



The NBC Anchor

Newsletter of the Noank Baptist Church, Noank CT

860.536.7129 www.noankbaptistchurch.org



MARCH 2015

Discipleship: A Journey of Grace

Titus 2:11-13

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2015

The theme of the America for Christ Offering this year is: *"Discipleship: A Journey of Grace"* – (Titus 2:11-13, NRSV). This is a wonderful reminder that Jesus' public ministry was all about connecting with people in need. On each day of his journey, the compassion of Jesus was felt by someone somewhere. This offering reminds us that when grace happens, we receive not a nice compliment from God, but a new heart. We receive a transformed life that becomes the hands, the feet and the prophetic voice of Jesus Christ in our communities as we connect with people every day.

This offering will begin on **Sunday, March 1 and throughout the remainder of the month of March**. Offering envelopes are attached to this March newsletter and will also be available in the pew racks during the month.

	Palm Sunday, March 29	10:00 am
	Maundy Thursday Joint Communion Service at Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church, April 2	6:30 pm
	Good Friday, Tenebrae Service, April 3	7:30 pm
	Easter Sunday, April 5	
	Sunrise Service @ 19 Latham Lane (weather permitting)	7:00 am
	Easter Worship Celebration	10:00 am

Tuesday Night Bible Study *"The Final Days of Jesus"*

During Lent, Pastor Hayes will guide us through the final days that Jesus of Nazareth lived, depicted in the Holy Week dramas in the Gospels.

Though we will primarily explore Luke's version of events, the study will include parallel passages in the other Gospels. We began meeting on

Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 pm in the Spicer Chapel and will continue until March 31 for this historical and spiritual study of Jesus' life and death. All are welcome.



Tuesday Night Bible Study



Procession of the Palms

**PALM SUNDAY—MARCH 29
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM**

We will begin our worship service with a palm procession by the children of the church. If your children are participating in the palm procession, please be sure that they arrive ten minutes before the service and meet in the Parlor to receive their palms.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE
APRIL 2**

Our remembrance of the Last Supper will begin with a shared communion service hosted by our sister church, Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church, 1241 Poquonnock Road, Groton. The service will begin at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.



Good Friday Walk

GOOD FRIDAY WALK—APRIL 3

MAEC supports the Good Friday Walk. Walkers will register at Mystic Congregational Church from 7-9 am and will return to Mystic Congregational Church by noon. The purpose of this scenic seven-mile walk is to raise funds by obtaining pledges. Three quarters of the money raised goes to SHARING, Inc., a ministry to support those in poverty, and the rest is used locally to help those in need. Sponsor forms will be available on the table in the Narthex or by contacting Gloria in the church office.

**GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE WORSHIP
APRIL 3 @ 7:30 PM IN THE SANCTUARY**

Good Friday is a solemn occasion as we reflect on the story of Jesus' death. This service is an appropriate mix of Scripture texts and music with the traditional Tenebrae experience in the extinguishing of candles, symbolic of the last hours of Jesus' life on earth.



**EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP BY THE WATER
APRIL 5 @ 7:00 AM**

Join Pastor Hayes and other "early birds" as we gather on the shoreline lawn of Chip and Mary Anderson's home (19 Latham Lane in Noank) for our Easter Sunrise worship (weather permitting).

**EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY
APRIL 5 @ 10:00 AM**

Please join us for our Easter Worship Service in the sanctuary for wonderful music, beautiful flowers and resurrection joy. This is the highlight of our church year, as we gather in true celebration! Bring your family and friends for this memorable morning!





The season of Lent is usually a hard sell for most people. Unlike Advent, the period leading up to the joyous celebration of Easter is not universally embraced by mainstream culture as a season for giving. If one engages in Lenten disciplines at all, it tends to be about what one sacrifices to be morally pure before God (or for seeing improvement in one's character) than what it might mean for the sake of others.

I wrestled with this while reading a book borrowed from Mimi Avery, entitled "Thrift Store Saints." It is an easy, charming read—anecdotal in style—written by a woman, Jane Knuth, who volunteers at the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Kalamazoo. Corner Closet saints, sensed this little book both enjoyable and thought-

Knuth shares the stories of various who offer a human face of "the poor." the cultural stereotype of ne'er-do-wells, couraging times and hard luck. People and crude judgments of those in need the critic more than anything else. As we God, go I." It's true. Many of us are but a losing everything we've known.

