



The NBC Anchor

Newsletter of the Noank Baptist Church, Noank CT

860.536.7129 www.noankbaptistchurch.org



SEPTEMBER 2015

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

September 13

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 13. 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 20

On Sunday, September 20, 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 area are back to lift our spirits with toe-tapping sounds! Invite your family and friends to this special event.

DAN BUTTRY TO VISIT NOANK BAPTIST!

September 27 10 a.m.

The Rev. Daniel Buttry, American Baptist Global Specialist in Conflict Transformation and author of several books on global peacemaking and interfaith peacemakers, will be bringing the message during worship. Dan returns to Noank for the first time in nearly a decade to update us on the work he is doing around the world. This is a great opportunity to learn of countries and conflicts that never make the headlines but have an impact on international relations. Dan now works with his spouse, Sharon, training people in conflict transformation in many strife-torn settings. All are welcome!





A few weeks ago Wendy and I visited the 9-11 Memorial in lower Manhattan. It wasn't the first time I had been to the World Trade Center site since 2001, but it was my first since the official opening of the memorial. We decided to include the 45-minute tour mainly because we wanted to hear the story behind the design and setting.

The story we heard, though, was of the lives of those lost. It was a remarkably moving experience—one that was profound for me in a very personal way. The first name I noticed when we began the tour by the site of the North Tower was Alexander Robbins Steinman. Alex Steinman was a young man at whose memorial service I officiated in Suffield. He was an alumnus of Suffield Academy, who married the daughter of a local man whom I knew. The service took place in the sanctuary at Second Baptist in order to accommodate the hundreds of people who came to pay their respects. It was more than that; it was the opportunity for many of us to share the personal loss of someone we knew from that fateful day.

To their credit, the tour guides for the 9-11 memorial offer that for those who come to this sacred space where nearly 3,000 people died needlessly. The tour could have been about the drama of the day, describing in detail the horror of witnessing two hijacked planes crash into the twin towers, raining death from the skies. But that is not the story they tell. They offer the stories of many of those whose names are now etched in permanency—names carefully and sensitively displayed next to others who in some way were associated with them. The focus of the presentation is not on the way victims died, but on how they lived—often heroically to the moments of their deaths.



I learned about Welles Remy Crowther, known that day as “the man with the red bandana.” No one knew his name at the time, but survivors described how he led those stranded above the point of impact down through a safe stairwell and exit, repeatedly returning to help more escape the fire and carnage. He gave up his life when the South Tower collapsed.

I also heard the story of Fr. Mychal Judge—a Franciscan friar and Catholic priest who served as a chaplain for the New York City Fire Department. On September 11, he heard about the plane crashing into the South Tower and immediately rushed to the scene, where he assisted victims and prayed over the dead lying in the streets. He went to the temporary command center located in the lobby of the North Tower to offer aid and prayers for the rescuers and victims. According to sources:

When the South Tower collapsed at 9:59 am, debris went flying through the North Tower lobby, killing many in side, including Judge. At the moment he was struck in the head and killed, Judge was repeatedly praying aloud, “Jesus, please end this right now! God, please end this!” according to Judge's biographer and New York Daily News columnist Michael Daly.



In an iconic scene, Fr. Judge's body was carried out by first responders who placed him on the altar of the nearby St. Peter's Church.

In a 45-minute tour, one hears stories of individuals from many different countries, whose presence and bravery that day provided examples of the best of human compassion, care, and courage. I came away with a remarkable sense that the 9-11 Memorial is not about what terrorism destroyed, but rather the good that God placed in human hearts and souls when it is needed most. This place is made sacred by the honorable lives it remembers and represents, which is why it helps transform one of our nation's most painful traumas into memories of stunning hope and renewal.

(continued on the following page)



Our Church Family

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: **Ken Knobloch, Doreen Dickerson, Gary Reas, Nancy Treadway, Ginny Colbeth, Diana & Cecil Miller, and Tom Lewis.**

We remember **Anna Bogue** in our prayers as she faces significant surgery in the coming weeks. We also pray for the **Rev. Dr. G. Kenneth Carpenter**, Minister Emeritus at Union Baptist, Mystic, in recovering from his August 28 heart surgery.

Our sympathies are extended to the family of **Dorothy Harris**, who passed away in mid July. Dorothy was active for many years in the Evening Circle and church.

Our condolences are expressed to **Nancy and Le Treadway** over the death of Nancy's sister, **Mary Elizabeth Penrod**, who died on July 10. Mary Elizabeth grew up in Noank, where she is remembered by many. We also hold Nancy in prayer as she will have major surgery on September 3.

