The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ **Summer 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.salisbury.congregational.org

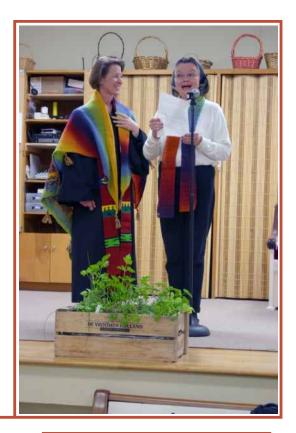
"No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

"I AM WILLING, AND I PROMISE TO SERVE THIS CHURCH....."

The Service of Installation of the Rev. Diane Monti-Catania as the church's 16th settled pastor was held on May 15th. During a reception following the service, the Search Committee gave Diane a gift of an edible garden, and the Bell Choir presented Diane with a prayer shawl (right), knitted by Sue Spring (see page 3).



LOTS MORE PICTURES ON THE WEBSITE.
Click on *Our Church > Church Events*



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON PHASE I RENOVATIONS

Please plan to attend a brief congregational meeting after worship on **Sunday, June 19th,** to discuss and vote on Phase I proposals for improved handicapped accessibility.

As outlined at the May 1st Annual Meeting, Phase I plans include full accessibility to the parish hall from the Library Street entrance and a slight widening of one door between the Meeting House and the stage. With these improvements, anyone with a wheelchair, walker, or other mobility issue can without assistance travel up a gentle walkway from Library Street, open the door to the parish hall by pushing a button, and use the existing lift and the widened door to easily join in worship in our beautiful Meeting House. The new Library Street automatic door will also provide easier weekday access to Pastor Diane, our library, and other facilities.

 $Please\,come\,to\,discuss, ask\,questions\,and\,vote\,on\,June\,19th.$

~ Trustees' Long Range Planning Committee

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Growing in Faith Together

GOD DOES NOT TAKE THE SUMMER OFF!



ontrary to popular belief, we do gather to worship God in the summer.

We continue to come together to hear the word of God, to meditate on it's meaning for our lives and to share the peace that Christ offers. We pray, we sing, we grieve for those who have died, we offer support to one another for the challenges we face, we celebrate the joys

and blessings of those we love.

Our services are held at the usual time, 10:00, and will last just about an hour. This summer, in response to the request by the Deacons that we do something less formal in worship, you will be invited into conversation after the sermon. I want to hear your thoughts and insights about our scripture readings and my interpretation of them. Rather than following the lectionary, I will be preaching on the latter prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi). Each week we will examine the writings of one of these great writers and discern what they might be saying to us today. The readings will be announced in the bulletin each week to give you an opportunity to reflect during the week on the upcoming passage.

We will have a few special Sundays this summer:

June 12th: Celebrate Pentecost with our neighbors from Trinity Lime Rock and St. John's Episcopal Church

June 19th: Commissioning Service for the Silver Lake Conference Center Staff

June19th: Guest Preacher, Holly Tierney will share her experience in India

July 3rd: Worship with Communion at Silver Lake! Come celebrate God's presence in the beautiful outdoor chapel

July 24th: Guest Preacher, the Reverend John Hay August 14th: Guest Preacher, to be announced

August 28th: Silver Lake Staff will share their summer experiences with us

If you choose to stay away from church in the summer I hope that you will afford yourself opportunities to be in God's presence for a time each week. Set aside some time for prayer, for quiet, for listening for God's voice. On Saturday, June 18th you are invited to a day of rest and reflection at Wisdom House in Litchfield. We will gather from 9:00 to 3:00 for a time of retreat. We will focus on putting ourselves in the presence of God

Wherever your summer travels take you, I wish you God's grace and peace on your journey.

Pastor Niane

Email: pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org

COME CELEBRATE PENTECOST WITH OUR NEIGHBORS TRINITY CHURCH LIME ROCK AND ST. JOHN'S



Pentecos

Sunday, June 12th, promises to be a day of celebration and joy. We will worship with our neighbors from Trinity Episcopal Church and St. John's Episcopal Church on the important day of Pentecost.

