

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ
September, 2009



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

Pamela Wyeth, Editor

Time to Start Thinkng About and Planning The 2009 Fall Festival

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Fall Festival

It's not too early to think about it! Friday, October 9th, Saturday, the 10th, and Sunday, the 11th. Last year was the first time we held some Fall Festival activities on Sunday, and they went very well; they didn't interfere with worship or church school, and all did a brisk business. We're planning to have much the same schedule this year.

Read full article on page 6



From the Pastor's Desk...



It's been quite a summer. We've traversed the river of "exploration" as we have tried different things during our "casual worship" services, and they've been met with some valuable response. Regardless of whether the slight changes were liked or disliked by any one individual, they

offered us in the bigger picture an opportunity to stretch our experience of worship, and discover what may or may not work for us as a congregation. Thus, it was all valuable.

As we move into the Fall, and revisit our more traditional worship style, we will be doing more exploring, this time with a continuation of our Congregational Dialogue Sessions, and using this forum once again for discussion around two areas: (1) Beginning the development of a long-term vision and plan for implementation of our ministry goals and objectives; and (2) Determining the ministry strengths and personal characteristics of your next settled pastor. The first will take place on Friday, September 25, during our monthly church potluck dinners. The second will be held as a 2-hour session after church, again with lunch provided, on Sunday, November 15. A third topic to be approached is our individual and collective theology as a congregation, a focus we will take up during one of our worship services over the coming months.

We've said plenty over the spring and summer about the importance of these sessions, so I won't indulge redundancy here for that. Suffice it to say that these conversations will be your best opportunity to have direct input in the creating of the future of our church, and, vis-à-vis, the criteria for selection of your next minister.

Finally, in a recent conversation with a colleague and a veteran of intentional interim work, I mentioned feeling that one of my primary roles as a transitional minister, besides being the pastor, is to act as the "coach" for a team that is motivated to make the best of themselves and reach their goals, but which needs to be assisted in pursuing those goals in a step-by-step process, one that is constantly challenging them to grow, but who does it incrementally so they do not lose heart and become exhausted or have their spirits broken in the process. Well, she wisely tagged an addendum to my analogy, for my benefit, and said that this coach hopefully also knows when to pull back and give the team a rest. AND, to reassure the team regarding the progress they're making, and to always bring a positive voice to their efforts.

I want, and need, to do that for you today.

As a congregation, I have found you tenacious, daring, creative, attentive, and committed to succeeding in this transition. I applaud your vigilance and your determination to, as Thoreau puts it, "...suck out all the marrow" of this time in your corporate life together, and want to encourage that tenacity with all the words and support I can present.

And though we have yet more work to do, some of it quite challenging, I am confident we will be meeting it with courage and *chutzpah*. I mean to say this as the pastor *and* the coach, not from the outside looking in and simply hoping you succeed, but from the inside with a personal vested interest in your success and happiness, and walking that road with you.

That is my commitment to you, in this next leg of our journey together.

And your reflections on how things have been going so far, positive, negative, reflective, confused, invigorated, or questioning are all welcome. My door, my ears, and my heart, are open.

.... Pastor Steve

Email: rev.steve@salisburycongregational.org

Blog: <http://salisburycongregational.wordpress.com>

The Church Council

The Church Council had its regularly scheduled meeting after church on the third Sunday of the month, August 20, 2009. Among the actions taken by the Council were the following:

1. At the request of the staff, the council agreed to change the date of the annual meeting from October 25th to November 1st to facilitate a special program during the October 25th church service.
2. The Council agreed to take the leadership in reviewing and revising the Church's constitution and by-laws. Toward that end, a committee is being formed, and work on that project will begin shortly. All Boards and Committees will be asked to suggest any changes they think will facilitate performing their responsibilities. Any changes to the Constitution or By-laws can only be made by a vote of the Congregation after appropriate and sufficient notice.
3. The Council has asked the Deacons to form a search committee to begin the task of searching for a settled pastor. It was the Council's position that the search committee selected by the Deacons for the original associate pastor search was an excellent committee and, should they be willing, the same members should serve on the soon to be formed committee. It was also agreed that the Congregation should be asked if there are any others who would like to serve on the committee. Their names would be considered for possible membership.
4. The Council authorized the Moderator to sign a six month extension of the interim pastor contract of employment. The contract requires an annual formal review which will take place in December before the contract is renewed in January 2010.
5. The Council received a recommendation from the Deacons on the subject of possible same gender marriages being performed in the church. The recommendation will be reviewed and discussed further at the September 20th Council meeting.



