

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

April 2013



Pamela Wyeth, Editor



Services: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

Notes from India



Namaskara church family!

I'm relishing every moment of my time as a social work student in India. Every semester I'm placed in a different social welfare

organization for my field work. For the past three months I've been working at Sneha Kiran, a school for children with cerebral palsy. Its been a great learning experience to understand how to communicate with children who face challenges with speaking and motor skills. Sneha Kiran is one of the best schools I've seen for children with disabilities in India. Along with teaching the students, the staff conducts awareness programs to help others in the area understand cerebral palsy.

This school is always grateful to receive donations and sponsorship. Because India is a developing country, most of the children are from very poor families. With 70 students enrolled, there is always a need for more physical therapy equipment and general school supplies. There is no company that produces physical therapy equipment in India so they have to order it from the US or have it made by local carpenters and welders.

If you are interested in donating, please speak with Mindy Fitting for more information. The donations could be used to sponsor a child or as a contribution to cover other expenses.

I have seen many organizations in India with needy people from all walks of life. I wish I could help them all but I have to consider which organizations would benefit most. I feel that Sneha Kiran is a great school to help because these students are bursting with potential and all they need are the resources to help tap into their abilities.

Please visit mysorespasticsociety.com for more information about the school.

Holly Tierney

A link on the church's home page will take you to a gallery of photos of Holly's school.

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.
Proverbs 3:27

Bridgeport Community Dinner



You may recall that throughout the autumn, boxes of donations lined our church hallway in an ongoing effort to collect clothing, food and other supplies for Bridgeport residents after hurricane Sandy devastated their region. There was a tremendous spirit of generosity from our community to help supply those in need. Carloads of goods were periodically driven down to the United Congregational Church of Bridgeport, CT, allowing us to meet their church community and witness their outreach.

At Thanksgiving ten volunteers drove down to help their church sort clothes and books, and prepare a Thanksgiving meal to serve over 600 people.

On February 28th about 25 members from our church and local community carpooled to the Bridgeport church. Our mission that day was to help prepare and serve food for their weekly "Feel the Warmth" dinner. This weekly endeavor nourishes both physically and socially a community of people in need. But it is not just those served who are nourished.

Sarah Zarbock said, "Yes, it was an extraordinary experience -- one of the most remarkable examples of faith in action. It was a magnificent blend of a very special menu, incredible organization by Eleanor and her team of volunteers, and -- ironically -- an opportunity to spend time with my fellow Christians from Salisbury!"

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Growing in Faith Together



L.O.V.E.

Welcome, April! The construction is almost finished. Easter has come and gone. Winter is over (I hope). So now what? Well, now is the time to turn our attention to what God is calling us to do as a church and as a community. I am re-

introducing the idea that we commit ourselves to being a Christian community striving to **Live Our Values Everyday**.

In order to live our values, we must define what those values are. For the months of April and May, worship and small group discussions will focus on 2 Peter 1:3-8:

His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants in the divine nature. For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Each week our sermon will focus on one of the virtues identified by Peter. The Deacons will convene and lead small group discussions on each value. We will explore them in this order: Faith, Moral Excellence, Knowledge, Temperance, Patience, Godliness, Kindness and Love. I invite you to reflect both personally and within your family on these Christian values. At the end of our study we will work together to write a Value Statement for our church.

I am interested to hear from you regarding your interpretation of Christian Values and how they might best be lived out in today's world. What are the values that you live by? Are they rooted in your faith? In what ways can your church support you in living your values each day?

In this uncertain world God is our refuge, our help in times of struggle and adversity. As we move into the season of rebirth and renewal, let us open our hearts to the possibility of transformation. Please join me this month in discerning what type of Christians we want to be and how God might use us to build God's kingdom on earth.

Grace & Peace

Pastor Diane

Email: pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org

The Building Committee

With Easter behind us and a whiff of spring (slight!) in the air, the parish hall renovation is nearing completion. We have had several complications that we're all attempting to work through: the kitchen and the codes that dictate types of sinks, etc., have delayed installation of the cabinets and therefore the completion of the kitchen. Intricacies with the cork flooring have also delayed the laying of the floor, as well as other problems such as late delivery of the doors have put us slightly behind schedule. The painters are almost finished and the result is nothing short of spectacular.

By the time you read this, the bathrooms should be in, the doors will have arrived, and we'll be almost there. As of this writing, our plan is that we'll be using the space for Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday.

This has truly been a 'team' effort, and I would like to thank all the various committees that have put long hours into this project, particularly the Kitchen and Decorating Committees. Above all, Jack Baer and United Construction have done yeoman's duty to keep this project on track. It's not over yet but I am sure everyone will be pleased.

