

The Meeting House Times

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



Food Donations Response “Overwhelming”

The response to the Board of Christian Action’s request for food donations to OWL’s Kitchen on January 19th was overwhelming. We estimated that overall 100 donors brought about 800 pounds of food.

Many of our church members participated in this day of National Service, officially designated as the Martin Luther King holiday. We had registered this volunteer event with USAService.org on the internet, and we were amazed and gratified at the response from the wider community. MoveOn.org picked it up via the internet connection, and some people bringing in donations reported having seen the event on this latter web site. People coming in not only donated food, but stayed and helped box the donations, replenished the box supply, took pictures and then helped deliver the food to OWL’s Kitchen.

Sue Morrill, an Older Women’s League board member, dropped what she was doing that Monday morning and came and opened up the Kitchen and also helped us deliver the donations. Dave Heck put his pick up truck to good use in helping to transport.

It was a great day and our thanks to all who participated!

Sue Ritchie, for the Board of Christian Action

“He who has a thousand friends
has not a friend to spare;
and he who has one enemy
will meet him everywhere.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

2009 Lenten Study - “Becoming a Blessed Church”

Using the book by the same title and authored by Graham Standish, we will be looking at some powerful ways individuals and congregations can empower themselves spiritually, relationally, and practically. This weekly study will combine a teaching dynamic with group-wide discussion around various aspects of personal and church life, and explore how growth can be both achieved and measured in healthier, more effective ways.



This will be a five-week study beginning the week of or after Ash Wednesday. Date and time have not yet been set, but will be announced soon. Please let us know you will participate by ordering your book at the Pastor’s Resource Table in the Parish Hall. The cost is \$10.

Those that are unable to attend the weekly meeting, but wish to join the study, are invited to purchase the book and follow along via weekly email summary updates.

Pastor Steve

In November our Youth Fellowship travelled to New York City and visited the University Soup Kitchen on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The group observed the operation and were also able to talk with some of the kitchen’s clients. You may remember Eric Chin’s account of the trip in last month’s newsletter.



On Sunday February 8th after church the Youth Fellowship will hold a bake sale in the Parish Hall to raise funds to help the soup kitchen continue their good work. Please buy some sweet treats to support this cause!

Cynthia LaPier

Meet our Interim Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Steve Austin

The Rev. Steve Austin comes to Salisbury Congregational Church from the Buffalo, NY area where he was a senior pastor at a UCC church in Amherst, NY. He moved into a house here in Lakeville on January 15th and preached his first sermon on the 18th. Steve is an intentional interim pastor, meaning he was hired to help the church define itself and its mission on its way to finding a settled pastor. He expects the process to take about two years.

“The main reason I accepted this position was that the search committee had very keenly represented the church as ready to step into this transition,” he said. “It’s my job to bring the congregation through this process.”

Steve lived in San Diego, CA for 14 years, where he was a choral music director. He then earned a doctorate in theology from San Francisco Theological Seminary and has been a pastor with the United Church of Christ since 2005. His previous experiences as an interim pastor were with parishes in Maine and Massachusetts.



An avid hiker and backpacker, Steve said he is looking forward to exploring the area. “I plan on taking great advantage of being in the backyard of the Berkshires and the Adirondacks,” he said.

He also enjoys world travel and recently returned from Egypt. He said his favorite destination so far is Venice, Italy, “for the charm of a city on the water, its cathedrals and history.” His next stop will be Morocco.

Jennifer L. K. Clark

This is the first of what we hope will be a series of brief monthly articles about church members and friends. We welcome Jennifer’s offer to revive the “Meet a Member” feature that appeared in our newsletter years ago. If you get a call from her, we hope you’ll agree to be interviewed.

Reflections from the Pastor’s Office

Seasons

It is said that a person’s locational or physical meanderings can very often reflect his or her spiritual journey. The non-distinct nature of that suggestion notwithstanding, I can honestly say that this proverb has been true for my own life over the years, and my journey here to Salisbury is no exception to that.

As I reflect on the differences between southern California (from where I moved to the Northeast four years ago) and this wonderful part of the country, I can’t help but recognize the advantage of having four very distinct seasons such as are enjoyed here. Having been raised in upstate New York, I grew up appreciating - even depending on - the proverbial “turning of the tide” as one season bridged into the next.

No matter what time of year it was, the anticipation of its evolution from one season into another always carried a certain level of excitement, some particular challenges, and its own specific advantages. My life has been the same, as I imagine yours might be as well.