Potluck Supper and Long-Range Planning

1. Join Us for Supper: Friday, September 25th at 5:30

It's the first potluck supper of the season 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 the family! Bring a friend! Cartoons for the kids.

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

2. Dialogue Session #4:

Long-Range Planning 6:30-8:30

This will be an opportunity to join in discussion about the future of our church. See Pastor Steve's article regarding this session. Child care will be provided.



Fall Festival Treasure Trove

Wondering what to do with the cut-glass pickle dish you received as a wedding gift? How about that handsome set of carbide drill bits your husband gave you for your birthday? Got art, small appliances, baby and children's toys and

things, collectibles, small furniture items, garden stuff, gifts, kitchenware, jewelry, lamps, linens, tools, etc? If you don't want it and it's in good condition, why not donate it to the Fall Festival Treasure Trove? No clothing, books, records, exercise equipment, or large furniture items, please. Treasures can be left in the church basement or call Barbara Collins (435-0051) to arrange for pick-up.

Bones of the church

The "body" of a church has four kinds of bones:

1. The WISHbones are those folks who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work.
2. The JAWbones are those who do all the talking and very little else.
3. The KNUCKLEbones are those who knock everything anyone else tries to do.
4. The BACKbones are those who get under the load and get the work done.

What kind of bone are you?

Church School



Our Church School Year Begins

Please join us for breakfast! Families with children are invited to a light breakfast on Sunday, September 13th, at 9:15 in the parish hall. This annual gathering, which is sponsored by the Board of Deacons, is a wonderful opportunity to greet old friends and to welcome newcomers to our church school family. Barbara Collins will register the children for the coming church school year. Bring a friend! Bring a family!

Classes for children in Pre-kindergarten (age 4) through Grade 8 will begin on the 13th. The children attend the first part of the 10:00 worship service with their families and then are dismissed to their classrooms. Crib/toddler care is also available on Sunday mornings for the littlest ones, birth through age four.

Dismissal time in the Church School is 11:10. It is most helpful if parents (particularly parents of children in the nursery) refrain from coming upstairs until dismissal time.



CROP WALK - Sunday, September 16th Housantonic Valley Regional High School Falls Village



On Sunday, September 27, 2009, the Northwest corner CROP Walk will celebrate its 26th anniversary. The CROP Walk is sponsored by Church World Service and is held in

communities nationwide. The main purpose of the walk is to raise money for people who are struggling to find and buy food, both abroad and at home.

Our church has always participated in this walk along with other area churches, and we hope this year that our participation will be greater than ever before. Every one of us can either take a registration form or sign on as a sponsor for those who plan to walk. In our congregation, there are those who will walk the entire route of five miles, while others can

walk the oval in front of the high school. But ALL of us can be sponsors of those who walk.

Our walk is enjoyable and even fun, but our cause is very serious. Shirley Rogers and I will be CROP Walk recruiters for our church, and, starting on Sunday, September 6th, we will be at our recruiters table in Fellowship Hall signing up walkers and handing them their registration packets.

A portion of the funds raised by the NW CROP Walk will be returned to our community to help those who are facing problems in meeting higher food prices. OWL's Kitchen food bank in Lakeville is reporting an increased demand for food. So, parents please encourage your children to walk, and children encourage your parents to walk, and each one of us encourage each other to walk!