Pentecost, which means "the fiftieth day" is one of the prominent feasts in the Christian Liturgical year, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ after the Resurrection as described in the New Testament Acts of the Apostles 2:1-31.

Acts 2:1-6:And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues,

as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

Pentecost is celebrated seven weeks (50 days) after Easter Sunday, hence its name. Pentecost is historically and symbolically related to the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which commemorates God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus. The disciples were gathered in a locked room to celebrate Shavuot when the Holy Spirit came upon them. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes described as the "Birthday of the Church".

So come and celebrate the birthday of our church. Wear something **RED**, the liturgical color of the Holy Spirit. All three choirs will participate in the service, communion will be offered and worship will be led by all three clergy, Reverend Heidi Truax, Reverend John Carter and Reverend Diane Monti-Catania. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m.

THE HEART OF A PRAYER SHAWL

During the reception following Pastor Diane's installation service, gifts were presented by, among others, the Search Committee and the Bell Choir. The Bell Choir's gift was a beautiful prayer shawl knitted by Sue Spring, one of its members. Below are her remarks, made while presenting their gift, about the shawl's inception and history

"ROSES AND RAINBOWS"

Sue Spring

Several months ago at a weekly handbell choir rehearsal, Heather Schaufele asked me if I could knit a prayer shawl for the new pastor's prayer ministry in the community – knitted shawls for the pastor to give away on her mission. I was surprised at myself when I quickly answered Heather back that I really didn't have time to undertake her project; my days were already full.

Within a week or so after that, I got a distinct message from God, loud and clear, that my response to this request should be slightly modified. My thoughts were directed halfway round the world to the beautiful wool fibers from Danish sheep I don't expect ever to meet and thank. With the magnificent yarn came a sense of a design that looked divinely appealing but minimalistically described. Still, I was drawn to the project, much as one would try to figure out the meaning of a beautiful sky-filling rainbow or as one would make their way through a mystical, magnificent labyrinth of ethereally blooming roses.

God had me in his grips for this one, and I early-on asked our Handbell Choir Director Mary Davidson if I could knit the shawl as a gift from all of us in the handbell choir. And here we are today, literally some two hundred prayer-filled, knit-filled hours later - ready to share a prayer shawl of roses and rainbows, just for Pastor Diane herself.

The creation of the shawl has prayerfully witnessed recent awesome world events. The shawl was with us 10 days ago when Tom and I flew over the flood-ravaged southern states. Here and afar, the shawl as a tapestry has literally drawn people to it, prompting rich and meaningful conversation.

Can something as simple as a shawl be newly created and yet seemingly able to absorb and carry life itself??? Perhaps you, Pastor Diane - and those to whom you minister - will be the first to know. God bless you in your ministry. And just let us know when you want to hear some heavenly handbell music!

The Salisbury Congregational Church Hand Bell Choir

Mary Davidson, Director

Jen Wiegel Sue Spring Wayne Gaynor Heather Schaufele Eric Chin Karin Noyes

Larry Burcroff Betsy Beck Steve Ohlinger Jo Loi

Gordon Whitheck

Alternates:

Anna Beck, Heather Davidson, and Lee Collins Organist: Al Sly

COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS COMMISSIONED

During worship on May 1st, the congregation commissioned our first team of Community Caregivers. The following people have answered God's call to provide support and comfort to neighbors in the community:

David Heck, Deb Pastore, Alvord Beardslee, Kit Kellogg, Rosamund Bell, Carol Magowan, Laura Flores, Larry Blades, Janet Kaufman, Sarah Rydingsword, Sarah Zarboc, Mike Fitting, Kathy Mera, Theresa Carroll and Alice Gustafson.

Community Caregivers is a project of the Board of Deacons. The group participated in a two-hour training session with Pastor Diane on issues of pastoral care and communication.

The responsibilities of the **Caregivers** will be to assist Pastor Diane in ensuring that all members and friends of the congregation are visited throughout the year.

Pastor Diane will remain the primary visitor, especially to individuals who are in crisis, have suffered an accident or a death in the family. If you know of someone who would benefit from a pastoral visit, please contact Pastor Diane.

