

The Meeting House Times

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

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Our second congregational dialogue session was well-attended, with lively discussion and diverse perspectives expressed.



Fellowship Hour - talk time for moms, cookie time for kids.



For the latest church news, photos, and information, go to:

<http://www.salisburycongregational.org>

Thanks to webmaster Pamela Wyeth for keeping it all up to date!

Fall Festival 2009

The Fall Festival Committee has begun meeting and planning for the annual Columbus Day weekend event. It will follow the same time frame as last year - **Friday and Saturday, October 9th and 10th, with a couple of activities on Sunday afternoon, the 11th.** No major changes are planned at this point, but if anyone has an activity or idea they would like to implement, we are always ready to listen.

As usual, we need people to fill several vacancies. **At present, three activities need organizers: the Silent Auction, the church Kitchen, and the Dining Room**

The **Silent Auction** has been a part of the auction for a number of years. Last year we scaled back its size to make room for the comeback of the Treasure Trove, but the Auction is still an activity that attracts Festival-goers and generates significant income. Former chair Sara Wardell will be happy to coach the person who can take it over.

The church **Kitchen** supplies the Dining Room with lunches on Friday and Saturday. Food is prepared ahead and served on those days to people who know where the good lunch will be. It's a great draw to get people into the building and has been since the Festival began. Again, cooks from the past will be happy to lead a new person through what needs to be done.

The **Dining Room** always has enough willing servers, but we need someone to arrange the room, schedule the staff, and oversee serving the meals on Friday and Saturday. See the above Kitchen description for the importance of the lunches. Former chair Sarah Polhemus has all the details.

Looking ahead to 2010:

Fall Festival Chairman Lee Collins has been on the Committee for a long time, and he will step down next year. **It would be best for someone to work along side him this year before assuming the Chair in 2010.** The work involves planning and organizing from April through the Columbus Day weekend in October - not an onerous task, since the people one works with are all good and dedicated workers. But the planning and overseeing the event are obviously crucial to its success.

We know that times change, as do church events and activities. The Fall Festival involves most of the churches in town to some extent, and our church has always been a leader in it. If the tradition is to continue, new people are needed every year to assume positions of responsibility for it.

Two serious considerations:

1) If we cannot find people to head up the three above departments for 2009, they must be scaled back or eliminated.

2) If there is no one to chair it in 2010, we face the option of eliminating our church's participation in the Salisbury Fall Festival. That would be a big step backward in our relationship with other churches and businesses in town.

Please consider carefully how you can help, and contact any one of us for further information or to volunteer.



For the Fall Festival Committee

Chair - Lee Collins (435-0051)

Coordinator - Mike Fitting (435-2039)

Secretary - Janet Kaufman (435-1350)

Recruitment - Jennifer Good (435-4710)

Publicity - Deb Pastore (596-4090)

Treasurer - John Estabrook (824-5896)

Treasure Trove Treasures

If you're doing any housecleaning this summer, you will probably find you have stuff you can do without. Don't we all? Anything that is usable and salable belongs in our Fall Festival Treasure Trove. Items can be stored in our church basement until October, and **if you need pickup, call Barbara Collins (435-0051).**

We don't have room to sell:

Books - but the Scoville Library does, and they welcome them for their sale on the Fall Festival weekend.

Furniture - but the Habitat sale in August will take furniture.

Please make sure that items are clean, unbroken and in working order. The Treasure Trove is one of the biggest attractions of our Fall Festival, and we're always looking for more items. Thanks in advance!

From the Pastor's Desk

We've had two wonderful dialogue discovery sessions now, with a third coming just around the corner of your reading this. As most of you know, our first one focused on the defining of our most strongly-held values as they are related to church life. The results were quite revealing. With what some would call a large version of a focus group (45 people attended), we discussed the things we are most attached to, enlivened by, and convicted by in terms of their importance. We then brought the preliminary findings of this to the whole congregation for their input, in order to arrive at a larger-based consensus. The primary values we discovered were these:

- Being "Community" and Pastoral Care
- Spiritual Life
- The Worship Service
- Sense of Commitment and Involvement
- Mission and Local Outreach

