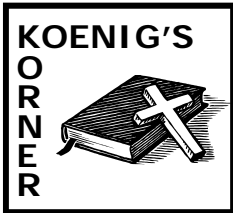


*North Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Woodbury, Connecticut*



July/August 2014 Newsletter



I'd like to share with you my two favorite "lightbulb" jokes; you may have heard them before, but if you have I hope you giggle at them again!

#1 Question: *How many deacons does it take to change a lightbulb?*

Answer: *None... that's a trustee's job!*

#2 Question: *How many Congregationalists does it take to change a light bulb?*

Answer: *Change???????*

I've been thinking a lot about change lately. After all, for Susan and me, just about everything has been changing over the past few months. New church, new house, new people to meet, new restaurants to experience, new places to explore.... a *lot* of change has taken place for us recently. North Church has undergone much change, too, during its time of transition. Some of the changes have been self-directed and intentional, some changes have been beyond anyone's control; some changes may feel unwelcome, and some have been positive, creative, and needed.

Dealing with the dynamic of change in our lives, and the ever increasing speed of that change in the twenty-first century, is at the forefront of the challenges facing us emotionally, spiritually, physically, and institutionally. It may be a truism, but the fact of the matter is that the only thing that *doesn't* change, is that everything changes.

Stumbling upon the following quote from Charles Darwin, I was quite struck by it:

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." (italics mine).

As a pastor, I am always looking for the signs of change, of transformations within God's people that lead to a "new creation" in Christ. And as one who loves the church, I think about the ways in which our human institutions need to be responsive to the ways in which "God is doing a new thing" in our midst, if we can perceive it and get on board! Our challenge as human beings is that we crave the solid, secure, familiar things as anchors in the

midst of changing seas. We cling to the known, even as God invites us to step out into the unknown. Therein lies the paradox of faith. We need not fear change, because we can rest secure in God's unfailing love and presence. I look to the solid rock of Christ, the "I AM" God of Moses, the ineffable, unchanging God who spoke the worlds into being, who walks with us and loves us always, to give me the courage and ability to manage, even embrace, change.

Come what may, "*this is the day that our God has made.*" As I seek to live and work to the Glory of God, I will "*rejoice and be glad in it!*" Psalm 118:24

Have a wonderful summer...and don't be a stranger to worship!

Summer Blessings,
Pastor Koenig



The Diaconate

Did you ever believe these warm sunny days would ever get here after surviving those cold blustery days of winter? Yes, you did, and that's called faith! We believe we will be seeing you at our summer services.

The deacons will be sharing responsibility with the deacons of First Church during our summer months of pulpit sharing. You will be seeing First Church deacons greeting and ushering side by side with deacons from North Church at each service. Don't be shy... we are counting on seeing YOU during our summer services as well! Remember, July services will be at North Church and August services will be at First Church.

In September, we will be starting up our Time for Special Prayer as we used to do on Communion Sundays. We decided it would be best to do it on the second Sunday of the month instead of Communion Sunday, as there is less commotion in the sanctuary then.

There is a big event being planned for September that you all will want to be a part of. That is, the formal installation of Rev. Richard A. Koenig into our church and into the Litchfield South Association of the United Church of Christ. The local clergy will be invited as well as other statewide prominent people in the United Church of Christ, and all of you. More information will be forthcoming in the September newsletter. Have a blessed and safe summer.



Music Notes

By John Wick

Music at North Church has had a good year. It was the year that the chancel choir came back to full voice, with holy day services seeing most all the chairs in the choir loft claimed, and on normal weeks a solid complement of good musicians. We have returned to a mid-week rehearsal which allows us to tackle more challenging music. Mark continues to amaze all those who pay attention with his casual mastery of the organ and piano every week. (Watch him ~ he often is creating variations on a hymn or making something up out of whole cloth.)

Perhaps most significantly, we have landed among us a new minister with music on his mind and in his heart. Pastor Sandy has introduced more music into the service in many ways. He often sings out a phrase to open worship or sometimes to introduce the sermon. He is introducing some hidden gems in the hymnal, and we sing all the verses! Some Sundays the congregation sings a few extra hymns at the beginning of the service. Not to forget that he and Susan are singing in the choir, providing solid foundation to the bass and alto sections. Sing to the Lord a new song!

The bell choir is still on hiatus, and Jamie Monckton is ready to start it up again if a few more people are willing to commit to it. We have an outstanding set of bells and a great catalog of music. Such a magical contribution to worship... It doesn't take too long to catch on to ringing. Contact her or me if you are interested.

Summer music will be varied and fun as the choir is on break. But come to North Church any Sunday. The music will be great!





Women's Fellowship

Ladies of The Evening - July Picnic



Please join the Ladies of the Evening for a delayed "4th of July Picnic" on Tuesday, July 15, 6:00 p.m. at the home of Beverly Carlone, 618 Upper Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury. Please bring your favorite All-American dish. Sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the handicap entrance. All ladies from First Church are invited to be our guests and join us for an evening of wonderful food and fellowship. Please call Beverly, 203-578-5355 and say you will come!