If one of the Community Caregivers comes to visit you, please know that they are bringing the best wishes and love of the entire congregation.

RETREAT AT WISDOM HOUSE Iune 18th - 9:00 - 3:00

This retreat, open to all, will focus on prayer, facilitated by Pastor Diane, with help from Theresa Carroll and Mindy Fitting. The cost of \$20 includes coffee/pastry and lunch.

"THE GOOD MAN JESUS AND THE SCOUNDREL CHRIST" By Philip Pullman

Book

Our book discussion group will be sharing thoughts on this book on Thursday, June 16th at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall.

Copies of the book are available at the Scoville Memorial Library. Please join us for reflection and conversation. All are welcome!

An Invitation

Salisbury VNA Hospice Program & Congregational Church of Salisbury Invite you to join us for Comfort and Conversation A group for those who have Experienced loss in their lives. Tuesday, June 7th 4:00-5:00 p.m. Wardell Room Scoville Memorial Library Entrance on Library Street For more information call 860-435-2442

860-435-0816

CHRISTIAN ACTION REPORTS



BEFORE AND AFTER

You are encouraged to go to the *Life of our Church* page on our website to see fascinating photos of what has been accomplished by Care One Bit's efforts to help families in Haiti. You also might want to visit the



organization's website: www.careonebit.org

The email, below, was forward by Susie Belcher for the Board of Christian Action.

From: Care One Bit <ask1bit@yahoo.com> Date: May 16, 2011 7:25:37 PM EDT To: Mort <ask1bit@yahoo.com>

Subject: The new houses pictures have arrived.

Hi everybody

I am now back to Florida and I would like to thank the Lord and you all for your supports and prayers during my stay in Haiti. I also would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your financial supports and prayers that help us build three new homes in Haiti with the Homes for Poor families in Haiti Project. The families were very thankful for this life changing gift that you have given to them. They thank you so much for these beautiful homes. If it was not for these gifts, they would have never even dreamed of having such beautiful and secure homes with very good sanitation for their families. They said that they feel safer now, especially with the Cholera disease that is still killing many people in Haiti. They thank you for these life changing gifts, and they'll pray that the Lord keeps blessing you and your family for your good heart.

There are many more families in needs praying that one day we will donate a new home to them. I told them keep praying for the good Lord is taking good note of our ministry in Haiti, I am confident that God will open more doors for us to help many more families in needs there.

It feels good to be back to Florida. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding my trip to Haiti and the Housing project.

I also would like to update you guys with my new phone number: 561-542-1659. My old number is no longer working.

God bless you all

Your brother in Christ

Donald

NEAUCE 2011

I recently had the pleasure of participating in the New England Association of United Church Educators (NEAUCE) annual conference, May 10-12, at the Craigville Conference Center in Massachusetts. Ninety-six UCC Christian Educators from the six New England states were in attendance including twenty-five from Connecticut.

I attended two workshops: "Teaching the Bible to Adults: Give Them Context, Give Them Credit" and "Sacred Steps: Surprises in the Labyrinth," each conducted by excellent leaders. The keynote speaker and worship leader for the conference was Celia Whitier, a gifted singer, songwriter, and storyteller. Celia addressed the group on four occasions, each time captivating us with her beautiful music and inspirational messages. The time flew by – worship, communion, meditation, music, delicious meals, lots of conversation, (and mistymoisty, windy, chilly weather) filled our days and fed our souls.

The NEAUCE experience reminds me of how valuable it can be to meet with others who are on the same journey. I look forward to exploring new ideas in Christian Education/Spiritual Formation and revitalizing existing ones in the coming months.

Here are two things I would share with you:

- 1. All churches enjoy successes and face challenges. Our church can benefit greatly by fostering opportunities for dialogue and by participating in joint endeavors with other congregations and the Connecticut Conference. Give a little. Take a little. Learn a lot.
- 2. I found the worship experiences at NEAUCE especially beautiful and very different from what I am used to. This summer, when you find yourself away from Salisbury on a Sunday, why not take advantage of the opportunity to attend a worship service where you are? What was different? What did you like? What didn't you like? Bring those ideas back to the deacons and Pastor Diane.
 - ~ Barbara Collins, Coordinator of Christian Education

"'Tis moonlight, summer moonlight, All soft and still and fair; The solemn hour of midnight Breathes sweet thoughts everywhere,

But most where trees are sending Their breezy boughs on high, Or stooping low are lending A shelter from the sky.