Using these topics, we spent the second session identifying all of the ministries, programs and services we offer or pursue here at S.C.C. that are expressions of these core values. The lists were too long to include here, though a full reporting of these can be found on our web site. Perhaps more relevant, however, were the subsequent conversations around the strengths and weaknesses of those respective ministries. Among those findings were the following:

- (1) some of our current ministries overlap from one value to another (i.e., reflect more than one);
- (2) people who were passionate about the same ministries and programs had quite different perspectives on how they were best pursued in the context of church life (which livened the discussions);
- (3) many of the ministries would be more effective if they were expanded;
- (4) regardless of what value, ministry or program we are addressing, it will be critical to significantly augment our communication on all fronts, both external and internal.

After sharing these points, we then had small group discussions around the question, "How can we strengthen our weaknesses and challenges, and reinforce and amplify our strengths?" This was perhaps the most fruitful and productive part of the conversations, as it began the process of developing concrete recommendations for



how our current ministries can be implemented more effectively, and to reflect our values with increased integrity. Some powerful and out-of-the-box suggestions came from these discussions.

Looking forward to our next session together, the last of this trio on June 7th, we will begin asking ourselves the question, "What NEW areas of ministry can we, or should we, consider offering to our church and surrounding community, in order to further be faithful to our core values and strengths? And in what NEW ways can we bring these values and ministries into the future of our church?" These questions, at their core, address the more arching question of what God is calling us to be and do in our next chapter as a congregation in this town, in this time. This is where spiritual discernment comes into play.

One criticism that has been voiced about these sessions is that they are too focused on what the people want, instead of what God might want. And although that's a fair conjecture from the outside, those that have engaged the process have had as our primary goal to tap into God's heartbeat as we have had these discussions, through discerning prayer, in order to discover His will and ideas. And while God does not necessarily speak through the majority voice, there is a power in collective wisdom elicited from a group of people who are passionate about hearing God for our future. God does have a history of honoring those pursuits with direction and promise.

If you haven't joined in on these yet, but have an interest in the future of our church and how that future is formed, **please plan to join us on Sunday, June 7th. Your voice, your wisdom, and your prayers, are needed.**

Pastor Steve

Last Potluck of the Season

There will be a potluck supper on **Friday, June 19th at 5:30** for anyone and everyone who would like a casual evening out. **Please note that we are reverting to our original time of 5:30.**



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. Cartoons 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).**

As a young minister in Kentucky, I was asked by a funeral director to hold a grave-side service for a homeless man who had no family or friends. The funeral was to be held at a new cemetery way back in the country, and this man would be the first to be buried there.

I was not familiar with the backwoods area, and I soon became lost. Being a typical man, I did not stop to ask for directions and finally arrived an hour late.

I saw the backhoe and the open grave, but the hearse was nowhere in sight. The digging crew was eating lunch. I apologized to the workers for my tardiness, and I stepped to the side of the open grave. There I saw the vault lid already in place. I assured the workers I would not hold them up for long but would try to do the proper thing.

The workers gathered around the grave and stood silently as I began to speak. As I preached about "looking forward to a brighter tomorrow" and "the glory that is to come," the workers began to say "Amen," "Praise the Lord," and "Glory!" The fervor of these men truly inspired me. So I preached. and I preached like I had never preached before, all the way from Genesis to Revelations.

I finally closed the lengthy service with a prayer, thanked the men, and walked to my car. As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I heard one of the workers say to another, "I ain't NEVER seen nothin' like that before, and I've been puttin' in septic tanks for thirty years."

Special dates

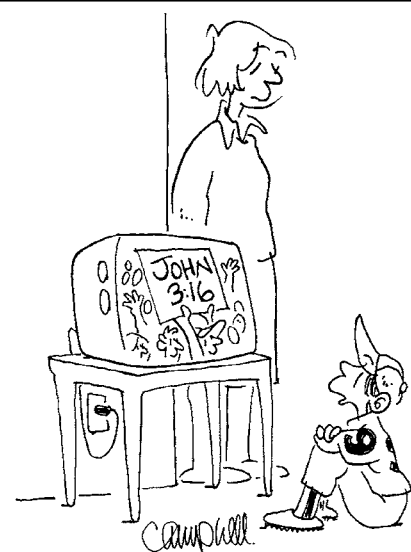
- o Flag Day - Sunday, June 14th
- o Father's Day - Sunday, June 21st
- o First day of summer - Sunday, June 21st

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, a pastor heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The pastor's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be to the Faaather, and to the Sonnn, and in the hole he goooes.'

