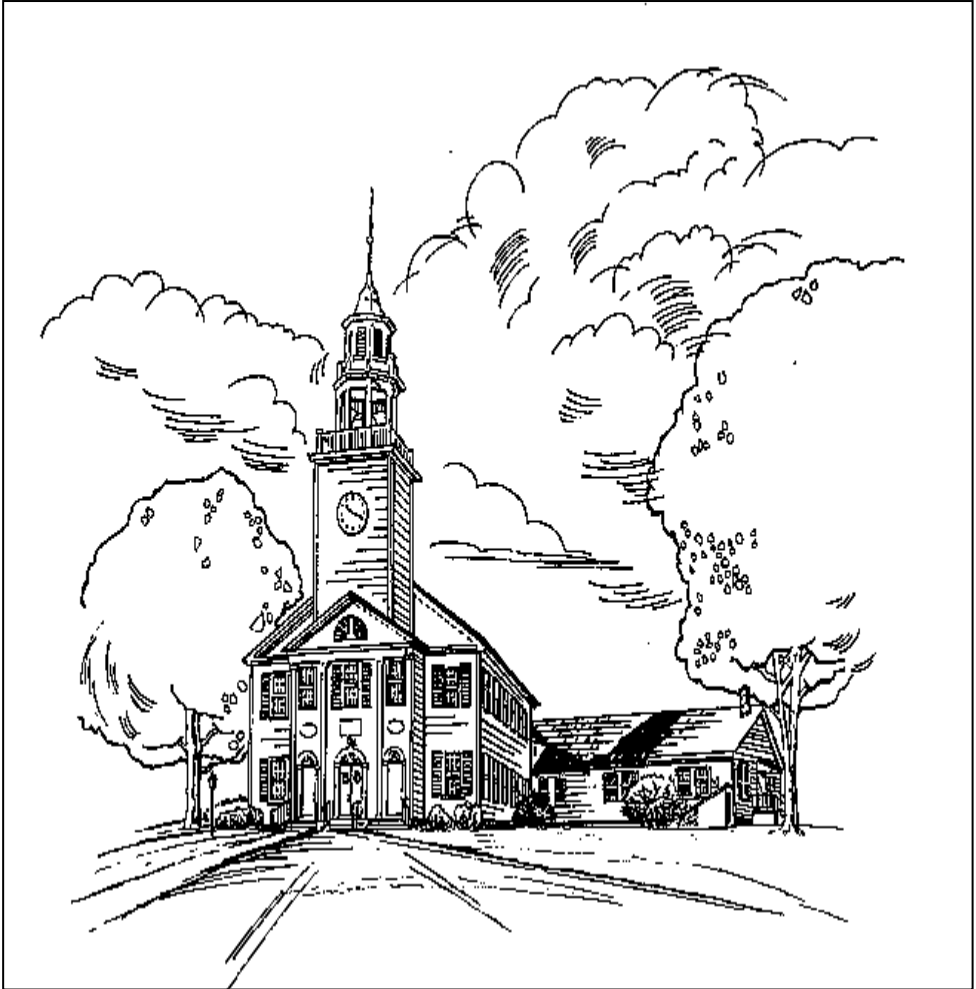


*North Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Woodbury, Connecticut*



July/August 2013 Newsletter



With a Blessing

by Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bardot

Over the years I have occasionally read something in a colleague's newsletter article and used it as a "jumping off" place for a newsletter article of my own. Recently I read a newsletter article that, for the first time in my ministry, I am passing along to you here almost as I found it, written by Rev. George Harris at South Congregational/First Baptist Church in New Britain.

George addresses what many of us have experienced at least since 9/11 and increasingly in recent years and months. He writes about what psychologists are calling "compassion fatigue."

In less than a year we have witnessed a mass shooting in Colorado, Hurricane Sandy, the massacre of children in Newtown, a terrorist bombing at the Boston Marathon and now mind-boggling destruction from the Oklahoma tornado. And when we say witnessed, I mean through 24-hour television reporting and internet storytelling we are brought right to awful scene after awful scene. We see bloodied bodies and hear firsthand accounts filled with fear, anguish and horror.

I know I am experiencing some of this compassion fatigue and can only imagine that many of you are also experiencing "rapidly diminishing grief reserves" as well.