And there in those wild bowers A lovely form is laid; Green grass and dew-steeped flowers Wave gently round her head."

- Emily Bronte

"To see a hillside white with dogwood bloom is to know a particular ecstasy of beauty..."

- Hal Borland

FALL FESTIVAL - 2011 COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND

It's not too early to think about it! **Friday, October 7th, Saturday, the 8th, and Sunday, the 9th**. Please put it on your calendar now and plan to be a part of it.

As usual, there will be changes in activities and personnel-some we plan for, and some that will occur as the Festival gets closer. We're always looking to improve and enhance the event. If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact any of the Committee members below.

Over the summer, we hope you will keep the Treasure Trove in mind. That's our ever-popular roomful of gently used and eminently saleable items - always a real magnet for browsers and buyers. We have storage space in our church basement and can store stuff that you need to get rid of now. Let us know if you need anything picked up: 860-435-0051.

Reminder: we don't have room for large furniture pieces. Take those to the Habitat Tag Sale in August. But since the Library is now having their book sale in June and not on Fall Festival weekend, we'll take any books you have. No magazines, periodical, video tapes, or records, please.

We're looking forward to another great Festival, and we want to involve more church members and friends. Please let us know if you can help in any way.

The Fall Festival Committee 2011:

Lee Collins, Chair 860-435-0051 Mike Fitting, Coordinator 413-229-2917 Jeanette Weber, Publicity 860-435-4804 Theresa Carroll 860-435-2312 Harriet Morrill 860-435-0154 John Estabrook, Treasurer 860-824-5896

SOUND SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

Our updated sound system is in place and is functioning very well. An important part of the improvements is an expansion of the personal hearing aid system. Up to now the individual receivers (the small black Williams Sound Units) have used an ear bud that fits in the ear. It works well for those who do not have personal hearing aids or to replace a personal hearing aid that must be removed when the ear bud is in place.

For people with personal hearing aids we now offer a loop in place of the ear bud. This is placed around the neck, plugs into the Williams Sound Unit, and sends the audio directly to one's personal hearing aid when that hearing aid is set to the "Telephone" setting. This setting is available on many hearing aids and is meant to be used when talking on the telephone; it can also be used in the same manner with our sound system loops. Check your hearing aid and see if it has a "Telephone" or similar setting.

Jack Ritchie (860-435-2524) is one of the members who oversaw the sound system updates, and he is very pleased with how the neck loop works with his hearing aid. Please talk to him or Lee Collins if you have questions. And any of us will be happy to show you how it works.

~ Lee Collins, Mike Fitting, Jack Ritchie

THE ENDOWMENT ITS ROLE IN OUR CHURCH'S LIFE

An endowment fund is generally defined as a permanent fund established by donors with the expectation that the income from the investment of the monies will provide ongoing benefit to the institution. We, as members of the Salisbury Congregational Church, are the fortunate stewards of such a fund now totaling \$4,073,000 at year end 2010, and we are profoundly grateful to the very generous and farsighted individuals who donated much of these funds over the years for the benefit of the church, both for today's use and the use of future generations.

We currently withdraw up to 4.5% of the market value of the endowment to provide income to the church on an annual basis, as well as to pay for the investment manager. For the current year this spending level will generate income to the church of \$136,000, after investment fees. This represents fully 40% of the total income of the church budget, and it enables us to both maintain the physical plant and help pay salaries and health costs, as well as the various religious and social programs we value.

