
News from the Hill

JANUARY 2017

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTON

GRACE

to you and

PEACE

from God our

FATHER

and the Lord Jesus

CHRIST.

1 Corinthians 1:3, NRSV

Minister

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

Church Council Chair

Phillip A. Doremus

Board of Deacons Chair

Nathalie Taranto

Church Secretary

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9 am to 1 pm

Herod said, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage".

Matthew 2: 8

It is hard to believe but there is something to be learned from the words of Herod. Though Herod was less than genuine in the reasoning behind wanting to know where Christ was, we all need to go forth and search diligently for Christ in our lives. Christ is present in all the experiences of this world working silently through the anecdotes of life, both the challenging ones and the joyful ones. He is there guiding our hearts and our decisions. Yet, there are times we yearn to feel him closer. There are times when we wish Christ's presence was more obvious to us. Sometimes, we just need to hear a word of comfort. Yet there is silence.

It is in our search for Jesus that we find the depth of his work more clearly. It is in our searching that we discover his call and importance of his work. We are called to be like the wise men and to believe in his presence and to search for him. We are called to go forth and journey in this life until we find meaning in his work. The wise men traveled 1,000 miles to find Christ. How far will we go to find the comforting embrace of the Lord in our world for all peoples? How long are we willing to search and how much time are we willing to dedicate to the search? The act of searching promises comfort, deeper knowledge, and connectedness with our Lord and Savior. The search promises to give us a deeper meaning and purpose in this life, if we are willing to embark on the life long journey. This is how we start each New Year. This our reminder of what is truly important in this life.

Part of what made the wise men so wise was that they held onto the knowledge that God gave them and did not allow for the challenges set in their path to deter them from finding the hope and promise of Christ not only in the child born in a manger but in the hope born anew in our hearts. This year promises to be a year filled with the hope and work of the Lord. So search and find the Christ child for yourselves this year.



In the event of inclement weather, we will try to make a decision about cancellation of services as soon as possible. Please listen to radio station WICC 600 or TV channel 6, 9 or 12 for information. If you feel uncertain about being on the road in bad weather, please stay home and stay safe.

Educational Opportunities

Rev. Amanda is looking to put together some classes for families looking to join in membership for the Spring. It would be a four week course at the end of which you would officially be a member of the church in a special worship service. Please speak to Rev. Amanda either by phone, email, or in person if you are interested.

Sunday School



Sunday School continues and we urge all families to feel free to bring friends and family to church. All children are welcome to join us in our Sunday School program.

- Curriculum: All Together Now by Group
- Teachers: Suzanne Lovejoy, Marj Klar, and Sara Scoran
- Winter Theme: John the Baptist and Jesus

In January, we will be learning about John the Baptist and the beginning of Christ's life and ministry. Children will learn about Christ's message and work and have fun doing it!

We hope your children will join us on Sunday mornings. All children are welcome to come.

BOARD OF DEACONS

What a month December has been in the life of our church!

Advent Season brought several opportunities for more meaningful worshiping as well as occasions for necessary and pleasurable fellowship. For example:

- Hanging of the Greens
- Lighting of the Advent Candles by several families
- Sunday School study (Notice the meaningfully decorated display board. Who?)
- Cookie Walk fundraiser
- Breakfast with Santa
- Joel Barlow Select Choir Sing Along and reception
- Gift donations for Covenant to Care families
- A Baptism
- The Christmas Pageant
- A small but exuberant choir (Thank you, Lynn.)
- Christmas Eve Candlelight worship
- Christmas Sunday worship and caroling . . . (And I expect I've forgotten something?)

While many of these proceedings are not of the Deacon's responsibility, the Deacons wish to recognize and thank all those who aided in planning and executing the worshiping and fellowship.

Sincere thanks to Rev. Amanda and Jeanne for directions from the office that kept needed supplies and volunteers on schedule.

Further, recognition and thank you to Leon March for his expertise in setting up the props for the Pageant; plus all extra necessary tasks the December Confirming Deacon must assume. Add the personal touch of the luminaries for the Barlow Choir Sing Along and the Christmas Candlelight Worship.

At our January meeting (1-8-2016), the Deacons will be hearing the results of the ongoing Stewardship Campaign and the plans for the church Annual Meeting; addressing a suggestion to update of our Church Covenant and revisiting the ongoing issue of reaching new members. All past meeting minutes are available to you in the office.



Our church renovation will be starting this month— January 23rd! This means we have to move a lot of things from the church to the Old Academy building for storage during the renovation. We are planning on having a “moving day” on January 15th and its “all hands on deck”. If you can possibly help in any way, please call or email the church office to let us know that you will be able to help.

Join us for worship on January 15 in your working clothes and help us prepare for the upcoming Sanctuary renovations.

We will need: Empty boxes, hand trolleys, plastic tarps — if you can supply any of these, please let us know by emailing the church office.



We have been well underway in our stewardship campaign for 2017. We would like to send out a special thank you to all those who already sent in their pledge card. Remember our pledges help to support our current missions, allow for the development of new missions, support our functions to educate people in the scriptures and ways of Christ in the world, and allows for us to continue to maintain our beautiful historic buildings so future generations will continue to enjoy their beauty. Everyone’s pledge is important and essential to the life of our church. So if you have not already done so, please fill out your blue pledge card and mail it back to the church. Please remember to send your cards back as soon as possible to help us plan for the coming year. Your participation helps us to continue to serve Easton and our neighboring communities.

Pledge challenge goal 2017: \$65,000

Pledges as of January 1, 2017 19 pledges for a total of: \$44,950.00

Annual Meeting: Early 2017 please stay tuned for a confirmed date

Memorial Garden Committee

Memorial Garden stones are a great way to honor 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.