Throughout my own journey over the past several years, I have moved through several times and seasons, some expected and others coming completely by surprise. It has been my goal, regardless of those arrivals, to serve and be an example of Christ’s life as closely as I was able when those seasons were manifest, in whatever capacity God saw fit. Fortunately for me, God chose to synchronize that day with your need for a transitional pastor. And the blessing of that synchronicity, most certainly, is mine.

And as together we forge ahead with the task of discovering God’s will and direction for this next season of your life as a church, you should know that while I am with you, I consider myself charged with making you the apple of my eye, as you are of God’s. Please know that such a “task,” while it may be accompanied with a lot of work together, I will view as a joy.

I am honored to be your Interim Minister for this period, this season, of your life, and I look forward with great anticipation to our growing together in the Lord.

Pastor Steve

(rev.steve@live.com)

Dear members and friends of the congregation,

Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for all the efforts made by so many of you to make our last weekend's festivities a grand celebration of my ministry and the presence of Joanne and our children in this church and community. "Who would come out on a night like this?" we asked each other as we headed off to church in a snow-storm Saturday night. How pleasantly surprised we were to find the room full of people enjoying fabulous pies, cakes and other goodies.

From the beginning with Matt Heck (the first child I baptized here) to the very end, it was a BLAST - so funny, so warm, so creative, so touching. When we got home and read the scrapbook we were once again on the verge of tears. So many of you went out of your way to contribute your thoughts and pictures, all of which evoke so many wonderful memories, even including people who moved away years ago. If I ever should think for a moment that my ministry wasn't appreciated, I shall make a point of re-reading the scrapbook and feeling the warm glow again.

And then Sunday morning to walk into the Meeting House and behold the amazing display of flowers. The word is overused, but really applicable - it was AWESOME - not only as a reminder that we are the Easter people but in its diversity. Each piece, no matter how large or small, contributed to the magnificence of the entire work of art. (Some may be saying, "Will this man ever stop coming up with metaphors for community?" To which I reply, "I hope not.")

When the morning service was over and the applause began, I assumed we were clapping for the choir. Then, I looked and saw that you were standing and looking at me - a moment I shall never ever forget.

And as though that was not already way "over the top," there was the remarkable service in the afternoon which brought together so many from the community including so many clergy, civic and community leaders, neighbors and good old friends including John and Louise Spears and Dale and Elizabeth Azevedo and fine young friends who came to represent the youth of the church. The words of our speakers brought smiles and tears and were deeply appreciated by all the Tabers.

And as if all this was not enough, back at the 1,000 calorie dessert buffet and reception I was presented with a citation by Roberta Willis and with an envelope by the Trustees. On your behalf they were extremely generous in their financial consideration. I had to count the zeros a second time!!

So I offer my heartfelt thanks to the organizing committee and all who participated in these remarkable events in one way or another, to those who sent flowers and messages for the scrapbook or cards or stopped me on the street for hugs and kind words. I feel like I am the most appreciated person on the face of the planet.

And just one more time I will remind you, I could not have done what I did without the support of my wife and children, the faithfulness of God to his promise "for I shall be near thee," and the energizing power of the Holy Spirit.

May God send His blessing on you and on The Rev. Dr. Stephen Austin. I know that you will support him with your prayers, respect and active participation. "There is more light and truth to break forth from His Word."

Peace, Dick

This month our potluck supper will be on Friday, February 13th at 5:30 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. Dessert and beverage will be provided.



Please join us for a time of refreshing fellowship and fun. You don't even have to RSVP, but you can if you want to: **Barbara Collins (435-0051) or Sarah Rydingsword (435-9479).** Need a ride? Give us a call. And if it's bad weather, check with us before you come.





in February

1st	Donald Brant
3rd	Adam Rashkoff
4th	Don Buckley, Eric Chin
8th	James Habacker, Bruce McEver
9th	Merrick Noyes, Hannah Ohlinger
12th	Daniel Rashkoff
13th	Ivy Currie, Jonathan Capecelatro
14th	Rod Lankler, Irene Light
15th	Laura Flores
16th	John Merwin
17th	Cynthia LaPier
18th	Ashley Tedder
19th	Jack Anderson, Mary Arnold
20th	Jack Ritchie
21st	Isabella Decker
24th	William Blais, Jim Filkins, Hope Fitting
25th	Ginny Filkins
26th	Christina Rogers, Stephanie Tierney
28th	Cora Rydingsword



Final Figures

Treasurer John Estabrook has closed the books on the 2008 Fall Festival in record time, and we appreciate his continuing fine work.

