

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ
October 2011



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

PASTOR EMERITUS SERVICE FOR RICHARD TABER OCTOBER 18TH



Photos by Lee Collins & Deb Pastore

You can see many more photos of the event, courtesy of Jennifer Good, on the Congregational Church of Salisbury's Facebook page or at www.photobucket.com/pastoremeritus.



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SEASON OF LOVE



I find October to be one of the most beautiful months in New England. The brilliant leaves against a blue sky remind me of God's amazing ability to make things new. I am always in awe of the seasonal transformations that take place and believe they are a gentle, visual reminder of God's power. For some people, autumn is seen as the time when everything dies and the cold sets in. For me, it is a time

when we are reminded that change is inevitable and that seeds sown will flourish anew months from now. I enjoy the bright sunlight of the days, followed by the chilly nights. It seems to me to be a time when we snuggle into our homes, gather our families and prepare for the winter.

As I reflect on our life together as a faith community, I wonder where God is calling us. I wonder if we are to be a mission church, dedicated to serving those less fortunate than ourselves. I wonder if we are meant to be an evangelical church, bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to those who are outside of a faith community. I wonder if we are called to be a praying church, dedicating ourselves to spiritual growth and discipline. I wonder if we are to be a worshipping church, one dedicated to glorifying God in all of our actions. I wonder if we are to be a

stewardship church, carefully managing our inheritance to preserve it for future generations.

I believe that we are meant to be a bit of each one of these types of churches. We are blessed with many gifted individuals in our community and I think the potential for this church is nothing short of amazing.

I think most importantly, we are called to be a church defined by LOVE.

LOVE stands for "Living Our Values Everyday." I believe that this is the most important work that we do. By committing ourselves to LOVE, we incorporate all of the elements listed above: mission, evangelism, praying, worship and stewardship. This is not easy work, but it is what Christians are called to do. We come to church to nurture our ability to carry this out. It is in community that we develop the skills to LOVE. We gather to be nourished by God's holy word and to share the peace that Jesus Christ promises. We invite our children and our friends to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. We gather as a joyful community, celebrating the traditions of the past and the inevitable changes that the future will bring.

So as the leaves turn and the air gets cool, remember that a warm welcome awaits you at your church.

Blessings,

Pastor Diane

Email: pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org

TWELVE STEPS TO A COMPASSIONATE LIFE SERMON SERIES AND BOOK DISCUSSION

Our sermon series on Karen Armstrong's book will continue through the month of October. Please join us as we work together to build a community of compassion. The schedule for October is:

October 2nd: Step Three: Compassion for Yourself

October 9th: Step Four: Empathy

October 16th: Step Five: Mindfulness

October 23rd: Step Six: Action

October 30th: Step Seven: How Little We Know.

In addition to the Sunday Sermon series, we will hold a book discussion on the first half of the book on **Thursday, October 20th at 10:00 am.**

If you need help getting a copy of the book, speak with Pastor Diane.

COMFORT AND CONVERSATION

If you have suffered a loss in your life, recently or years ago, you are invited to join us on **Tuesday afternoons at 4:30** in the Wardell Community Room at the Scoville Library. We spend an hour each week sharing our thoughts and feelings about coping with loss in today's fast-paced society. The group is open ended – meaning that you can come as often as you like. If you are wondering if this group is right for you, talk to Pastor Diane.

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE TO IMAGINE WHAT'S POSSIBLE OCTOBER 22ND

The fall session of the 144th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference will assemble at the First Congregational Church UCC of Guilford on **Saturday, October 22nd**, for a day committed to renewing the church's ministry for the future. The one-day meeting will feature the address of Interim Conference Minister, the Rev. Charles L. Wildman, a sermon from Conference Preacher, the Rev. Ed Rawls, and conversations with members of the Search Committee as they seek guidance to "Imagine What's Possible" in selecting the next Conference Minister.