Over the last few decades Connecticut has seen a number of churches rely too heavily on their endowments. Today some are in danger of failing, while others now must live from bake sale to potluck supper fundraisers to pay the light and heating bills. Fortunately, we are not in that situation. We, the Trustees, believe we have a fiduciary duty to provide for our own needs as well as those of future generations who will belong to this beautiful church. As a result, we are very reluctant to invade the endowment beyond the spending rate. Even a relatively small withdrawal of \$20,000, for example, means \$700 less available for the current budget and each successive budget thereafter. In the budgeting process, such whittling away usually means skimping on building maintenance or reducing outreach.

By exercising fiscal discipline, and with additional gifts and bequests and increased appreciation in the endowment, however, we can enjoy the benefit of a higher contribution in dollars to the church. In fact, over the years the contribution from the endowment has grown from \$85,000 in the year 2001, to the current level of \$136,000—an increase of 60%! Growing the endowment has clearly benefitted the church today, and with prudent management, we hope to be able to provide an increasing stream of income to the church in the years to come.

To learn more about the role of the endowment in our church's life, please talk to Ted Sands or anyone one of the Trustees or members of the Finance Committee or to Treasurer John Arnold.

SLOW DOWN

Walk a little slower, Daddy, said a little child so small. I'm following in your footsteps and I don't want to fall.

Sometimes your steps are very fast; sometimes they're hard to see. So walk a little slower, Daddy, for you are leading me.

Someday when I'm all grown up, you're what I want to be. Then I will have a little child who'll want to follow me.

And I would want to lead just right, and know that I was true; So walk a little slower, Daddy, for I must follow you.

—Author unknown

Sunday Monday **Tuesday** Wednesday **Thursday Friday Saturday** 2 3 4 Ascension Day 7 6 8 9 10 11 10:00 - Worship & Communion Crib/toddler care is 10:00 - Prayer Group available 11:30 - Board of Trustees 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 10:00 - Pentecost worship with Trinity Lime Rock and St. 9:00-3:00 - Retreat at 10:00 - Book Wisdom House, Discussion Litchfield, for a time John's* Group* of rest & reflection* 11:30 - Board of Christian Action Flag Day Pentecost 10:00 - Worship & Commissioning service for Silver Lake staff; Guest Preacher: Holly Tierney; crib/toddler care is available.
Congregation meeting following service 20 21 22 23 24 25 10:00 - Prayer Group Trinity Sunday Summer Solstice Father's Day 27 29 30 26 28 10:00 - Worship; crib/toddler

DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER: SATURDAY, AUGUST 20TH

* Article in this MHT

care is available 11:30 - Board of Deacons

June June				July 1st Nick Branchina 2nd Roger Elwood 4th Brodie Craig	August 1st Noelle Fitting 1st Georgia Frost 3rd Sarah Polhemus 3rd Christine Curry		
1st 2nd	Rebecca Rashkoff Mark Capecelatro	12th 14th	Jacob Gladding Reginald Lamson	4th 5th	Katya Nweeia Matthew Rogers	4th 7th	Tony Good Amanda Palmer
4th 6th 6th 7th 7th 7th 8th 9th	Caitlin Hanlon Monica Chin Ann Cuddy Nathaniel O'Niel Kit Kellogg Debbie Mark William Tedder Charlotte Reid Joseph Habacker Elliot Bok	15th 16th 16th 17th 18th 19th 21st 26th 27th	Marian Ferguson Elise Babigian David Offensend Millard Hayner Megan Noyes Malcolm Brown Chris Janelli Robert Kuhbach Josh Allyn Peggy Sands	7th 7th 7th 15th 15th 16th 16th 18th 19th 24th 25th	Janet Accardo Elise LaFosse Nick Noyes Dick Dwelley Peggy Heck John Estabrook April Tierney Jane Elwood Jane Bok Christopher Offensend Marge Cluff	8th 10th 14th 14th 19th 22nd 24th 25th 26th 28th	Carla Brown Larry Blades Chance O'Niel Kenneth Weir Haili Elwood Matthew Chin Rose Genito Mary Davidson Gloria Buckley Louise Brown
10th 11th 12th	Jill Westsmith Max Babigian Phoebe Mulder	27th 29th	Nancy Hegy Martin Norm Sills	27th 28th 29th 30th	Marilyn Ritchie KoriAnn Wiggins Joan Turnure Nancy Smith	29th 31st	Orrin Rydingsword Ruth Tyrol



g! CROP Walk 2011

The last Sunday in September, **the 25th**, the twenty-seventh annual CROP Walk will be held most probably in a new setting. Rather than using the Housatonic High School as starting and end point for this traditional fund raising event to combat hunger, a change of venue to Sharon is being considered.

