

# The Meeting House Times

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

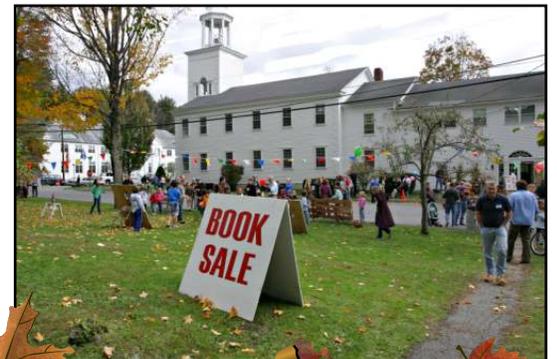


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Pamela Wyeth, Editor

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Fall Festival  
2009



## SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS...



Last month we wrapped up the Discovery Series on what our identity and vision are for our church as we move into its future. In that session, we began by addressing questions based on the input of the

last three sessions regarding what focus of ministry we want and feel called to embrace, and laid them out according to the following format:

### *What are we ALREADY doing?*

- 2nd Hour study
- Guest ministers
- Laypersons participating in leading worship
- Including children more in worship service
- Community Drug Awareness programs
- Visioning and discovery work
- Visitation discussion
- Bylaws revisions
- Children's pre-school playgroup

### *What can we START doing now?*

- Adult study
- Community dinners
- Journal column and community education
- Evangelism and outreach
- Ecumenical events
- Spiritual disciplines
- Sponsoring kids' clubs and parenting groups
- Communication regarding visitation
- Interfaith experiences

### *What should we WAIT to do until our next permanent pastor arrives?*

- Adult mission
- Alternative worship services
- Membership classes
- Sister church relationship
- Cottage dinners
- Stephen's Ministries training

We then identified what seemed to be a group of overarching mandates. Naming them our “Critical Points of Attention,” we unpack them as they are relevant to our Core Values. It should be noted that these are not outlined

## WHERE TO FROM HERE?

according to those values, but as general points needing significant attention. As resources moving forward they overlap in their correlation to those values. They were put forth as follows:

### FIVE CRITICAL POINTS OF ATTENTION (What we need to do — where we want to be.)

- COMMUNICATION — internal and external:
  - Assist in lay pastoral care/support, membership follow-up, expanded visibility in the community, reaching out to those with specific needs.
- ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION — more opportunities for spiritual study and practice:
  - Impacts spiritual growth, worship service, personal commitment (*involvement*).
- OUTREACH/EVANGELISM — growing the church, become more visible:
  - Draws others in who need what we have as a supportive faith community;
  - Responds to outreach, mission, and involvement values.
- SERVING the MARGINALIZED — creating and/or actively supporting humanitarian programs:
  - Offer assistance to various groups out of sense of mission and outreach;
  - Being community, inside and out;
  - Increasing our active, hands-on involvement.
- LAY MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT — stressing the vital nature of collaborative team ministry:
  - Addresses ALL Core Values, and calls all church members to “step up” into a new understanding of ownership of the church's identity and future success, with the pastor as leadership facilitator, developer and trainer.

Where we go from here will begin with creating a **Long-Term Planning and Strategy Team**. Whether appointed by the Church Council or nominated and voted upon by the congregation, this group will be called upon to devise an ongoing strategy for implementing your goals, as they

*Continued next page*

have been laid out here. It must take into account time, financial and human resources, and practicality...as well as, again, prayerful discernment regarding what to implement, how, and when.

All of this is to say, we have our work cut out for us. But it's good work; it's powerful work; and more than this, it's God's work. These decisions and identifiers did not come merely from enjoyable and interesting conversation. They came from a process that involved our brains and our hearts, our discussion and thoughtful prayer, over the things we felt God, and not only ourselves, was calling out as a part of our future. It is your collective job now to embrace this future and let it inform you about who should help lead you into it.

And that will be the job of your Search Committee.

Our next, and final, congregational discussion will take place on **Sunday, November 15th** immediately after the worship service. I expect this will be met with significant interest, as we will be honing in on what spiritual strengths, ministry skills and experience, and personality traits you envision having in your next settled minister. As with all these sessions, this one will play an instructing role in the task of the search committee. It's your chance to inform them of your collective hopes for your next pastor.

DON'T MISS IT! See you Sunday....

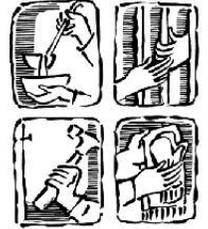
*Pastor Steve*

Email: [rev.steve@salisburycongregational.org](mailto:rev.steve@salisburycongregational.org)

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

## MISSION MOMENT

On **Sunday, November 15th**, Mary and Bill Ruth will be with us to share a mission moment about their experiences in Volunteer Ministry with the United Church of Christ.