MISSION TRIP 2012

Are you ready to transform your life? Do you want to really feel that you are making a difference in changing the world? Do you want to step outside of your comfort zone and do something for those less fortunate than you? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are invited to participate in our 2012 Mission Trip to Oaxaca, Mexico. We will be working with *Simply Smiles* - www.simplysmiles.org to bring hope to the impoverished children of Oaxaca, Mexico. For more information, please join us in worship on **Sunday, October 9th** when Reverend Pete Allen, Vice President of *Simply Smiles*, will be our guest preacher. Rev. Allen will give a complete overview of the work being done in Mexico by *Simply Smiles*. To sign up for the trip, speak with Pastor Diane.



The 267th Annual Meeting, Part I will take place in the Meeting House following the worship service on **Sunday, October 30th**.

As the congregation looks ahead to a new year, the primary matter on the agenda will be the proposed 2012 budget. Over the past several months, the Trustees and Treasurer John Arnold have refined budget figures—examining potential income and necessary expenses—with austerity in mind as befits the times. It will be important to cut back in places, but hold onto our basic strengths and support innovation. The proposed 2012 budget will be mailed to the entire congregation two weeks prior to the October 30th Annual Meeting. Please review it, and come to discuss and to vote.

Please mark your calendar for October 30th and join this discussion about our future.

Kathy Mera, Moderator
Sue Morrill, For Board of Trustees



YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

The Salisbury Congregational Church Youth Group kicked off on Sunday, September 25th with a pizza party. The group is open to anyone from the community who is in grades seven through twelve. We are planning to meet at least once a month with a particular focus on service projects. Ashley Allyn will be our coordinator.

Our very first effort will be on Saturday, October 8th, when we will take charge of the children's activities for the Fall Festival.

On Sunday, October 9th, Reverend Pete Allen from *Simply Smiles* will be at church to discuss our mission trip to Mexico, scheduled for July 21-28, 2012.

In November we will join the other churches in northern Litchfield County at the Open Door Soup Kitchen at St. James Church in Winsted. We will be painting their dining room and hallway. This project fits with the UCC's Mission 1 initiative to fight hunger that will be underway at that time.

If you know of anyone in grades 7-12 who would like to join us, please have them give Pastor Diane a call.

Many kids drop out of their congregations as teenagers. Religion — or organized religion — no longer seems relevant to their lives. Their parents may want them to keep attending services, but they get so tired of arguing that they eventually give up and stop making them go. If you feel that your congregation is out of touch with young people, don't drop out. Speak up. Talk with the people who lead the youth program. Come up with ideas and offer to help. [And youth], don't expect your congregation to serve you. What can you contribute? For example, if you would like your place of worship to offer one service a month especially for young people, maybe you could help to organize it. The more involved you become, the more meaningful the service will be for you and the less likely you are to walk away.

— Peter L. Benson, et. al. in What Kids Need to Succeed

Our **Global Crafts Boutique** begins on Fall Festival Weekend October 7th, 8th, and 9th. This year the boutique also will be open on Sundays from 11:15 to 12 noon, starting on October 16th and ending on December 4th of Hometown Holidays weekend.

The **Giving Tree** project is being headed up this year by Jane Capecelatro and Jeanette Weber. We are in need of a new tree, if anyone has a tree they would like to donate please contact either Jane (435-2359) or Jeanette (435-4804).

Thank you to the congregation for doing a great job in turning in their LaBonne's shopping receipts. Christian Action totals up the subtotal amounts of the receipts collected, they are submitted to LaBonne's, and half of one percent of the total amount is then donated to OWL'S KITCHEN for those in need. Every receipt counts!

Minding Fitting for the Bd. of Christian Action

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST

We welcome Dick Taber as our Pastor Emeritus, and we welcome his offer to revive the Friday Morning Men's Bible Breakfast. We'll begin **Friday, October 28th**, with the same time format as before: 7:00 breakfast followed by study and discussion from 7:30 to 8:15. If you need to be at work by 9:00, we hope that will allow enough time.