Following the Newtown tragedy I responded to those who say, "God doesn't give us more than we can handle," by asserting that God does not "give us" suffering. Instead, I proposed, "Life gives us more suffering than we can handle each and every day. This is why we need God."

So yes, we can, we should, we must lean on God in these dreadful times. We pray. We give as we are able. But I also want to give you permission to do something for yourself. Turn off and turn away. I don't mean ignore. I don't mean stop caring. But we don't need to watch every gut-wrenching news report. We don't have to listen to every heart-breaking story from survivors. I worry that the 24-hour news cycle, with every story crafted for maximum emotional impact, has a mind-numbing, compassion-

fatiguing effect. So be gentle with yourself. Do what you can. Pray. Give. Then turn off your television and surround yourself with the kindness and beauty of God that is all around us. Soak it up. Renew. Recharge.

Thank you, George, for your wise and helpful words. Thank you, people of North Church, for your compassion for others. Thank you, God, for a restful presence.

With a blessing,
Bonnie



The Diaconate

by Judi Lewis

Just a reminder to let you know we will be hosting our neighbors from First Church during the month of July. Altar flowers and hospitality hosts are still needed. Both can be accomplished very simply: A handful of flowers from your garden and cookies, fruit or donuts from the market.

Also, we are trying something new to keep the sanctuary cool. The windows are to be open at night to capture the cool night air, and closed in the morning to keep that cool air in. With the help of the fans we should see a difference. (The closed windows should also help with the traffic noise!)

Although the choir will not be singing on a regular basis during these summer months, there is some "special" music planned you won't want to miss.

Blessings to you all and wishes for a safe and joyous summer.



Church Office Summer Hours

Please note that the Church Office summer hours for July and August are:

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday

North Church

SUMMER UNION SERVICES AT NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WITH REV. DR. BONNIE BARDOT

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

- 7/7 Communion Sunday
 “A Time for Special Prayer”
 John 6:24-35
 “Bread”
- 7/14 Celebration of Worship
 Luke 10:25-37
 “Whose Neighbor Am I?”
- 7/21 Celebration of Worship
 Exodus 3:1-5
 “Take Off Your Shoes”
- 7/28 Celebration of Worship
 2 Kings 5:1-14
 “It Can’t Work If It’s Too Easy”

Committee Meetings

Diaconate 7/2 7:00 p.m.



July Calendar

Other Meetings

Monday 7/1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Dr. Westerberg

12:00 p.m.

Wdbry/Bthlm Parents Connection

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 7/2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:

NA

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 7/9 & 7/23:

- Women's Bible Study

7:00 p.m.

Kathrine Rutledge's Home

41 Owl Ridge, Wdby

Tuesday 7/23:

Woodbury Hill Condo

7:00 p.m.

Friday 7/5, 12, 19 & 26:

AA

8:00 p.m.

Saturday 7/6, 13, 20, & 27:

Young People's AA

7:30 p.m.

Summer Union Services

10:00 a.m.

July

Services will be held at North Church
with Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bardot.

August

Services will be held at First Church
with Rev. Lyn Barrett.

North Church

SUMMER UNION SERVICES AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WITH REV. LYN BARRETT

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

- | | |
|------|------------------------|
| 8/4 | Communion Sunday |
| 8/11 | Celebration of Worship |
| 8/18 | Celebration of Worship |
| 8/25 | Celebration of Worship |

Committee Meetings

Diaconate	8/29	7:00 p.m.
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NOTE:

The first Women's Fellowship Board Meeting
of the coming year will be
Thursday, Sept. 5, at 10:00 a.m.

August Calendar

Other Meetings

Monday 8/5, 12, 19 & 26:

Dr. Westerberg

12:00 p.m.

Wdbry/Bthlm Parents Connection

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 8/6, 13, 20 & 27

NA

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 8/13 & 8/27:

- Women's Bible Study

7:00 p.m.

Kathrine Rutledge's Home

41 Owl Ridge, Wdby

Tuesday, 8/27:

Woodbury Hill Condo

7:00 p.m.

Friday 8/2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:

AA

8:00 p.m.

Saturday 8/3, 10, 17, 24 & 31:

Young Peoples AA

7:30 p.m.

Summer Union Services

10:00 a.m.

July

Services will be held at North Church
with Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bardot.

