

# Connections

News • Fellowship • Outreach • Events



A  
*“God Is Still Speaking”*  
Congregation

North Congregational Church  
Woodbury, Connecticut

October 2014



*No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*



“Eighty percent of success  
is showing up.”

Woody Allen

Have you come across this quote before? There are many variations of it, but the point is the same. No matter what gifts, skills, ability, ideas or insights you can bring, it doesn't matter unless you show up! Scripture speaks of the many gifts that different people bring, and the one Spirit that ties us together. Scripture also lifts up the importance of “presence”...the presence of the Spirit, and our presence in the midst of relationships and community. While God is always with us, scripture reminds us that “Wherever two or three are gathered”...God is in the midst of them.

I've often worked with leaders who throw themselves into a project, planning, preparing, publicizing, and worrying about whether it will be a success, measuring by the number of people who come. But when someone else plans an event, they are nowhere to be seen. If we wish for others to come support us, should we not also be willing to make the effort to support and celebrate the work of others? For busy people, time is valuable. When someone takes the time to show up, it is a valuable offering.

Life itself is about showing up; relationships, the wider community, our church faith family, all find their grounding in our willingness to emerge from our autonomous spheres to fully engage in our world. To think that we can go it alone, as individuals, as a church, as a town, even as a nation, is the height of hubris. We *need* each other.

Showing up. Being present. Offering ourselves. These things are the ministry of presence. When words are inadequate, when emotion and feeling run deep, sometimes the most powerful symbol of care is simply a willingness to be present to share in those moments of loss, grief, pain, and even success, celebration, and joy!

The Risen Christ sent the disciples out to share the Gospel message, but the last thing he said to them was "...see, I am with you always, even unto the close of the age." [Matt. 28:20]

Let's be present for one another!

Blessings Always,  
Pastor Sandy

---

A very special THANK YOU to ALL who helped make my installation so very special: Mark and our North Church musicians, all the deacons, those who prepared (and cleaned up) that wonderful reception and provided dinner for our visiting guests... thank you to all who helped celebrate the day.

Susan and I are blessed to be here in Woodbury!



## The Diaconate

by Judi Lewis

After the very eventful month in September, we prepare for things ahead. As you know, we will be having a **"New Member Sunday"** on October 19. Six people have come forward wanting to join our church family. If there are more out there who have been "thinking about it," do come forward by calling the church office or mentioning it to any deacon.

At the last meeting of the Diaconate, we discussed the role of the Lay Reader, and the involvement the reader has in the service. We have come to the conclusion that not all people have the same comfort level at the pulpit. For that reason, it will be up to the individual reader to choose how involved he/she wishes to be. Pastor Sandy will coordinate with the lay person during the week before the service to determine the person's involvement in the

service, which may include any or all of the following:

- (Reflections) Sharing personal thoughts, a story, or a reading
- Leading the Call to Worship
- Leading the Affirmation of Faith
- Offering a Prayer of Dedication

The Diaconate will be developing and leading a "**Congregational Care Committee**," made up of church members who are interested in calling on homebound and others on a regular basis. We are looking for volunteers who enjoy the company of others and are good listeners. Think about this as your own personal outreach mission and feel the goodness inside!

We haven't forgotten about the need for a new **Pictorial Directory**. We will be ordering a new software program allowing us to produce and update a pictorial directory without the need of an outside publisher. The initial cost would be about \$500.00 for the software and materials. We will be looking for someone to operate the program and keep it up to date. A target date for having a working directory is March or April of 2015.

*Autumn Blessings to all!*



## **Moderator's Message**

**by Dave Sonnemann**

### A New Vision Approaches

North Church is changing and regaining vitality by embracing a broad mission-focused ministry, in case you haven't noticed. As we change and become more engaged in mission-oriented outreach, it is important to trumpet our good deeds to each other and make North Church visible to the communities we serve. Successful churches are mission-focused and serve as disciples by giving of their

time, talent, and treasure to programs that support and enrich the communities we serve.