The following is Dick's proposal for our first study:

Great Moments in the Unfolding Story of God's Relationship with Humankind

God is like the wind. You can't see it, but you know it's there because you can hear it and feel it and because you can see what is moved by it. God reveals him/herself to us by what God does in history by working through men and women who are called to serve God.

I propose that we focus on ten moments in the story of God's unfolding relationship with humankind (which we call the Holy Bible) that profoundly affected people's lives and indeed the history of our civilization. We will begin at the beginning and end with the Acts of the Apostles.

I hope the ten-week series will provide a valuable foundation for those who have not had a lot of experience with interpreting the treasure which we call the Holy Scriptures. For those who have spent a lot of time studying the Bible it will be an experience of returning to holy ground. But I think it will be a bit different because we will not be looking at the "great moments" in the context of a book of the Bible, but as a part of the unfolding development. Beginners are welcome, old hands are welcome, and every one in between. We learn from each other.

Lee Collins

"Christian faith is a grand cathedral, with divinely pictured windows. Standing without, you see no glory, nor can imagine any. But standing within, every ray of light reveals a harmony of unspeakable splendors."

—Nathaniel Hawthorne



STEWARDSHIP 2011 AND BEYOND

We have a new Stewardship Committee. At present the committee consists of Sue Morril, Ann Perse, Carol Magowan Janet Offensend, Mary Robertson, Bob Keiter, Jack Ritchie, Bruce McKeever, Joe Catania, Ward Belcher, and Rod Lankler. In reality, it is a committee in formation, because if you want to join and take part in our efforts, or you know of anyone who is either a member or friend of the Congregation who you think should be involved, please let us know.

We have been meeting since August and we want to share with you some of our thoughts. Essentially we are exploring ways to insure the financial stability of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, not just for now, but well into the future. We have discussed three areas to which we would like to devote our energies.

First and foremost is the upcoming Every Member Canvas, something with which you are all familiar. The Trustees are in the process of formulating a budget for the coming year--a daunting task given the shifting sands of our economy. That budget will be presented to you, for your consideration, at the annual meeting later in October. Thereafter, you will be asked to make your pledges to support the activities of the church for the coming year. We expect to celebrate our opportunity to give with our Thanksgiving, a tradition started by Pastor Steve. In the past the Herculean task of the EMC has been carried on by one person, most recently, Carol Magowan. Pastor Diane has sagely concluded that this is a big job for one person and we

have a subcommittee in formation that will include Janet Offensend, Mary Robertson, Carol Magowan and at least one more person. Needless to say, you will be hearing much from all of them in the coming weeks.

Secondly, you have all been told about the developing plans to make our church handicap accessible. Some of that is underway and more of it is in the planning stage. It is imperative that we develop a plan to finance these efforts without endangering our endowment which is so vital to deferring the operating expenses of our church. There are too many examples of failed churches because of inadequate planning. So for the first time since our anniversary in 2000, we will have a capital campaign. This is in the planning stage. You will hear more about it in the months ahead. The committee is aware that our personal resources have been and continue to be called upon in Salisbury; that these are scary times; and, that this campaign must be conducted intelligently.

Thirdly, we are developing a legacy campaign. Simply put, we hope to get us all thinking about leaving something to the church in our wills. We hope that some of you have already done this but you will soon see how easy and "painless" this can be. You might even think it fun.

Please be assured that whatever we ultimately do, it will have had prior approval of the Trustees and the Church Council. More to come.

Rod Lankler, Stewardship Committee

CHURCH DAY 2011 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH



Join us in establishing a new tradition at the Salisbury Congregational Church! **Saturday, October 29th** will be the first annual **Church Day**. We are dedicating the whole day to serve our church. We will spend the morning working together to do small repairs and upkeep

projects around the building and grounds. Everyone is welcome - young and old - we will have something for each person to do. Help us keep our beautiful church in good shape.

After we share a lunch together (pre-registration needed), the adults will engage in an afternoon of discernment. We will be exploring the question, "What is God calling our church to do (or to be)? We will build on the work completed during the transitional ministry period and collectively give voice to our vision for the future.

