

# The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

January, 2009

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## *A Special Invitation*

**We celebrate the ministry of Dick Taber on the occasion of his retirement.**

**Saturday, January 10, 7:00** - our church family will gather in the parish hall for a dessert buffet and a lighthearted evening of fellowship and remembrances

**Sunday, January 11, 10:00** - Dick will preach his last sermon during morning worship

**Sunday, January 11, 3:00** - a service of recognition and appreciation with special music by our choirs will be followed by a reception in the parish hall.

Be a part of it by:

- attending all three
- contributing a bouquet of flowers for the Sunday morning service on the 11th (bring it or have it sent)
- getting your contribution to the scrapbook **ASAP** to Sarah and John\*
- giving in Dick's name to his charity of choice - the Silver Lake Conference Center\*\*

\* Please email scrapbook contributions to [johnwhoffman@gmail.com](mailto:johnwhoffman@gmail.com) or drop them off or mail them to 37 Chatfield Drive in Lakeville. Please provide hard copy of photos (not emailed as an attachment).

\*\* To contribute to The Dick Taber Silver Lake Fund make your checks payable to Salisbury Congregational Church and put "Dick Taber Silver Lake" in the memo.



## Benefit Dinner and Variety Show for the Guatemala Belize Literacy Tour

**6:30 – 9:30 Friday, January 2nd in our parish hall**

\* \* Dinner Buffet of Latin American Flavors \* \*

Fair Trade Hand Made Latin American Goods for Sale

Intimate Unwind-from-the-Holidays Entertainment!

Dancers! Trick Unicyclist! Puppeteer!

Fire Spinner! Storyteller!

An Eclectic Mix of Musicians Representing Many Genres!



It's a "Mortal Beasts & Deities"  
Rural Literacy Project

Performing Samples of Skits and Shenanigans that they will take to rural Guatemala and Belize in January and February 2009 to Build Libraries and Promote Literacy

Support the Guatemala Belize Literacy Tour!

\$10 per person, \$5 under 12

Call (860) 806-2165 or visit: [mortalbeastsanddeities.com](http://mortalbeastsanddeities.com) for further details



## Interim Pastor Search Committee

We are very pleased to report that **The Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Austin** has accepted our call to be the **Interim Pastor**. He is presently ending his ministry at a church in the Buffalo, NY, area and plans to move to town in January. He has met with the Trustees and the Deacons, and the details of his covenant agreement with us are being worked out.

Steve's first Sunday worship with us will be on January 18th. More information about him will appear in the February "Meeting House Times."

A continuing concern among members of our church family is that we cannot predetermine the length of his time with us and cannot know just what will happen during the interim pastorate. The biggest reason for this uncertainty is that we haven't been in this position for 27 years! And the process for calling both interim and settled pastors has changed since Dick came to us in 1981.

We DO know:

- our church family needs a time to get accustomed to being without Dick's leadership and WITH someone else's leadership;
- change is happening all the time, and we want to direct change as much as possible;
- an atmosphere that is becoming receptive to change will benefit the eventual settled pastor;
- lay leaders and the congregation in general will be challenged in ways that we may not have been before;
- candidates for a settled pastorate will be very hesitant to accept a call from a church which has enjoyed a fine pastor retiring after 27 years and has NOT gone through an extended interim period.

In short, we trust in our best judgment and God's will for us in these uncertain times. And while we on the Search Committee have completed the search task, we will continue to be available to help in any other way that we can.

For the Search Committee, Lee Collins

Betsy Beck, Lee Collins, Jane Elwood,  
John Estabrook, Mike Fitting, Kathy Mera,  
David Rich, Sarah Rydingsword, Sara Wardell

## Taber Talk

### A Message for Christmas Eve

“Ministry is a vocation of extraordinary access.” These words of seminary professor Nathaniel Guptil have frequently come to mind as I have served God in this place for the best part of 27 years. I have been privileged to minister to folks who have substantial wealth and people who sleep in their cars for lack of other shelter. I have been privileged to minister to people who have advanced degrees from elite colleges and people who have dropped out of high school. I have been privileged to minister to those who have traveled extensively and lived in foreign lands and to those who have seldom left the Northwest Corner. And of course I deal with folks who are diverse in sexual orientation, race, family backgrounds and political views.

Ministry is a vocation of extraordinary access, especially because it is often the case that when you come to discuss something which is troubling you or to talk with me about getting married or about conducting a funeral for a loved one you have been open to cutting through a lot of superficial stuff in order share your hopes, your hurts and your dreams.

The message to all that I have tried to convey in word and deed is this: You are a beloved child of God.

Each of you.  
All of you.

The message to all that I have tried to convey in word and deed is this: You are a beloved child of God. Each of you. All of you. God loved you so much that he sent his son to be born in a manger.

The angels put their finger right on what the gospel is: good news of a great joy which will be to all the people. Not just to the intellectuals, not only to the oppressed and downtrodden, not just to the righteous. To ALL the people.

If you are a child of God and your neighbor is a child of God, you are brother and sister.

We serve the Lord with gladness!!

Peace, Dick

## From the Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons would like to express our thanks to the Search Committee for all their time, energy and careful thought that went into their task. Some of us have had a chance to meet with and look forward to everyone's welcoming Rev. Dr. Steve Austin as our interim minister.

