
NEWS FROM THE HILL

SEPTEMBER 2016

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON



Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

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9 am to 1 pm

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me
welcomes the one who sent me”.

Matthew 10: 40

What does it mean to be welcoming? This is a question discussed in many churches. But it is something we perhaps work on in our lives as well. Whenever there are guests in our homes there is a certain way that we want them to feel. In my house, I tend to like people to feel very comfortable. I like them to feel like my home is their home and as such they have the freedom to help themselves to my refrigerator and however else they might feel comfortable. I like to live by the adage that my home is your home. I feel the same about churches. In our churches we should work to make our community feel like home. But what does that look like.

A home provides a place to be ourselves, opportunities to be grow and find support, opportunities to test our skills, build new ones. A church home works so that each person has the opportunity to learn how to make their lights shine in the world. We do this in many ways. Here are just a few:

- Sunday Attendance helps people feel part a community
- Offering a variety of service projects and ways to get involved
- Offering a welcome package that says who we are and what makes us unique
- Offering educational opportunities for young families and adults of all ages
- Offering opportunities for fellowship and trust building
- Always extending an invitation

These are just a few ways that we extend our hospitality. To that end, the deacons and TAC have worked to put together a welcome package that demonstrates who we are and invites people to join us for the journey. Remember what Jesus said in our Gospels, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me”. We are called to live welcoming lives because through our hospitality we reveal to the world our love of Christ and the joy of the message. This September let’s be intentional in how we welcome people to our community.



By all these lovely
tokens
September days are
here,
With summer's best of
weather
And autumn's best of
cheer.

Helen Hunt Jackson



SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the turnaround purpose, we decided to work to create a more family friendly environment. One of the choices we made was to reestablish our Sunday School program. This year, we start small using a one room school house model of curriculum that we will modify to fit the needs of our Sunday School families. This provides an opportunity not only for us to help shape the lives of future generations but to allow their families to get involved as well. Christian education helps to provide the foundations in life that allow for future generations to develop their faiths, their sense of call, and their sense of service to the greater world. So here is the general information about our program.

• Curriculum: All Together Now by Group
• Teachers: Suzanne Lovejoy, Marj Klar, and Sara Scoran

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Fall theme: The Exodus

We ask that you keep your eyes peeled for updates and ways to help support our newly formed Sunday School program.

Rev. Amanda will be participating in the 9/11 Memorial service at Sherwood island. This is a beautiful opportunity to remember those who lost were lost and honor the heroic dedication of the first responders. The service begins at 5:30 p.m. Please let us know if you would like to car pool with us. We will be leaving at 4:30 p.m.



Join us for Kick Off Sunday September 18th at 10:00AM. We encourage all of you to mark your calendars to join us for Kick Off Sunday. This is the perfect opportunity to bring friends, neighbors, new people to town to join us for our first day of Sunday School followed by an ice cream social and time of fellowship. This promises to be a fun Sunday event filled with new beginnings and fellowship. We hope to see you there!



Thanks to all our students and volunteers at the Vacation Bible School. The kids and the volunteers all had a great time.

And thanks to all the volunteers who made food (delicious food) for the picnic. We had many hands making light work of the set up, decorating and clean up.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS



DEACONS MEETING
Sunday
September 11
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

CHRISTIAN
OUTREACH
Monday
September 12
Bishop Room

TAC MEETING
Sunday
September 18
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHER MEETING
Sunday
September 4
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

BOARD OF DEACONS

Congratulations, Rev. Amanda!

You're wondering why congratulations are due. Because the Deacons are recognizing the one year anniversary of Rev. Amanda's tenure as our Part Time Turnaround Pastor.

At our meeting (9/11/2016), as included in the Deacon's responsibilities, we will be reviewing several aspects of Rev. Amanda's ministry, thus far, with an eye to determining what has afforded positive outcome and/or what may need updating or change. The Deacon's sincerely thank Rev. Amanda for the hard work and the dedication she has demonstrated during this past year.

BOARD OF FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

We are considering several estimates for the interior painting of the church. We have also had several steeple companies look at the work needed to repair and replace the panels. We have changed oil companies to ensure better and faster service during the winter months.