The figures for our church's part in the weekend:

Gross receipts: \$16,206.32

Net proceeds after expenses: \$11,806.60

These figures were down somewhat from those in '07, which were \$17,168.28 and \$13,471.50 respectively.

Our February Calendar

Sunday, the 1st:

Worship with Communion and
Church School - 10:15
Board of Trustees - 11:15

Sunday, the 8th:

Worship and Church School - 10:00
Youth Fellowship Bake Sale - 11:00
Board of Christian Action - 11:15

Friday, the 13th - Pot Luck Supper - 5:30

Sunday, the 15th:

Worship and Church School - 10:00
Church Council - 11:15

Sunday, the 22nd:

Worship and Church School - 10:00

Monday, the 23rd - Board of Deacons - 4:30

Wednesday, the 25th - Ash Wednesday

Special dates

- o African-American History Month
- o Boy Scout Sunday, February 8th
- o Valentine's Day - Saturday, February 14th
- o Presidents' Day - Monday, February 16th
- o Ash Wednesday, February 25th

We were pleased with the changes in the Festival format; the revived Treasure Trove did very well, and the scaled-back Silent Auction was much more easily managed. Anyone who would like details of specific activities can contact me for further information - 435-0051 or lee@leecollins.com

Thank you, John!

Lee Collins, Fall Festival Chair

HEARTS in the morning


Start your morning with heart. Enjoy this special breakfast with someone you love!

What you need:

- Your favorite pancake recipe and syrup
- Pan or griddle
- Cooking spray
- Liquid measuring cup
- One 5-inch heart-shaped metal cookie cutter
- Wooden clothespin
- Spatula
- Adult help

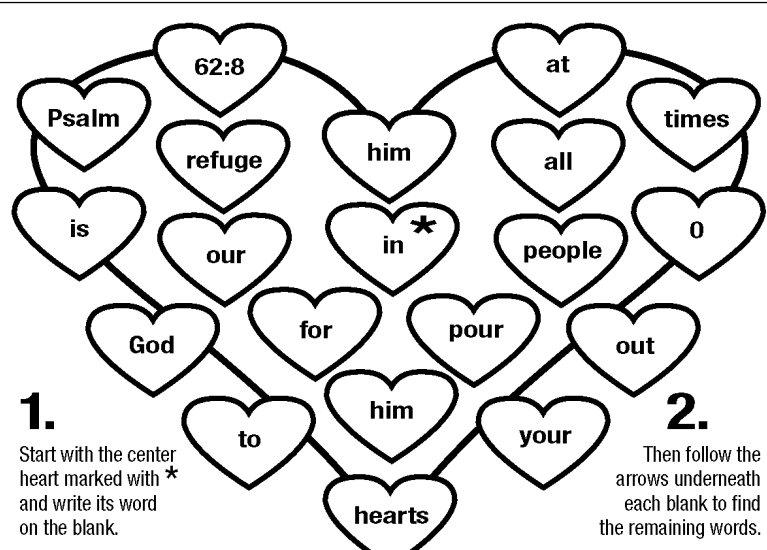
What you do:

1. With an adult's help, follow your recipe to make your favorite pancakes.
2. Spray cooking spray onto your pan or griddle.
3. Pour pancake batter into a liquid measuring cup. (This helps with pouring individual pancakes.)
4. Place the cookie cutter on the pan or griddle. Then clip the wooden clothespin onto the cookie cutter to act as a handle.
5. Pour batter (about 3-4 Tablespoons) into the cookie cutter.
6. Cook until the top is bubbly and the pancake is dry around the edges.
7. When the heart is ready to flip, use the clothespin to lift and remove the cookie cutter.
8. Turn the pancake with the spatula and cook until golden on both sides. Enjoy with your favorite syrup or fruit.



OUR HEARTS

This special Bible verse from the NIV describes what God wants us to do with our hearts.



1. Start with the center heart marked with * and write its word on the blank.

2. Then follow the arrows underneath each blank to find the remaining words.

“Trust _____ ,
 _____ ; _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ ”

Answer: "Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge." Psalm 62:8

Why God made moms - answers given by second grade school children:

What are mothers made of ?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

