



The NBC Anchor

Newsletter of the Noank Baptist Church, Noank CT
860.536.7129 www.noankbaptistchurch.org



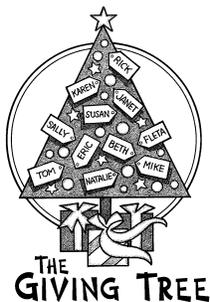
DECEMBER 2018

Come Celebrate the Seasons of Advent & Christmas

THE ADVENT SEASON AT NOANK BAPTIST AND AROUND THE COMMUNITY

- Sun., Dec. 2** Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO). This annual offering will be received on December 2 and throughout the month of December.
- Tues., Dec. 4** Community Christmas Craft Workshop in the Vestry @ NBC from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Come and join children of all ages preparing for the holiday.
- Sun. Dec. 16** Caroling at Mystic Seaport
Mystic Seaport will be open from 10 am to 4 pm. The Carol Sing will begin at 3 pm. Free admission will be given to museum visitors all day with the donation of a non-perishable canned good item.
- Mon. Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Nativity and Family Worship @ 6:00 pm
Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols @ 10:00 pm
Pre-service music begins @ 9:40 pm (choir & soloists)

The Giving Tree



NBC will be collecting gifts for local families and young adults again this year. The tree, with suggested gifts on tags, will be up in the Narthex on **December 2**. Tags with suggested gifts with the age of the child will be available for those who wish to participate. The gift cards will come with a small gift bag in which to return the gift card. **The gifts for Groton Human Services need to be returned by December 9** (the tag will specify that) and be unwrapped (put in a gift bag or plastic bag). The other gifts need to be wrapped with the tag taped to the package and returned by **Sunday, December 16**.

There will be a sign-up sheet for persons to fill in for the tag(s) they have chosen. Please put the number, color and shape of the ornament and your name so we can keep an accurate account of the gifts. Leave the gifts in the church office on Sundays before worship or leave them in the church office with Gloria Mon.-Fri. between 9 am and noon. Gifts will be locked up in the church office during the week. Thanks for your generous gifts for families and children in need. Have fun shopping with a spirit of joy!

News from around the Church Family



Our Church Family

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who have had recent surgery, been in the hospital, received treatment, in rehabilitative care, or are recuperating at home: **Alicia Crossman, Bill Borden, Kim Johnson, Fred Anderson, Roger Floyd, Patty Buck, Brian McGlynn, Cecil and Dianna Miller, Arlene Stamm, Marion Fey, and Bill Gilmore.**

We remember our friend, **Santiago Hernandez**, who moved a couple of years ago to be nearer his family in Puerto Rico. Since then, Sandy has gone through the devastation of Hurricane Maria, while taking care of his daughter, **Anna**, who suffered a stroke and continues with rehabilitative care in their home. However, Sandy was in 7th heaven when the Red Sox won the World Series and Manager Alex Cora and some of the ballplayers went to the island to show off their trophy!

We enjoyed a recent Sunday morning visit from **George and Kristen Negaard O'Brien**, who returned for a short vacation from the U.K. and George's four-year assignment there working with the British affiliate of Electric Boat. They have made themselves at home in Ulverston with Kristen becoming a kindred spirit with Hyacinth Bouquet. She may even now possess her own periwinkle tea cups made by Royal Doulton!

Please remember our homebound and those in rehab/nursing care: **Errol and Alicia Crossman** (at home), **Betty Guhl** (Fairview), and **Cindy Booth** (Sunny Lodge, New London).

2019 Global Baptist Peace Conference

July 15-20, 2019 — Cali, Colombia



Join Pastor Hayes in this once-a-decade event. If you'd like to attend, come to a meeting in the vestry after worship on **Sunday, December 9**. We will talk about the conference and travel to Colombia and see who's going from NBC!

New Art Show in the Parlor



We have celebrated the past of Noank Baptist Church this year. Now it is time to look to our future. The upcoming art show in Gallery 175 will feature art which honors activities and faith of our young people. Our new exhibit entitled "Hope, Love, Peace and Joy" will open on Sunday, December 2.

Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope. — Maya Angelou

Christmas Wreaths Poinsettias

ORDER BY DECEMBER 14



During Advent, you are invited to make a donation in celebration, honor, or memory of a loved one to be used for the purchase of wreaths and poinsettias to be placed in the Sanctuary for the season. Please fill out one of the forms available at the church and return it by **December 15** or call the church office. Please provide your name and the person(s) for whom it is given in memory, honor or celebration. Checks should be made payable to "Noank Baptist Church" with "Flower Fund" on the memo line. A donation of \$10 is suggested. Names and designations will be printed in the Advent and Christmas bulletins.



Community Christmas Craft Night
Tuesday, December 4 — 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Crafts for ages preschool to high school
Free admission to this community-wide event!
Make sure your family holiday plans include participation in our annual Community Christmas Craft Night.

This year, the Craft Night will be held on the evening of December 4 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Many of our NBC faithful volunteer their time and open their hearts to participate in leading crafts for our kids. It is lots of fun and also very practical. The creations the children make are super gifts for them to share with their loved ones for the holiday season. Stop in and share the joy of the season! Spread the word to your family, neighbors and friends.

All are welcome !!!

**Christmas Eve
 Family Service and Nativity Play**

We will have our annual **Christmas Eve Family Service at 6 pm on December 24**. It is definitely a highlight of our Christmas celebration. We would like as many children as possible involved in the wonderful experience of sharing the story of the birth of Jesus. In preparation for this, we need your children’s involvement and energy. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex or please contact Sue by **December 9**.

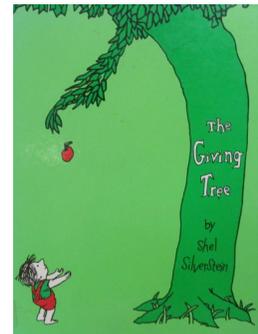


Children will be rehearsing for the Nativity Pageant during Sunday School. Our Nativity Pizza Party will be held during Sunday School rehearsal on December 16. **The final dress rehearsal will be held on Sunday, December 23 after church in the Sanctuary. It is very important for all cast members to be present.**

“From Gathering to Giving”



Thank you to Kelly & Danika Taylor for a special Lighthouse Cove Event on Thanksgiving Sunday! Danika read *The Giving Tree*. The group had a discussion about the meaning of the story and spent time making God’s eyes, cards, and a “gathering to giving” poster.





"Stories of our Saints"

A 175th Anniversary Celebration of some of our church's faithful members!

A big thank you to the youth of our church who wrote and presented the stories of some of our elders. Also to Meredith Jannusch who organized this as part of our 2018 anniversary celebration. She devoted much time, inspiration, and creative planning guiding several youth in this special project. Each youth interviewed their assigned senior and wrote a thoughtful short biography of their life, including early history, personal accomplishments, family, faith, plus funny and touching experiences. During worship, on November 18, the youth presented "Stories of our Saints."



Thank you to all involved in this meaningful and memorable project. Those paired were (storytellers/interviewees) were:

- Colin Anderson/Cal Robertson
- Carly Straub/Vivian Smith
- Avery Wyman/Chip Anderson
- Ariah Ruggeri/Janet Crossman
- Austin Thorp/Joan Latham
- Leah Galouzis/Cynthia Borden
- and
- Ian Weigle/Steve Gordon.



Copies of the "Stories of our Saints" are available in the literature racks.

On behalf of the entire Children & Family Ministries Team
 I would like to wish you and your family God's wonderful gifts of
 Joy, Hope, Peace and Love.
 Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!
Sue Robinson

FUSION YOUTH MINISTRY



Christmas Caroling at Local Nursing Homes

On **Friday, December 14**, we will meet at UBC at 5:30 pm and go to local nursing homes to sing Christmas carols to the residents there. Parents can pick you up at 8:00 pm at UBC.

Let's spread the holiday cheer once again at some of our local nursing homes. It was well appreciated last year by all of the residents and is a great service to our community. Please RSVP!

Annual Christmas Party
Sunday, December 16
Union Baptist Church
4:00—6:00 pm



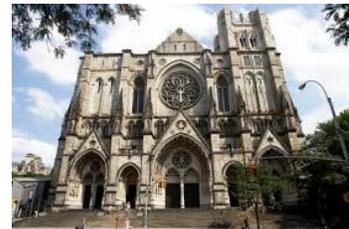
We had a great time last year decorating cookies, building gingerbread houses and having a yankee swap while watching Elf. What fun will we get into this year? Bring a bizarre gift for the yankee swap and be prepared for holiday fun?