Ward Belcher

Praying With Jesus

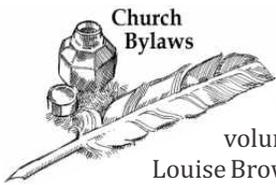
The Sunday School recently completed **Praying With Jesus**, a four-week rotation unit based on the Lord's Prayer. Divided into three age groupings, the children spent time with Mike Clulow at the *Hallowed Be Thy Name* station, where they considered the many qualities of God through scripture, music, and art. At Carrie, Dan, and Emma Smith's station the children compared different translations of the Lord's Prayer and made *Prayer Beads* to help them remember the words of the prayer. *God Wants Me to Forgive Them?* was the title of Roger Crain's station, where the children watched a VeggieTale video and talked about what it means to forgive and to be forgiven. Using the Lord's Prayer as *A Pattern for Prayer*, each group created their own prayer with Cynthia LaPier and Barbara Collins.



Here is the prayer written by our 3rd and 4th graders. Please pray with us.

Dear God, are you listening because we have something to say to you. Could you please stop poverty and war? Could you help people find jobs and houses? Thanks for sports - basketball, skiing, baseball, softball - food, clothing, shelter, good health and insurance, our families. Please forgive us and help us forgive others for fighting, bullying, teasing, name-calling, cheating, lying. Help keep us away from TV or our Xboxes when we should be helping or doing homework. Thank you for creating animals, trees, air to breathe, spring, ice cream. God you are great. Amen.

- Barbara Collins, Coordinator of Christian Education



Bylaws Revisions 2013

Last spring the Church Council asked for volunteers to study and update the Bylaws. Louise Brown, Sara Wardell and I volunteered.

We started out reviewing our existing bylaws. All the standing boards and committees were asked to review their sections and suggest revisions. We consulted the UCC Connecticut Conference recommendations, as well as bylaws from other churches similar to ours in size.

With all this information we were able to revise and update our bylaws so they reflect what we do now and allow for growth in the future. Aside from wording, the major changes include term limits for the church officers and increased responsibility for oversight by the Church Council.

Members of the congregation will receive copies of the proposed bylaws two weeks before the Annual Meeting, scheduled for May 5th. When you receive the bylaws please take time to read them over and come back to us **before the meeting** with any questions or concerns.

Our hope is to place a vote on the bylaws as the first major item on the Annual Meeting agenda.. If it passes the bylaws will go into effect at the meeting.

Kathy Mera, Moderator



Rev. Kent Siladi Called to be Conference Minister

The Connecticut Conference Minister Search Committee and Board of Directors have announced the recommendation of the Reverend Kent Siladi, the Florida Conference Minister and a former Regional Minister in Connecticut, to be the next

Connecticut Conference Minister. The Board has issued a formal call to a Special Meeting to be held on April 20th in New Britain, at which time Conference ministers and delegates will be asked to formally vote to extend the call to him.

Rev. Siladi is a Connecticut native, growing up in Stamford, and a born and bred son of the United Church of Christ. He holds a BA in Psychology from Nasson College and and MDiv from Yale Divinity School. After being ordained he served churches in Brookfield and North Guilford and served as a Regional Minister for the Connecticut Conference. For the past five and a half years he has served as Conference Minister for the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ.

“Throughout his career Kent has demonstrated a faithfulness and passion for the church and its work in mission, stewardship and financial sustainability, relationship building and networking clergy and churches, bringing the church into the future and sharing his deep ties to and appreciation for the United Church of Christ.”

There will be several meet and greet sessions prior to the Special Meeting on April 20. The closest one for us will be in Goshen at the Church of Christ Congregational at 10:00 am on Friday, April 19th.

If you would like to participate in any of these sessions, please see Pastor Diane.

Faith in Action

Olivia May and Amanda Ostendorf were among the more than 40 youth and adults who gathered in Norfolk for a GIV2 Service Project on March 17th.

The group worked to prepare outreach materials for the Susan B. Anthony Project in Torrington. The “Cootie Catchers” are used in the project's community education programs in middle and high schools throughout the area to inform teens about the issues of interpersonal violence and sexual assault.

Susan B. Anthony's Community Educator provided an overview of this important topic and answered questions.



SPIRIT CORNER: GOOD OR BAD?

By Rev. Dr. Michael Ciba

It is fairly predictable that, following any natural or human caused disaster, someone, often identified by the media as a "religious leader," will pronounce that the catastrophe was, in some way, evidence of God's judgment against some person, some entity, or some activity. These statements blaspheme God and dishonor the victims and survivors of tragedy.