Invitation to New Members

There will be an introductory meeting of those wishing to join our congregation on **Sunday, June 14th, at 11:15.** We plan for the new members to join and be welcomed the following Sunday, the 21st.



"I AM studying my Bible verses."



NEAUCE 2009

I recently had the pleasure of participating in the New England Association of United Church Educators (NEAUCE) annual conference, May 5th - 7th, on Cape Cod. Eighty UCC Christian Educators from the six New England states were in attendance, including (to my delight) my daughter, Nancy, who was my roommate!

I attended three workshops: *The Educator as Prayerer*, *Praying in Color*, and *The Whole Church Family*, each conducted by very stimulating and provocative leaders. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Kirk Byron Jones, a professor of ethics and preaching at Andover Newton Theological Seminary and author of several books. Dr. Jones addressed the group three separate times on the theme "Spiritual Strategies for Slowing Down." Worship, communion, meditation, music, delicious meals, conversation, (and a lot of rain!) filled our days and fed our souls.

The NEAUCE experience has reminded me of how valuable it can be to meet with others who are on the same journey. I look forward to exploring new ideas in Christian Education and revitalizing existing ones in the coming months.

Here are two things to share with you:

1. All churches enjoy successes and face challenges. Our church can benefit greatly by fostering opportunities for dialogue and by participating in joint endeavors with other congregations and the UCC Connecticut Conference. Give a little. Take a little. Learn a lot.
2. I found the worship experiences at NEAUCE especially beautiful and very different from what I am used to. This summer, when you find yourself away from Salisbury on a Sunday, take advantage of the opportunity to attend a worship service where you are. What was different? What did you like? What didn't you like? Bring those ideas back to the deacons and the pastor.

Barbara Collins
Coordinator of Christian Education

Church School News

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

During our spring term the children of the church school learned that everyone, no matter how young or how old, can make a positive difference in the life of another. And when we work together as God's children, that positive difference can increase countless times over. Each child was invited to bring in a food or beverage offering for OWL's kitchen and an outgrown article of clothing, still in good condition, to be given to Family Services. The children illustrated greeting cards to be used by the pastor and deacons when a church family member is ill or may need a bit of cheer. They also created a beautiful WELCOME banner to hang above the doors into the parish hall.



On May 24th, the children sang a song for the congregation which sums it up nicely:

I count if I am ninety, or nine or just a baby,
There's one thing I am sure about and I don't mean maybe:
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.

May 24th was the last day of Church School. During the summer months, there will be infant and young child care (age 6 and under) on Sunday mornings. **If you would like to volunteer to be the caregiver on a Sunday or two, please let Barbara Collins (435-0051).**

We encourage families with children older than 6 to participate in congregational worship during the summer. The services will be less formal and shorter in length.

In Memoriam

Jean Olsen Dec. 16, 1925 - Apr. 27, 2009

Elmer Eriksson Jan. 3, 192 - May 18, 2009

News from Holly Tierney

Dear Friends,

My experience in India so far has been fantastic! I have become a part of a local community and have seen so many amazing things. During my school's summer vacation, I had a month to travel around Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, and Andhra Pradesh, state districts in the southern half of India.

In my village I have become very close with my neighbors and host family. They now treat me like just "one of the gang," and we have such great times together.



The Pavithra Rashtriya Vidyalaya School is for children ages 3-14. It can be stressful at times, since there are over 400 students and only eight teachers, and the policies at the school can often be questionable. In general the state of Karnataka has difficulties with the teacher-student ratio and finding resources for the students. I am starting a much-needed library, which they are so excited about. My Mom recently sent us 50 pounds of books; thanks to David Rich for helping with postage! The rewards of teaching these eager kids outweighs the difficulties. Now I can say I know and understand more about India for better and for worse.

