



# The NBC Anchor

*Newsletter of the Noank Baptist Church, Noank CT*

860.536.7129 [www.noankbaptistchurch.org](http://www.noankbaptistchurch.org)



## SEPTEMBER 2018



### HOMECOMING SUNDAY

**September 9**

*The Fall Programs and Sunday School Begins!*

The Summer is over! The schools are open and life returns to “normal” in Noank. Our Sunday School program begins on September 9. We have an exciting year planned with crafts, music and activities designed to fill your child’s life with the love of God.

Morning worship for all ages begins at 10:00 am, with the children and youth breaking midway through for Sunday School. Join your friends and bring along new ones to be a part of our beloved community in Christ!

### JAZZ SUNDAY

**September 16**

Once again, our sanctuary will be filled with the upbeat sounds of Dixieland Jazz at the 10:00 am worship service. Mark McCormick and friends from the U.S. Coast Guard Band and SECT area are back to lift our spirits with toe-tapping sounds! Bring your family and friends along to this special morning!



### PROPERTY RENOVATIONS

Have you noticed the staging on the steeple? We are beginning a period of extensive work to complete the repairs on the exterior of the steeple and to put a new roof on the NBC meetinghouse. The work will occur during the months of the early fall. The Church Street House will also be getting a new roof this fall. Upon completion of the roof work, the Council is exploring the possibility of solar panels, which would be installed on the south-facing portions of the roof, based on a 20-year lease.

So prepare for a little more activity on and around the meeting-house during the coming work weeks. For more information, read the Church Council report or speak to Adrian Johnson or Jonathan Lane, Property Coordinators.



Over the past couple of years, Wendy and I have opted to view television consistent with recent trends, i.e., we occasionally watch a program on network television (other than news), while mostly queuing up Netflix or Amazon Prime for various series that have been on PBS or channels that aren't in our low-budget cable package. So, after the fact, we've watched things like, "House of Cards," "Six Feet Under," "Mozart in the Jungle," "Grace and Frankie," "The Crown," "Poldark," "Mad Men," and other former Emmy winners. Usually, within a few minutes of watching the first episode, we'll sense if we like it enough to commit to taking in its entirety. We are not TV fanatics, mind you ("binge watching" for us is catching six episodes in a week), so we know it may take us a while to complete a series from beginning to end.

Except, to this point, we have yet to do it. It's not that we haven't found the time; sometimes, it's merely because we're waiting for the next season to arrive. Far more often, what we discover is that characters we initially found appealing eventually turn into those we dislike. It's quite disappointing. We may stick with it for a few seasons, but then give up because the storyline has devolved into something very dark and unpleasant or the characters have lost their redeeming charm. By the time I've had enough, I'm usually perturbed by plot developments or disgusted by the hedonism or malevolence of the cast.

I recognize this is standard story and role development for Hollywood, i.e. make characters initially attractive to hook an audience and then throw in dark shadows until they dramatically contrast who we thought they once were. It's supposed to keep things interesting and fans coming back for more.

But not me. Call me "Paulyanna" [sic], but I prefer characters who are at least minimally commendable and who I will enjoy over the course of a series. I don't expect them to be perfect; I just want them to be fairly decent and normal—with good humor and admirable traits, a balance of smart choices and dumb mistakes, and not ones we end up despising for the awful or inhumane things they do. Maybe this doesn't make for interesting drama, but it makes for satisfying entertainment.

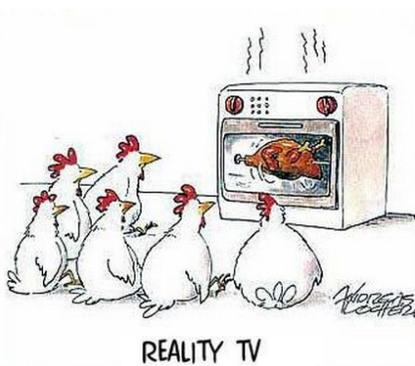
I acknowledge my complaint merely reflects a desire to believe the same about humanity in general. "Reality" as it is promoted on television (and increasingly in our common culture) is something quite different than what I know and routinely experience. Granted, I live a relatively boring life. Still, I expect to treat others decently and to be treated the same in return. I don't glorify violence, or infidelity, or greed. I like good humor, but not if it's crass or unfairly nasty in nature. I don't experience crude or vile language on a daily basis nor anticipate rudeness in the company I keep. I see no reason to live in fear or pack a gun in my belt just to protect myself from strangers. Charity and service to others is a high ambition and ideal. The truth is, I still want to believe the best in people and give others the benefit of the doubt. I'm just happier that way.

