

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

April 2010



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

Pamela Wyeth, Editor

A Glimpse into Who We Are

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John Arnold

John and Mary Arnold bought a weekend home in Salisbury in 1980 and later moved here full-time in 1992. Beautiful country, hiking trails and small town were the attractions. John commuted for 32 years from Summit NJ first to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and then to JP Morgan – most of those years in foreign exchange. Each morning when he entered his office area he would be greeted by more persons than he sees in Salisbury in a week. He has put his financial training and experience to good use as our church Treasurer since 2004. He is also presently serving on the Pastoral Search Committee.



John with his son, Mark

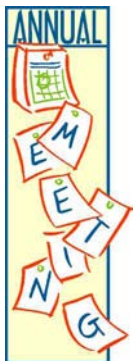
Their three children and seven grandchildren live “close by but not too close by” in the east - Yardley, PA; New Canaan, CT; and Lexington, MA - and see each other as often as everyone’s busy work, academic, sports and volunteer schedules allow. “A family high point each summer for ‘some of us’ is a week or two on our remote family island in the French River 200 miles north of Toronto and 20 miles from the nearest store.” When asked what he does for fun, he responds, “Anything that I can do outdoors – fish, swim, sail, tennis, platform tennis, mow grass, paint the house and cut and split wood.” Reading, some travel, volunteering and trying to keep up with Mary, add to the fun.

As Treasurer John is an ex-officio member of our Board of Trustees and prepares the first draft of each annual budget that is discussed and approved by the Board before going to the congregation for the final vote. He is responsible for the financial work year round and is ably assisted in the bookkeeping and check writing by Pamela Wyeth, who is also editor and publisher of this Meeting House Times. Our church is indeed fortunate to have such experienced and dedicated people in these important positions.

Lee Collins



ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, APRIL 25th



The 265th Annual Meeting, Part II, of the Congregational Church of Salisbury will be held in the Meeting House immediately after Sunday worship on April 25, 2010. Please plan to attend.

Matters for discussion and vote will include some revisions to the church by-laws, as well as approval of the slate of officers and committee members for 2010 - 2011. In early April all members will receive a mailing of materials on proposed by-law changes, the Nominating Committee's recommendations, and committee annual reports.

Reminder: Each Board and Committee should deliver its 2009 - 2010 annual report to Al Sly in the church office no later than Monday, April 5.





Selflessness

As we continue in this time of Lent, it is typical for those of almost every Christian denomination to approach the season by taking on the challenge to give up something specific, something which would exact a certain amount of sacrifice from the individual that would otherwise not be experienced. But is this biblical? Or even moral? The idea that for one short, seasonal period of time we *dare* ourselves to do without something, petty or substantial, with the reward being the *resumption* of its indulgence.

For me, the overarching theme of *selflessness* keeps popping up in my life. And the focus of the challenge has been positioned, not on what outer thing I should give up, but rather what *part of myself* is God calling me to surrender? Even if no one else knew, or cared, or saw the value of its release. And in those rare moments of spiritual lucidity, a second question follows closely after the first: *Is there an element of my life, which I jealously hold close to protect, that inhibits my walk with Christ and my call to become like him?* Or to say it differently, *For the sake of my spiritual journey and that of others around me, what part of myself needs to die?*

Gene Edwards, the author of a book on the power of brokenness in one's life, entitled *The Inward Journey*, was one of the first in our generation to point out that the Cross of Christ is different for each person; it is meant to be experienced to some extent by every one of his followers. What's more, it is not merely different, but custom-made, individually-packaged, and so specifically hewn out for us, that we cannot escape the inevitability of the sense of sacrifice it will require; and naturally then, the subsequent pain of that loss.

Despite the work we have been doing during the past year – renewed commitment to God, identifying who we are and are to be, the discovery and rejuvenating of vision and our future, and now an exploration of how we can learn to thrive as a church that is vibrant in its mission setting – there are still, understandably, several in our midst who are dealing with the pain of losses they have incurred over the last year or recent years. Some of those losses are personal, while others are collective and have affected our whole community. Where our challenge lands, then, is in the determination of two agendas: (1) to learn, and grow, and change, in all the ways we are meant to as a result of the losses we have suffered, taking on the assumption that God is fully aware of our plight, and continues to maintain perfect control over our lives; and (2) to discover in what ways we can give of ourselves to those suffering around us, even those we perhaps secretly think, in the darker recesses of our minds, that they *should be suffering* (and we all have moments like that), in order to ease their pain, and to assist them back into a sense of being embraced.