August - Hawaiian Luau!

The Ladies of the Evening will be hosting a Hawaiian Luau on Tuesday, August 19, 6:00 p.m. at the home of Beverly Carlone, 618 Upper Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury. Please bring your favorite Hawaiian dish. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board located across from the handicap entrance. Festive attire is encouraged.



New officers of the Women's Fellowship of North Congregational Church UCC were installed on Thursday, June 5. Pictured left to right are Bernie Law, Ginny Hart, Cathy Monckton, Judy Sonnemann, Janet Lewis, and Pastor of North Church, Rev. Richard A. Koenig.

North Church

SUMMER SHARED WORSHIP AT NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- 7/6 Celebration of Worship
 Communion Sunday
 Rev. Desmond, Guest Preacher
- 7/13 Celebration of Worship
 Mr. Scott Anderson, Guest Speaker
- 7/20 Celebration of Worship
 Rev. Koenig
- 7/27 Celebration of Worship
 Rev. Koenig



July Calendar

Other Meetings

Monday 7/7, 14, 21 & 28:

Wdbry/Bthlm Parents Connection 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 7/8, 15, 22 & 29:

NA 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 7/8 & 7/22:

Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Kathrine Rutledge's Home

41 Owl Ridge, Woodbury

Tuesday 7/22:

Woodbury Hill Condo Board 7:00 p.m.

Friday 7/4, 11, 18 & 25 :

AA 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 7/5, 12, 19 & 26:

Young Peoples AA 7:30 p.m.

Summer Shared Worship

10:00 a.m.

July

Services will be held at North Church

August

Services will be held at First Church

North Church

SUMMER SHARED WORSHIP AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- | | |
|------|---|
| 8/3 | Celebration of Worship
Communion Sunday
Rev. Koenig |
| 8/10 | Celebration of Worship
Rev. Barrett |
| 8/17 | Celebration of Worship
Rev. Barrett |
| 8/24 | Celebration of Worship
Rev. Barrett |
| 8/31 | Celebration of Worship
Rev. Barrett |

Leadership Workshop Planning and Picnic

Sunday, 8/17

2:00– 5:30 p.m.

August Calendar

Other Meetings

Monday 8/4, 11, 18 & 25:

Wdbry/Bthlm Parents Connection 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 8/5, 12, 19 & 26:

NA 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 8/12 & 8/26:

Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Kathrine Rutledge's Home
41 Owl Ridge, Woodbury

Tuesday 8/26:

Woodbury Hill Condo Board 7:00 p.m.

Friday 8/1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:

AA 8:00 p.m.

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

Young Peoples AA 7:30 p.m.

Summer Shared Worship

10:00 a.m.

July

Services will be held at North Church

August

Services will be held at First Church

“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. 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.

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

Thank you!



Congratulations Carolyn!

The Woodbury Scholarship Fund (WSF) has once again awarded Carolyn Michener the North Church Scholarship. Carolyn, the daughter of Mark and Danielle Michener, is attending Boston University where she is pursuing a degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. She will begin her junior year in the fall.

This summer Carolyn will complete a research internship through the Boston University Computational Neuroscience Department. She has also presented her first poster at the Acoustical Society of America Conference, which was held in Rhode Island this past June.

Carolyn plans to find time to do some of her favorite things as well this summer. She will be following the Freedom Trail, kayaking on the Charles River, and visiting Cape Cod.

We look forward to seeing Carolyn the next time she’s at North Church, and we wish her great success as she continues her impressive studies.



Moderator's Message

by Dave Sonnemann

As summer vacations begin, family activities, summer camp, and frequent travel dominate our daily lives. With so many opportunities to be distracted from our "typical" activities, let us take time to plan ahead for safety, security, and spirituality. I hope to see you throughout the summer. In case our paths do not cross this summer, I look forward to your return on Rally Day in September.

The first bit of planning we should do is to adjust our schedules to recognize that July and August bring shared worship services with members of First Church. During July, members of First Church and North Church will attend worship at North Church, while August worship services for members of both congregations will be held at First Church. We hope to see you in worship!

Another adjustment this summer will affect Church Council members as, during August, Council will be discussing plans for 2014-2015 at a planned leadership picnic hosted by Rev. Sandy. The picnic, scheduled for a Sunday afternoon, will follow working sessions of individual committees with the purpose to develop a stronger vision focusing on Christian Outreach, coordinating programs beginning in September, and strengthening the work of North Church following Rev. Sandy's arrival as our settled minister. Working sessions prior to the picnic are planned for 2½ to 3 hours, and the output from individual committees will be assembled into a unified program for the church year that starts in September.

While the work of the church continues throughout the summer, remember to have a safe, happy, enjoyable summer. Blessing and Peace.