I know that change has come to North Church because, on August 17, fifty members of North Church gathered during the summer vacation season to help sharpen our focus on missions that serve others. Feedback from that gathering has led to the establishment of a steering committee to develop strategic goals and programs that make North Church a mission-focused supporter of outreach. We have a tradition of community outreach, and we need to be fully aware of how strong our outreach is within our membership. To understand the depth of our commitment, can you name all of the outreach programs of North Church? I really had to focus during a quiet time to name the following outreach programs:

- Blanket Sunday
  - Five Gifts
  - Loaves and Fishes
  - Nambale Magnet School
  - One Great Hour of Sharing
  - Our Church's Wider Mission
  - Support for our home bound members
  - SWIM (Southbury-Woodbury Interfaith Ministries)
  - Woodbury Food Bank
- ... And there are many more!

These programs require planning, commitment, and dedication, as well as time and treasure, to be successful. So, as we enter our budget planning cycle for 2015, let us remember that our time, talent, and treasure provide the means through which we reach out to our wider community in support of our vision as a servant church that is vital, alive, and living, as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In the JOY of Service,  
Dave Sonnemann, Moderator





# Women's Fellowship

By Cathy Monckton

## October Luncheon

On Thursday, October 16, the Women's Fellowship will feature a special program and book titled "Tempest Tossed; The Spirit of Isabella Beecher Hooker." The author, Susan Campbell, will entertain us with the Spirit of Isabella Beecher Hooker, half-sister of renowned author Harriet Beecher Stowe, who found it "difficult to swim against the tide in pin curls and crinoline, but did so with rage and humor intact." She's just one of those people that history has pushed off the page, for a variety of reasons. She was an early modern-day woman and tried to have it all: wife, mother, and a public life. Come and meet the author! Susan holds degrees from the University of Maryland and the Hartford Seminary. Copies of the book will be available, as well as the book, "Dating Jesus."

The luncheon begins at Noon. Please bring your own sandwich. A \$1.00 donation is requested. Coffee, tea and dessert will be provided. Please make your reservation to attend the event by calling Linda Coad at 203-264-8151 by Monday, October 13.



## Ladies of The Evening

Please join the **Ladies of the Evening** for a **Ghoulish Potluck Dinner**" on Tuesday, October 21, 6:00 p.m. at the home of Beverly Carlone, 618 Upper Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury. Please bring your favorite "ghastly" dish. Sign up sheets are located on the Evening Group's bulletin board. Come and enjoy an evening of wonderful fellowship while we write Christmas cards to veterans. Please call Beverly, 203-578-5355 if you need a ride.



The Ladies of the Evening will be hosting an **Apple Harvest Bake Sale** on Sunday, October 5, after worship. All proceeds will benefit the "Parlor Fund." Funds are needed to complete the cost of carpeting the stairs to the choir loft. Please stop by after worship to select a delicious, homemade goody. Thanks in advance for your support!



## Board of Trustees

Wayne Anderson & Pete D'Amato (Co-chairs)

The Trustees would like to express their appreciation for all those members of North Church who contributed their summer offerings, and prepaid in some cases, which allowed us to operate on a solid cash flow basis to the end of July. Thank you. August, however, was one of the lowest months for income in recent memory. Year to date our income is \$125,229 when the budget needed \$137,046. This is an almost \$12,000 shortfall. Expenses to date are \$143,351 when \$140,768 was budgeted, for a slight overage of \$2,583. We are back in the "red" again.

Now that we are in midst of the New Vision & Growth Project, we all have to step up and happily contribute to the vitality and energy that Pastor Sandy has brought to North Church. Everything today costs money, and expanding our church's mission and family is no exception. The investments of today are not only going to cover normal operating expenses now, but reap benefits for years to come as our church grows. But it can't be done without you contributing with your time, talent and treasure now and in the coming year. Don't just watch; be a part of the experience and see how much you benefit yourself! If you can't make it to service, Checks may be mailed to North Church, P.O. Box 473, Woodbury, or dropped off at the church office.

The Saturday Work Crew (of 9, including Pastor Sandy) was busy cleaning up and beautifying our church in preparation for Rally Sunday. The colorful mums just jump out at you as one drives along Main Street. North Church is alive and well! Also, a new water heater was installed in the kitchen by volunteers, saving several hundred dollars in plumber's costs. See, every little bit helps. And now we need you! Thank you.



# North Church

- 10/5            Celebration of Worship  
World Communion Sunday
- 10/12           Celebration of Worship  
Time for Special Prayer
- 10/19           Celebration of Worship  
New Members Sunday
- 10/26           Celebration of Worship  
Congregational Budget Meeting  
Food Offering for Woodbury Food Bank

## Board & Committee Meetings

Women's Fellowship	Thurs. 10/2	10:00 a.m.
Diaconate Meeting	Thurs. 10/2 & 30	7:00 p.m.
Personnel	Thurs. 10/9	7:00 p.m.
Music Meeting	Sun. 10/5	11:30 a.m.
Board of Trustees	Thurs. 10/16	7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting	Tues. 10/21	7:00 p.m.
Historical Anniversary	Thurs. 10/9	7:00 p.m.