If there were ever a mantra for the season of Lent, it should be this: that we gave, and give, of *ourselves* for the benefit of another. And what a waste of time this season would be, in the end, if we were unable to speak it. I challenge you and myself to allow the resurrection of Christ to live itself out once again, through our personal sacrifices of selflessness, in whatever capacity is specifically hewn out for every one of us.

And in the spirit of that resurrection life, I wish you and your family a **Happy Easter**.

Pastor Steve

Email: rev.steve@salisburycongregational.org
Blog: <http://salisburycongregational.wordpress.com>

NEW MEMBERS MEETING

Sunday, April 11th



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Pastor Steve will be meeting with those who are interested in joining the church. The meeting will take place in his office immediately after the worship service on

Sunday, April 11th. If you or someone you know has been considering becoming a member of our congregation, please plan on being there!

WORSHIP SERVICE FLOWERS

Spring is in the air, and soon flowers will be abundant. What better way to celebrate the life and/or memory of a loved one than in the beauty of flowers? Everyone is invited and encouraged to provide flowers for our Sunday services. And be sure to let Al Sly know in whose memory or celebration they have been given, so he can include the information in Sunday's bulletin.



Service of Tenebrae Thursday, April 1st - 7:30

The service of Tenebrae marks a significant moment of the Lenten season in the Salisbury Congregational Church.



Readings from the gospel recount events leading up to the crucifixion, communion is served, and as candles are extinguished, the church is darkened and participants leave in silence. It is a moving and contemplative service that brings special meaning to the resurrection celebrated on Easter Sunday.

Whether you are attending for the first time or returning annually, the Deacons of the church encourage your participation.

Please consider inviting a friend as well. We look forward to sharing this memorable service with everyone.



Easter Sunrise Service April 4th - 6:15 a.m.

You are invited to greet the sun at the Town Grove. Bring the kids, bring your house guests and your neighbors to this informal ecumenical community service. We stand in a semicircle facing the eastern side of the lake, and if there are no clouds, we watch a glorious sunrise as we pray, sing, and celebrate the resurrection at daybreak, as did Mary and the women who were the first witnesses of the empty tomb.

Because the Town Grove building is being rebuilt, we will gather after the service at the Methodist Church of Lakeville to enjoy coffee, doughnuts and fellowship.



Good Friday Friday, April 2nd - 7:00

You are invited to attend a Good Friday concert and ecumenical service on the Seven Last Words of Christ at Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock.



The music portion of the service, interspersed with spoken meditations, will be *The Seven Words of Christ on the Cross* by Heinrich Schütz (17th Cent.) - a baroque cantata for Chamber Choir, Soloists and Instruments, under the direction of Christine Gevert. Musical participants will include members of Crescendo's Vocal Ensemble, the Trinity Choir, Pastor Steve Austin, and period instruments.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34
Larry Dunlap

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."
Luke 23:43 **Lance Beizer**

"Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother." John 19:26-27 **Duane Estes**

"My god, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matt 27:46 & Mark 15:34 **Jody Guerrero**

"I thirst." John 19:28 **Carl Franson**

"It is finished." John 19:30 **Peter Dakers**

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Luke 23:14
Heidi Truax



Easter Sunday Service Of Celebration April 4th

The worship begins at 9:45 when our bell choir plays a joyous prelude.

The service will also feature music by our Senior Choir, including the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah." After the benediction, Al Sly will play the Widor "Toccata," a fitting and inspiring celebration of Christ's resurrection.



**SALISBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2009 TREASURER'S REPORT**

March 20, 2010

	Jan - Dec '09	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
4000 Contributions Income			
4001 Plate -	8,353.25	11,000.00	75.9%
4002 Pledges	184,487.00	193,000.00	95.6%
4007 Non-member/guest	7,700.00		
Total 4000 Contributions Income	200,540.25	204,000.00	98.3%
4010 Investment Income	115,088.08	132,459.00	86.9%
4040 Rental Income			
4041 Parsonage	24,200.00	26,400.00	91.7%
4043 Other	2,183.00		
Total 4040 Rental Income	26,383.00	26,400.00	99.9%
4050 Miscellaneous Income	-58.59		
4060 Fall Festival	11,000.00	11,000.00	100.0%
Total Income	352,952.74	373,859.00	94.4%
Expense			
5000 Compensation			
5011 1 Minister	72,649.94	54,980.00	132.1%
5012 2 Secretary/Organist	46,173.96	46,174.00	100.0%
5013 3 Sexton	18,630.00	18,630.00	100.0%
5014 Education	7,913.04	8,356.00	94.7%
5015 5 Bell Choir	4,074.96	4,075.00	100.0%
5016 6 Guest Ministers	725.00	700.00	103.6%
5017 7 Education Assistant	0.00	750.00	0.0%
5018 Guest Musicians (Sundays)	1,325.00		
5019 Dick Taber	42,603.51		
5021 Financial Assistant	7,032.19	6,260.00	112.3%
5022 Pastor Search	347.20	3,000.00	11.6%
Total 5000 Compensation	201,474.80	142,925.00	141.0%
5030 Other Personnel expenses			
5031 Minister Health Ins	5,661.24	10,752.00	52.7%
5032 Minister Pension	9,100.00	10,642.00	85.5%
5033 Minister Car	4,200.00	3,716.00	113.0%
5034 Minister Housing	24,000.00	21,034.00	114.1%
5036 Sec/Org Health Ins	2,799.00	2,709.00	103.3%
5037 Social Security	6,794.61	10,915.00	62.3%
5035 Minister Tax Reim	5,524.30	3,812.00	144.9%
5038 Workman's Comp	1,967.00	2,000.00	98.4%
5039 Sab-Ed Res - Minister	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
5040 Ongley - Health Ins	581.96	3,525.00	16.5%
5030 Other Personnel expenses - Other	3,001.69		
Total 5030 Other Personnel expenses	63,629.80	70,105.00	90.8%
6100 Office Costs			
6105 Equip Rental - Copier	4,182.54	3,200.00	130.7%
6111 Computer	239.50	500.00	47.9%
6115 Telephone	1,488.48	1,500.00	99.2%
6120 Other	0.00	500.00	0.0%
6125 Supplies	1,819.18	1,500.00	121.3%
6126 Church Bulletins	846.81	1,000.00	84.7%
6127 Newsletter	225.00		
6130 Postage	1,131.46	1,500.00	75.4%
6135 Lakeville Journal	406.61	400.00	101.7%
6140 Payroll Costs	1,709.50	1,200.00	142.5%

Deadline for the May Newsletter is Saturday, April 20th

	Jan - Dec '09	Budget	% of Budget	
Total 6100 Office Costs	12,049.08	11,300.00	106.6%	
6200 Maintenance & Repairs				
6201 Church-Maintenance				
6202 Custodian Supplies	1,808.86	1,500.00	120.6%	
6201 Church-Maintenance - Other	8,995.38	7,000.00	128.5%	
Total 6201 Church-Maintenance	10,804.24	8,500.00	127.1%	
6210 Parsonage-Maintenance	170.18	3,000.00	5.7%	
Total 6200 Maintenance & Repairs	10,974.42	11,500.00	95.4%	
6250 Utilities				
6251 Electricity - Church	4,248.64	3,800.00	111.8%	
6252 Electricity - Lot	466.53			
6253 Fuel - Church	13,428.71	20,000.00	67.1%	
6257 Water & Sewer	1,061.97	800.00	132.7%	
Total 6250 Utilities	19,205.85	24,600.00	78.1%	
6300 Program Expense				
6301 Audio/Visual	355.00	100.00	355.0%	
6302 Bell Choir	852.31	1,000.00	85.2%	
6303 Deacons	1,482.20	500.00	296.4%	
6304 Music	1,414.74	1,000.00	141.5%	
6305 Organ and Piano	1,950.00	2,600.00	75.0%	
6306 Religious Education	665.46	1,500.00	44.4%	
6309 Publicity (Com Com)	2,250.00	2,250.00	100.0%	
Total 6300 Program Expense	8,969.71	8,950.00	100.2%	
6330 Hospitality				
6332 Flowers	858.86	1,600.00	53.7%	
6333 Kitchen	6,534.97	2,300.00	284.1%	
6330 Hospitality - Other	0.00			
Total 6330 Hospitality	7,393.83	3,900.00	189.6%	
6700 Insurance - Fire, Liability...	14,050.75	13,929.00	100.9%	
6710 Taxes - Parsonage	3,918.56	4,000.00	98.0%	
6800 Reserves				
6802 Parsonage	13,177.30			
6803 Replacement	61,619.94	28,300.00	217.7%	
Total 6800 Reserves	74,797.24	28,300.00	264.3%	
7000 Benevolences				
7001 OCWM (Our Christian world Missi				
7015 Church World Service	50.00			
7001 OCWM (Our Christian world Missi - Other	29,300.00	30,300.00	96.7%	
Total 7001 OCWM (Our Christian World Mission)	29,350.00	30,300.00	96.9%	
7011 Christian Action	9,900.00	9,900.00	100.0%	
7013 Minister Discretionary	2,687.50	11,750.00	22.9%	
7000 Benevolences - Other	200.00			
Total 7000 Benevolences	42,137.50	51,950.00	81.1%	
7030 Membership	570.00	2,400.00	23.8%	
Total Expense	459,171.54	373,859.00	122.8%	
Net Ordinary Income	-106,218.80			
2009 excess of expenditures over income, note:				
Line 5011 includes gift and line 6800 costs of exterior sandblasting and painting.				
	Balances	Endowment	Repl Reserve	AI Sly Fund
	12/31/09	3,693,000	84,000	80,000
	12/31/08	3,691,000	173,000	75,000
	12/31/07	4,562,000	247,000	72,000