August

Services will be held at First Church
with Rev. Lyn Barrett.



Sunday School

by Lorna Eckman

***"Enable me to teach with wisdom,
for I help to shape the mind.***

***Encourage me to teach with vision,
for I help to shape the future.***

***Empower me to teach with love,
for I help to shape the world."***

Celebration Sunday was a beautiful day and the perfect ending to another year of Sunday School for North Church. Again, I thank all who helped to make the year a success.

I will be working on the lessons for next year during the summer and we will start again on the third Sunday in September. We will be welcoming some new teachers who have stepped forward to teach. I am looking forward to working with all of the teachers and bringing the children their lessons.

If anyone would like to sign up to help in the nursery on Sundays, please let me know. I can be reached at 203-263-2616. Please sign up to help teach a child and shape the world.

Have a Blessed summer. See you in the fall.





Search Committee

By Charles Bartlett

The Search Committee continues to meet and review the few recent profiles that have been received. So far there have been 67 profiles received, with virtually an equal number coming from both men and women, most of them from the New England, New Jersey and Pennsylvania areas; but we have received some as far away as Hawaii. About 15% of the candidates, after reading our Church Profile, elected not to continue with North Church for a variety of reasons, but mainly because the “fit” was not what the individual was seeking.

The committee has made additional contact (personal or telephone interviews, or visits to the individual’s place of worship) with six individuals; two later decided not to continue, two were re-evaluated and the committee determined that the attributes simply did not match those being sought, and there are two still pending. While the process seems slow, there is still much discussion at the committee meetings. The committee will continue to meet as needed during the summer to keep the process moving.



Parsonage Project

By Pete D’Amato

The plumbing is now complete and the sheetrock contractor is scheduled to begin the first week of July. We’ll be taking it slow during the summer months installing the interior doors and some of the trim, and generally preparing for painting, which we’ll probably pick up when it’s cooler and drier. Many of you have expressed an interest in helping out with painting.

Marge Hubbard and the Outreach Committee are planning to provide us with sandwiches and desserts, so stay tuned for our call for volunteers and join us for one or more “painting parties” in the fall. Meanwhile, enjoy the summer—see you in September (with paint brushes in hand)!



Women's Fellowship



Royal Shower Thanks!

The Ladies of the Evening hosted a Royal Shower Benefit on Tuesday, May 21, at the home of Beverly Carlone.

All gifts benefited Carolyn's Pregnancy Care Center of Waterbury. Thanks to all who helped support this mission project. Gifts included five diaper bags overflowing with wipes, lotions, shampoos, bottles, rattles, pacifiers, and receiving blankets. T-shirts, outfits, booties, formula, baby food, bibs, and nine handmade blankets were also collected.

Thanks again to all who participated!

Parlor Prep & Pizza



The Ladies of the Evening will meet on Tuesday, July 23, at 5 p.m. in the Church Parlor to move furniture, and clean closets and cabinets in preparation for Phase One of the Parlor refurbishment. Pizza will be provided.

Any amount of time you can give is greatly appreciated.



Congratulations, Carolyn!

The Woodbury Scholarship Fund (WSF) has once again chosen Carolyn Michener as the recipient of this year's North Church Scholarship. Carolyn, the daughter of Mark and Danielle Michener, has completed an impressive freshman year at Boston University pursuing a degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences.

A recent letter from Mary Jane Travers, Selection Committee Chair of the WSF, reads in part:

"A Dean's List student with the distinction of maintaining a 4.0 grade point average, Carolyn has found the time to contribute to the Northeastern Neuroscience Magazine and to hold membership in the National Student Speech, Language and Hearing Association. Additionally, she gives of her time with the Student Outreach Program. She will continue her role as a Research Assistant this summer in the Rehabilitation Engineering Lab."

We have no doubt that Carolyn will continue to excel in her studies and we send her blessings and best wishes as she enters her sophomore year this fall.

CHECK OUT OUR *UPDATED* WEBSITE

Be sure to visit the North Church website, which has been updated. If anyone wants something posted, like an article or picture, etc., please contact Judi Lewis and she will make sure it gets added.