Bad things happened in Jesus' time the same way they do in every time and people wanted to know why. Roman soldiers attacked some worshipers while they were offering sacrifice. A tower collapsed and killed eighteen people. Did these people do something to deserve this? I sure hope so, because, if that's how the world works, all I have to do is not do what they did and bad things won't happen to me.

"You're thinking about this all wrong," says Jesus. Bad things and good things happen to all of us. Jesus advises all of us, "Unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." The word "repent" translates a form of the Greek word metanoia. It means "to change one's mind," but not the way we might change our mind about whether to have coffee or tea. Rather, it means to completely change the way we look at things, to turn our lives around, to completely change how we act and how we behave because we see life from a new perspective.

With these words, Jesus calls us to look at the whole question of evil in a new and radically simple way. We need to stop fretting about the good and bad things that happen to us and to others. We need to live as God wants us to live: knowing that loving God and loving our neighbor are the most important things God calls us to do.

The Rev. Dr. Michael Ciba is Southwest Regional Minister for the Connecticut Conference UCC., and was our Regional Minister for many years.

From www.ctconfucc.org

Congregational Church of Salisbury - Treasurer's Annual Report 2012

Figures relating to current construction are NOT included in this report

	Actual	Budgeted	% of Budgeted
INCOME			
Gifts in Memory of *	\$26,875.00		
Plate	\$10,139.00	\$10,000.00	101.4%
Pledges	\$216,057.00	\$192,000.00	112.5%
Non-member guest	\$3,845.00		
Investment Income	\$127,653.00	\$134,000.00	95.3%
Parsonage, etc. Rental	\$13,640.00	\$13,200.00	103.3%
Benevolences Income	\$3,945.00		
Miscellaneous	\$1,472.00		
Fall Festival	\$5,601.00	\$10,000.00	56.0%
TOTAL INCOME	\$409,227.00	\$359,200.00	113.9%
EXPENSE			
Transfer to Endowment *	\$25,000.00		
Compensation			
Minister	\$48,480.00	\$48,480.00	100.0%
Secretary/Organist	\$47,152.00	\$47,149.00	100.0%
Sexton	\$19,007.00	\$19,023.00	99.9%
Education	\$8,525.00	\$8,532.00	99.9%
Bell Choir	\$4,165.00	\$4,161.00	100.1%
Guest Ministers	\$1,000.00	\$700.00	142.9%
Youth Group	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.0%
Guest Musicians (Sundays)	\$600.00	\$850.00	70.6%
Financial Assistant	\$8,583.00	\$9,546.00	89.9%
Administrative Assistant	\$3,480.00		
Total Compensation	\$140,992.00	\$139,441.00	101.1%
Other Personnel Expenses			
Minister Continuing Education	\$1,146.00	\$1,000.00	114.6%
Minister Health Insurance	\$21,908.00	\$22,022.00	99.5%
Minister Pension	\$11,644.00	\$11,029.00	105.6%
Minister Car	\$498.00	\$1,200.00	41.5%
Minister Housing	\$30,300.00	\$30,300.00	100.0%
Secretary/Organist Health Insurance	\$3,171.00	\$3,450.00	91.9%
Social Security	\$7,413.00	\$6,763.00	109.6%
Minister Tax Reimbursement	\$6,027.00	\$6,027.00	100.0%
Workman's Comp	\$2,858.00	\$2,335.00	122.4%
Sab-Ed Res - Minister	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	200.0%
Total Personnel Expenses	\$86,965.00	\$85,126.00	102.2%
Office Costs			
Equipment Rental - Copier	\$5,772.00	\$4,900.00	117.8%
Computer	\$869.00	\$1,000.00	86.9%
Telephone	\$1,840.00	\$1,600.00	115.0%
Supplies	\$2,619.00	\$2,000.00	131.0%
Church Bulletins	\$0.00	\$600.00	0.0%
Newsletter	\$0.00	\$600.00	0.0%
Postage	\$1,892.00	\$1,500.00	126.1%
Lakeville Journal	\$307.00	\$500.00	61.4%
Payroll Preparation Costs	\$1,556.00	\$1,500.00	103.7%
Total Office Costs	\$14,855.00	\$14,200.00	104.6%