For me, Knuth's book helped to "rehumanize" the face of poverty. I'd forgotten how easy it is to erect psychological barriers that establish critical distance between my own view of the world and the reality of others. With sufficient distance, it's easier to render an opinion for why certain people behave the way they do or why "God's grace" hasn't left me in a similar predicament. It also explains why Knuth believes true charity is so rare: most of what we give to the poor is recycling what the rest of us no longer want or need. We don't give to others what we ourselves would want. Contributions to thrift stores may be a prudent use of resources and great conscience-relievers, but they are also a safe way to serve the poor without actually having to engage them.

There's an unsettling irony about this. A friend recently reminded me that when Jesus was in Jericho toward the end of his life, he had a choice to make. He could have taken the easier road by heading back up the Jordan River valley toward family and familiar ground in Galilee. But, as we know, he chose the steeper and more challenging climb from Jericho to Jerusalem—a recognizable road to us because of the parable of the Good Samaritan. Along his way to Jerusalem, Jesus stopped in Bethany—a village Outside of the city walls where the poor lived. "Bethany" literally means, "house of the afflicted," which was the place where many of Jesus' closest friends dwelled (Lazarus, Mary, Martha, Simon the leper, et. al.). It is there where Jesus made his home while in Jerusalem and, according to Mark, Luke & John, where the disciples found the colt upon which he rood into the city. In other words, little of the final week of Jesus' life makes any sense apart from his association with the poor and afflicted.

When Christians try to appreciate the meaning of Lent in their lives, they often incorporate the language of following Jesus to Jerusalem. What is normally missed is that Jesus' journey takes us into our own manifestations of Bethany. To follow Jesus literally means making our company with the poor and afflicted. Instead of offering periodic and impersonal contributions to local charities serving the poor, the true spiritual call is to *lend our lives* to them so that we may cross the barriers that fear, inconvenience, and social distancing have built.

There are a number of direct ways to do this through the Groton Community Meals program, the W.A.R.M. shelter in Westerly, Habitat for Humanity, and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, just to name a few. A few weeks ago, Cathy Zall at the New London Homeless Hospitality Center wrote me to ask if anyone in our church or community would be willing to volunteer at the center. She needs help, but I thought to myself, we in Noank need to do this for our own spiritual wellbeing! Frankly, I have to believe you and I won't get over our chronic fear of the poor unless we enter into the house of the afflicted, offering and receiving hospitality as one among equals. We would benefit from making our way there as part of our Lenten journey in order to engage Christ on his way to Jerusalem.

Yes, we could continue to send money, clothes, bedding, health kits, food, or any other item that could help those in need. But what a difference it would make to our own souls if we *lent* our lives—our time, our energy, and our charitable, caring spirit! Initially, what we might do by duty would soon become motivated by friendship and love grounded in God's Spirit. We serve Christ and others by becoming real to them as they become real to us.

If Lent is the time to become more like Christ, perhaps we will recover its true intent by making company with those most like Christ. It's a worthwhile quest. For what Jane Knuth and the saints of this world realize: in the wisdom of God, the ones most in need on earth offer the means for what we all hope to gain in heaven.

**Whatever You
Did Not Do For The
Least Of These,
My People,
You Did Not Do
For Me**

Matt 25:46

by a woman, Jane Knuth, who volunteers at the zoo, Michigan. Mimi, who has been one of our might interest me and she was right. I found provoking.

people she has encountered over the years Though some of her characters might reflect most are average folks struggling through dis- commonly forget that life isn't fair, so coarse reflect a dearth of empathy and consideration in are wont to say, "There, but for the grace of few twists and turns of misfortune away from



News from around the Church Family



Our Church Family

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who, over the summer, have had recent surgery, been in the hospital, received treatment, in rehabilitative care, or are recuperating at home: **Peter Littlefield, Joan Laursen, Joanne Hart, Kate Chanin, Cal Robertson, Ginny Colbeth, Nancy Pratt, Doreen Dickerson, Trux Brodhead, Mimi Avery, Errol Crossman, Ruth Hodgson, Arleen Stamm, Kelly Taylor, Anita Anderson, Tom Lewis, and Roger Floyd.**

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Bert Kelley**, upon the passing of Bert's son, Michael, after a long battle with cancer. Michael was well-known in the area among firefighters as a fire chief and later as Fire Marshall of both Montville and Preston.

