prayer in the Meeting House* 7:30- Choir Rehearsal Leap Day		

* Article in this MHT

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH



February Birthdays

2nd Gabriella Gladding	14th August Olson
2nd Sarah Gladding	15th Laura Flores
3rd Adam Rashkoff	16th John Merwin
4th Don Buckley	17th Cynthia LaPier
4th Eric Chin	18th Ashley Tedder
5th James Wiggins	19th Jack Anderson
8th James Habacker	19th Mary Arnold
8th Bruce McEver	20th Jack Ritchie
9th Merrick Noyes	21st Christina Rogers
9th Hannah Ohlinger	24th Jim Filkins
12th Daniel Rashkoff	24th Hope Fitting
13th Ivy Curry	25th Ginny Filkins
13th Jonathan Capecelatro	26th Stephanie Tierney
14th Rod Lankler	28th Cora Rydingsword



Potluck Supper

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

COMFORT & CONVERSATION

The Bereavement Group, **Comfort and Conversation**, will not be meeting during February. If you are struggling with issues of loss, please contact Pastor Diane. The group will reconvene in March.

Save the Date!

Saturday, March 3rd, at 2:30

Workshop will be at 12 noon.*

Congregational Church of Salisbury
30 Main St., Salisbury, CT

Farmhouse Window Productions,
in cooperation with
Grumbling Gryphons,
presents the New England Premier of
ESTHER

A one-act chamber opera for family audiences

The biblical story of Queen Hadassah (Esther) whose courage is joyously celebrated by Jews during the festive spring holiday of Purim

by Donald Sosin and Sari Magaziner

35th anniversary production in honor of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Hadassah

Reception with the performers afterwards.

*A limited number of young people (ages 8 and up) are invited to attend a pre-performance drama workshop at noon, led by Leslie Elias, Grumbling Gryphons Theater artistic director. Participants will dance, sing and parade in a Purim Pageant adorned in festive Purim masks and costumes from the collections of Grumbling Gryphons. They will be taught musical numbers to perform in ESTHER: A ONE ACT OPERA for the whole family. Contact Grumbling Gryphons at 860-672-0286 for registration and more information.

TRANSFIGURATION

All over this magnificent world, God calls us to extend his kingdom of shalom-peace and wholeness — of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us.

What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no opposition that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned into love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.

—Desmond Tutu, God Has a Dream

WHY THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS SO HARD TO LEARN:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.



SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| bloom $6-1=$ ____ | blossom $2x2=$ ____ | rejoice $4x2=$ ____ |
| burst $3+3=$ ____ | wilderness $2+1=$ ____ | joy $5-5=$ ____ |
| crocus $3+2=$ ____ | desert $1x0=$ ____ | parched $0-1=$ ____ |
| glad $2x1=$ ____ | shout $10-1=$ ____ | |



"The _____ and the _____ land will be _____; the _____ will rejoice and _____. Like the _____, it will _____ into _____; it will _____ greatly and _____ for _____."

Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV

Answers:
"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."