Outreach Committee

by Cathy McMullin

With heartfelt thanks, we would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of our church family in ALL the Outreach events and efforts this committee provides. Monetary donations to provide lunches for our "Ownfront" workers have been tremendous. Your enthusiasm to welcome Rev. Evalyn of the Nambale School this past March was evident and, WOW, we had several volunteers step in to help with serving a meal at Loaves and Fishes in April. And just when you might think that with summer around the corner we may be taking a bit of a break - Wrong!. We have a busier agenda than ever!

Fridays in June are staffed by you for the Woodbury Food Bank; Last Sunday Food Collections in church by our youth; Loaves and Fishes meal planned for July 29, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Would you like to help? Back to School supplies collection for CSCW/Woodbury Food Bank-July at North Church; September Safe Haven of Waterbury Toiletries drive; Loaves and Fishes meal provided for September 30, 3:00-6:00 p.m.; October Coat Drive - donations of coats, gloves and hats for "ACTS IV" of Waterbury; November / December - Holiday Giving Program -TBD; December 30 at Loaves and Fishes, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to do God's work; with your help and support ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE! If you would like to speak to a member of the Outreach Committee, we encourage any questions or suggestions you may have.

Cathy McMullin
Cindi Hughes
Linda Leidel

Beverly Carlone
Cathy Kleros
Peg Tester





Board of Trustees

by Wayne Anderson

The Trustees elected Wayne Anderson and Pete D'Amato as Co-Chairs for the coming church year at its meeting on June 19. The financial status of North Church as of May 31 is stable. Treasurer Danielle Michener reported that Income is just about on target with Expenses slightly over budget due to a large insurance bill that was recently paid.

This would be a good time to remind everyone that expenses continue during the summer months, so it is important for offerings to be contributed for July and August. Checks may be mailed to North Church, P.O. Box 473, Woodbury, and the amount will be credited to your account.

The Investment Committee has met with three different investment brokers in an effort to increase return on the church's Trusts and Investments. Based on research and interviews, it has recommended to the full Board of Trustees that North Church join with 100 other Congregational Churches in Connecticut in depositing our funds into the UCC Consolidated Trust Fund. This recommendation was accepted unanimously by the trustees. It gives North Church the best control over its monies invested, ease of withdrawing funds as necessary, and a UCC review committee of volunteer professionals advising the fund manager providing stability and continuity of management for the long-term future of the church. Funds will be transferred to this new account beginning July 1 as they become available, eventually totaling \$700,000. A small reserve will be held in a local checking account for unforeseen emergencies.

An Insurance Committee has been formed consisting of Tim McMullin and Linda Kaelin to review the church's insurance policies and to report back to the trustees in September.

Enjoy the summer but please remember your contributions to North Church. Thank you.



Sunday School

by Lorna Eckman

"WHILE WE TRY TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN ALL ABOUT LIFE, OUR CHILDREN TEACH US WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT"

Another year of Sunday School has come to a close and I want to thank all of those who helped to make it a success. Kayla Snabaitis has taught the K-2 class this year, Chelsie and Mike Marple have worked with the 4th—6th graders in craft and kitchen, and Chelsie has also helped with the Pre-K class. Dave Sonnemann performed his magic with the 4th-6th grade Bible lessons. Thank you all for all that you do to make this Sunday School happen.

If you are a parent, church member or high school student interested in teaching Sunday School next year, please contact me at 203-263-2616. I am always in need of teachers.

I hope that everyone has a happy and safe summer and that we will see you all back for class on September 21 for Rally Sunday, and for more exciting lessons and crafts. God bless!



"Back to School!"

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

The Outreach Committee will be accepting donations for school supplies through July 27. 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:

Notebooks (1 subject or multi-subject) • Folders
Dividers • Binders • Loose Leaf Paper • Pencil cases
Sets of Pencils • Pens • Colored Pencils
Sticky Notes • Rulers • Glue Sticks



ATTENTION SCHOLARS!

As we do each year, we are pleased to announce that Women's Fellowship will be accepting applications for our scholarship assistance program. Those eligible include North Church upper-class college students and newly graduated high school students. Upper-class students may apply each ensuing year and will be considered along with the new applicants.

We have budgeted \$1,000.00 for this cause. It may be distributed in total to one individual or shared among several. The applications are located in the scholarship mail slot across from the church office. The deadline for submission is July 31 and the recipient(s) will be selected at the September board meeting.

Members and friends of North Church are welcome to add to this amount- a very worthy cause when higher education costs are soaring.



A Royal Thank You!

The Ladies of the Evening hosted a Royal Shower Benefit on Tuesday, June 17, at the home of Beverly Carlone. All gifts benefited Carolyn's Pregnancy Care Center of Waterbury. Thanks to all who helped to support this mission project.

Parish Administrator: Kathie Logan

Summer Office Hours: Mon./Tues./Thurs./Fri.

9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

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
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