Others who have suffered losses include, **Vera Neuman**, whose mother passed away; **Kate Chanin**, whose father died August 20 within weeks of being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; **Millie Jensen**, upon the unexpected death of her daughter, **Maryann Korpita** on July 27.

Congratulations to **Lizzie Lewis**, who delivered a wonderful sermon during the youth-led worship at the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America/Bautistas por la Paz summer conference at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia in July.

We celebrate the safe arrival of **Oliver Ronan Cobb**, born July 3 to **Abigail (Johnson) & Glen Cobb**. **Jennifer & Wilfred Johnson** are the proud grandparents and **Betty Guhl** the beloved great-grandmother. We also celebrate with **Jim & Emily Bell** and their family upon the birth of **Malia Ashleigh**, who was born July 31.

Please remember our homebound and those in rehab/nursing care: **Mimi Avery** (at home), **Ruth Hodgson** (at home), **Errol and Alicia Crossman** (at home), **Betty and Gene Brustolon** (at home), **Ken Knobloch** (at home), **Betty Guhl** (Fairview), **Millie Jensen** (Fairview), and **Cindy Booth** (Sunny Lodge, New London).

(Continued from the previous page)

Perhaps, an image that best reflects this is of the lone pear tree that survived this terrible holocaust. Burned to charcoal alongside other trees on 9-11, in the cleanup process weeks later, someone noticed a sprig that emerged from the charred wood. The tree was removed to the New York Botanical Gardens where it was nurtured back to life so it would eventually return to the World Trade Center site as part of the Memorial's landscape. It now stands stronger than ever before, rooted in a place where courage and compassion nourish the soil. It is, perhaps, the most profound symbol of 9-11 on this sacred site.

In remembering that day fourteen years ago, the enduring legacy for me was the common, exhausting grief for so many lives lost. It's not enough to remember and recite the names; it's the stories that are the greatest tribute to the individuals, families, and our world. I'm pleased that this is the story told for those who will come to this Memorial to reflect on the meaning of September 11, 2001. The defining elements of that day are not terrorism, violence, or victimhood; what's memorable about 9-11 are the courage and compassion many human beings offered each other in an effort to survive the worst. Those are the stories that will be told, for those are the memories that matter.



2014 Gretchen Taylor

Children and Family Ministries

G – Force! Vacation Bible School 2015

VBS *G-Force* filled NBC with the Spirit of God moving in and around our traditional summer community of new friends and reuniting past ones. Dedicated and talented volunteers from NBC and other churches inspired 60 children to discover that “In God we live, move and exist.” Bright colored silhouettes of kids in action lined the Sanctuary walls, and a speedy cheetah named Checkers taught us that God wants us to move, act, care, follow, and share. Our music director, Brooke Knobloch, had everyone movin’ and groovin’ to the music all week!

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank our hard working station leaders: Brooke Knobloch, Paul Hayes, Marti Bradshaw, Shannon Weigle, Betsy Murphy, Dorothy Reas, Tara Clark, Kit Torchia, Christy Toppa, Christine Johnson, Christine Race, Shawn Thorp, and Marge Murdock, plus our energetic crew leaders and helpers: Lisa Knobloch, Aariah Ruggeri, Gavin Murphy, Rachel Kunka, Ally Toppa, Danielle Toppa, Madelyn Ellis, Erin Murphy, Caroline Podurgiel, Jamal Neil, Jane Coates, Ian Weigle, Jalen Bell, and Zach Reed.

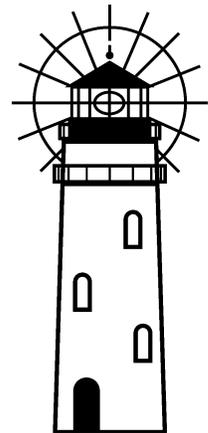
Other special thanks to Union Baptist Church for donating many decorations, Kelly Gordon Taylor, Sidney Weigle, Bill, Austin, & Brandon Thorp, Sherrie Neilson, Sandi Wallace, Amy Richardson, Kate Chanin, Kristin Lincoln, Patty Greenleaf, Beth Greenleaf, Ed & Kim Johnson, Gloria Marshall, and to Frank Lewis (& his ladder). And to all those silent helpers who made this wild, wonderful, week possible!