Please remember our homebound and those in rehab/nursing care: **Betty Guhl** (Fairview), **Millie Jensen** (Fairview), and **Cindy Booth** (Sunny Lodge, New London).

Hats for Hope

Calling all knitters and crocheters! Once again, we are asking for your help in providing hats for homeless shelters and cancer patients. We need hats for newborns, small children and adults. We have had many hats donated, but many more are needed (especially with the brutal winter that we are having).



If you can help, please contact Sandy Mansfield at 860-445-6208 and she will provide you with a pattern (if you need one) and knitting supplies. You may use your own yarn and pattern, but **no wool** please.

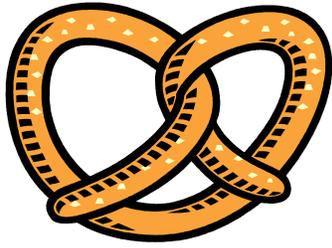


Easter Sunday Flowers For the Chancel—April 5, 2015

**Donate Easter flowers in memory or
on behalf of a loved one**

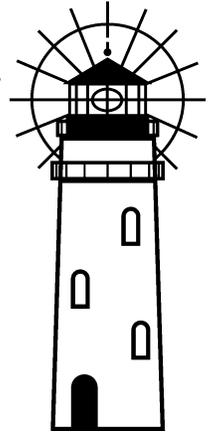
To donate flowers in honor of, or in celebration of, or in memory of a loved one, please contact Gloria in the church office at 860-536-7129 before **Tuesday, March 31, 2015**. The suggested minimum donation is \$10. Make checks payable to Noank Baptist Church with Easter Flower Fund in the memo line and send to Noank Baptist Church, 18 Cathedral Heights, Noank, CT 06340, attn: Gloria. Please be sure and list the loved one's name(s) and who should be listed as donor.

Children and Family Ministries



SAVE THE DATE

Lenten Pretzels



Pretzels have an important meaning during Lent. Pretzels were made as far back as the fifth century as a Lenten food in Italy, Austria, Germany and Poland. The Latin word (*bracellus*) meaning “little arms” eventually became the word pretzel. The dough was shaped to look like two arms crossed in prayer.

We will be making **Lenten Pretzels on Sunday, March 15 (please note the date change)**

Please join us in the Vestry after church

We will work together, mixing, rolling, baking & eating!

Community Spring Craft Night

Tuesday, March 24 6:30-8:00 pm

This annual craft night includes crafts for all ages, but particularly for children and youth, preschool to high school. Volunteers are needed to help staff the craft tables. Snacks and beverages will be provided for a fun night! The admission is free, and so are the crafts! Bring your children, grandchildren, step-children and your neighbor’s children!



Vacation Bible School

August 3—7, 2015

SUMMER CAMP WIGHTMAN PROGRAMS

JUNE/AUGUST 2015

Information available soon



Sunday School News

After reading the story of Jesus meeting his disciples, two girls pretended to be fishing in the boat. We played hide and seek with Jesus' pictures, after reading the story of Jesus getting lost at the Temple.



Hiding Pictures of Jesus



Just Playing



Fishing in the Boat

"Soup"er Bowl Sunday

Children were hustling around to separate cans of soup into groups of 10 in order to get a total count. They shouted "10—20—30—40.....171!!! cans of soup". Enthusiasm was "over the top" when they found out what the total was. The cans were then brought to the front of the church by the children and were blessed by Pastor Paul before being donated to the Groton Food Locker.

Thank you to all who donated cans of soup for this special Sunday.





MAEC Choir Festival 2015
March 15 @ 4:00 pm @
St. Mary's Church

For almost 50 years, the Mystic Area Ecumenical Council (MAEC) has sponsored the Annual Mystic Area Choir Festival. Many internationally known choral directors and composers have led our combined choirs in a service of outstanding choral music. This year's festival will include choirs of children, youth and adults. We will also feature the high school students in one anthem.

The director this year will be composer Victor C. Johnson of Dallas, Texas. Victor is known throughout the country for his many compositions for youth and adult choirs, as well as being in demand as a choral conductor for many choral festivals and honor choirs.

All are welcome. A free-will donation would be appreciated.