On June 27th I look forward to flying to Nepal to volunteer for WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms). I hope to be there as late as October or November to experience life there beyond the monsoon season. Thanks for asking for me. See you in the fall!

Holly Tierney

And from Stephanie:

Dear Church Friends,

On behalf of the Geer Nursing and Rehab Center Recreation Department, I would like to thank the church, specifically Debbie Palmer, for supplying the individual birthday gifts and a cake for our March birthday party. This thoughtful deed has been enjoyed by our residents every March for years.



We would also like to thank Terre Lefferts and her son Donovan for helping serve ice cream to our residents on a number of Saturdays in

April. **Please contact me (435-0216) if you are interested in volunteering to help with this delicious activity.** It entails pushing the ice cream cart from unit to unit from 1:30 to about 3:00 any Saturday with the exception of the 2nd Saturday of the month.

And I personally want to thank all who have shown support for my daughter Holly who is volunteering in India. I was able to send a media bag of about 100 books with the help of David Rich. As her letter shows, she is doing great. Thanks again to so many of you.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Tierney

Summer Worship Services

We will be changing the format of our services slightly for the summer months. Our goal is to explore more casual and visitor-friendly styles of worship, while maintaining the core elements that carry depth and meaning for us.

Our summer services will include hymn-sings, sharing of personal stories, special music, interactive sermons, and the occasional introduction of contemporary elements. We will also be offering a "2nd Hour" - a time for adult education and study after coffee hour for about 45 minutes, for those interested in participating.

Worship time: 10:00, as usual

Fellowship hour: 10:45.

2nd Hour: 11:00

This is an opportunity to encourage your friends and neighbors to "stay plugged in" to spiritual life during the summer.



When on vacation, be with us in spirit.

The rest of the summer, be with us in person.

See you this summer!

When all is said and done, more is said than done.

Where Are They Now?

Many of us who attend church regularly have observed that most of our young people when they are once confirmed seem to disappear. Sometimes on Sunday mornings they are upstairs assisting with Church School or in the Nursery. They are also out in the world living, as well as they can, the Christian life they confirmed.



To us older folks this exploration of life doesn't always match our definition of Christian values, yet let us remember that Christ welcomes all who have found Him in their hearts. Although it would be great to see these young faces at worship services, I am confident that when they return it will be with a greater understanding of themselves and their place in our community.

Here are some of them that I contacted:

- Caitlin and Lauren Hanlon are invaluable assistants in our Church School.

- April Tierney is at the Culinary School in Hartford and starts her "externship" in Washington D. C. beginning in July.

- Holly Tierney continues her work with United Planet (see her letter in this issue).

- Nick and Chris Caliandro are freshman members of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Track Team.

- Shayna Blumert and Caitlin Hanlon had works selected for the 5th annual Blue & Gold exhibit at the White Gallery. Shayna's work, ENVY, was awarded Best in Show.

- Allyson Good and Denali Hawk Blumert each qualified for participation in the State competition in track. Allyson and Hawk also participated in a successful fund raiser to benefit the HVRHS athletic program.

- Kyle Good is captain of Crew at Salisbury School.

- Adam Rashkoff will attend Wesleyan University in the fall.

- Noah Rashkoff is one of the young people who assist in the Nursery.

- Monica Chin is playing softball at Salisbury Central School, assists in the Nursery, and has landed a part in Kids 2009 at Tri-Arts.

- Elise LaFosse assists in our Nursery and will be working as a volunteer this summer at Housatonic Child Care Center.

- Donald Reed excelled at Cross Country at Indian Mountain School.

There are other young people, or "Senior Youths" whom I missed contacting for this newsletter. Look for a follow-up in another one.

Theresa Carroll

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son Timmy walking to school, since he didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. The neighbor said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl. She did this for the whole week. As the two kids walked and chatted, Timmy's friend noticed the same lady following them every day. Finally she said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school? Do you know her?"

Timmy replied, 'Yeah, I guess so. That must be Shirley Goodnest and her little girl Marcy.'

"Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?"

"Well," Timmy explained, "every night my Mom has me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the psalm it says Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life, so I guess I'll just have to get used to it."



