

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

May, 2009

Our April Potluck Supper



*"You shall each revere
your mother and father...."*
Leviticus 19:3. NRSV



Adults dig into the spread of good stuff,
and people of all ages enjoy a Veggie-Tale video



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Tech Department Feedback

In videoing the Sunday worship services, CATV Channel 6 now utilizes audio wired directly from our sound system, by-passing the TV camera's built-in microphone. You'll find the on-air quality of our televised sermons greatly improved. Each Sunday's sermon is now rebroadcast to more than four thousand Comcast subscribers at about 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and Sunday mornings at 6:30, thanks to Mike Flint, manager of Channel 6.



New on your computer: Podcasts of Sunday Sermon programs (sound only, no picture) are now available any time, anywhere in the world via the Internet! To listen to them, go to www.robinhoodradio.com, click On Demand, scroll down the list of programs on the right, find and click on Salisbury Congregational Church, scroll back to top of page, select a sermon and download it to listen. Thanks to Marshall Miles, WHDD am/fm and CATV 6.

The public address system's speakers in the balcony now point slightly lower which improves the "spread" of the sound in the Meeting House. Thanks to Mike Fitting and Lee Collins.

The community service of farewell held for Dick Taber on January 11th was videoed, put onto a set of two DVDs, and is available for viewing and copying. There will be one set in our DVD Archives in the church library which may be checked out like a library book, i.e. put your name on the sign-out sheet so we can keep track of it. The taping was done as a gift to Dick and the church from Chris Helling, owner of MAVCO in Newtown, CT, who installed and maintains our sound equipment. Thanks, Chris, for all your work.

Each week, in addition to regularly scheduled telecasts of sermons on CATV 6, Marshall Miles provides a DVD for our archives. They, too, are available in our library for viewing and copying.

Dick Dwelley

(Editor's note:) Dick Dwelley claims that he is now hanging up his Communications Committee track shoes and must leave the responsibilities of the sound system and video process to **Mike Fitting, Pat Palmer, Janet Kaufman, and others who would like to help with it.** Dick has an extensive professional background in communications, and he oversaw the selection and installation of the whole system

years ago; he has been continuously involved in its operation ever since, particularly in initiating and coordinating our exposure on local TV. We owe him many thanks for all he has done to enhance the worship experience in our Meeting House and in bringing it to shut-ins and others in the community.



Now is the time many of us are planning and planting a garden for all those good summer vegetables and flowers. You might plant a bit extra and bring in your surplus for the CROP table after Sunday service. Whatever you have too much of will be appreciated by others, who also make a donation for the produce. Donations go to the CROP Walk to feed the hungry. We often start the CROP table in June, or whenever there is produce to share.

Irene Light

All gardeners are also invited to help maintain our church patio flower garden. We've already begun spring clean-up and will continue keeping it beautiful throughout the summer until frost. We can grow together, and you'll never dig alone! Please give me a call to sign up.

Debby Mark 435-0468

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I hope that I don't have a single bit of talent left and can say, 'I used everything you gave me.'"

-Erma Bombeck

More from the “Department of Thanks to Someone Who Does Stuff for the Church That You Don’t See”

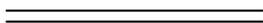
In order to give the meeting house extra sparkle on Easter Sunday, **Nancy Bridge** suggested that the chandelier be cleaned. Who can get it lowered and then back in place? Enter **Mike Rogers**. The photos show the fairly primitive mechanism for lowering and raising the chandelier and how it’s worked, with Mike putting his back into it. That thing must weigh hundreds of pounds.



Mike is kneeling on crawlways put down by **Scoter Tedder** and his crew to enable us to move around over the insulation blown in several years ago. The spots in the photo are pieces of that grey stuff stirred up and floating in the air. All in all, a dusty and precarious job. Thank you, Mike!



Editor Lee



“Peter and the Wolf” will be performed Sunday, May 24th, at 4:00 and at 5:30, at St. John’s Church in Salisbury. This wonderful piece by Prokofiev will be sponsored by the Northwest Music Association, featuring professional musicians from



N.Y.C. orchestras, with local talent playing the characters along with professional dancers. This is an event for all ages, with no admission

charge, and you won’t want to miss Duane Estes, Dave Bayersdorfer, Lee Collins, and other local talent in their roles. The production is directed and choreographed by Terre Lefferts, and Nina Mathus is creating the costumes. This is sure to be fun for all!

May Friendship Day

Friday, May 1st -
Luncheon at Noon
North Canaan Congregational
Church UCC
Route 44 at Lower Road,
East Canaan



Church Women United is an ecumenical movement that brings together Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women in the United States and Puerto Rico to:

- Work for a just, caring, and peaceful society
- Develop a visible, ecumenical community
- Use responsibly and creatively the resources God has entrusted to us: our intelligence, time, energy, and money
- Deepen our understanding of what it means to be Christian women of faith in today’s world.