## Music Rehearsals

Chancel Choir    Wed., 10/1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 7-8:00 p.m.



# October Calendar

## Other Meetings

Monday 10/6, 13, 20 & 27:	
Men's Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Wdbry/Bthlm Parents Connection	7:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday 10/7, 14, 21 & 28:	
NA	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday 10/14 & 10/28:	
Women's Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Kathrine Rutledge's Home 41 Owl Ridge, Woodbury	
Tuesday, 10/21:	
Womens Fellowship Ladies of the Evening At Beverly Carlone's	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday 10/28:	
Woodbury Hill Condo	7:00 p.m.
Thursday 10/9 & 23:	
Knitting	10:00 a.m.
Thursday 10/16:	
Women's Fellowship Luncheon	12:00 p.m.
Friday 10/3, 10, 17 24 & 31:	
AA	8:00 p.m.
Saturday 10/4, 11, 18 & 25:	
Young Peoples AA	7:30 p.m.





# Music Notes

By John Wick

The Music Committee met with Pastor Sandy and John Cunningham in September and had an energetic discussion on the potential role of music in the growth of the church. It was pointed out that music is one of the top three reasons that people are drawn to worship services. We in the committee take it as a challenge!

A couple of suggestions at the meeting were to communicate our ideas more with other groups in the church, and also to encourage more musically inclined folks to offer their talents in worship, even if their background doesn't include traditional sacred music. So on both counts you may be hearing from us in the months to come.

Music is the universal language. It offers a special joy to the performer. If you think you might have anything to offer, play tambourine, harp or lyre, kazoo or spoons, if you could suggest some music you'd like to hear, suggest a group you think might be able to perform at the church, let us know!

On a personal note, every Sunday during the hymns I listen, hoping that the sound of the voices will rise above the organ. Please sing out during the service. There are many more Biblical injunctions to sing and shout than to mumble. Raise your voice in praise and adoration, or whatever the music calls for, whatever is in your heart.



**The Knitting Group** has started up again! If you like to knit, or would like to learn how, please join everyone in the parlor on any second or fourth Thursday of the month. (10:00 a.m.)

Knitters are needed and beginners are welcome. Beautiful shawls are made for the home-bound, and baby blankets and caps for local hospitals and Carolyn's place.

It's a wonderful way to spend a few hours, and we hope you can join in whenever possible.



## **SAVE THE DATE** **for the All-Church,** **Holiday Festival** **Saturday, November 22**

Plans have begun for this year's All-Church event and we will need everyone's help to make it another great success. This is a great opportunity to clean out your closets or attic and drop off donations in the church office (please, no heavy equipment, large furniture, or clothing).

We will need helpers in all of the rooms, kitchen, parking, clean-up, baking - there will be a job for anyone and everyone. Sign-up sheets will be available in the hall early in October, so please plan to come and pitch in!



**Your event Co-Chairmen ,**  
Bob & Nancy Grasing  
203-263-5953



### **Women's Fellowship** **Scholarship Recipients**

The Women's Fellowship recently awarded four North Congregational Church students \$250 educational scholarships.

The recipients are: Max D'Amato, a freshman at Jacksonville University studying Flight Operations; Sarah Kaelin, a senior at Middlebury College studying Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; Carolyn Michener, a Junior at Boston University studying Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences; and Kayla Snabaitis, a freshman at Fordham University studying Media Studies and Art.

We wish them success as they continue to pursue their education.



# Outreach Committee

by Cathy McMullin

Along with the beautiful crisp mornings (and evenings), the changing of the autumn leaves and fall being just around the corner, comes the realization that MUCH colder weather isn't far away. We invite you to consider making donations for the month of "OCTOBER" of new or gently used clean coats (fleeces, jackets, parkas), scarves, hats and gloves. We have committed to making these donations to "Acts 4 Ministry," which is a non-denominational, tax exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports the needs of families and individuals in financial distress, who may have lost everything to fire, flood, etc. within the Greater Waterbury area. There will be large collection boxes placed near the Outreach board for the month of October. We will also welcome during the Sunday service (date TBD) a representative of Acts IV who will give us more insight into the work of this organization. Look for the date to be announced in your Sunday bulletins.