- Sue Ritchie (435-2524)

From the Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons has had a busy summer. We have been working to address sensitive issues during this transitional time. We welcomed a number of guest ministers to our pulpit; some new and some familiar faces. Highlights included two visits from the directors and counselors of Silver Lake Conference Center. During their first visit in June, the counselors were commissioned by our church community. Their return visit in latter August was an opportunity for us to hear from a number of them reflecting on their experiences at the camp this summer. Both times, they delighted us with their uplifting singing and joyful spirits. Musically, in the absence of our choir, the congregation was blessed with some wonderful guest singers and musicians. Pastor Steve took a number of turns at the piano, and we sang

many favorites and a few little known hymns as we started services with old fashioned hymn sings. As expected we had a number of visitors join our less formal summer services. A favorite moment of mine was catching sight of a number of backpacks and hiking poles lining our vestibule, the owners of which were a young group of through hikers that sat in the back row during service, and afterwards filled us in on their adventures on the mountain trails. They seemed particularly fond of our small town. We look forward to a busy and productive fall. We hope to see many familiar faces, and, hopefully, some new ones, as well, at the Homecoming Sunday on September 13th.

Janet Kaufman for the Deacons

Sunday, September 20 ~ Deadline for submissions for October newsletter

LOCOS Peformance in September

The Light Opera Company of Salisbury presents Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro (in English) at Hotchkiss' Walker Auditorium. Performances are on Friday, September 4th and Saturday, September 5th at 7:30pm, and Sunday, September 6th at 2:30pm. Tickets are \$20, and may be purchased at Salisbury Pharmacy, Petpourri, Sharon Pharmacy and Oblong Books, as well as on line at www.locosct.org.



Photos by Joseph Meehan

Wishing You a
Happy Birthday! **September**

| | |
|------|--------------------|
| 1st | Julie Aller |
| 3rd | Dan Heck |
| 6th | Alvord Beardslee |
| 7th | Darby Craig |
| 7th | Diane Mayland |
| 8th | Joanne Taber |
| 9th | Bill Genito |
| 12th | Sara Deprodicini |
| 13th | Judy Percy |
| 13th | Susan Belcher |
| 14th | Rachel Child |
| 15th | Catherine O'Connor |
| 17th | Robin Dee |
| 20th | Bill Morrill |
| 21st | Bill Binzen |
| 22nd | Heather Schaufele |
| 23rd | Donald Allyn |
| 25th | Tom Stewart |
| 26th | Ronald O'Connor |
| 27th | Louise Robinson |

September Calendar

Sunday, the 6th:

Worship with Communion 10:00

Wednesday, the 9th:

Prayer Group - 10:15

Choir rehearsals begin - 7:30

Sunday, the 13th: Rally Sunday

Church School breakfast & meeting - 9:15

Worship and Church School - 10:00

Board of Trustees - 11:15

Board of Christian Action - 11:15

Youth Fellowship - 5:00

Parents meet - 7:15

Wednesday, the 16th:

Prayer Group - 10:15

Sunday, the 20th:

Worship and Church School - 10:00

Church Council - 11:15

Friday, the 25th:

All-church Potluck - 5:30

Congregational Dialogue Session IV - 6:30-8:30pm

Sunday, the 27th:

Worship and Church School - 10:00

Board of Deacons - 11:15

CROP Walk - 1:30 - HVRHS

Cost of a Sermon

One beautiful Sunday morning, a pastor announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour.

"Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

Special dates

✧ Labor Day, Monday, September 7

✧ Patriot Day (remembrance of Sept. 11), Friday, September 11

✧ National Grandparents Day, Sunday, September 13

✧ National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15

✧ First Day of Autumn, Tuesday, September 22

In Memoriam

Elbis "Izzie" Decker

February 21, 1923 ~ July 18, 2009

Calling All Singers!

The senior choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:30pm in the parish hall. We welcome any singers willing to devote time for practice and worship services during the year. Please speak to Al Sly.





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Sunday, and they went very well; they didn't interfere with worship or church school, and all did a brisk business. We're planning to have much the same schedule this year.

Over the past years businesses and organizations in Salisbury have become increasingly involved in the Fall Festival, expanding what was originally an all-church event. We think this is a healthy development, and it certainly brings more people to town, and ultimately into our church and its activities.