*Blessings,
Sue Robinson*

Lighthouse Cove and Church School 2015-2016

Homecoming Sunday is September 13. The Children & Families Ministries Team is looking forward to offering the children at NBC an enriching Christian Education Program. We will be using traditional curriculum for some ages, more contemporary ideas for young teens & youth, and implementing a new style of teaching for younger children. Our dedicated volunteer Sunday school teachers want to show the children God’s amazing love for them and teach the stories of Jesus as they begin their journey of growing in faith and what it means to be part of a Christian community.

Registration forms will be available on Homecoming Sunday or can be downloaded from the church website for your convenience, www.noankbaptistchurch.org. Please take a moment to complete a form even if you have done one in the past. We are updating our list and would like the most current accurate information possible.



We are pleased to announce returning teachers and *new Sunday school teachers:

Nursery /Pre-school: Dorothy Reas & *Kelly Gordon Taylor

Primary Grades: Catherine Bates & Mary Beth Blacker

Intermediate Grades: Shannon Weigle & *Shawn Thorp

Middle School: Tim Bates & Gary Reas

Youth: Marti Bradshaw & Sue Robinson

If you have any questions, ideas for our programs, concerns, or just want talk, please feel free to email me children-family@noankbaptistchurch.org or give me a call at 860-536-7129. I’d love to hear from you.

*Blessings,
Sue Robinson*

Friendship Gathering



Children gather on Sunday during worship to have fun, crafts, games and Bible stories



Vacation Bible School 2015



This year we had 60 children who participated in our VBS program and discovered that "In God we live, move and exist". The weather cooperated and we had a GREAT week.



Crabbing at the Town Dock



The Bible Study Group will meet each **Wednesday morning @ 10:00 am in the Richards Room at the Mystic River Homes Congregate** with Mary Brodhead as leader. This is a great opportunity to share faith and encouragement with one another with plenty of opportunities to raise questions and to be inspired as we read God's word together under the facilitation of Mary.

All members of the NBC congregation are welcome—this Bible Study Group is not only for people at the Congregate, but for everyone!!



**Music, Music
Everywhere**



Adult Choir

ADULT CHOIR



The Adult Choir will begin its new year on **Thursday, September 10 @ 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 Adult Choir, contact Erin at erinwyman@sbcglobal.net or by telephone at 860-415-9095.

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will begin its new year on **Sunday, September 13 @ 11:15 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 each Sunday. Erin Wyman is our choir director.



**NURSERY SCHOOL
NEWS**

Nursery School News

Hopefully, everyone has had a restful summer and ready to jump into a new school year of fun and learning. Classes will begin on **Wednesday, September 9 @ 9:00 am** with the parent orientation on **Tuesday, September 8 @ 7:00 pm** in our classroom. At this time, we have 10 children enrolled.

We are grateful for the church's timely repainting of the garage to address the lead paint issues. Your continued support insures that we remain compliant with the State of Connecticut regulations. We are so blessed to be a part of the church's community outreach!



Respectfully Submitted,
Miss Vera & Miss Tina



Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian mission created to serve people of all faiths, or no faith, with the goal of providing safe and affordable housing. Habitat is not a hand out but a hand up. Folks who cannot afford conventional mortgages can obtain a loan from their local Habitat at no interest. However, they must put in 400 hours of sweat equity that includes at least 100 hours of construction on their own home. The remaining hours of sweat equity can include working on other Habitat homes under construction, training on issues that are new to new homeowners, attending dedications, and working at the Habitat Restore. The Restore receives donations of all kinds of housing items, some from contractors who have left over construction items, or donated furniture and other household items from the general public. Most of the money raised through this store goes to building more homes.

The process of becoming a Habitat homeowner includes attending several workshops on the mission of Habitat and a consideration of the families' financial situation. There are guidelines based on the size of the family and their ability to pay a monthly mortgage. A families' credit history, naturally, is an important part of becoming a responsible tax paying home owner. Habitat requires financial education to be a very important part of the process and each potential homeowner has a Habitat partner to guide them through difficult problems, especially helping them arrange their schedule for 8 hours of sweat equity at least once a month so that they will have completed 400 hours by the time their home is complete. Habitat renovates old houses or builds new ones. The entire process is only possible because of the many faithful volunteers who construct the homes or serve on one of the necessary committees. At the conclusion of each new home owner's experience, they have many new friends, as the volunteers and the home owners work together on the sites for many hours. Friends of the families can also participate in building sweat equity hours. Everyone wins with Habitat. A Habitat home can add to building a safe environment, quality housing, new relationships, future stability for children, and a great sense of joy and satisfaction for all involved. The process on each home takes around 18 months.