As a rule, I don't consider myself prudish or particularly nostalgic. However, now that I'm a grandfather, I often wonder where children today find their role models. If they look to American culture through television, films, video games, music, or even the daily scandals in the news, it's worrisome to me for what that might mean. Where will they consistently observe and experience common decency?

I realize the days of "Leave It To Beaver" no longer seem "real," but there's a part of me that grieves this loss. To borrow from William Blake, the songs of innocence are no longer heard, but have given way to those of experience. The media promotes a rather harsh view of reality, for necessary reasons and not. Still, I wonder, if the darkness in people is all-too-real, are these the behaviors we want to exalt for the common good?

I know there's a world of difference between "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" and the "Active Shooter" video culture of today, but it's not a wise exchange by claiming the latter is more realistic. It's no more a reflection of most people's daily lives than the "entertainment" we consume on television. Reality is what we make it to be, and for my grandson, I'd prefer he'd be enamored with old black-and-white portrayals of human decency than colorful and riveting depictions of gross depravity.

Call me boring and my thinking old-fashioned, if you want. But I prefer a reality I can embrace with role models who inspire us to be better than we might otherwise be. They are few and hard to find in our search for good entertainment. Yet, I yearn for them with every episode I watch.



REALITY TV

## News from around the 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, Trux Brodhead, Russ Leonard, Peter Littlefield, Jim Douglass, Arleen Stamm, Rich Santoro, Jan Rudolph, Brian McGlynn, Dianna Miller, and Shawn Thorp.**

Our condolences are expressed to the family of **Brian Thorp**, who passed away July 14. Brian grew up in this church and returned with his beloved, **Joan**, a decade ago to take care of his parents. He is remembered for his music, continuous smile, and pleasant and unpretentious nature. A celebration of his life took place July 20 at the church.

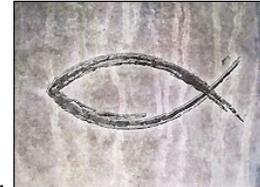
Our sympathy is also extended to the family and friends of **Sadie Devore**, who died on July 9. She was well-known for her art and her teaching career. Her memorial service was held at Union Baptist in Mystic on July 20.

Congratulations to **Justin Manchester** and **Svetlana Reiss**, who were married at NBC on July 21, by **Rev. Jim Pratt**. Jim and Nancy are Justin's adopted grandparents.

Congratulations as well go to **Tyler Latham** and **Brianna Robinson**, who were married at the church on July 28, by **Vicki Burdick**. Tyler is the grandson of **Dick & Joan Latham**.

### **"Rethinking Fundamental Stories of Our Faith"**

Beginning Tuesday, October 2 Church Parlor — 7:00 pm



Tuesday Night Bible Study returns for the Fall, with Pastor Hayes exploring some of the basic stories of the Bible that tradition may have misinterpreted.

We will examine when the Hebrew canon was likely formed and how that shaped stories about Creation, the Fall from Paradise, the Flood, and the Exodus. We will also look at the Davidic covenant, a belief in the Virgin Birth, and the Second Coming of Christ. You may or may not agree with Paul's reinterpretation, but he will challenge your common understanding. Come for an interesting and provocative look at some of the fundamental stories of our faith.

NOTE: *This will be repeated Wednesday morning at 10 am for those unable to come Tuesday.*

**[www.noankbaptistchurch.org](http://www.noankbaptistchurch.org)**



Don't forget—NBC has a website and a Facebook page, where you can find information about our staff, church history, children's/Fusion Youth/VBS programs, current events and newsletter with color photos. There are Pastor Hayes' sermons from 2013 to the present time. There is also a current calendar, so you can keep track of what is happening in the current month.