Rehearsal Schedule at St. Mary's Church for Youth and Adult Choirs:

Youth Choir:

Saturday, March 14—9:15 am to 1:45

Registration, rehearsal & lunch

Sunday, March 15—2:15 pm-rehearsal

4:00 pm concert

Adult Choir:

Friday, March 13—5:15 to 9:30 pm

Registration, rehearsal & workshop

Sunday, March 15—1:30 pm rehearsal

4:00 pm concert

High School Singers Only:

Saturday, March 14—1:45 to 2:30 pm

Saturday: Children and youth should bring their own lunches and a snack. Water will be provided.

High School Youth: The high school youth will sing in **every rehearsal** and have one of their own. If they sing with the adults, they need to come at 1:30 pm on Sunday.

All singers should be in their seats by 3:50 pm on Sunday.

Each choir (child and youth) **MUST** be accompanied with a responsible adult who carries extra music, as well as emergency numbers where parents can be reached. **Both Saturday and Sunday.**

On Sunday: Bring your robes for the concert!

A reception in the vestry will follow the concert.

2015 ANNUAL M.A.E.C. CHOIR FESTIVAL

For almost 50 years, the Mystic Area Ecumenical Council (MAEC) has sponsored the Annual Mystic Area Choir Festival. Many internationally known choral directors and composers have led our combined choirs in a service of outstanding choral music. This year's festival will include choirs of children, youth and adults. We will also feature the high school students in one anthem.

The 2015 Choir Festival will take place on **Sunday, March 15, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Mother of the Redeemer Church** in Groton, CT. The director this year will be composer Victor C. Johnson of Dallas, Texas. Victor is known throughout the country for his many compositions for youth and adult choirs as well as being in demand as a choral conductor for many choral festivals and honor choirs.

Victor C. Johnson is a native of Dallas, Texas and currently works as Artistic Director of the Children's Choir of Texas, as well as music instructor at the Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts. Victor attended the University of Texas at Arlington, where he majored in music education with a concentration in organ. While attending UTA, he served as student conductor of the university's choral ensembles and as opera workshop accompanist. He was named "Outstanding Music Freshman" and "Outstanding Musician."

Mr. Johnson has won numerous composition contests and has received ASCAP awards for the past twelve years. His first piece was published by Lorenz in 1994 while he was a sophomore in high school. To date, he has more than 250 octavos and choral products in print.

Victor has led reading sessions and choral workshops in numerous states and has conducted All-State and Regional Honor choirs in Texas, California, Oklahoma, Kansas, Kentucky, and Mississippi. His own choir was selected to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in 2011 and 2014. Victor currently serves at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, as Minister of Worship and Arts.

The Ecumenical Council underwrites much of the expense; however, the cost of the music and the funds to bring directors to our community exceeds the resources of the Council. Therefore we seek sponsors to make financial contributions. A gift of \$15-\$24 will designate you as a Friend; \$25-\$49 will make you a Patron; \$50-\$74 will make you an Angel; \$75-99 will make you an Archangel and \$100 and up will earn you the rank of a Saint. We will also recognize businesses in the program for donations to the festival.

If you can serve in any of these capacities, please make checks out to Mystic Area Ecumenical Council or MAEC, and mail it and the bottom portion of this form to *Robin Crandall, Union Baptist Church, 119 High St., Mystic, CT 06355, by March 9th*. **Please indicate how you would like your name(s) to appear in the Festival program.**

MAEC Annual Choir Festival 2015

- I want to be: a Saint: \$100+ ()
- an Archangel: \$75-99 ()
- an Angel: \$50-74 ()
- a Patron: \$25-49 ()
- a Friend: \$15-24 ()
- a Business ()

Name of Business _____

Amount of donation \$ _____

Please print legibly:

Name (as it should appear in the program): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please make out a check to the Mystic Area Ecumenical Council or MAEC, and mail it and the bottom portion of this form to: *Robin Crandall, Union Baptist Church, 119 High St., Mystic, CT 06355, by March 9th*. **Please indicate how you would like your name(s) to appear in the Festival program.**

FACES OF HOMELESSNESS

Mystic Congregational Church

March 1, 2015 @ 7:00 pm

Mystic Area Ecumenical Council (MAEC) will present a program at Mystic Congregational Church entitled “*Faces of Homelessness*” on Sunday, March 1 at 7:00 pm. This program is part of MAEC’s ongoing “Cultivating Compassion” series and will present an informal panel on the current state of homelessness in our local communities and statewide, with an emphasis on the risk for homelessness among specific populations.

A discussion time will be available following the presentation with panelists from New London Homeless Hospitality Center, Martin House, Inc., MASH and Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. All are welcome!