STEWARDS OF OUR FACILITIES

As a church, we have recently been blessed with a benefactress who has allowed for us to be good stewards of our facilities. With her inspiration, many other anonymous donors from within and outside of our congregation have stepped up to help us with other projects as they arise. This is another way to help our church as it works to rebuild our community. The pre-school's continued support helped with the repainting of the Old Academy building, repairing and extending the fencing, and many other needs that occasionally arise. These donations have made replacing a door in the Old Academy Building possible and has helped us not only repair the damage from the wind storm on the steeple but prevent the same damage from happening elsewhere on the steeple, and they have helped to replace the shutters on the church completing the refurbishing of the outside of the building. It has allowed us to begin the process of refurbishing the church sanctuary as well. The anonymous donations that come in throughout the year cannot all be listed. So, we applaud all of our stewards that come through for us in all of our needs. We know that it is the inspiration of God that leads them forward in all the different types of giving they participate in. We thank God for the answered prayers and the generosity upon their hearts. So if you are looking for extra ways to give or notice something in need of repair and would like to help, please do not hesitate to contact us. What our buildings look like is a reflection of the life and dedication of our members past and present.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

UPCOMING OUTREACH PROJECTS

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

We had a wonderful response to our call for backpacks and supplies. We sent off 10 full backpacks and a box of extras! Many thanks to everyone who helped.

We continue to partner with the Merton House to collect toiletries for those in need. We also continue to serve the food kitchen at St. Luke/St. Paul's in Bridgeport.

If you would like to donate or assist in any way, please see the Menu in the Church Hall for sign-ups for food and serving. You can also contact the church office (phone: 203-261-2527 or email: echurch@snet.net) or Barbara van Achterberg (phone 203-

SEPTEMBER 20TH — ST. LUKE/ST. PAUL'S FOOD KITCHEN

Our menu is chicken—any style!

Side dishes of starch and vegetables, with salad, fruit and desserts

We try to coordinate with Jesse Lee members on the menu items, so please sign up as soon as possible!

THANKS TO OUR AUGUST FOOD KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers! Daisy Colonnese, Connie Wing, Barbara van Achterberg, Sara Scoran, Suzanne Herlihy, Joanne Kant, Cynthia Landry, Caren Laskay, Rev. Amanda, Pat Glaser, Marj Klar, Claudia Nielsen, Jack Schwerdtle, Lorry McLaughlin

August 16th we served 128 plates! That may be a record.

Prepped, transported and served by: Sara Scoran, Rev. Amanda, Cynthia Landry and David Landry, Barbara van Achterberg.

ST. LUKE/ST. PAUL'S FOOD PANTRY

Non-perishable food is collected on the First Sunday of the month, when we share Communion and remember those in need of experiencing God's abundance. This month's challenge: one canned protein, and one mystery item from your pantries. They are delivered the day of the food kitchen and can be dropped off at the Old Academy building during the month. We also deliver gently used clothes and books/toys at this time.

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We are looking for drivers and servers, especially those that have all-wheel or 4-wheel drive for the winter months to transport food and serve at the food kitchen. If you can help, please email the office.

We continue to collect sample or travel sized toiletries for Merton House. These small items make a big difference to those in need.

If you can help, please drop them off anytime and place in the basket at the entrance to the church hall.



BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TURNAROUND COMMITTEE

The turnaround committee worked hard to plan the summer Church Family picnic that brought several people, friend and member, together in a wonderful opportunity to fellowship and we thank everyone who aided in making the day a success. We have discussed our upcoming Kick Off Sunday event which is September 21st where we welcome new faces, begin our Christian Education, and celebrate the start of a new school year. We will be having a ice cream social coffee hour following worship that day. We ask that everyone plan to attend and to bring a neighbor or friend.

We have also looked at some of our findings in the turnaround process so far.

General Overview

Our activity as a church has increased, at times more than doubling the previous year.

Outreach:

Our food kitchen has increased in helpers/shoppers/cooks/servers/transporters.

Outreach to covenant to care has increased and continues to increase.

Presence in Easton:

Our presence in the town of Easton has also increased through joint projects, a tag sale, and a newly gathered clergy group.

Increased publicity in local papers

More community events like the Christmas Caroling

Christian Education:

Our Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons has brought in some new faces but no new members.

Our first annual VBS program which provided Christian education to 10 children ranging in ages from 3 to 9.

Preparing for our newly created Sunday School.

Facilities:

We have been able to improve the appearance of our historic buildings through the generous interest of an anonymous donor and other generous donations from our own church members, which appears to be continuing.

Giving:

Our giving seems to be increasing as well. Our 2016 pledge campaign, although late, has promised to bring in \$47,910.00 as opposed to the \$42,150 of 2015. Fundraiser raised over \$1,600.00 and invited town participation through sponsorships, sale of spots, and shopping

Miscellaneous changes in the past year:

Better communication

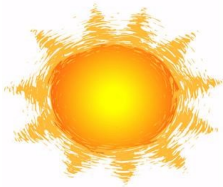
Better organization of the processes in our office

Increase in fellowship events

Improved relations with preschool

Discussion on the image of the church

New website and presence on social media



“I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house.”

Nathaniel Hawthorne

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 2016

News from the Hill

There are plenty of opportunities to improve on our start.