CWU has adopted the Quadrennial Priority of
“Building a World Fit for All God’s Children”

Health: Promote the health and wellbeing of all peoples.

Economic Justice: Promote the dignity, safety and economic opportunities of all people.

Environmental Care: Promote personal, communal and governmental decisions that express care of all God’s creation.

Peace: Promote ways that make for peace.

If you share these goals and concerns, we invite you to join us on May 1st for lunch and “Building on Our Stories.”

Ruth Tyrol and Heather Schaufele



The graveside service had just barely finished, when there was massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder rumbling in the distance.

The little old man looked calmly at the pastor and said, “Well, she’s there.”



- 1st: Susan Bohlmann
- 3rd: Tanya Tedder
- 4th: Tom Drew
- 7th: Steve Ohlinger, Robert Storm,
Landon Good
- 9th: Ella Rydingsword
- 10th: Mary S. Robertson
- 12th: Myles Crain
- 13th: Scott Bok, Kyle Good
- 18th: Roxanne Bok
- 19th: Nancy Bridge, Jane Capecelatro
- 22nd: Angus Palmer
- 24th: Mickee Ongley
- 25th: Georgia Blades, Wesley Filkins
- 27th: Leanne Percy
- 28th: Barbara Lankler
- 29th: Alden Tyrol
- 30th: Madison Blais
- 31st: Lillian Curry

Angel Food Ministries

If you haven't heard of this and are interested in buying good quality food in bulk at excellent prices, go to www.angelfoodministries.com

There was an article about it in the Lakeville Journal several weeks ago. The closest sites are the Sharon Congregational Church and the Greenwoods Community Church in Ashley Falls, MA. They have foods of all kinds, including prepared meals for seniors. A \$30 standard box contains \$60 worth of food, and more selections of meats, produce, and seafood are available. Check them out.

Special dates

- o National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 7th
- o Mother's Day - Sunday, May 10th
- o Armed Forces Day - Saturday, May 16th
- o Memorial Day - Monday, May 25th
- o Pentecost - Sunday, May 31st

Our May Calendar

Friday, the 1st: May Friendship Day -
No. Canaan Congregational - 12:00 luncheon

Sunday, the 3rd: Worship with Communion and
Church School - 10:00
One Great Hour of Sharing offering
Board of Trustees - 11:15
Youth Fellowship - 5:00

Sunday, the 10th:
Worship and Church School - 10:00
Board of Christian Action - 11:15

Wednesday, the 13th: Prayer Group - 9:30

Friday, the 15th: Potluck supper - 6:00

Sunday, the 17th:
Worship and Church School - 10:00
Church Council - 11:15
Church Discovery Dialogue session - 11:15

Sunday, the 24th:
Worship and **last day of Church School** - 10:00
Youth Fellowship - 5:00

Monday, the 25th: Board of Deacons - 4:30

Wednesday, the 27th: Prayer Group - 9:30

Sunday, the 31st:
Worship 10:00 No Church School
Crib/Toddler care provided throughout the summer

There will be a potluck supper on Friday, May 15th at 6:00 for anyone and everyone who would like a casual evening out. **NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME!**

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. Stay as long as you like. VeggieTales cartoon 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).**

Trustees Schedule Painting

The final phase of lead paint removal and exterior painting of the Meeting House and Parish Hall will begin in early May. Scaffolding and black netting will shroud the north side of the building so that sand-blasters can remove and dispose of all the old paint. Then painters will apply coats of fresh paint onto bare wood. By late May the process begun several years ago with the rejuvenation of the bell tower should be complete.



Thank you to all in the congregation for your patience and for your contributions which support the care of this beautiful and beloved old building.

Sue Morrill, for the Board of Trustees



The final unit of the church school year is based on the wonderful children's hymn, "We Are the Church Together." Under the direction of a wonderful team of teachers and parents, the children will explore what it means to be followers of Jesus and will express what they have learned through music, drama, and art.

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus all around the world,
Yes, we're the church together!

Good Vibrations from the Bell Choir



**HANDBELL
CHOIR**

The Bell Choir will end their 33rd season in May. The following programs are open to the public, and all are welcome:

**Noble Horizons Community Room
- Wednesday, May 6th at 4:00**

Geer Village - Thursday, May 7th at 7:00

And as a conclusion to their season they will begin the worship service prelude at 9:40 on Sunday, May 10th - Mother's Day.

Mary Davidson, Director



"Since I got married I've gotten much more involved in religion."

"Really?"

"Yeah. Before that I didn't believe in Hell."



"As for youth director, I say we pass on the Master of Theology and hire the mother of 12."

From the Pastor's Desk

I'm excited and encouraged that 60 people have signed up for our upcoming (though by the time you read this it will be our previous) Congregational Discovery Session on April 26th. I pray and hope that such a level of personal energy and investment continues throughout all three, and then into the Fall; we will then begin a new series of discussions around a strategic plan for the next 5-10 years of our church, and how that informs us of the character profile of your next settled pastor.