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Holy Week, March 28-April 3, 2010						
				1 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 - Tenebrae Service <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	2 7:00 - Good Friday Service at Trinity Church, Lime Rock <i>Good Friday</i>	3 <i>Holy Saturday</i>
4 6:15 - Sunrise service - Town Grove 9:45 - Worship <i>No Church School - Crib/toddler care for children under four.</i> <i>Easter Sunday</i>	5	6	7 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	8 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Board of Christian Action 11:15 - Board of Trustees	12	13	14 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17
18 10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Church Council 5:00-7:30 - Confirmation Class	19	20	21 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	22 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal <i>Earth Day</i>	23 5:30 - Potluck Supper	24
25 10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Annual Meeting 5:00-7:30 - Confirmation Class	26	27	28 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal <i>Arbor Day</i>	29 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	30	

Easter Sunday, April 4th, will be an opportunity for intergenerational worship. There will be no church school or church school activities on that day. Crib/toddler care will be provided for young ones under the age of four. Regular classes will resume on April 11th.



Join Us For Supper

There will be a pot-luck supper on Friday, April 23rd, 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. Bread, dessert and beverage will be provided. Bring a friend. Bring a family.



Do you need a ride? Wondering about a cancellation due to winter weather? Give one of us a call: Barbara Collins (860-435-0051) or Sarah Rydingsword (860-435-9479).

Celebrating a BIRTHDAY IN APRIL

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1st Carly Craig | 15th David Rich |
| 1st Sandra Haiko | 16th Anthony O'Niel |
| 1st Ellie Stewart | 17th Bobbie Olsen |
| 1st Maggie Crain | 19th Betsy Beck |
| 2nd Shirley Rogers | 21st Sierra O'Niel |
| 2nd Linda Estabrook | 21st Judy Stewart |
| 9th Rachel Reed | 22nd Jeffrey Beck |
| 9th Susan Ritchie | 22nd Harriet Lipton |
| 11th Ted Sands | 23rd Mike Beck |
| 12th Barbara Jacquette | 25th Hildegard Jones |
| 13th Audrey Eriksson | 25th Holly Tierney |
| 14th Mike Fitting | 27th Hannah Stewart |
| 14th Robert Rout | 30th Barbara Collins |
| 15th Noah Rashkoff | 30th Rebecca Palmer |





Search Committee Update
 The Search Committee continues to meet at least every Tuesday. We are very close to completing the revision of the Local Church Profile, a document that describes our town, our congregation, its missions, and the pastor we hope to call.

We are deeply grateful to the previous Search Committee for their hard work, especially the tabulation and interpretation of all the raw data accumulated in the original surveys. We are grateful to all of you who participated in surveys, discussion groups, and the Dialogue Sessions.

The current Search committee has determined that ONE more survey is necessary because we are now looking for a Pastor, and the previous survey was focused on the search for an Associate Pastor.

The new survey has some additional questions. Please look for it in the mail and return it by March 31st. If you don't receive a survey in the mail, please call Theresa Carroll at 860-435-2312.

Theresa Carroll for the Search Committee

Aspiring Film Makers Needed




For some months we have not had anyone videoing Sunday sermons. Members of the congregation who, for a variety of reasons, cannot attend services miss being able to

see them on the local access cable station or DVD or hear them on the web. Are there any aspiring film makers who would be willing to perform this service? It would be a good opportunity to have your work broadcast. If you're interested and willing to volunteer, please contact Pastor Steve or Deb Pastore.

Sunday School Lessons

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"



SYMBOL OF SACRIFICE

At this time of the year, we see many crosses draped in purple, black or white cloth. They remind us of the loving sacrifice Jesus made for us — and that he rose again.

Use the code in the big cross to complete 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NIV.

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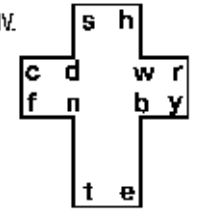
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Answer: Christ died for our sins ... he was buried ... he was raised on the third day.