We also express our deepest gratitude to Dick's loving care of our congregation. "We will miss you Dick, Joanne, Desean and Joslin and wish you much happiness in all you do."

Alden Tyrol and Marge Cluff for the Board of Deacons

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## Silver Lake Fund Drive Begins

As many of us know, Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon is the home of the Outdoor Ministries of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. In addition to serving as a fantastic summer camp the center is used for retreats and conferences throughout the year.

In order to continue to meet the expanding needs of the Connecticut Conference the facility needs to be renovated and upgraded. We are part of a statewide effort to accomplish this. We are kicking off our fund raising, and more information will follow.

Kathy Mera





## in January

1st	Don Mayland
2nd	Joy Fitting, Ron Jones
3rd	Elmer Eriksson
8th	Nicky Downs
15th	Ashley Allyn
16th	Owen Beck
19th	Lee Collins
20th	Andre LaFosse, Jeanette Weber
21st	Anna Beck, Dick Taber
23rd	Janet Offensend
27th	Edith Blodgett
30th	Rick Morrill, Bob Newman

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Good Samaritan**

Many Christians will observe Martin Luther King Jr's birthday on January 19th. (His actual birth date is January 15th.) His comments about the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) are worth remembering:

“The first question that the priest and the Levite asked was: ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’”

But the good Samaritan reversed the question: ‘If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?’”

#### **Special dates**

- o New Year's Day - Thursday, January 1st
- o Epiphany - Tuesday, January 6th
- o Martin Luther King Jr. Day -  
Monday, January 19th
- o Inauguration Day - Tuesday, January 20th
- o Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,  
January 18th-25th

## **Our January Calendar**

**Sunday, the 4th:** Worship with Communion  
and Church School - 10:00  
Board of Trustees - 11:15  
Youth Fellowship - 5:00

**Wednesday, the 7th:** Prayer Group - 10:15

**Friday, the 9th:** Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:15  
Bible Study - 9:00

**Saturday, the 10th:** Dessert buffet and gathering to  
celebrate Dick's ministry - 7:00

**Sunday, the 11th:**  
Worship and Church School - 10:00  
Church service to honor Dick - 3:00  
Reception to follow

**Sunday, the 18th:**  
The Rev. Stephen Austin preaching  
Worship and Church School - 10:00  
Church Council - 11:15

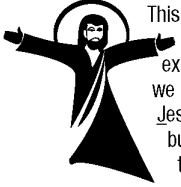
**Sunday, the 25th:**  
Worship and Church School - 10:00

**Monday, the 26th:** Board of Deacons - 4:30

#### **How to keep warm in church**

- Rush to the front. That will warm you up, and you'll avoid when the door in the back of the church opens.
- Invite your neighbors and friends, and sit twelve people to a pew.
- Seat yourself near the pulpit. Most of the hot air is emitted from that area.
- Wear thermal underwear (in the appropriate liturgical colors, of course).
- Wait for an unfamiliar hymn - and then watch the sparks fly!

# WWJD key chain



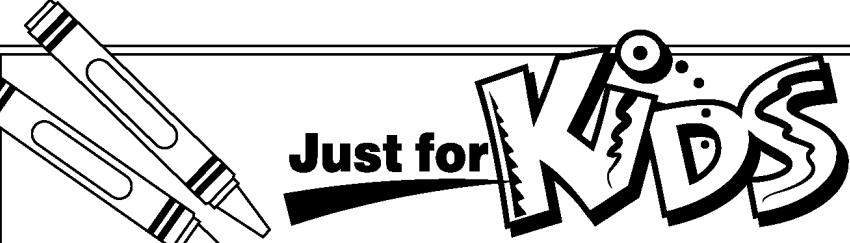
This craft is a reminder of Jesus' perfect example for us. When we ask "What Would Jesus Do?" we can build our character to be more like his.

### What you need:

- 16 inches of bead and jewelry cord (about 1 mm thick)
- 32 mm split ring (key ring)
- 4 wooden beads (about 1 cm or 3/8")
- 5 jewelry beads (plastic or wooden, about 1/2 cm or 1/2")
- black permanent marker

### What you do:


1. Fold your jewelry cord in half.
2. Put the loop of the jewelry cord through the split ring.
3. Put the ends of the cord through the loop to make a knot.
4. Thread the two ends through one of your small beads.
5. Then thread the rest of the beads (alternating between small and large, ending with a small bead).
6. Tie two or three knots at the end to hold the beads in place.
7. With a permanent marker, write a letter (W, W, J and D) on each of the four wooden beads. On the opposite side of each bead, write the same letter.



## CHARACTER THAT PLEASES

The New Year is a time for renewed commitments and changes in our behavior. Complete the puzzle below to see whose example is worthy of imitating or copying.

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to finish the NIV Bible verse.




Y	
A	S
O	F
.	
:	1

	M
E	
O	W
E	
S	T
1	1

L	L
A	M
F	O
	T
A	M
C	H
C	O

O	W
P	L
L	L
H	E
P	L
R	I
R	

F	O
E	X
I	
E	X
1	




Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1

What a bargain grandchildren are!! I give them my loose change, and they give me a million dollars' worth of pleasure.  
~ Gene Perret

When grandparents enter the door, discipline flies out the window.  
~ Ogden Nash

You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother.  
~ Proverb