### ***Summer Sunday 8:00 am Gatherings in the Parlor***

We want to give a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who volunteered to be leaders at the 8:00 am service: Ray Wilbur; Nora Andrews; Vince Spunar; Maddie & Lizzie Lewis and Conner Wyman; Jim Pratt and Cal Robertson; Dave Williams; Tim Bates; Catherine Bates; Frank and Marge Murdock; Marti Bradshaw; Brian & Katy Straub. There was a variety of topics that were discussed from song, reflection and Bible study.



## *Homecoming Sunday* September 9, 2018

Homecoming Sunday is always exciting, seeing old friends and making new ones also. It is the first day of the 2018-2019 Sunday School year. The children will begin in worship, as usual, and then be dismissed to go to their appropriate age level Sunday School class. However, the nursery/pre-school room is available at the beginning of the worship service.

NBC's dedicated volunteer Sunday School teachers look forward to teaching the stories of Jesus, sharing God's amazing love and helping your children discover what it means to be part of a Christian community. We look forward to seeing you.

Nursery/Preschool (infant-4 yrs. old) - downstairs

Andra Davis & Dorothy Reas

Primary Grades (K-2) - downstairs

Kelly Gordon Taylor & Marti Bradshaw

Intermediate Grades (3-5) - downstairs

Shawn Thorp & TBA

Middle School—upstairs

Shannon Weigle & Charlie Anderson

High School—upstairs

Tim Bates and TBA

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sue Robinson at 860-536-7129, ext. 306.

### 2018-2019 Lighthouse Cove Sunday School Activities for all Grades

October 28

Gratitude (Stone Soup)

February 10

Love, Light, Peace

May 5

Mother Day / Earth Day

### Friendship Gathering 2017



A big thank you to our summer Friendship Gathering volunteers: Catherine Bates, Marge Murdock, Marti Bradshaw, Sarah Arriaga, Lizzie Lewis and Kelly Gordon Taylor.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018



VBS was quite an adventure this summer as 60 children and several adult and youth volunteers made memories at Rolling River Rampage. The sanctuary was transformed into a forest, complete with a log cabin, forest creatures, and a raft full of animals descending down a bright blue river, all designed by Meredith Jannusch. The entire week was filled with moments of grace! Everyone experienced acceptance, joy, rest, peace and community with God and each other. I would like to offer a big thank you to our music director; Jordan Knobloch, assistant director; Lizzie Lewis, station leaders and assistants; Marge Murdock, Paula Fowler, Meredith Jannusch, Dorothy Reas, Nora Andrews, Shawn Thorp, Shannon Weigle, Marti Bradshaw, and Kelly Gordon Taylor, Christine Race, Paul Hayes, our amazing youth volunteers; Noah Johnson, Colin Anderson, Hope Clark, Helen Godshall, Maddy Ellis, Ashley Butler, Aria Ruggeri, Ellie Korinek, Jack Race, Austin Thorp, Jalen Bell, Anthony Morse, Michaela Ellis, photographer; Sarah Arriaga (assisted by baby Lucas) floater; Christine Johnson and so many others who offered their time in many ways; Ed and Kim Johnson, Heather Harris, Tara Clark, Faith Allen, Rebecca Watson, Andrea Thomas, Frank Lewis, Gloria Marshall, Emily Bell, Heather Galouzis, Angel Searles and Doug Jannusch. I would also like to thank the NBC congregation for their continued encouragement, support, donations, and prayers. Again, thanks to all who made this continued summer ministry possible.

Blessings, Sue







**SUMMER FUN IS OVER! SEPTEMBER HAS COME!  
THE TIME HAS COME TO STEP UP YOUR EFFORTS  
FOR THE HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

This year will be our **73rd Holiday Bazaar & Silent Auction** and will be held **November 17 from 9 am to 3pm**. This community building fundraiser is so very important to all, that we need your help in your own special way!

**Would you help to:**

- Collect unwanted jewelry—costume, antique or new
- Find fine gifts from your world – precious, unique, or something you would love to share
- Offer Christmas decorations - precious to a new owner
- Consider Silent Auction - items of interest, intrigue or imagination

**On Going – We need your support & input:**

- Appreciate jars - jam, pickle & jelly
- Keep fingers and sewing machines going for handmade items – crafts, knitted, crocheted & decorative

**Timing**

At any time, you may leave your donations in the outer office with a note attached stating “Holiday Bazaar”. We greatly appreciate all donations – but those donations left sooner (rather than the week of the Bazaar) help a great deal in our preparations! When you make your donation, if you request, we will be glad to provide a tax letter.