The Fall Festival Committee has been meeting and planning for several months, and now is the time for everyone to consider getting involved. Let's make the 2009 Festival another joyful celebration of our community and the autumn season. Here are some ways to share your talents:

* Treasure Trove - Barbara Collins (435-0051) in charge. See separate article in this issue, p.3. Call Barbara if you can help sort, price, display, or sell.

* Silent Auction - Once again this year our silent auction will be a mini-auction - 10 or 12 fabulous items to complement our ever-popular Treasure Trove. We will offer a few high-quality and unusual auction gifts and services to entice everyone. Stay tuned! Sara Wardell (435-4902).

* Country Kitchen - Jams, jellies, cakes, pies, pickles, cookies, breads, and other assorted goodies - it's a great display and sale of delicious food and an irresistible destination for festival-goers. We need your homemade foods! This is one activity our church shares with other churches in town, so please note that yours is from the Congregational Church. Please call Linda Estabrook (824-5896) to volunteer to help and to donate foods. More information next month.

* Dining Area - This year the Kitchen and Dining Room will be replaced with something different. This is due in part, to the unavailability of people willing to take over the former operations, as was mentioned in our summer church bulletin. In lieu of that, something new will be offered.

A way to quench your thirst!

The Parish Hall dining area will be the new quarters for a variety of hot and cold drinks: coffees, teas, cider and more! On both Friday and Saturday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, this area will provide a place for all comers to refresh themselves. Sit and sip as you enjoy the company of friends and the offerings of the nearby Country Kitchen. Janet Kaufman and Steve Austin are heading this

up and are looking for volunteers to help set-up, serve, and clean up.

* Hot Dog Tent - Roseanne Lamson (435-0053) and her crew serve old-fashioned hot dogs and other good stuff to the hungry sidewalk crowd.

* Smiling faces are needed for Greeters to welcome visitors to our Fall Festival and to offer directions to departments and events. Jane Capecelatro (435-2359) organizes them - two hour shifts, 10 to 4, Friday and Saturday.

* The Children's' Activities on Saturday are organized by Cynthia LaPier ([413] 229-0180) and the Youth Fellowship. Parents are very welcome to help, too!

* Global Crafts - Peg Heck (435-2977) and Susan Belcher (435-3049) of the Board of Christian Action are organizing and running this valuable addition to our Fall Festival. As in years past, their attractive display will stay in place through early December.

* Strong backs wanted - Festival Coordinator Mike Fitting ([413] 229-2917) needs lots of help before and after the Festival:

setup early Sunday afternoon, Oct. 4th,

a partial takedown 4:00 on Saturday, Oct. 10th,

and final cleanup 3:00, Sunday, the 11th.

* Extra hands - Just want to help where needed? We need volunteers who are willing to do all sorts of things. Volunteer Recruiter Jenn Good (435-4710) is eager to hear from you and will suggest how you can help.

* Cash Contributions - Underwriters are special workers, too. You can help defray the costs of the Festival - entertainment like the very popular magician and the Salisbury Band Senior Quickstep HotShots - and other expenses and supplies - printing, banners, decorations, food, etc., etc. If you cannot be involved in the actual running of the Festival, your financial contribution will really help. Please send your check to the church (PO Box 392, Salisbury, CT 06068) and note that it's for the Fall Festival.

The Fall Festival is an extraordinary annual event, eagerly awaited by visitors from near and far. Other activities in Salisbury and Lakeville continue to be added every year. We hope everyone will share in the fun of our church's hometown, homegrown celebration. If you have ideas, suggestions, or questions, please contact any committee member.

For the Fall Festival Committee

Chair - Lee Collins (435-0051)

Coordinator - Mike Fitting ([413] 229-2917)

Secretary - Janet Kaufman (435-1350)

Recruitment - Jennifer Good (435-4710)

Publicity - Deb Pastore (596-4090)

Treasurer - John Estabrook (824-5896)

GROWING UP FAST!