Thank you!

Cookie Walk! What a great time everyone had at our first Annual Cookie Walk! Thanks to all our bakers who responded to the call for cookies. There was a great turn out of people who bought our delicious goodies. Next year we hope to have more cookies for more selling!

Board of Christian Outreach

January 17— St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen

Our menu is chicken—any style!

Side dishes of starch and vegetables, with salad, fruit and desserts. Donations of ingredients for any dish (chicken, frozen vegetables) are always welcome. We try to coordinate with Jesse Lee members on the menu items, so please sign up as soon as possible!

Thanks to our December Food Kitchen volunteers

Many thanks to our cooks, bakers and shoppers!

Barbara van Achterberg, Daisy Colonnese, Jon Stock, Connie Wing, Sara Scoran, Bill Bassett, Rev. Amanda, Maria Seaman, Jane Kondratovich, Suzanne Herlihy, Caren Laskay, Cynthia Landry, Pat Glaser, Phil Doremus, Marj Klar, Nathalie Taranto

November 15th we served 100 meals thanks to our preppers, transporters and servers —
Sara Scoran, Barbara van Achterberg, Rev. Amanda & Bill Ostrove, Jim Bromer, Suzanne Herlihy, Pat & Kara Davis, Mark Roselle, Bill Bassett

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: two 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.

Merton house

We continue to collect sample or travel sized toiletries for Merton House. These small items make a big difference to those in need. Please drop them off anytime and place in the basket at the entrance to the church hall.
Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Many Many Thanks to everyone who so generously donated gifts and gift cards to the families in Covenant to Care!

We had a marvelous response and even had to call Jorge Ball to give us names of more children who needed a "Santa" to buy them gifts.



And More Thank yous!

Christmas Carol Sing with Joel Barlow choir— even though the weather wasn't very inviting, the atmosphere the inside the church was full of Christmas warmth and cheer. The choir members were wonderful and we look forward to hearing them again next year. Thanks to all who attended.

Turnaround Committee

TAC has been working hard on putting together opportunities for us to serve our community. We are working on different opportunities to invite the public to trainings and lectures that might be of interest or help in their lives. In February, we are having a computer lecture to help people navigate the ever changing world of computer operating systems and the even more confusing world of social media. In the Spring, we are hoping to bring in a speaker to help people who have taken time off from employment to be caretakers. These are opportunities for us to help support educational outreach here in Easton.

We send out a thank you to all the individuals and volunteers who helped make our first cookie walk a success and a memorable day. A special thank you to Caren Laskay who really helped to make this event possible.

Announcements


Freedom Riders

The first Freedom Ride began on May 4, 1961, when seven black and six white riders left Washington, DC, on two public busses bound for the Deep South. They intended to test whether the southern states would enforce the Supreme Court's ruling that declared segregation in interstate bus and rail stations unconstitutional. The initial ride led to countless other Americans joining the Civil Rights movement.

On Saturday, January 28 you are invited to Covenant Church as they host three of the Freedom Riders from the 1960s. We will gather with other Christians and churches to consider how the church can, not only respond, but lead today because of Christ in racial reconciliation and social justice. On Sunday morning, January 29th Reverend Reginald Green will bring the message at both worship services.

A time has not been set for the Saturday event, please contact Covenant Church (203-371-8335) for more information.

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 AM Worship w/ Communion 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	2 Office Closed	3	4	5	6	7
8 10 AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Deacons	9	10	11	12 9 am Outreach Meeting	13	14
15 10 AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School Coffee Hour Cleaning Out the Church for Reno	16 MLK Jr. Day Office closed	17 St. Luke/St. Paul's Food Kitchen	18	19	20	21
22 10 AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 Council	23 Church Renovation Begins!	24	25	26	27	28 Freedom Fighters at Covenant Church
29 10 AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:30 TAC	30	31				

2017

FEBRUARY



2017

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

			1	2	3	4 Computer training course
5 10:00 Worship w/communion 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	6	7	8	9	10	11 Snow date for computer course
12 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	13	14 Valentines Day	15	16	17 NAPS Closed 17th thru 21st	18
19 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	20	21 St. Luke/St. Paul Food Kitchen	22	23	24	25
26 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Coffee Hour	27	28				

Serving Schedule

JANUARY CONFIRMING AND WELCOMING DEACON — JONATHAN STOCK

	Ushers/Offering	Collectors
January 1	The Marches	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins
January 8	Suzanne Lovejoy, Maria Seaman	The Glasers
January 15	Vera Knapp, Nathalie Taranto	The Twomblys
January 22	The Glasers	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
January 29	Daisy Colonnese, Marj Klar	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins

FEBRUARY CONFIRMING AND WELCOMING DEACON — DAISY COLONNESE

February 5	The McCartys	The Glasers
February 12	The Marches	The Twomblys
February 19	Suzanne Lovejoy, Maria Seaman	Nathalie Taranto, Carol Partridge
February 26	Vera Knapp, Nathalie Taranto	Daisy Colonnese, Marianne Perkins

All of our members and friends are invited to serve as Ushers. If you would like to participate, please call a member of the Board of Deacons or call or email the church office. If you are unable to serve as assigned, please contact the confirming Deacon for the month.



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!



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

Deacons Meeting
Sunday
January 8
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room



Outreach Meeting
Thursday
January 12
9 a.m. Bishop Room

Tac Meeting
Sunday
January 29
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

Council Meeting
Sunday
January 22
11:30 a.m. Bishop Room

Freedom Riders at
Covenant Church
January 28



Computer Training
Course
Saturday, February 4
10—11:30 a.m.