Once we have reached consensus on a mission and vision, we will break into groups to explore how the work of each committee moves our mission forward. This work will lay the foundation for our year ahead and will inform any changes made to the bylaws. Everyone in the church is welcome to attend. **Please call or email the office to let us know you are coming, so that we can provide lunch.**

Pastor Diane

You probably have noticed some things in and outside the church building that need repair or attention. We don't mean the big alterations and construction projects - just the nicks, dings, touch-ups and cleaning - inside and out - that are needed from time to time in a well-used building. Let's get to them.

Saturday morning, October 29th, 9:00 to noon - wear old clothes - no heavy lifting or high ladders.

A partial list of what needs to be done:

- touch-up painting and some more extended painting
- washing woodwork, windows, and all the toys in the nursery
- minor hammer-and-nail repairs
- garden clean-up

You can see that no one needs to be very experienced - just willing to help brighten up, clean up, and neaten up our church. More information to come. Save the date!

Lee Collins

I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody.

- Lily Tomlin





2011 FALL FESTIVAL - COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, SATURDAY, THE 8TH, AND SUNDAY, THE 9TH

The next weeks will be full of all sorts of work and activity as we gear up for this annual event, and we want to provide a place for everyone who can help. We will have sign-up sheets available after Sunday morning services for people to help in the specific activities listed below. Please contact the people in charge for more information.

An important step forward: we're very pleased that the Board of Trustees has voted that 100% of the proceeds from the Fall Festival go to the Board of Christian Action to be used in our outreach and mission programs. We can now make it known that all the profit we make will go to people in need.

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! Food accepted Friday and Saturday only and before 9:30, please. Indicate if baked goods contain nuts.

This is one activity our church shares with other churches in town, so please note that yours is from the Congregational Church.

Contact Linda Estabrook for more information and to volunteer to help. 860-824-5896 and johnlin01@comcast.net.

Treasure Trove – Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. It's not too late to clean out that kitchen cupboard, linen closet, tool shed, or bookshelf and add your treasures to the trove. Wednesday, October 19th, is the deadline. Barbara Collins, 435-0051 and bacollins430@gmail.com.

Hot Dog Tent – Mindy Fitting, Roseanne Lamson and their crew will serve old-fashioned hot dogs and other good stuff to the hungry sidewalk crowd Friday and Saturday. Mindy Fitting is at (413) 229-2917 and mindy_nov18@hotmail.com.

Street Fair/Children's Activities – Saturday only. Pastor Diane will be organizing the youth and praying for good weather. They will need parents and friends to help. Diane Monti-Catania 860-435-2442 and monticatania@gmail.com

Greeters – Smiling faces are needed to welcome visitors to our Fall Festival and to offer directions to departments and events. Jane Capecelatro schedules them. She's at 435-2359 and caphouse@sbcglobal.net.

Global Crafts – The Board of Christian Action organizes and runs this valuable addition to our Fall Festival. Mindy Fitting (413) 229-2917 and mindy_nov18@hotmail.com

Decorations - In the capable hands of Linda Estabrook 824-5896 or johnlin01@comcast.net, and Debby Mark 435-0468 at Deborahmark@hotmail.com

*** Strong backs needed** - Festival Coordinator Mike Fitting (413-229-2917 and fittmig@hotmail.com) needs lots of help before and after the Festival:

setup early Sunday afternoon, Oct. 2nd,
a partial takedown 4:00 on Saturday, Oct. 8th,
and final cleanup 3:00, Sunday, the 9th.

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.

*** 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 for sale, 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.