	Actual	Budgeted	% of Budgeted
Maintenance & Repairs			
Church-Maintenance	\$7,989.00	\$8,500.00	94.0%
Parsonage-Maintenance	\$3,085.00	\$1,000.00	308.5%
Total Maintenance & Repairs	\$11,074.00	\$9,500.00	116.6%
Utilities			
Electricity - Parsonage	\$176.00		
Electricity - Church	\$2,826.00	\$3,500.00	80.7%
Electricity - Lot	\$450.00	\$500.00	90.0%
Fuel - Church	\$10,978.00	\$13,280.00	82.7%
Fuel - Parsonage	\$590.00		
Water & Sewer	\$1,346.00	\$900.00	149.6%
Total Utilities	\$16,366.00	\$18,180.00	90.0%
Program Expenses			
Audio/Visual	\$205.00	\$100.00	205.0%
Bell Choir	\$5,811.00	\$1,000.00	581.1%
Deacons	\$1,347.00	\$1,000.00	134.7%
Music	\$969.00	\$1,000.00	96.9%
Organ and Piano	\$1,512.00	\$1,500.00	100.8%
Religious Education	\$1,662.00	\$1,000.00	166.2%
Community Dinner		\$2,000.00	0.0%
Publicity	\$1,683.00		
Program Expense - Other	\$187.00		
Total Program Expenses	\$13,376.00	\$7,600.00	176.0%
Hospitality			
Flowers	\$2,395.00	\$2,000.00	119.8%
Kitchen	\$4,657.00	\$2,500.00	186.3%
Total Hospitality	\$7,052.00	\$4,500.00	156.7%
Insurance - Fire, Liability...	\$16,381.00	\$16,133.00	101.5%
Taxes - Parsonage	\$4,070.00	\$4,030.00	101.0%
Capital	\$20,290.00	\$20,290.00	100.0%
Benevolences (<i>details below</i>)	\$41,564.00	\$38,000.00	109.4%
Memberships	\$2,294.00	\$2,200.00	104.3%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$400,279.00	\$359,200.00	111.4%
REVENUE OVER EXPENSE	\$8,948.00		
Benevolences			
Neighbors in Need	\$2,286.00		
OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing)	\$1,178.00		
Christian Action	\$11,199.00		
OWL's Kitchen	\$1,801.00		
OCWM - Basic Support	\$20,000.00		
Deacons Discretionary	\$5,100.00		
Total Benevolences	\$41,564.00		
* Note: Gifts-in-Memory & Bequests were transferred to endowment			
Balances	12/31/2012	12/31/2011	
Endowment	\$4,260,000.00	\$4,011,000.00	
Capital Reserve	\$4,970.00	\$18,000.00	
AI Sly Fund	\$78,300.00	\$80,000.00	

Annual Reports of Boards and Committees are due in the church office by April 15th so they may be printed and mailed to the congregation.

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Bell Choir concerts: 4:00 - Noble Horizons 7:00 - Geer	3 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6 10:00 - George Miner Memorial Service
7 10:00 - Worship & Communion & church school; crib/toddler care available. OWL's Kitchen collection. 11:30 - Bd. of Trustees	8	9	10 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13
14 10:00 - Worship & church school; Rev. Duene Estes preaching; crib/toddler care available. 11:30 - Bd. of Christian Action	15 Board and Committee reports due in church office for Annual Report	16	17 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	18 10:00 - 11:30 - Book Discussion: <i>The Four Things that Matter</i> *	19 4:00 - Wedding Rehearsal	20 2:00 - Charest-Hall Wedding 3:00 - CTUCC Special Meeting, New Britain
21 10:00 - Worship & church school; Charlotte Frost baptism; crib/toddler care available. 11:30 - Church Council	22 12:00 - Women's Brown Bag Lunch <i>Earth Day</i>	23 5:30 - Bd. of Deacons	24 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	25	26 <i>Arbor Day</i>	27 Magowan-Burkhart Wedding (California)
28 10:00 - Worship & church school; Rev. Eileen Epperson preaching; crib/toddler care available.	29	30				

* Article in this MHT

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER: SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH



April Birthdays

1st	Carly Craig	14th	Robert Rout
1st	Sandra Haiko	15th	Noah Rashkoff
1st	Ellie Stewart	15th	David Rich
1st	Maggie Crain	16th	Anthony O'Niel
2nd	Shirley Rogers	17th	Bobbie Olsen
2nd	Linda Estabrook	19th	Betsy Beck
6th	Hannah LaPier	21st	Sierra O'Niel
6th	Eleanor Clulow	21st	Judy Stewart
9th	Rachel Reed	22nd	Jeffrey Beck
9th	Susan Ritchie	22nd	Harriet Lipton
10th	Leighton Smith	23rd	Mike Beck
11th	Ted Sands	25th	Holly Tierney
12th	Barbara Jacquette	27th	Hannah Stewart
13th	Audrey Eriksson	30th	Barbara Collins
14th	Mike Fitting	30th	Rebecca Palmer

April Book Discussion

The Four Things That Matter Most:
A Book About Living
By Ira Byock, MD



After years of working with Hospice patients, Dr. Ira Byock identified that there were four phrases important for people to say (and feel) at the end of their lives: Please forgive me; I forgive you; Thank you; and I Love You.