Let's review the specific nature of those conversations, the reasons behind them and the objectives for each. I'll do that best by presenting a kind of timeline here that can show both individual meetings as well as the bigger picture of where they're intended to go. While these meetings are meant to have a comprehensive element to them (the results of one creates the springboard for the facilitation of the next), each is also self-contained; **if someone is not able to attend the first meeting but is available for subsequent ones, their input and participation will be just as valuable.**

So, on to the specific Sunday Discovery Sessions. Please put these on your calendar now!

- April 26th:** Identifying our Values and History
- May 17th:** Identifying our Assets and Challenges
- June 7th:** Identifying our Community and Theology

As I mentioned, we will take the results of each of these and use them as the backdrop for the following one. After they are completed, we will be taking the summer off as the staff and lay leadership digests all of our "discoveries," and prepare for a second series of sessions in the Fall. Those will cover the following:

- Session 4: Discerning our Mission and Goals
- Session 5: Discerning and Developing our Strategy
- Session 6: Identifying our next Pastor

This last session does not refer to the pastoral search process, but rather having conversation around the characteristics, skillset, gifts and experience needed in your next pastor, as they are identified and informed by the other sessions.

All of this work will then serve as comprehensive informa-



tion and feedback for the Search Committee to use as they implement the following:

- (1) Create a new church profile, outlining how you identify both yourselves and your future and call from God as a church;
- (2) Draft the church's employment listing for the UCC website and the CT Conference;
- (3) Form a portfolio of strengths and skills your next pastor must have, as they begin to receive profiles from potential candidates.

I have been asked the question, "Can't this information be gathered through individual surveys?" The initial answer to that is, yes, they can. The bigger question is, however, are they effective? Statistics suggest they are not - at least not nearly as effective as group dynamic work. The greatest reason for this is that private (or anonymous) individualized input does not allow for perspectives to change, or to be augmented or influenced by those expressed by others. This is the power of group dialogue, especially if people are coming to them with the expectation that both they and everyone else attending will be open to those perspectives.

When people of a covenanted community are committed to discern and pursue the greater good of the whole body and not only their own needs, much effective and meaningful work can be done. This is our goal. This is the agenda behind these Congregational Dialogues. And this is why you need to be a part of them.

I look forward to our working together in this venture.

Pastor Steve

Thanks

FOR YOUR EXAMPLE

Mother's Day is a great opportunity to thank your mother, grandmother or any other woman who has been a wonderful example in your life.

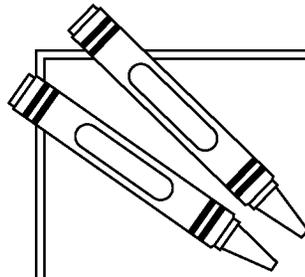
Make and give this craft to show how much you appreciate these special women.

What you need:

- An empty, glass, wide-mouthed jar (no lid needed)
- Acrylic craft paints (several different spring colors)
- Votive candle (optional)
- Flowers (optional)
- Small candies (optional)

What you do:

1. Make sure your glass jar is clean and dry.
2. Dip your pointer finger into one of the paint colors.
3. Using your finger as a stamp, make about five prints in a circle on the outside of your jar. These will be your flower petals. (Hint: Hold your jar by placing your hand inside it. Then you can turn the jar easily without messing up the wet paint.)
4. Dip your finger into another color and make a fingerprint in the center of your petals.
5. Make as many flowers as you want, using different fingers or your thumb to make different-sized petals.
6. Present this beautiful gift to a special woman this Mother's Day. There are many ways to use it:
 - Place a votive candle inside to make a candleholder.
 - Fill it with water and place flowers inside to make a vase.
 - Fill it with small candies to make a candy jar.



Just for **KIDS**

A legacy of faith

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy was influenced by his grandmother and mother.

Complete 2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowel.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

"_ _ h _ v _ b _ _ n r _ m _ nd _ d _ f
 3 1 2 2 2 2 3 2 4
 y _ _ r s _ nc _ r _ f _ _ th, wh _ ch
 4 5 3 2 2 1 3 3
 f _ rst l _ v _ d _ n y _ _ r gr _ ndm _ th _ r
 3 3 2 3 4 5 1 4 2
 L _ _ s _ nd _ n y _ _ r m _ th _ r
 4 3 1 3 4 5 4 2
 _ _ n _ c _ _ nd, _ _ m p _ rs _ _ d _ d,
 2 5 3 2 1 3 1 2 5 1 2
 n _ w l _ v _ s _ n y _ _ _ ls _ ."
 4 3 2 3 4 5 1 4

2 TIMOTHY 1:5 (NIV)

Answer: "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."



Mothers Day - Sunday, May 10th. Be nice to your mom and tell her you love her - that day and every day! (You too, Dad!)

I  Mom