In September, Monarch butterflies migrate to warmer climates. In God's wonderful design, these butterflies have gone through an amazing transformation. This craft will remind you of the ongoing transformation that God has planned for you, too.

What you need:

- Clear, one-gallon zipper baggie (with no writing)
- Colored tissue paper
- Scissors
- Wooden, one-piece clothespin
- Pipe cleaner
- Black permanent marker
- Glue and wiggly eyes (optional)
- Magnet tape

What you do:

1. Turn the baggie inside out and rub it on your head to create static cling. Then turn the baggie right-side-out again.
2. Cut tissue paper into 2" x 2" squares.
3. Fill the baggie with tissue squares.
4. Press excess air out of the bag and zip it. Lay the baggie on its side (this will form the butterfly's wings) so the zipper is at the top.
5. Pinch the baggie with the clothespin so it divides the baggie into two equal parts to create the butterfly's head and body.
6. Thread the pipe cleaner through the hole atop the clothespin to form the antennae.
7. With a permanent marker, write "Romans 12:2" on the bottom half of the clothespin.
8. Draw on eyes (or glue on wiggly eyes).
9. Attach a strip of magnet tape to the back of the clothespin. Then display the butterfly on your refrigerator.

Back to School

The child comes home from his first day at school. Mother asks, "What did you learn today?"

The kid replies, "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."

Little Johnny wasn't getting good marks in school. One day he surprised the teacher with an announcement. He tapped her on the shoulder and said, "I don't want to scare you, but my daddy says if I don't start getting better grades, somebody is going to get a spanking!"



Be transformed

It's the beginning of a new school year, and you'll be growing and changing every day. Below is an important lesson that God wants you to remember.

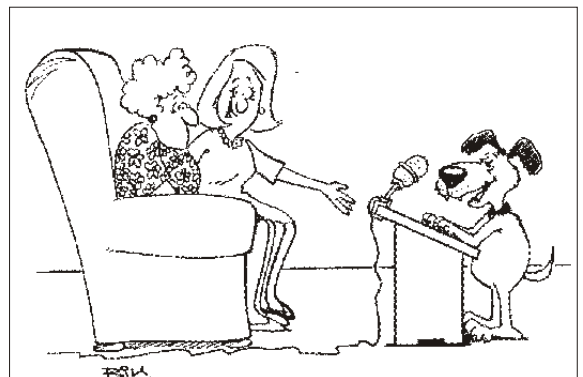
Color in the letter boxes that have an asterisk (*).

Then write the letters that are left on the lines below to finish Romans 12:2.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| c | h* | o | n | d* | f | t* | q* | o | s* | r | a* | b* | r* | m |
| x* | p | j* | e* | a | t | m* | t | o* | c* | p* | e | r | k* | n |
| w | d* | o | s* | r* | j* | r | g* | l | b* | l* | i* | n* | d | y* |
| t | r | i* | a | t* | n | s | r* | f | o | r | v* | m | e | d |
| r | d* | e | n | h* | s* | o* | e | r* | w | i | t* | n | m* | g |
| c* | a* | m | b* | u* | i | p* | z* | n | j* | r* | d | y* | o* | u* |
| a* | r* | s* | t | e | o* | w* | s | k* | v* | f* | l* | t | e* | a* |
| a | p | e* | r* | p | i* | r | g* | o | n* | v | h* | j* | p* | e |
| n* | o* | G | b* | i* | o | s* | d | a* | l* | l* | s | e* | t* | h* |
| s* | p | l | m* | e | y* | a | s | o* | r* | i | n | c* | g | n* |
| p | e | t* | i* | r | f | w* | t* | e | m* | l* | c | d* | a* | t |

"Do not _____ any longer to the _____ of this _____, but be _____ by the _____ of your _____. Then you will be able to _____ and _____ what _____ will is — his good, _____ and _____ will." *Romans 12:2, NIV*

Answers: conform, pattern, world, transformed, renewing, mind, test, approve, God's, pleasing, perfect



"It does seem strange, but Tom said this is how all pastors train their dogs to speak."