Bowling at High Rollers Luxury Lanes
Saturday, January 5
2:00—4:00 pm

Let's start off the new year with some indoor fun! Join the group for some bowling at High Rollers Luxury Lanes at Foxwoods. If you haven't been, this is an awesome experience. We will have some snacks and friendly competition. Bring \$17 to cover shoe rental and two games of bowling.

Nightwatch at
St. John the Divine Cathedral
Friday-Saturday, February 1-2



Please mark your calendars for this year's trip to Nightwatch. This year we will be participating in the Interspiritual version of the retreat. This will give us a chance to explore other faith traditions in a beautiful setting. I hope to have a larger group this year because it is an amazing evening. We will spend some time in the city afterwards this time and return Saturday evening. Please reserve your spot early so we can purchase tickets before they sell out!

Habitat for Humanity Christmas Cards

Make a difference with a gift that builds hope

Simplify your holiday season with a gift that helps build hope or use the cards for your holiday greetings!

Make a donation to Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut and they will provide you with attractive, full color, professionally printed holiday cards.

You may order online by going to www.habitatct.org and scroll down to Holiday Cards or you can contact Amanda directly at 860-442-7890 ext. 201. There is no limit to the number of cards you can order, however a minimum donation of \$5.00 per card is suggested.

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)

As we prepare for the 2017 RMMO on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, please take a moment to reflect on our theme this year "*Extending Our Hands to Our Neighbors*".

As we celebrate over 40 years of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, you are invited to reflect on how this offering touches the lives of so many families. This long-standing tradition established in 1977 supports ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to service in ABCUSA.

This year's theme, *Extending Our Hands to Our Neighbors*, illustrates the importance of being there for one another and remembering that we are stronger together than on our own is central to the Christian faith.

We are called to remember our Christian character as mentioned in the scripture Philippians 2:3-4 which teaches "*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*"

Offering envelopes are attached to this newsletter and will also be available in the church pew racks during the month of December.

Church Directory Photos Update

For those who did not make it to the November sessions, Life Touch photographers will be back on **Wednesday, December 19** to take photos. There are still a few late date sessions open, so if interested please call Bonnie immediately at 860-222-5622.

175th Anniversary Archivers Find Old Films of NBC

Some old church videos have been unearthed and are being transferred to digital format. We are hoping to have a Movie Night at some point in the future, so if you have any videos you would like to add, please contact Bonnie Banks as soon as possible.

Community Christmas Dinner

December 25

2-4 pm

**Union Baptist Church
in the Fellowship Hall**

All are welcome to the annual Christmas Dinner at Union Baptist Church. No reservations are needed. To arrange a ride or to have a home delivery, please call Dawn Scanlon @ 860-572-7158.

January 2019

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Due to the Christmas holiday, the deadline for the January newsletter will be **Friday, December 22**. Please be prompt with your articles.

Also, folding of the newsletters will be **Thursday, December 28 at 9:00 am** in the Parlor. We'd love to have some more volunteers to come and help. Many hands make quick work.



A Huge Thank You to the Noank Baptist team who made the Holiday Bazaar a great success. All who pitched in with their contributions made my job as chair easier. We made more than our budget number for 2019, which helps as we carry out our work here at Noank Baptist! Loved working with you all.

Betsey Goetsch

The Anglican Singers

A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent

St. James Episcopal Church, New London
Sunday, December 9, @ 5:00 pm

Each year's Service of Lessons and Carols includes selections sung by The Anglican Singers interspersed with congregational hymns and scriptural readings by members of the greater New London community. We invite you to join us in this wonderful seasonal tradition.

Collection of Breakfast Foods

Last year we donated breakfast items for the students at Claude Chester School. This year Lisa Knobloch has suggested that we donate money as the school is able to purchase food much more cheaply than we can buy it in the store. Someone will be at a table in the Narthex to take your donations during the first two Sundays in December. If you choose to write a check, you can make it out to:

Claude Chester School (with breakfast on the memo line)

Breakfast items are given to students to take home for nutritious means during the holiday vacation.