The thinking behind this change is to increase visibility in the community.

The CROP walk is sponsored by Church World Service each year, and the acronym CROP stands for Community Response to Overcome Poverty. Twenty five percent of the total funds raised in our northwest corner is returned to this community to be used to help people experiencing hunger in our area. More definite information will be forth coming in the September newsletter. Sue Ritchie, Board of Christian Action

CD RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

Our new sound system records our meeting house services and events on CDs, instead of the previous audio cassettes. If you would like a copy, please speak to the person doing the recording.

~ Lee Collins

"An optimist is the human personification of spring." - Susan J. Bissonette

BORROWING CHURCH ITEMS

All persons who wish to borrow tables and/or chairs from the church must ask permission to do so from Richard Carley, sexton, or Al Sly, secretary, and sign a sheet in the storage room giving your name, the number of tables/chairs you are borrowing, the date of removal and the date to be returned. This practice is effective immediately.

~Al Sly

NEW DAD

One day, shortly after the birth of their new baby, the mother had to go out to do some errands, so the proud father stayed home to watch his wonderful new son. Soon, the baby started to cry. The father did everything he could think of, but the baby just wouldn't stop crying. Finally, he got so worried that he decided to take the infant to the doctor.

After the doctor listened to all the father had done to get the baby to stop crying, he began examining the baby's ears, chest and then down to the diaper area. When he opened the diaper, it was indeed full.

"Here's the problem," the doctor explained. "He just needs to be changed."The perplexed father remarked, "But the diaper package specifically says, it's good for up to 10 pounds!"

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

"Once in the city of Jericho, many long years gone by, The chief tax collector was a Hebrew man who made his people cry.

He gathered the taxes to send to Rome,

Always adding extra padding for his own sweet home. Zaccheaus was his name, oh yes, Zaccheaus was his name."



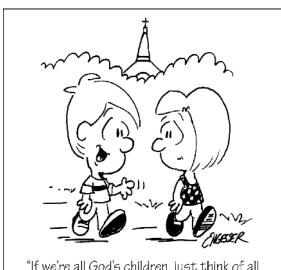
During our spring term the children of the Sunday School learned the story of Zacchaeus, the crooked tax collector who climbed a tree to get a better look at Jesus and ended up changing his life forever. We heard the story, acted the story, watched the story, illustrated the story and, finally, sang the story for the congregation on May 22nd when we presented "Hurry on Down" as the sermon of the day.

Many volunteers helped us in our ministry to children and families this year, including:

Chico Aller; Ashley Allyn; Betsy Beck; Malcolm Brown; Jane and Mark Capecelatro; Eric Chin; Lee Collins; Suzy Colpitts; Maggie Crain; Mary Davidson; Mindy Fitting; Lyndel Giffenig; Jennifer Good; Kit Kellogg; Caitlin, Lauren: and Missy Hanlon; Susan Hassler and Bob Maxwell; Eleanor Horowitz; Barbara Jacquette; Janet Kaufman; Jennifer Kronholm and James Clark; Debbie Mark; Kathy Mera; Colin and Olivia May; Sue Morrill; Martin Nweeia; Erik and Sarah Rydingsword; Heather Schaufele; Judy and Tom Stewart; Holly and Stephanie Tierney; Carol Visnapuu

May 22nd was the last day of Sunday School. During the summer months, there will be infant and young child care (age 0-4) on Sunday mornings. If you would like to volunteer to be the caregiver on a Sunday or two, please let Barbara Collins know. We encourage families with children older than 4 to participate in congregational worship during the summer. The services tend to be more informal and shorter in length.

~ Barbara Collins, Religious Education



"If we're all God's children, just think of all the cards he gets on Father's Day."