## Mission Volunteers

They are long-term (6 months or more) volunteers through a program called "Partners in Service" which allows church members like Bill and Mary to give back in return for their many blessings.

For 6 years, they have worked at assignments from the Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico to our national offices in Cleveland, Ohio.

Bill and Mary are currently volunteering at our Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT. They consider themselves to be not only retired but "refired" through this ministry.

Please plan to join us as Mary and Bill share about this exciting opportunity through our denomination to serve others.

**"Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!" - Psalm 95:2**

## CONGREGATIONAL DIALOGUE SESSION V

"SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS II:  
THE QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS  
OF OUR NEXT PASTOR"

BE SURE TO PLAN ON JOINING US  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH AT 11:30 A.M.**,  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE,  
FOR OUR NEXT DIALOGUE SESSION.  
WE WILL DISCUSS THE STRENGTHS AND TRAITS  
YOU DESIRE IN YOUR NEXT PASTOR,  
AND THE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE  
HE OR SHE WILL NEED  
TO LEAD YOU EFFECTIVELY INTO YOUR FUTURE.

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE !  
...AND WE WON'T WANT TO MISS YOU !





The **Church Council** met on Sunday, October 18th. Among the items discussed were the agenda for the Annual Meeting to be held on November 1, 2009 and the formation of the Search Committee.

The approval of the Budget for the coming year will be the first item on the agenda.

There are two proposed amendments to the church's by-laws that will be submitted to the congregation for discussion and possible approval. These amendments will be in the packet sent to members prior to the Annual Meeting.

One amendment eliminates the need for six men and six women on the Board of Deacons. It permits the Board to consist of "twelve members, both men and women."

Another amendment requires the Moderator to convene the Nominating Committee right after the fall annual meeting. This is earlier than had been the custom.

The Council decided to refer other proposed amendments to a by-laws committee that is in formation.

The Council also agreed to put on the agenda for discussion and vote the following resolution: "We affirm the right of any couple, regardless of gender, and at the Pastor's discretion, to marry in the Meeting House with the blessing of the church."

There will then be a secret written ballot taken at the meeting. **ONLY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND ONLY THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE PRESENT CAN VOTE.** There will be no absentee voting. If you want to be counted on this issue, you should plan to be present.

A procedure for the selection of the search committee was reviewed by the council and approved. Each of the boards and committees of the church have been asked to meet, as soon as possible, and submit two names to the Deacons. Additionally, those persons interested in serving on the committee should submit their names to the Deacons. The Deacons will then select no more than 8 to serve on the committee, and submit them to the Council for final approval.

*- Rod Lankler for the Church Council*

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**Friday, November 20th  
Deadline for submissions  
for December newsletter**

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*Fellowship*

### **Recommendations for**

#### **Search Committee Involvement**

The Deacons have created a list of recommendations for those considering or being nominated to sit on the new Search Committee. Please review these and if you are interested in being nominated, please notify one of the members of the Church Council.

- Is an active member of the church
- Minimum of one year leadership or involvement in some aspect of church ministry
- Possesses spiritual maturity and a positive demeanor
- Good communication skills
- Clear ability and commitment to keep strict confidentiality
- Has participated in or familiarized themselves with the church discovery dialogue process
- Availability of time to commit to weekly meetings for approximately one year
- Ability and willingness to take on necessary tasks as assigned by the committee Chair

#### **Church Council Members**

Rod Lankler, Janet Kaufman, Sue Morrill,  
Peggy Heck, Heather Schaufele, Janet Accardo,  
Al Sly, Barbara Collins, Sarah Polhemus,  
John Arnold, Charlotte Reid, Kathy Mera,  
Jane Elwood, Lee Collins

## Christian Action

The **Global Crafts/Ten Thousand Villages** sales will continue through November every Sunday after church services from 11:15 - 12 noon. Come visit and browse and support this worthy fair trade cause for third world artisans.

We will also be visible in the parish hall Saturday, December 5th from 10-4 pm for "Downtown for the Holidays," so spread the word!



**The Giving Tree** will be decorated and ready **December 6th**. The tree is filled with paper ornaments describing various wish items for families in need.

After church on December 6th and 13th, plan on picking a few ornaments and sharing the holiday spirit and season with those in need. All gifts should be wrapped and returned to the church with the ornament attached by Sunday, December 20th.