Interfaith Building on Faith Week Week of September 9 "Building Together, Building Homes, Making Homes, Together with God"

Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut would like to invite clergy and all members of the faith community to participate in the Interfaith Building on Faith Week.

Build Days

When: Throughout the week of September 9

Where: 43 Summer Street, New London

Time: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm—please bring lunch



To sign up, go to www.habitatct.org and click on the VolunteerUp icon in the top right corner. Please check on volunteer up for additional information.



"...forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal..."

Philippians 3:13-14 (ASV)

This offering will benefit both the International Ministries of American Baptist Churches (IM) and the Bridges of Hope Offering for the Alliance of Baptists. Our church is a part of, and supports, both of these organizations. We divide the proceeds from the offering between the two mission agencies. Envelopes for this offering will be attached to the October newsletter.

Stretch Forward with International Ministries! God is doing new and surprising things in once-Communist Hungary. For decades, schools in this central European country were controlled by the government under repressive Communist rule. Today, Hungarian churches now have the opportunity to run many schools—teaching the Bible, nurturing students in their faith and coaching in conversational English. Your support will enable IM to provide much needed support to partner organizations like Hungarian Baptist Aid, which is now managing 49 schools in Hungary.

The Bridge of Hope Offering goes to support the Alliance ministries, particularly the global partnerships. The ministry partners are located in Mexico (Chiapas), El Salvador, Brazil, Dubai, Palestine, Morocco, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Republic of Georgia, Ghana and throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Mark your Calendars Now for Sunday, October 4

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

A special communion worship at 10:00 a.m. where we bring food to the Table and share in the diversity of Christ's global community!

**3 p.m. Blessing of the Animals NBC Memorial Garden
In the tradition of St. Francis, bring your pets to be blessed**

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

Continue working with your knitting/crochet needles and sewing machines. Also, get your recipes ready for making goodies for the bake table. While doing your fall cleaning, if you find items for the fine gifts table, silent auction or jewelry table, please leave them in the church office.

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 21

Thanks to You a New Truck is on the Way! **The SIM Truck Appeal Final Results**

Throughout the summer, we have been raising funds to purchase a truck that could be used by our friends at the Seminario Intercultural Mayense (SIM) in San Crisobal de las Casas in Chiapas, Mexico. Pastor Hayes spelled out the need in his column in the June newsletter, with the hope that we might raise a few thousand dollars toward the cost of a used truck. To date, we have raised over \$15,000, which will more than meet the goal of a good used vehicle. Noank Baptist led the way with assistance from the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America/Bautistas por la Paz. Those who contributed have been individually thanked, but we list their names in appreciation of their generosity. This is a marvelous support of an important and worthwhile ministry among the Mayan people.



*Patti Andersen Chip and Mary Anderson Fred and Anita Anderson
Tim and Debbie Bates Wayne Boettner John and Marti Bradshaw
Bryan Burdick Joan Butler Chris Butta
Calvary Baptist Church, Washington DC Arnold and Janet Crossman
Robert and Judith Doll Evening Circle, Noank Baptist Church
First Baptist Church, Pedricktown NJ David and Annabelle Follett
John and Betsey Goetsch Steve and Pat Gordon Marianne Grube
Doris Hayes Paul and Wendy Hayes Prudence and Ken Holton
Lloyd and Sandra John Ed and Kim Johnson Kent LaGasse
Frank and Marge Murdock Noank Baptist Church Fellowship Fund
Peace Camp, Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America/Bautistas por la Paz
Julia Porter Caryl and Wayne Price Gary and Dorothy Reas
Marcia and Pomeroy Robinson Vivian and Franklin Smith
Carol and Vince Spunar Brian and Joan Thorp Betty Tylaska
Bennett Willeford*

Thank You One and All!!

Appreciation Expressed by the Bell Family

To Our Church Family:

We cannot thank you all enough for all that you have done for us in welcoming our sweet Malia into our family. We are so blessed to have each and every one of you in our lives. We are go grateful for all the diapers, the wonderful and delicious meals that were prepared for us, all the beautiful gifts, cards, messages and phone calls. Thank you all very much.