CORNER CLOSET



Thrift Store

CORNER CLOSET

Our end of winter sale continues with “color of the day” indicated half price on all merchandise. Our new spring line will be available on Friday, March 18. Come in soon for your bargains.

We are located on the corner of Main and Pearl Streets in Noank.

Our hours are: **Wed. & Sat. 10 am to noon**
 Friday 1-4 pm

PFLAG MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 9

The March meeting will feature two leaders of the Hartford PFLAG Chapter who will be our guests and speakers for the evening.

Our meetings begin with a potluck supper at 6:00 pm with the meeting to follow at 7:00 pm. We meet the second Monday of each month at Noank Baptist Church. All are welcome!



OUTCT YOUTH PROGRAM

A monthly space for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth in southeastern Connecticut is almost here!

Calling for Volunteers—True Colors and outCT are partnering to provide mentors to GLBTQ youth in southeastern Connecticut. OutCT’s new program will provide a safe space for queer youth to meet once a month on a Sunday afternoon in New London. High school teens in the region are welcome and volunteers to facilitate meetings are needed. outCT asks volunteers who are interested in becoming a True Colors mentor to attend a training session on **Saturday, March 7, 2015** from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the New London Public Library Community Room on the lower level (lunch is included).

To register, you must complete an application and background check form which can be found on their website outCT.org and click on Youth Program or contact Curtis Goodwin at 860-339-4060 ext. 5 or e-mail youth@outct.org.



Property Report

The motion detection light in the southwest corner of the meeting house failed and was replaced. The new fixture uses less electricity than the old one, and emits more light. The installation just needs some final timing adjustments when weather permits.

The lock to the boiler room failed on January 19, 2015, and was replaced with parts kept from previous security lock changes. The key remains the same.

The snow plowing season started off late, but strong. No bills have come in yet. There had been some concern about our contractor being attentive to our needs, but things seem to be working out.

On January 31, 2015 we ran into an issue with extremely cold weather, coupled with high winds, causing the sanctuary to not heat up in time for the wedding. In nine and a half hours the temperature only came up two degrees. All three boilers were running strong, and showed no problems. The heat was reset to stay on overnight to ensure that there was enough heat for Sunday service.

On February 10 T-Mobile brought in a manlift and repaired their GPS antenna. They also found and filled a hole in the steeple siding. T-Mobile will be returning in warmer weather to seal up some connections that go into the upper steeple. This, hopefully, will eliminate some of the leakage that we had up there.

We now have a new copy machine under lease in the church office. Access numbers have not been changed as of yet. If the access numbers are changed, the appropriate people will be notified.



FLOWERS DURING LENT

During Lent, members of the Flower Committee will create a special arrangement that will be in place for the entire Lenten season. Since this arrangement will be under the cross for the Lenten season, we respectfully ask that no memorial flowers be requested during this time.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!!

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry currently exists of three members. As a result, we do not have shawls available when someone needs one. Now that winter is here, consider knitting a shawl. It is actually very relaxing to knit while watching television in the evening.

Please contact Maureen Block at 860-460-7509 for additional information or to get yarn for this project.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

ABCCONN's 191st Annual Gathering

Treasures in Clay Jars

II Corinthians 4:7

Saturday, April 25, 2015

8:30am - 3:30pm

Central Baptist Church, 457 Main St., Hartford



The day will feature: table conversations for adults and youth
 mini bible studies
 child care for preschoolers
 special programming for children 6-11

For additional information or to register online, go to abconn.org and click on [annual gathering 2015](#).



Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering

When: **April 17-19, 2015**

Where: Northside Drive Baptist Church
 3100 Northside Drive Northwest
 Atlanta, GA 30305

The theme of the Annual Gathering this year is *"We've a Story to Hear from the Nations!"*. Workshops provide a time to gather, learn, share and fellowship during the Gathering. To see workshops that are available, go to their website at allianceofbaptists.org.

Sheraton Suites Galleria Hotel, Atlanta, 2844 Cobb Parkway SE, Atlanta has group rates available for night of Wednesday, April 14-Saturday April 19. Call 888-627-7047 for hotel reservation information. **Reservations must be made by Monday, March 23 to secure a group rate.**

Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA)

Summer Conference

July 6-11, 2015

Eastern Mennonite University
 Harrisonburg, VA



The theme of the conference this year is *"No Longer Strangers: Crossing Borders for Peace-making"*. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington. Leslie Lee and Steve Gretz will provide music during the conference. For additional information such as costs and a sample schedule of events, go to their website bpfna.org.