The website address is:

www.northchurchwoodbury.org



Outreach Committee

The Walk Against Hunger 3-mile walkathon fundraiser event took place in Waterbury on May 19 on a rainy, dreary Sunday afternoon. BUT that did not at all hamper North Church's enthusiasm to be there, ready to walk—raincoats, umbrellas, walking sticks and all! Most importantly, we had the love and support from our church family and very generous donations amounting to a total of \$1,215 to help keep Connecticut's food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens stocked and operating.

Most of all, we'd like to thank the walkers who participated and solicited donations for this event. They are Beverly Carlone, Cathy McMullin, Kathleen Reilly, Pat Gage, Lindsay Monckton, Cindi, Bob and Laura Hughes.

See you next year!



Attention Scholars

The Women's Fellowship is again pleased to announce \$1,000 in scholarship funds will be offered to deserving recipients. Those eligible include North Church upper-class college students and newly graduated high school students. Upper-class college students may apply each ensuing year and will be considered along with any new applicants.

Applications are located in the scholarship mail slot across from the church office. The deadline for submission is July 31. When the Board meets in September, the applications will be reviewed and applicants chosen. Last year two deserving young ladies each received \$500 educational assistance.

Members and friends of North Church are welcome to add to this fund—a very worthy cause as high education costs continue to rise.

Judy Sonnemann
President, Women's Fellowship

"Back to School!"



Although it is only July, the Outreach Committee has been working together with the Community Services Council of Woodbury on a "Back to School" mission project for our neighbors in need with school-age children.

During July and ending on Sunday, August 4, the Outreach Committee is accepting donations for school supplies. The Collection Box is located across from the Parlor by the Outreach bulletin board. Let's show our Woodbury children how much we care!

Suggested School Supplies:

Folders

Pencils

Sticky Notes

Dividers

Pens

Rulers

Binders

Colored Pencils

Loose-leaf paper



WOODBURY FOOD BANK



A big "Thank You" goes out to our volunteers who so willingly gave of their time to help at the Food Bank during the month of June: Paul and Marcia Hinckley, Patty Knowlton, Terri Clark, Peg Tester, Pat Gage, KathySue Roberts and Cindi Hughes.

Currently the **Woodbury Food Bank** serves **120 families** so, as you can see, the need for donations is great. If you are a gardener and have an abundance of fresh produce this summer, please drop your bounty off at the Food Bank on Thursdays or Fridays between 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. If you are unable to bring your produce or donations to the Food Bank and need assistance, please call me and I will be glad to pick up your donations and deliver them. (Cindi Hughes 203-263-0055) Donations for furry, 4-legged family members are also needed, especially for cats. You may also drop off dry good donations at the Church, in the Food Bank donation basket located by the Washington Road entrance.

The following is a limited list of high priority items needed that are currently in especially low supply at the Food Bank, but any donation is gratefully appreciated:

- Soups
- Juice bottles and boxes
- Bread, muffin
- Brownie and cake mixes (with frosting)
- Tuna, peanut butter and non-grape jellies
- Coffee
- Mayo
- Salad dressings
- Canned fruits
- Canned meats
- Boxed potatoes
- Canned vegetable
- Rice mixes
- Canned tomatoes of all kinds

"Plant a Row" for the Woodbury Food Bank



Many of us have our gardens planted and are looking forward to homegrown vegetables throughout the summer. If all goes according to plan—and our hard work—we will have a bountiful harvest. Oftentimes we find we have more than we anticipated (think tomatoes!). Should you find yourself facing this wonderful dilemma, please consider donating your extra vegetables, fruits, and herbs to the Woodbury Food Bank.

Volunteers at the food bank will receive fresh produce donations on Thursday and Friday mornings from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The location is easy to find: at the rear of LaBonne's shopping plaza, lower level of the part of the building that houses the Newtown Savings Bank. Driveways on the north and south sides of the plaza provide access to the food bank's rear delivery area.

We invite you to share in the bounty of your gardens with local families who are facing economic hardship. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS FOR JULY & AUGUST:

9 a.m.—1 p.m. MON./TUES./THURS./FRI.

Parish Administrator: Kathie Logan

Phone: (203) 263-2410 Fax: (203) 263-2488

Email: nchurchct@snet.net

Website: www.northchurchwoodbury.org

Newsletter submissions can be put in the Parish Administrator slot or emailed to the Church Office by the 15th of each month.

North Congregational Church
P.O. Box 473
Woodbury, CT 06798
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