*- Susie Blecher for the Board of Christian Action*

### The Prayer Group Workshop

The workshop has been scheduled for  
**Sunday, December 6th.**

More in the December *Meeting House Times*

## THE CROP WALK 2009 Communities Responding To Poverty

Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> dawned rainy and gray, but twenty three walkers recruited by the Salisbury Congregational Church and not discouraged by the wet weather, gathered in front of the Housatonic Valley High School along with many other walkers from the northwest corner.



Our Salisbury Congregational CROP walkers raised \$2,948.75 from many sponsors, and we wish to recognize especially Orrin Rydingsword who raised the most money among our church walkers. Orrin went on line to solicit sponsors as well as asking sponsors personally. He raised \$505.00 for the CROP Walk.

The following people recruited by our church walked either the oval in front of the high school or took the longer route along the river. They are: Janet Kaufman, Sue and Jack Ritchie, Olivia May, Orrin Rydingsword, Rosie Bell, Shirley Rogers, Pat Palmer, John Estabrook, Edie Blodgett, Peggy Heck, Kate Pastore, Eric Chin, Sam Pastore, Helen Hedman, Rachel Reed, Colin May, Alice Yoakum, Mary O'Neill, Jeff and Caleb May, Austin Wiggins, and Joanne Taber.

Although we hoped to raise more than last year, which was \$3,993.83, we did not realize our goal. According to the CROP treasurer this was also true for all the other participating churches and school groups.

Thanks to all who participated and contributed!

*- Sue Ritchie, Christian Action Committee*



### Church Women United World Community Day 2009

Friday, November 6th - 2:00 pm  
St. John's Church, 12 Main Street  
Salisbury, CT



World Community Day is celebrated on or near the first Friday in November, and focuses on justice and peace in the global society. This is also a time when many Church Women United Units choose to engage in in-depth study of global issues related to the theme. This year our theme, "Piecing Earth Together," focuses on the environment and how we are called to work together to be good stewards of the gifts of the earth. The logo depicts creation as a quilt and gives us the opportunity to reflect on the gifts that God bestowed on the world at the time of creation, and also to reflect on how we have used and misused these gifts.

#### Piecing the Earth Back Together Pledge:

**"I pledge to reduce, reuse and recycle to make a difference in my use of God's resources.  
I will hold myself accountable for cleaner air, water, and land on this earth  
and encourage others to do the same."**

We believe women have unique abilities in working together to make good things happen. Using the example of the old fashioned quilting bee, we see how women can accomplish more together to "Piece Earth Together" and make it *very good*.

If you are unable to attend our World Community Day Celebration, please be in prayer with our sisters on the day of the service. For more information, please call: Ruth Tyrol (824-1358) or Heather Schaufele (435-0439).



# November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>All Saints' Day</b> 1 10:00 - Worship & Communion 11:15 - Annual Meeting Daylight-Saving Time ends	2	3	4	5	6 World Community Day 2009 5:30 - Potluck Supper	7
8 10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Bd. of Trustees 11:15 - Bd. of Christian Action	9	10	11 <b>Veterans Day</b> 7:30 - Adult Choir Rehearsal	12 5:30 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 10:00 - Worship & Church School Missionary Guests: Mary & Bill Ruth 11:30 - Congregational Dialogue Session V	16	17	18 7:30 - Adult Choir Rehearsal	19 5:30 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	20	21
<b>Thanksgiving Sunday &amp; Stewardship Sunday</b> 22 10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Church Council <b>Christ the King Sunday</b>	23	24	25 7:00 pm - Interfaith Service, Trinity Church, Lime Rock	 26	27	28
29 10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Board of Deacons <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	30	"It's Church budget season — time for the Sermon on the Amount." - Rev. Denny J. Brake, Wake Forest, NC				

National Bible Week, November 22-29, 2009



- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2nd Elizabeth Palmer  | 15th Kathy Mera     |
| 3rd Jonathan Habacker | 16th Betty Scribner |
| 4th Sarah Rydingsword | 17th Caleb Rand     |
| 5th Sue Morrill       | 18th John Arnold    |
| 6th Charlotte Blais   | 18th Mindy Fitting  |
| 6th Terre Lefferts    | 19th Katherine Rich |
| 8th Betty Leech       | 19th Elizabeth Rich |
| 8th Joslin Taber      | 20th David Olsen    |
| 8th Janet Kaufman     | 20th Mary Wadsworth |
| 9th Sara Wardell      | 23rd Herb Gustafson |
| 9th O'Jane Dwelley    | 23rd Mason O'Niel   |
| 9th Ann Perse         | 24th Jennifer Good  |
| 10th Laurie Slotnick  | 26th Ellen Blais    |
| 11th Allyson Good     | 26th Paul Tierney   |
| 12th Ethan Kinzinger  | 29th Matthew Heck   |
| 14th Shayna Blumert   | 29th Damian Crain   |



### Potluck Supper

There will be a **Potluck Supper on Friday, November 6th, at 5:30** for anyone and everyone who would like a casual evening out. Bring a large salad or main dish (either homemade or take-out) to share. We will provide bread, dessert and beverage. Bring the family. Bring a friend. Cartoons for the kids.

*Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.*  
 ~W.T. Purkiser

**Note from the Editor:**  
 The church occasionally sends out notices and reminders by email. If you are not getting them and would like to, we need your email address. Please send it to me and I'll be sure it gets added: [pamela@salisburycongregational.org](mailto:pamela@salisburycongregational.org).

If a birthday has been omitted, please email [pamela@salisburycongregational.org](mailto:pamela@salisburycongregational.org)



Most Americans, learning about Thanksgiving's origin, hear or read about the destitute Pilgrims who suffered greatly during their first bitter winter in America. Many Pilgrims got sick, and half of them died.

What we don't focus on enough is the fact that Native Americans took pity on the Pilgrims. They befriended the newcomers and gave them food. They taught them how to survive the vicious cold months

Then, when the earth grew warm again, the Indians taught the Pilgrims how to grow various crops and how to store any surplus. It was primarily because of the natives' friendship and helpfulness that the Pilgrims began to eke their way from disaster to fruitfulness.

It's no wonder that when the Pilgrims had their first successful harvest, they invited their Indian neighbors to celebrate with them. The natives didn't come empty-handed. They furnished venison, wild turkeys and probably vegetables from storage. It was, more or less, a potluck affair. The Pilgrim leaders prayed gratefully at the occasion.

We can be confident that an unseen but not unexpected Guest was very much present that day.

**Parents**

Two kids are talking to each other. One says, "I'm really worried. My dad works twelve hours a day to give me a nice home and good food. My mom spends the whole day cleaning and cooking for me. I'm worried sick!"

The other kid says, "What have you got to worry about? Sounds to me like you've got it made!"

The first kid says, "What if they try to escape?"

Little Brother: "If you broke your arm in two places, what would you do?"

Boy: "I wouldn't go back to those two places, that's for sure."

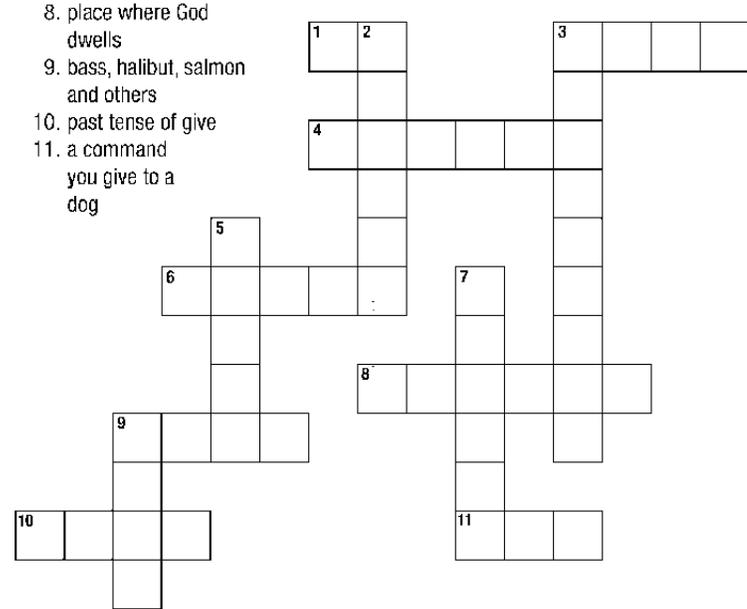


## He gave thanks

This Thanksgiving, you may share a special meal with family and friends. Do you remember the time when Jesus shared a meal with thousands of people and gave thanks?

Use the clues to find important words from Matthew 14:19 (NIV).

<p><b>Across</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. opposite of down</li> <li>3. opposite of up</li> <li>4. more than one loaf</li> <li>6. penniless</li> <li>8. place where God dwells</li> <li>9. bass, halibut, salmon and others</li> <li>10. past tense of give</li> <li>11. a command you give to a dog</li> </ol>	<p><b>Down</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. another name for humans</li> <li>3. twelve of Jesus' closest friends</li> <li>5. what a lawnmower cuts</li> <li>7. _____ giving</li> <li>9. odd number after 4</li> </ol>
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Across: 1. up, 3. down, 4. loaves, 6. broke, 8. heaven, 9. fish, 10. gave, 11. sit  
 Down: 2. people, 3. disciples, 5. grass, 7. thanks, 9. five

