
NEWS FROM THE HILL

AUGUST 2016

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON



Let mutual
love continue.

*Do not neglect to
show hospitality to
strangers, for by
doing that some
have entertained
angels without
knowing it.*

H e b r e w s 13:1 - 2

Minister

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



An **angel** is a pure spirit created by God.

The Old Testament theology included the belief in angels: the name applied to certain spiritual beings or intelligences of heavenly residence, employed by God as the ministers of His will.

In the Psalms, angels are mentioned eight times. You'll find the quotes on the following pages.

Which Psalms are they from?

The answers are on the Bible Quiz page!

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus".
2 Timothy 1:1

What is the mission of the Church? What does it mean to be a Christian? How are we called to live our lives? These are all questions that I have been asking myself throughout life. It should be something we all consider throughout our lifetimes, always reassessing how we live our Christian faith as individuals and communities of faith. Lately, in worship we have been discussing questions of faith and vitality. We have looked at self definitions and how they impact our work. We've looked at all that distracts us in our ability to feel the presence of God. And just this past week, we have looked at how we approach God, our use of prayer. All of this introspection is about assessing where we are as individuals and as a community when we look at faith vitality.

We should be assessing the health of our faith, as we have doctors assess the health of our bodies with yearly check-ups. We need to ask ourselves if we are allowing for the life of Christ to work within us. Are we learning more about his work, are we searching for the presence of the Holy Spirit, and are we looking towards Christ for inspiration and guidance in our work? In his opening lines Paul writes to Timothy, what seems like a generic greet, but it is anything but generic. It is a reminder that all that Paul does and all that we do should be for the sake of the life that is offered to all in Christ Jesus. This month I am focused on that which gives life.

As I prepare for our first Vacation Bible School, I have been reacquainting myself with some old familiar Christian children's music. It is in that music that I am reminded of the life that should be growing inside of us with each passing day. I am reminded of that which gives me purpose, energy, love, and the courage to trust in the will of God and that is the life given to me by Christ. A life given to all of us not because we deserve it, or have been particularly good, but because in his love for humanity it has been extended to all. I am reminded of what grows that life filling my soul with joy so that it spills forth into the work that I do with others. For me what I do to deepen and widen my faith is just as important as what I do for others. I sing, and raise my voice to God. I talk to God so much so that sometimes I wonder if

he gets tired of listening to me. I read my scriptures and study their history learning new depths of the love of the Holy. What inspires your heart to vitality of faith? This August get reacquainted with the practices that connect you with God and deepen your understanding of the Holy in your lives. Remember the words of those childhood songs because they hold very true to each of us at all stages of life. So this month I will leave you with one of my favorite Christian Children's Songs that reminds me that I am in fact never alone in life because of the love of Jesus.

I've Got the Joy In My Heart

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart
Where? Down in my heart!
Where? Down in my heart!
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart
Down in my heart to stay

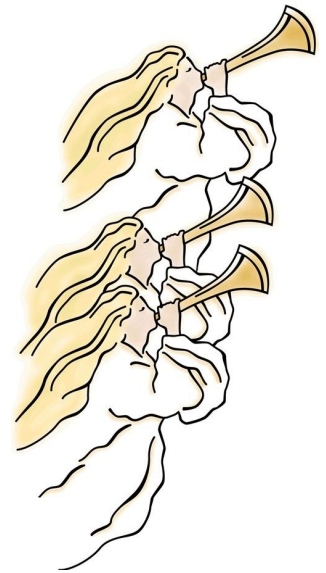


And I'm so happy
So very happy I've got the love of Jesus in my heart
Down in my heart And I'm so happy So very happy
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
Down in my heart
Where? Down in my heart!
Where? Down in my heart!
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
Down in my heart
Where? Down in my heart to stay.



And I'm so happy
So very happy I've got the love of Jesus in my heart
Down in my heart And I'm so happy
So very happy I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.



#1

Bless the Lord,
O you his **angels**,
you mighty ones
who do his word,
hearkening to the
voice of his word!

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons did not meet in July, next meeting is August 7th.

BOARD OF FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

A big thanks from Rev. Amanda & Jeanne to Pat for fixing the office lights! The tree next to the Memorial Garden has been taken down. Thanks to a donation of an anonymous parishioner.

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.



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.



DEACONS MEETING
Sunday
August 7th
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

CHRISTIAN
OUTREACH
Tuesday
August 23rd
9:00 a.m. Bishop Room

TAC MEETING
Sunday
August 28th
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

MEMORIAL GARDEN
COMMITTEE
Sunday
September 25
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

UPCOMING OUTREACH PROJECTS

Christian Outreach has been working on our summer outreach projects. We have received a list of children's names from Jorge Ball, our adopted social work who will be in need of backpacks for the fall and we have filled them all. We still would like to collect extra supplies for Jorge to distribute thru the school year. We continue with our work with the Merton House where we 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 203-261-2156 or email: barbaravanachterberg@gmail.com). This mission is only possible with many hands making light work! Thank you.

AUGUST 16TH — 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!

JULY FOOD KITCHEN THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers! Connie Wing, Cynthia Landry, Barbara van Achterberg, Daisy Colonnese, Sara Scoran, Rev. Amanda, Suzanne Herlihy, Marianne Perkins, Pat Glaser, Caren Laskay, Jean Croll, Marj Klar, Claudia Nielsen.

July 19th we served 116 meals with many children attending.
Prepped, transported and served by: Sara Scoran, Rev. Amanda,
Barbara van Achterberg, Mark Rozelle, Suzanne Herlihy.

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.

BACKPACKS FOR COVENANT TO CARE — DUE AUGUST 21ST

We have many generous people who signed up to provide backpacks for all our students. Thank you!! We will still be collecting "extras" for Jorge for supplies needed during the year. Any thing you can contribute will be very gratefully accepted.