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



OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 - Worship & Communion No church school, crib/toddler care 11:30 - Board of Trustees <i>World Communion Sunday</i>	3	4 4:30 - Comfort & Conversation - Wardell Community Room at the Scoville Library	5	6	7	8
Fall Festival 9 10:00 - Worship & Church School; Guest Preacher, Rev. Peter Allen, re: Mission Trip 2012 *	10 <i>Columbus Day</i>	11 4:30 - Comfort & Conversation - Wardell Community Room at the Scoville Library	12	13	14	15
16 10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:30 - Bd. of Christian Action	17	18 4:30 - Comfort & Conversation - Wardell Community Room at the Scoville Library	19	20	21	22 CTUCC Annual Meeting *
23 10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:30 - Church Council	24	25 4:30 - Comfort & Conversation - Wardell Community Room at the Scoville Library 6:30 - 8:00 Board of Deacons	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 - Intergenerational Worship. No church school. Crib/toddler care 11:15 - Annual Meeting Part I * <i>Reformation Sunday</i>	31 <i>Halloween</i>				7:00 - Men's Breakfast *	9:00-12:00 - Church Work Day * 12:00-1:00 - Church Lunch * 1:00-4:00 - Vision and Mission Planning *
					* Article in this MHT	

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20TH



OCTOBER SUNDAY SUPPORT SCHEDULE

- 1st Lester Hoysradt
- 2nd Jim LaPier
- 3rd Charlie Noyes
- 3rd Ken Craig
- 6th Clare Rashkoff
- 6th Al Sly
- 9th Mark Alexander
- 9th Alfred Richardson
- 10th Michele Hanlon
- 12th John Hoffman
- 12th Jano Fairservis
- 13th Vince Hanlon
- 15th Patricia Palmer
- 16th Colin May
- 20th Duane Estes
- 23rd Trudy Allyn
- 24th Jennifer Kronholm
- 25th Anne Williams
- 26th Chico Aller
- 27th Nancy Sills

Date	Lead Deacon	Lay Reader	Fellowship Hour	Flowers	Ushers
October 2 Communion	Deb Pastore Tony Good Carol Magowan Larry Blades	Theresa Carroll	Carol Magowan		John Hoffman Jim LaPier
October 9	Deb Pastore			Kathy Mera	John Hoffman Jim LaPier
October 16	Deb Pastore	Malcolm Brown	Janet & Sal Accardo	Ellie Owens	John Hoffman Jim LaPier
October 23	Deb Pastore	Laura Flores	Cynthia & Jim LaPier		John Hoffman Jim LaPier
October 30	Deb Pastore				John Hoffman Jim LaPier





OFF TO A GOOD START

The new Church School year began on Sunday, September 11th, with a homecoming breakfast of delicious goodies provided by the Board of Deacons. This was a wonderful opportunity to welcome our families back after the summer vacation and to greet newcomers. How the children have grown! Thank you, Deacons.

We celebrate Missy, Caitlin, and Lauren Hanlon, Carol Visnapuu, and Jennifer Good for serving as nursery caregivers and teachers for our first weeks.

The hymn, "I Love to Tell the Story" is providing the focus of our autumn curriculum. Our stories "of Jesus and His love" have included the stories about the loaves and fishes, the good Samaritan, and the blind man, Bartimaeus.

Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to actively participate in the spiritual formation of our children by volunteering as nursery caregivers, classroom teachers, substitutes, or aides throughout the year.

Barbara Collins, Religious Education

I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework. - Lily Tomlin

REMEMBER OWL'S KITCHEN

Please remember those in our communities in need of the basics. Non-perishable food is always welcome, and can be left in the baskets in the narthex and the parish hall corridor.



TECH SUPPORT

My husband, Jeff, and I incurred several problems while assembling our new computer system, so we called the help desk. The man on the phone started to talk to Jeff in computer jargon, which confused us even more.

"Sir," my husband politely said, "please explain what I should do as if I were a four-year-old."

"Okay," the computer technician replied. "Son, could you please put your mommy on the phone?"

Note: all web & email addresses in this newsletter are live links in the online version of the MHT.

PUZZLE

How to give

We can give in a variety of ways, including our money, possessions and time. But God says there's only one attitude to have when we give.

Finish the puzzles by matching the pieces and writing out the letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your ...

... not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a ...

Answers: heart to give cheerful giver