If you can spare a hour or two of your time helping at any of the tables, please let Betsey Goetsch know. A list showing the various tables, chairpersons and items needed will be available in the October newsletter. Also if you can help to set up the two days prior to the Bazaar let Betsey know. Many hands make lighter work.

Thank you. If you have any questions, please contact Betsey Goetsch at 860-235-2729.

**Only two (+/-) months left until November 17**



**FUSION YOUTH MINISTRY**

Please check our website [www.fusionyouthministry](http://www.fusionyouthministry) for upcoming events. You can also sign up for our email newsletter by emailing [youthcoopdirector@gmail.com](mailto:youthcoopdirector@gmail.com) or sign up for our texting service by texting [EZDMQ43682 to 797979](tel:797979). We will have a social event the first Friday of every month, a youth meeting the third Sunday and volunteer opportunities spread throughout. The best way to stay up to date is through our email newsletter. We hope you can sign up!

We are also in search of two representatives to serve on our Youth Leadership Team. Safe church policy dictates that we must have two adults present at all functions, so it is very beneficial to have the additional adult volunteers. There is not a large commitment to join the team— with a large enough group, your presence is only needed 1 or 2 times a month. Please consider signing up and supporting our youth ministry.

**Mark Your Calendars Now for  
Sunday, October 7**

***World Communion Sunday***

On World Communion Sunday, there will be a special communion worship at 10:00 am where we bring food to the Table and share in the diversity of Christ's global community!





## MUSIC AT NBC



### Senior Choir



The Senior Choir will begin its new year on **Thursday, September 6 @ 7:15 pm in the Choir Room**. New members are welcome and veteran members are encouraged to return. Erin Wyman is our music director and accompanist and Rick Wyman is our choir director. If you are interested in joining our Senior Choir, contact Erin at [erinwyman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:erinwyman@sbcglobal.net) or 860-287-1666.

### Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will begin its new year on **Sunday, September 9 @ 11:15 am in the Youth Choir Room**. We hope to see new faces this year. We will have new ideas, new friends, new music and perhaps some surprises. If you are a student in grades 3 to 12 and like to sing, we are looking forward to seeing you. Our choir rehearsals are each Sunday after worship and we sing in church every other Sunday. Erin Wyman is our choir director.



NURSERY SCHOOL  
NEWS



Hopefully, everyone had a restful summer and ready to jump into a new school year of fun and learning. Tina Ellis and Gen Kueter will be returning for the 2018-2019 school year and an exciting year it will be!! Classes will begin on **Wednesday, September 12 @ 9:00 am** with the parent orientation on **Tuesday, September 11 @ 7:00 pm** in the nursery school room. This is a great opportunity for parents to tour the classroom, get information on curriculum and ask any last minute questions of the teachers.

## WORLD MISSION OFFERING OCTOBER 7, 2018



“You are the salt of the earth” -- Matthew 5:13 is the theme of this year’s offering. When Jesus said this to his followers, he was urging them to go into the whole world and share the love of the gospel. Three priorities are being emphasized this year: Health and Wellness, Abolishing Global Slavery and Economic and Community Development. The inserts in the bulletins will explain specific ministries that are being carried out by our missionaries with the funds raised by this offering.

The funds received will be divided equally between International Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA and the Alliance of Baptists. Please consider giving generously to this offering as you are able.



## July Council News

The Council held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 with 11 members present. There was no Council meeting held in August. Pastor Paul Hayes offered an opening prayer. The minutes from the June 6, 2018 meeting were accepted as amended. The church calendar was reviewed.

Pastor Hayes shared information on his recent activities including attendance at the Baptist Peace Fellowship Conference with Maddie and Lizzie Lewis and Connor Wyman. He noted that those in attendance were especially impressed with the youth from Noank Baptist Church. He will be co-leading the Global Baptist Peace Conference in July of 2019 in Cali, Colombia. A representative from NBC to the Co-op Youth Group is needed.