James, Emily, Jalen, Keeley, Liam and Malia



Council Members

Moderator: *Chris Butta*
 Clerk: *Bonnie Banks*
 Treasurer: *Jane Templeton*
 Asst Treas: *Debbie Bates*
 Finance: *Nancy Gilmore*
 Carol Spunar
 Property: *Carl Brustolon*
 Brian Straub
 Spiritual Life: *Marti Bradshaw*
 Mary Harris
 Comm Life: *Betsey Goetsch*
 Steve Gordon
 Staff Relations: *Open*
 At Large: *Cyp Cyr*
 Sherrie Neilson
 Jennifer O'Donnell
 Jennifer Wilbur

July Council News

Bonnie Banks, Clerk

The Council held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 with 13 members present. The minutes from the May 6, 2015 meeting were approved.

A small group kicked off the Worship and Arts Committee. Pastor Hayes led the group in a discussion focused on discerning the current environment regarding what we presently have and what we do not have related to this newly formed Committee. It is anticipated that more people will join the group, especially individuals who are interested in focusing on certain aspects of Worship and the Arts. Mary Harris and Marti Bradshaw will lead the group going forward.

The Parking Lot Task Force continues to investigate how best to make the needed improvements. A proposal was made to remove the two flowering trees in front of the parsonage which have roots that are causing some of the damage to the asphalt. All present were in favor of that proposal.

The fiberglass whale that was proposed to be installed on the corner of the Main Street House property has been painted and is going into the Noank Art Show after which it will be ready for a permanent home. There has been much discussion around whether

or not to take possession of this and suggestions were made for other possible uses of this art object.

Work is being done to update the history of the church, in anticipation of the 175th Anniversary in 2018. Betsey Goetsch will be working on it over the coming months.

Finance reported that although money coming in remains below budget, bills continue to be paid on time and mission payments are beginning to be made. Money continues to be donated toward the SIM truck. Finance is investigating purchasing a new computer, as the operating system of the current one is outdated and can no longer receive updates.

Work continues to finalize the lease for Main Street House. Some revisions to the insurance policy have also been made.

Pastor Hayes reported on his various activities during the month of June, including taking a class at the Hartford Seminary, attending the ABCUSA Mission Summit and efforts to raise funds for the purchase of a greatly needed truck for our friends in Chiapas.

Property reported continued monitoring of leaks during unusually heavy wind and rain storms, although these are less than in the past.

Bids have been gathered for repainting the shed and work will begin soon so that it will be finished in advance of the start of the nursery school year.

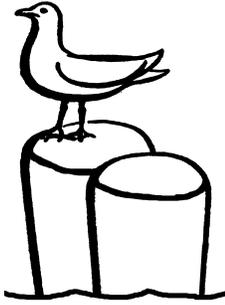
Plans for the Holiday Bazaar on November 21st are moving along well.

Because the August Council meeting is scheduled for the week of Vacation Bible School, it was voted to suspend that meeting.

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 7 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

OSCA will celebrate the 6th ANNIVERSARY of its launch this month. The organization has not only grown in membership numbers since its launch back in 2009, but in its service offerings also!

Our very active members enjoy monthly outings, play reading groups, dinner and lunch groups and more! To help our members stay safe in their homes, our Helping Hands Team is willing able to help with small jobs around the home. And, of course, members can access rides with volunteers to medical appointments.

It's no secret that dining opportunities are a big hit with OSCA members! All are invited to a potluck on **Friday, September 18** at 5:30 pm at St. Mark's Church in Mystic. Guests are welcome and we encourage you to join us on September 18 to learn more about OSCA. As a guide, we ask that those of you with last names beginning with the letters A-G bring an appetizer or main dish, H-L bring a salad or a main dish, M-Z bring fruit or a dessert. **Please RSVP by 4:00 pm on Monday, September 14** to (860) 271-1681 or OSCAforSeniors@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Please consider becoming a member of OSCA if you have not already joined. You may not think you are "ready yet" to receive rides and services. That's fine, but are you "ready" to be part of an active group of seniors, helping and caring for each other and enjoying each other's company? Try it, you'll like it!

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



Property Ministries Report

During the extended power failure in August, several emergency lights and exit signs failed prematurely. A list of the lights needing new batteries will be generated during the annual 90 minute test the first week of September, and replacements installed as soon as possible. Backup batteries will also be replaced in the phone, fire alarm, and voice systems, as they are two years past the recommended replacement date.

The shed has been scraped, primed and painted to encapsulate the old lead paint. The next step is for Ledge Light to perform the final test so we can send the results to the State of CT. This approval was necessary since the nursery school uses the upper parking, which is adjacent to the shed, for their play time.

Guardian Pest Control continues to come on a regular basis to inspect the property.

Respectfully Submitted
Carl Brustolon & Brian Straub