ABCUSA BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

"Share the Journey"

This conference will be held in Overland Park, Kansas City from June 26-28, 2015. Speakers will be: Rev. Dr. Amy K. Butler, Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley and Rev. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III. For additional information, visit www.americanbaptists2015.com or contact Pastor Hayes.





ALLIANCE FOR LIVING



The Alliance for Living is one of the organizations that our church supports through our Mission Budget. The organization, with offices in New London and Norwich, works to improve the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in Southeastern Connecticut. Their services provide improved health outcomes, housing, food and insure clients that they always have a safe, supportive environment to assist them in facing the barriers in their lives.

In the recent letter thanking our church for our contribution, they tell the success story of a client named Cora.

"After long involvement with Alliance for Living, I am now taking the right steps to have my life in order. It was hard for me to get help because I had a record and I had a problem with drugs. I started building new relationships, like with the Alliance for Living and started taking care of my health by keeping doctor's appointments."

A year ago, Cora started an employment program and has made the next steps to become employable and earn a job as administrative assistant.

"I love my job, I like the people and I like to feel that I can make a difference in my life by doing something new like using the computer".

Cora has plans to start saving and being able to work on having an apartment of her own and transition out of the program to allow other people in need be assisted as she was once helped.



Dan and Sharon Buttry

Dan and Sharon wrote recently from Lebanon where they are teaching at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut. One couple they met were very special to them. They are both from North Africa. He is from a Catholic background with an amazing story of his journey to faith. She is from a Muslim background, becoming an agnostic scientist before coming to faith in Christ. They met in seminary in Lebanon and got married. But they cannot go back to their home country as a couple because her conversion to Christianity is not legally recognized and by law she is not allowed to marry a Christian. If they have children, the children will be seized by her family. It is heartbreaking, but they are doing amazing ministry together and have a great vision and faith. Dan and Sharon have spent a lot of couple-to-couple time with them.

They also traveled with a team of students over the mountains into the Baka Valley. The storms of the previous week or two had deposited a lot of snow, closing the roads. The refugees, many living in tents, suffered a lot. Some tents collapsed under the snow. Ten children died from the cold in the area where we went. The seminary students come to teach Bible stories, spend time with the kids, sing and do art projects. Most of the refugee children are not able to be accommodated in the Lebanese schools, so a generation of Syrian children are going without education. The sheik has a school where we gathered and we helped children with their reading in Arabic as well as practicing. The Buttrys had brought medical supplies and toys which they donated to a local Baptist church for their refugee program. On the way back over the mountains they stopped and played in the snow, the first time to have such an experience for some of the Egyptians in the team.



February Council News

The Council held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 with 12 members present. New council members present were welcome.

The Staff Relations coordinator position remains open. Kim Johnson will continue to help out in that role on a limited basis until someone is identified.

The minutes from the January, 2015 meeting were approved as corrected.

A request to have Youth Sunday celebrated on April 26th this year, separate from Children's Sunday due to travel plans and conflicting schedules was discussed and approved. Children's Sunday will be celebrated on June 14.

Individuals to head the Worship and Arts Committee, as approved at the Annual Meeting, need to be identified with further discussion at the March council meeting.

Many activities supporting the spiritual life were reported, including plans for celebrating the Lenten season starting with an Ash Wednesday service in the Spicer Chapel led by Mary Harris. Pastor Hayes will be leading a Bible study of the final days of Jesus' life on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the chapel, starting on February 24. A joint Maundy Thursday service with Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church will be held on April 2 in Poquonnock Bridge. A Good Friday Service will be held in Noank.

The Search Committee is meeting regularly in an attempt to find a Choir Director. Erin and Rick Wyman will continue to assist with the music program through April and their presence is greatly appreciated.

The Lay Reader sign-up sheet is in the Narthex with opportunities for readers open.

The new property managers, as well as the sexton, have been keeping busy with some minor repairs, as well as over-seeing plowing of the parking lots.

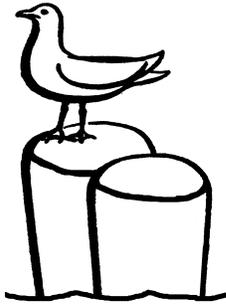
The Mystic Area Ecumenical Council (MEAC) will be hosting a program on Homelessness to be held on March 1 at 7:00 pm at the Mystic Congregational Church.