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.



#2

Man ate of the bread
of the **angels**;
he sent them food in
abundance.



#3

The **angel** of the Lord
encamps around those
who fear him,
and delivers them.



#4

He let loose on them
his fierce anger, wrath,
indignation,
and distress,
a company of
destroying **angels**.

TURNAROUND COMMITTEE

The Turnaround Committee is very busily planning more activities to work towards greater fellowship, and presence in the community of Easton, and to reach out to more young families. This August we will be having a summer BBQ! This is fun time to bring your friends and families and to catch with people we may not have seen in quite a while. There will be music and games. We have also been working to put together a plan for our kick off Sunday on September 18th. We are working on plans to continue the efforts we started in the winter and spring discussing elevator speeches and tag lines. We have decided to keep the tag sale fundraiser in the Spring but welcome more ideas for fundraisers to be done throughout the different seasons of the year. We have determined some key areas for which to assess our turnaround process as we come up on the one year mark this August. We will have a report for you in the September newsletter. We look to assess our successes and the areas that still need some adjustments as we move forward. We appreciate all your support and urge each of you to keep an eye out for what is coming next in our turnaround process.



NEWS FROM THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

It has been proposed that the Connecticut conference make some drastic changes to their structure to include in our conference the Massachusetts and Rhode Island conferences. This could take one of two forms: Federating or Merging. Federating would mean that all three of the conferences maintain their own staff but would share support staffing, meetings and trainings. Merging would mean becoming a regional Conference that shares all staff and funding. As they are just starting to reach out in a time of discernment to the churches and their clergy for their feelings, thoughts, and questions, this might be a good time to express concerns and questions which I can then relay back to the board. This would mean there would be changes for the churches locally and at the state level. It may mean an increased in per capita dues to bring CT churches in line with the other two state conferences. It would also mean more resources and opportunities for the churches. Nothing is definite. This is our time to express our opinions before any action is taken. Please speak with Rev. Amanda or send the church an email with your questions, thoughts, or concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ALTAR FLOWERS

A donation of Altar Flowers for a Sunday worship would be a wonderful addition to our services. 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

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!

VBS WISH LIST

Side walk chalk	Chocolate Coins
three big bags of candy	treat bags
White Foam Board	
yarn (black, yellow, red, brown)	
disposable cups	12 bandanas
Popsicle sticks	Wiggly Eyes
Water Balloons	paper towels
lip stick (yes lipstick)	

Let us know if you can help with any of these items!



#5

Let them be like chaff
before the wind,
with the **angel** of the
Lord driving them on!

#6

Let their way be dark
and slippery,
with the **angel** of the
Lord pursuing them!



Looking for something fun, educational, free, and creative for your children to participate in this summer? Sign them up for VBS with the Congregational Church of Easton. We are offering a free, interfaith based program called "The Great Treasure Hunt." We will provide plenty of fun, laughter, crafts, games, object lessons, snacks, and memories.

- Dates: August 8th to the 12th
- Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Ages: 4 to 12, accepting volunteers ages 13+

If you have any questions or would like to register we welcome calls at 203-261-2527 or you can fill out our [contact form](#) on our website under Christian Education on the ministries page and send it in.

August 2016 Confirming Deacon — Nathalie Taranto

	Greeters	Ushers/Offering	Collectors
August 7	Vera Knapp	The Schwerdtles	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
August 14	Daisy Colonnese	The Marches	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
August 21	The Marches	Nathalie Taranto	The Glasers
August 28	The Schwerdtles	The Glasers	The Twomblys



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





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.



august 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 	6
7 10 a.m. Worship w/Communion 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Deacons	8 9-11:30 a.m. VBS	9 9-11:30 a.m. VBS	10 9-11:30 a.m. VBS	11 9-11:30 a.m. VBS	12 9-11:30 a.m. VBS	13
14 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	15	16 St. Luke/St.Paul's Food Kitchen	17	18	19	20
21 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour Backpacks Due Today	22	23 9 AM Outreach Committee Meeting	24 	25	26	27 BBQ
28 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 TAC Meeting	29	30	31			

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10 a.m. Worship w/Communion 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Deacons	5  Office Closed	6	7	8	9	10
11 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Kick Off Sunday 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour	19	20 St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	21 3:30 Bible Study	22 	23	24
25 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 Memorial Garden Commit- tee Meeting 4-5:00 EHS More- house Farm show- ing	26	27	28 3:30 Bible Study	29	30	

BIBLE QUIZ

1

Under what circumstances did strong-man Samson become weak?



- A. When a curse was spoken against him
- B. When he slacked off on his weight-lifting exercises
- C. When his hair was cut
- D. When he was bound with ropes that had never been used

2



Which king wrote a psalm begging God to cleanse him thoroughly after he committed adultery? Choose the correct name below.

- A. Saul
- B. David
- C. Solomon
- D. Uriah

7

Praise him,
all his **angels**,
praise him, all his host!



8

For he will give his **angels**
charge of you to guard you
in all your ways.



Angels Answers
#1 Psalm 103: 20
#2 Psalm 78:25
#3 Psalm 34:7
#4 Psalm 78:49
#5 Psalm 35:5
#6 Psalm 35:6
#7 Psalm 148:2
#8 Psalm 91:11

Bible Quiz Answers
1. Answer: C (See Judges 16:17-19.)
2. Answer: B (See Psalm 51.)

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



**Sunday School
begins
September 18th**

One Room School House

We would like to have a few teachers that would be able to rotate Sundays so no teacher is responsible for every week.

Please contact Rev. Amanda for more information about the program and curriculum.



**Teachers
Needed**