SUMMER

Birthdays

in JUNE

1st	Rebecca Rashkoff
2nd	Mark Capecelatro
4th	Caitlin Hanlon
6th	Monica Chin, Ann Cuddy, Nathaniel O’Niel
7th	Kit Kellogg, Debbie Mark, William Tedder
8th	Charlotte Reid
9th	Joseph Habacker
10th	Elliot Bok, Jill Westsmith
11th	Max Babigian
14th	Reginald Lamson
15th	Marian Ferguson
16th	Elise Babigian, David Offensend
17th	Millard Hayner
18th	Megan Noyes, Valerie Rout
19th	Malcolm Brown, Chris Janelli
21st	Robert Kuhbach
26th	Josh Allyn, Danielle Wilkinson, Wyeth Billinger
27th	Peggy Sands, Nancy Hegy Martin
29th	Norm Sills

JULY Birthdays

1st	Nick Branchina
2nd	Roger Elwood
4th	Brodie Craig
5th	Matthew Rogers
7th	Janet Accardo, Elise LaFosse, Nick Noyes, Isabella Flemma
15th	Dick Dwelley, Peggy Heck
16th	John Estabrook, April Tierney
17th	Doris Richardson
18th	Jane Elwood
19th	Jane Bok
20th	Ben Gott
24th	Christopher Offensend
25th	Marge Cluff
27th	Marilyn Ritchie
29th	Joan Turnure
30th	Nancy Smith

Our June Calendar

Board of Trustees - Sunday, the 7th - 11:15

Discovery Dialogue Session -
Sunday, the 7th - 11:15

Board of Deacons - Monday, the 29th - 4:30

Board of Christian Action -
Sunday, the 14th - 11:15

Potluck Supper - Friday, the 19th - 5:30

Church Council - Sunday, the 21st - 11:15

Prayer Group - Wednesday, the 11th & 25th -10:15;

During June, July and August the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday morning Crib/Nursery care is provided throughout the summer for age 6 and under.

The Prayer Group will continue to meet every other week.

Church boards and committees may not meet on their usual schedule. If in doubt about a meeting, contact the chairman.

AUGUST Birthdays

1st	Noelle Fitting
3rd	Sarah Polhemus, Christine Curry
4th	Tony Good
7th	Amanda Palmer
8th	Carla Brown
10th	Larry Blades
14th	Chance O’Niel, Kenneth Weir
19th	Haili Elwood
22nd	Matthew Chin
24th	Rose Genito
25th	Mary Davidson
26th	Gloria Buckley
28th	Louise Brown
29th	Orrin Rydingsword
31st	Ruth Tyrol

SURPRISE DAD at WORK!

Dads work so hard to provide for their families' needs. Here's a fun way to show your appreciation to your dad this Father's Day.*

What you need:

- Paper and envelope (any color)
- Markers and crayons
- Stickers
- Pencil
- Stamp
- Your dad's work address

What you do:


1. Decorate the paper with drawings, stickers, etc.
2. Write a message to your dad, letting him know how thankful you are for his love and hard work.
3. With an adult's help, write your dad's name and work address on the outside of the envelope and your return address in the top-left corner.
4. Place a stamp in the top-right corner and then mail your special gift.

Other ideas:

- Pack a lunch to eat with dad at or near his workplace.
- Send your letter in a box and include some homemade cookies.
- Pack your dad a special lunch. Place self-stick notes with messages of appreciation on various food items.
- Write appreciation messages on self-stick notes and, with your mom's help, place them all over the inside of your dad's car.



*All these ideas will work also for Mom on Mother's Day or her birthday.



Fathers of faith

Fathers do amazing things for their families, but the greatest gift our dads can share with us is their faith in God.
Complete this puzzle to read Isaiah's advice to fathers.

Directions: Working left to right, first write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's.

1 The	2 as	3 tell	1 living
2 I	3 their	1 the	2 am
3 children	1 living	2 doing	3 about
1 they	2 today	3 your	1 praise
2 fathers	3 faithfulness	1 you	

“ _____ , _____ — _____ ,
_____ ; _____
_____ .” Isaiah 38:19, NIV

Answer: "The living, the living — they praise you, as I am doing today; fathers tell their children about your faithfulness." Isaiah 38:19, NIV

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?"

He answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"