The Mission Team

Bonnie Banks, Barbara Williams, Marge Murdock



Downtown Mystic Holiday Stroll & Luminaria

Tuesday, December 4 from 6-9 pm

The annual holiday tradition is coming soon! Don't miss the Downtown Mystic Holiday Stroll & Luminaria on Tuesday, December 4th from 6-9pm. Enjoy the festive sounds of local choirs and specials in the shops. Come visit Santa and his North Pole friends while getting your presents wrapped at the Mystic Museum of Art. And be on the lookout for local pirate troupe; Free Men of the Sea will be strolling around performing sea shanties as well. Wandering entertainment including: Saxophone Santa, Ledyard High School Carolers, Noank-Mystic Community Band, Union Baptist Bell Choir, Freeman of the Sea, Mystic River Chorale, Pine Point School Choir & more.

Church Council

November Council News



The Council held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 with 10 members and one non-member present. The meeting was held in the vestry due to photography for new church pictorial directory being taken in the parlor and chapel. Pastor Paul Hayes offered an opening prayer.

The minutes from the October 3, 2018 meeting were accepted as written. The church calendar was reviewed. with no changes noted.

Pastor Hayes provided a written report of his activities during the month of October noting especially the endless activities currently going on. Repairs to the steeple, the new roof, pending installation of solar panels, new pictorial church directory photos, annual budget and stewardship campaign and the Holiday Bazaar provide plenty of activity. Upcoming plans for some of the youth to share stories of some of our older members, as well as the new publication of our updated church history to wrap up the 175th anniversary celebration year. October was strong in terms of attendance and activities with World Communion Sunday—Lizzie Lewis sharing her experiences with the group along the US/Mexican border, the Crop Walk, Baked Potato Bash and fabulous music from the choirs. The weekly Bible study classes have been very well attended, although a lot of preparation work for Pastor Hayes. The Fusion youth group parents have been asked to help out as chaperones for events and they have responded well. The Deacons have held a new membership class with three participants. In addition to the usual number of

Council Members

Moderator:	<i>Charles Anderson</i>
Clerk:	<i>Bonnie Banks</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Jane Templeton</i>
Asst Treas:	<i>Debbie Bates</i>
Finance:	<i>Jennifer Johnson</i> <i>Carol Spunar</i>
Property:	<i>Adrian Johnson</i> <i>Jonathan Lane</i>
Spiritual Life:	<i>Valerie King</i> <i>Shannon Weigle</i>
Comm. Life	<i>Deb Garmon</i> <i>Steve Gordon</i>
Staff Relations:	<i>Kim Johnson</i>
At Large:	<i>Sherrie Neilsen</i> <i>Deb Thompson</i> <i>Ed Johnson</i> <i>Oliver Porter</i>

pastoral care needs each week, Pastor Hayes is chairing the Nominating Committee for the Alliance of Baptists, planning for the 2019 Global Baptist Peace Conference and will be attending an ABCUSA conference in Philadelphia, November 14-16.

Pastor Hayes also noted that the Nursery School board needs new members from the church.

Finance reported that the checking account remains healthy although expenses for October were high with so much maintenance work going on.

A report from Spiritual Life activities noted that all is well with the children and youth of NBC. Baked Potato Bash was successful and fairly well attended with \$150 collected for Groton Community Meals. Craft Night is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4. Most Sundays in December will be spent preparing for the Christmas Eve Service. The Youth Co-op has been busy and has lots more activities planned for the coming month.

Community Life and Outreach notes that the Holiday Bazaar needs everyone's help with a reminder that it is our only fundraiser of the year. The Corner Closet has warm clothes to share with those in need. PFLAG meetings are the second Monday of the month with a Potluck at 6 pm followed by a meeting at 7 pm. OSCA has a new administrator. Lynda Mackie started November 1. Neill Spillane was reelected chairman. A new activity has been added with Card Parties on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm.

The property managers continue to be very busy with work on the roof expected to be finished tomorrow. It was noted that the roof crew was excellent. Paul noted how professional they were and asked that positive feedback be given to the crew. Plumbers are addressing moving the vent to make room for installation of the solar panels. Some other modifications for the Solar Panel installation will be needed.

The annual pledge Sunday will be on November 11.

Nominations for open Council Positions are being sought by the At Large Members. 2019 Ministry Budgets need to be submitted.

The next Council Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 7 pm.** All are welcome to attend. Full council meeting minutes are available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Banks

*May the Spirit of Christ be with you
In the seasons of Advent and Christmas!
Blessings to all!*

*From your Noank Baptist Church Staff
Paul, Gloria, Frank, Sue, Courtney,
Rick & Erin, Vera, Tina, Gen & Andra*