The MEAC Children's Choir Festival is being planned for the weekend of March 14 and 15.

Pastor Hayes will be away from February 13 to 22 with Rev. Michael Crane as guest minister and he will also be on Sabbatical from Mid-June to Mid-July.

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Full council meeting minutes are available upon request.

Respectfully submitted
Bonnie Banks



OUR SHORELINE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 287
West Mystic, CT 06388-0287
(860) 271-1681 OSCAforSeniors@gmail.com

Village Movement is On the Move!

Our Shoreline Community Association launched in 2009 and is one of over **150** villages operating across the country, in Australia and the Netherlands, with over 120 additional villages in development.

Many people do not have family members nearby to help them, yet most want to avoid going into assisted living or other institutions. Nearly 80 percent of people ages 50 to 64 said they would prefer to stay in their homes as they age, according to an AARP survey. But the growing number of older Americans in the United States - often referred to as the "silver tsunami" - is expected to challenge the country's resources. The U.S. Census Bureau has estimated the population of people older than 65 will grow by 33 percent from 2005 to 2020. Meanwhile, the population of those under age 50 is expected to increase just 4 percent during that same period.

Sensing the need and the challenge, some civic-minded individuals took matters into their own hands and created the first "village" in Boston's Beacon Hill area in 2001. What started as a group of neighbors - formed to help with a variety of tasks from changing a light bulb to driving each other to the grocery store or doctor's visits - has expanded to include home repair referrals, social events and even partnerships with health care providers to allow members to receive special attention and attend educational programs.

"It's a very important and exciting movement that is really changing the culture of aging in this country," said Stephanie Panagos, OSCA Coordinator.

"Villages like OSCA give people choices and they can participate as much or as little as they need. And while some of services may seem small, they can mean the world to someone who needs the help. What each village offers varies to reflect the needs of its members, but they generally are nonprofit organizations, like OSCA, that rely on their own members as volunteers" said Panagos.

For more information about OSCA, please contact Stephanie Panagos, OSCA Coordinator at (860) 271-1681 or OSCAforSeniors@gmail.com.

Respectfully Submitted
Stephanie Panagos, OSCA Coordinator

Memorable Quotes

*Every once in a while, certain quotes are memorable and relevant to our lives. Here is a small selection of “Quotable Quotes” compiled on the blogsite, **Prayer & Politik**, composed by Ken Sehested.*

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A rabbi once asked his pupils how they could tell when the night had ended and the day had begun.

“Could it be,” asked one of the students, “when you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it is a sheep or a dog?”

“No,” answered the rabbi.

Another responded, “Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it is a fig tree or a peach tree?”

“No,” answered the rabbi.

“Then when is it?” the pupils demanded.

“It is when you can look on the face of any man or woman and see that it is your brother or sister. Because if you cannot see this, it is still night.” —*Tales of the Hasidim by Martin Buber*

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“When the Ku Klux Klan burns a cross in a black family’s yard, prominent Christians aren’t required to explain how it isn’t really a Christian act. Most people realize that the KKK doesn’t represent Christian teachings. That’s what I and other Muslims long for—the day when these terrorists praising Muhammad or Allah’s name as they debase their actual teachings are instantly recognized as thugs disguising themselves as Muslims.” —*Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, former National Basketball Association Most Valuable Player, now a New York Times best-selling author and filmmaker, in Time magazine*

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Show me who makes a profit from war, and I will show you how to stop war. — *Henry Ford*

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You can’t depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus. — *Mark Twain*

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I am not an optimist, because I am not sure that everything ends well. Nor am I a pessimist, because I am not sure that everything ends badly. I just carry hope in my heart. Hope is the feeling that life and work have a meaning. You either have it or you don’t, regardless of the state of the world that surrounds you. Life without hope is an empty, boring, and useless life. I cannot imagine that I could strive for something if I did not carry hope in me. I am thankful to God for this gift. It is as big as life itself. — *Vaclav Havel*

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Don’t ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive. — *Howard Thurman*

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May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; May God give you grace never to sell yourself short; Grace to risk something big for something good; Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love. So may God take your minds and think through them; May God take your lips and speak through them; May God take your hearts and set them on fire through the power of God who created us, who is redeeming us, and whose holy presence refuses to leave us unchanged. Amen. —*William Sloane Coffin*