Finance reported that the checking account remains reasonably healthy with insurance money still set aside for the roof repairs. An additional \$10,000 was donated to Major Maintenance for the roof repairs and the rest will be taken from the endowment account as agreed at the annual meeting. Income was about what was expected for June.

A written report regarding Spiritual Life activities noted the Christian Education team is busy preparing for Vacation Bible School. So far, over 65 kids have registered. Volunteers are needed for VBS as well as teachers for the 2018-2019 Sunday School Program. Two summer gatherings are being planned by the Fusion Youth Group, one a picnic at Esker Point and the other a fundraiser at Union Baptist Church during the Mystic Art Festival.

The property ministry managers have been very busy. Scaffolding is scheduled to be set up on August 13th in preparation for completing repairs to the steeple and then replacement of the roof. Quotes and recommendations from several roof installation companies have been obtained. The cost for installing premium shingles is about \$10,000 more than standard shingles, but still within our approved budgeted cost. The council voted to recommend installation of the premium shingles. Details will be prepared and will be presented at the quarterly business meeting on July 25th. They met with the solar panel installer and determined that panels would cover 80% of the south-facing roof. A contract has been received for review. The council recommended moving forward with discussing plans to install solar panels on the new roof with the congregation at the next quarterly business meeting. Further discussions regarding replacing the siding on the church are needed. The aluminum siding is still good for a number of years but it was not installed properly and along with the windows is resulting in leaks and rot. A decision about how best to address the issue needs further discussion. Full replacement of the siding and windows would likely require a capital campaign to fund. Much more discussion is needed.

Written notes from Spiritual Life reminds us that Saint Francis House needs meals provided year round so please sign up to help. The Corner Closet has re-opened and is once again open on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm. Someone is needed to co-chair the Silent Auction at the Holiday Bazaar. The Noank House and Garden tour was a success.

Options for providing transportation for congregation members who are no longer able to drive was discussed. The cost of renting a handicap accessible van is rather high. One option of possibly sharing rental of a van with other churches in the area was discussed along with other ideas. Further research is needed. Currently some congregation members have volunteered to help with transportation but ideally a wheelchair accessible vehicle would be better.

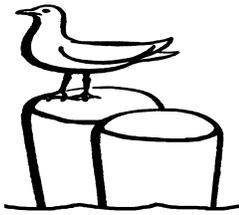
The 175th Anniversary Committee is planning a church picnic on the lawn of Mary and Chip Anderson's house on Latham Lane on Sunday, August 5th following church. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided with attendees asked to bring side dishes to share.

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

### 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 Nielsen</i> <i>Deb Thompson</i> <i>Ed Johnson</i>

Respectfully Submitted  
*Bonnie Banks*



## Our Shoreline Community Association

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

### **Benefits of OSCA Membership**

*As you may know, OSCA is a community of people along the Mystic shoreline who prosper from directing their lives and creating their own future. OSCA is not just an opportunity for fun educational and social events (although we do tend to enjoy that part of OSCA's offerings the most!) OSCA is also a community dedicated to providing its members with assistance for daily activities and challenges. From time to time it is valuable to re-visit some of the benefits of OSCA membership so we have featured them below for your review.*

#### **OSCA'S Helping Hands Team**

The OSCA Helping Hands Team is here to help with simple tasks for OSCA members like installing smoke detectors and batteries, easing the operation of windows and doors, clock winding, chainsaw duty, accessing hard to reach items like light bulbs and fixtures, and so on. This is a benefit of OSCA membership!

#### **Do You Need a Ride?**

If a member needs a ride to an OSCA event, a medical appointment, the grocery store, the local train station, or other appointments, we have volunteers to help!

#### **Looking for a Service Provider?**

If members are looking for a service provider, OSCA is willing to help! While OSCA does not vet service providers, our Coordinator will reach out to fellow OSCA members for recommendations. Word of mouth, after all, is often the best way to find what you are looking for. This is a benefit of your OSCA membership!

For additional information about OSCA membership and its services please call (860) 271-1681, email to [OSCAforSeniors@gmail.com](mailto:OSCAforSeniors@gmail.com) or visit our website at [OurShorelineCommunity.com](http://OurShorelineCommunity.com)

Respectfully Submitted  
**Stephanie Panagos**