Opportunities for Improvements

Timing of events

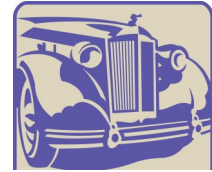
Timing of stewardship

More volunteers to help in the planning and implementation of events

More events/speakers/concerts opened to the public but spread out over the couple of months that seem to be low in activities

Use of the facilities by outside groups

Increasing income with more fundraisers



A donation of Altar Flowers for a Sunday worship would be a wonderful addition to our services in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries or special occasions. You may provide the flowers yourself, have a florist deliver them, or have the office order them (Irene's). There is a sign up sheet in the church hall. Call or e-mail the church office for more information.



Coffee Hour is an exciting part of our congregational life. Hosting a coffee hour is a great way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary with your church family. Perhaps you can join a friend in hosting a Sunday. The deacons will be glad to assist you. A sign-up sheet is in the Church Hall or of course you can call or e-mail the church office for more information. Thank you!

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

Memorial Garden stones are a great way to honor our loved ones who have passed in the beautiful shade of our church's memorial garden. Niches are available for those seeking a restful place for their loved ones to be laid to rest. Please contact the church office for details.



FOUND!

We have a black folding umbrella that was found in the church. If you are missing one, please call the church office!

“Don’t find fault.
Find a remedy.”

Henry Ford

New Directory— a new directory is in the works. To insure correct and up to date information we have included a Directory Information form insert in this newsletter. Please fill it out and send in to the office (or email the info).

September 2016 Confirming Deacon — Daisy Colonnese

	Greeters	Ushers/Offering	Collectors
September 4	Marj Klar, Nancy Wintter	The Schwerdtles	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
September 11	The McCartys	The McCartys	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Parkins
September 18	Daisy Colonnese	Vera Knapp	The Glasers
September 25	Nathalie Taranto	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	The Twomblys





October 2016 Confirming Deacon — Jonathan Stock

	Greeters	Ushers/Offering	Collectors
October 2	Vera Knapp	The Marches	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
October 9	Nancy Wintter	Vera Knapp, Nathalie Taranto	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
October 116	The Marches	The Glasers	The Glasers
October 23	The Schwerdtles	The Schwerdtles	The Twomblys
October 30	Marj Klar	The McCartys	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge



All of our members and friends are invited to serve as greeters or ushers. If you would like to participate, please call a member of the Board of Deacons or call Jeanne at the church office (203-261-2527). If you are unable to serve as assigned, please contact the confirming Deacon for the month.

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10 a.m. Worship w/Communion 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	5  Labor Day Office Closed	6	7	8 5:00 PM 9/11 Memorial @Sherwood Island	9	10
11 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Deacons 3:00 Cove	12	13	14	15	16	17 5:00 EHS 200th Birth- day Bradley-Hubbell Homestead
18 Kick Off Sunday 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 TAC Meeting 3:00 Cove	19	20 St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	21 3:30 Bible Study	22	23  First Day of Autumn	24
25 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 4-5:00 EHS More- house Farm show- ing	26	27	28 3:30 Bible Study	29	30	

October 2016



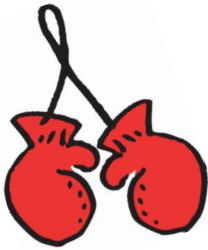
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10 a.m. Worship w/Communion 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	10 Columbus Day Offices Closed	11	12	13	14	15
16 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	17	18	18	29	21	22
23 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	31 <i>Happy Halloween</i> 					

BIBLE QUIZ

1

Which of the following sports does Paul use metaphorically to describe the Christian life?

- A. Fishing
- B. Running a race
- C. Boxing
- D. Both B and C
- E. All of the above



2

When Jesus was on his way to heal a young girl, who touched his clothing, and why?

- A. The girl's father, to urge Jesus to hurry.
- B. A boy; he was in awe of Jesus and just wanted to meet him.
- C. Many people; they couldn't help it because it was so crowded.
- D. A woman in the crowd; she hoped that doing so would heal her.



Summer is over. Time to officially remember what day of the week it is!



"Autumn ... the year's last, loveliest smile."

William Cullen Bryant

- 1. D (See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.)
- 2. D (See Mark 5:25-29.)

Answers:

NEWS FROM THE HILL . . .
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF EASTON
Westport Road at Center Road
P.O. Box 37
Easton, CT 06612-0037



The church on the hill



Fall Bible Study Program

I have been planning and working on our next Bible Study. We will be using the MacArthur Bible study curriculum as our guide through the study of Ruth and Esther.

We will resume on Wednesday, September 21st from 3:30 to 4:30 in the Bishop Room. This will be a nine week study which will reveal the historical

context of the scriptures, the intent behind their writing, the origins, messages they impart, and the promises and advice they still hold for us today.

So please join us for our first session on Wednesday, September 21st at 3:30 in the Bishop Room of the Old Academy Building. All people are welcome. Bring your friends and family.