On behalf of Safe Haven of Waterbury, we would also like to thank you for your generous donations of toiletries, which were collected during the month of September. We are always grateful to our church members and friends who selflessly give so that the needs of so many can be met.

Loaves and Fishes is a soup kitchen in New Milford which provides a hot meal and bag lunch 365 days a year to the hungry of the Litchfield Hills area. We at North Church are committed to providing a meal on the 5th Tuesdays of the calendar which equals about 4 - 5 times per year. The Outreach Committee would love to have more volunteers to help serve on these occasions. Please consider signing up to help—Dec. 30 is the last day for the year that we'll serve. There is a no more rewarding feeling than to literally feed the hungry!

Just around the corner will be our exciting Holiday Giving Program, so stay tuned for all that North Church can do to help during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season of giving. Don't forget to check out our news and event updates on the Christian Outreach bulletin board! Thank you again — Cathy M., Linda, Peg, Beverly, Cathy K. and Cindi.



## Property Update

By George Kleros

The spring flew by, the summer flew by, and many of the projects on the list we were going to tackle over the past two seasons have not been accomplished. The fall holds great potential to address a few of the items on the list. We will be looking for volunteers to help change some wood on the exterior of our church and paint some exposed areas to preserve the structure.

Please watch for opportunities through emails or announcement on Sundays.



## Sunday School

by Lorna Eckman

***"Jesus loves the little children, all God's children of the world. Whether yellow, black or white, they are precious in his sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world."***

**Rev. C.H. Woolston**

This month, the children will be learning the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors, given to him by his father who loved him very much—so much, in fact, that it caused his brothers to become jealous of him.

We will also have our annual Halloween party on the 26<sup>th</sup>, so children should wear their costumes and be prepared to have some fun and good food. They might also think about bringing a friend to join the fun!

There will be no Sunday School on the 12<sup>th</sup> due to the long weekend from school.

All children are welcome to join us in Sunday School, so please continue to come and see what is happening in class. God Bless!

## Become a Member of North Church!

Several people have shown interest in becoming members of North Church. Perhaps it has been on your mind as well. If so, all you need to do to get the ball rolling is to tell a deacon, speak to Pastor Sandy, or call the church office. We will be having a "Membership Sunday" on October 19. We would love to have those interested be a part of our family of faith.

## Nursery Care Needed

We would like to have our adorable and very inviting nursery staffed on Sunday mornings by the good people of North Church. A brand new book for volunteer sign-up is located on the table just outside the sanctuary, along with the flower and hospitality sign-up books. So you won't feel like you are missing out on the service, did you know that there are speakers in the nursery for your listening pleasure? Most importantly, we'll be there for those who need us! Thank you!



## Bicentennial Planning Meeting

The North Church 200th Anniversary Committee will be holding their next planning meeting on Thursday, October 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room.

Would you like to join us? We'd love to have you. Many exciting events are being planned for 2016 and it's never too early to start! If you would like more info about joining us please speak with David Strong or Cathy McMullin.



## SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS!

Just a reminder to please save your La Bonne's receipts, as we receive 1/2 of 1% of all the subtotals on these receipts. We can receive as much as the receipts total and last year we made about \$300.

There is a basket on the table above the Food Bank donations at the Washington Rd. entrance to the church. Please leave your receipts there at any time.

## Church Officers

Pastor	Richard A. Koenig
Moderator	David Sonnemann
Vice Moderator	George Kleros
Clerk	Cindi Hughes
Treasurer	Danielle Michener
Trust & Investment	Nancy Grasing
Financial Secretary	Suzanne Anderson
Historian	David Strong
Member at Large	Diana Neal
Pastoral Relations/ Member at Large	Eve Alire Bartlett

### Parish Administrator: Kathie Logan

Office Hours: Mon./Tues. 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Wed. Closed • Thurs./Fri. 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

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

**Email: [nchurchct@snet.net](mailto:nchurchct@snet.net)**

**Website: [www.northchurchwoodbury.org](http://www.northchurchwoodbury.org)**

Newsletter submissions can be put in the Parish Administrator slot or emailed to the Church Office

**by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

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

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WATERTOWN, CT  
PERMIT NO. 3303