Realizing that these sentiments were important in all relationships, he wrote this book to share his insights. We will be reading and discussing this book in April.

Please join us (in the new library room!) on Thursday, April 18th from 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Copies of the book are available at the Scoville Memorial Library or on Amazon.

Contact Pastor Diane for additional information.

FROM THE DEACONS

The music starts. The doors open. The choir processes into the church. As members of the choir, we now have a chance to see all of your faces; to take in the crowd of people and the individuals who have gathered to be a part of our Sunday community as we join our voices in the opening hymn. And what a beautiful sight it is – all of your faces, the ones we see regularly, the ones who make us smile for their presence, the ones you bring with you. What a glorious tribute to God's loving and creative energy! What a glorious way to celebrate our community!

We come together to celebrate our relationship with God and with one another. We pray to God for others both near and far; we pray for the person sitting next to us. I often find myself praying for the people who have sat next to me in the past, but are not, or cannot be, that day. And it is in those connective moments that I truly appreciate our community for all of its variety, for all of the different things each of us brings to the table.

As a Deacon, I am supremely grateful for the strength that our community provides to me and to all of us as we open ourselves to that support. I cherish the ways that we can nurture

our own faith journey as we walk beside others on their own paths. The following piece on "Community," written by a woman named Starhawk, resonates in my heart when I think about and spend time with our church community – when I look out at all of your faces as we sing.

Community

*Somewhere there are people to whom we can
speak with passion,
without having the words catch in our throats.
Somewhere a circle of hands will open up to receive us,
eyes will light up as we enter.
Voices will celebrate with us whenever we come
into our own power.
Community means strength that joins our strength
to do the work that needs to be done.
Arms to hold us when we falter.
A circle of healing. A circle of friends.
Someplace where we can be free.*

-Starhawk

Amen.

Betsy Beck

Bridgeport Community Dinner (Continued from page 1)

"Ant colonies and bee hives have great synergy. Individual worker bees and worker ants toil away, doing small jobs, unobtrusively, and yet the result is an astonishingly functional and efficient colony. Dave Heck and I peeled and chopped onions for 2 hours in Bridgeport, doing a repetitive, minor task; others chopped apples or cleaned salad greens. We were all small cogs in a much larger colony that night, and we were able to understand (unlike the ants and the bees) that the result (dinner for 125) is so much greater than the addition of all those little parts. We were all proof that day that the only way to have is to give." (*John Hoffman*)

"The kitchen work was fun - well organized and laid out. The meal has been prepared enough times that everything has been planned for; it wasn't hard for us to step into a routine. We were impressed by the number of people that were involved; we couldn't tell who was there as paid staff and who was a volunteer. It was evident that the event attracted volunteers from all around the area, from other churches, synagogues, and people with no affiliation with a religious group.

"A whole lot went on outside the kitchen, with the high school students sorting out bags of donated clothes and setting up racks of them. And it was great to see the number of people from our church and from the private schools in town." (*Lee Collins*)

"It was a fun time of good fellowship. What an amazing community presence United has, not only serving meals but also running a food pantry, providing clothing and household goods to the neighborhood, after-school programs, and tutoring, among other things. And do you know what? They thanked **US!** Wow! As we continue to forge a relationship with

United, please keep in mind that entire families can take part as well as individuals. There's something for everyone to do. Hannah LaPier and Katya Giffenig have already found that out. Why don't you and yours plan to step up next time? You'll be glad you did." [*Barbara Collins*]

All those who I worked alongside linger in my mind. What a beautiful array of people. From our industrious, "can do" chef, Rich, to the final, enthusiastic young dish washer/volunteer Xavier (a Silver Lake Camper), I am grateful, and praise each and everyone. You spread joy, and your kindness in action is contagious.

- Janet Kaufman

*A link on the church website's home page will
take you to more photos of the day.*

Community

**Coming together with smiles, music
Out in the hall gathered with three or two
melodies, singing, talking, sharing, no boredom
many friends, our safe and contented place of asylum
Unity the core of community, like Cajuns out on the bayou
needing each other to lean on, love, in trials or in fun
infinite joy and grace always genuine, not quasi
thankful for kinship, a bond that's ancient
yes, our Lord has shown us the way**

- Linda Kruschke