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The Church Mouse

June 2014 Newsletter

Website: www.rhccucc.org
Office Hours – 8:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Friday
Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible

Members and friends of RHCC
are invited to join with
The Hartford Association of the Connecticut Conference,
United Church of Christ



for

The Ordination of Meghan D. Young
Saturday, June 14, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.

Reception following

INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE



On Singing Hymns

"We remember what we sing," I heard a church musician say once – meaning, we remember what we repeat singing. Yes. This was true when we were children, and it's true for us as adults. To sing something, and then to sing it again at another time, and then again, becomes a way that we carry it, a way that it remains available to us, a way that it can continue to make meaning in us and for us. People remember hymns from church long after they've forgotten what any sermons were about.

For most adults, a worship service is probably the only place we *do* sing – with others, anyway (apart from an occasional joining in on the national anthem at a ball game). In our Sunday services at RHCC, we typically have six or seven places where the whole congregation sings together: three hymns, two sung responses, a doxology, and, most Sundays, singing our children out to church school or chapel. And while we generally use sung responses from a small but growing repertoire (we've added to it this past year), when it comes to hymns, we have available to us a much larger repertoire of the music of our faith, because we have two whole hymnals (with several hundred hymns in each), plus other hymns we sometimes use that aren't in our hymnals. So we have many beautiful, meaningful hymns to sing as part of our weekly worship, some we have probably sung many times before and others that we may have sung less often, or not yet -- which simply means we haven't yet had the chance to internalize them, to "remember" them and what they offer us, but which are no less solid or meaningful as expressions of our faith than the ones we may happen to have already sung more often.

Hymns function in our liturgies the same way other elements of our services do: they are chosen for their meaning, their appropriateness, and their capacity to deepen in us the resonances of the theme of a given service. Just as we thoughtfully prepare the words of a liturgy (calls to worship, prayers, etc.), we just as thoughtfully select the hymns that will work cohesively within the service as a whole. Just as those verbal elements are not interchangeable from one worship occasion to another (we wouldn't use an Advent call to worship in a Good Friday service, or funeral prayers at a baptism), hymns are not randomly interchangeable either, if we want coherence. In other words, we don't just sing anything anywhere, it matters what we sing and where we sing it, because our singing is part of our creating a total, cohesive act of worship. That's why the Sunday hymns are almost always chosen by the preaching pastor, conferring with the Minister of Music, with the aim of putting together a service where all the parts will mutually reinforce each other and resonantly unfold a theme that is appropriate to where we are in the church year. We choose each hymn with great care for its particular place on that particular day ... its words, its meaning, and the feel of its tune. Whether or not

it happens to be an often-used hymn is less important than whether it does what it needs to do in its liturgical setting.

And that's why it's wonderful that we have available to us two whole hymnals, plus other hymns as well. It means that there are many beautiful, meaningful hymn texts and tunes to draw upon in our worship...words and tunes for every theme, every mood, every occasion. Sometimes, the worship planner feels there's a hymn that would be just the perfect one to sing right after the sermon, or at the end of the service.... pieces of sung poetry that say something important exquisitely well, enabling us to express and to feel something significant for that day. The hymns, in other words, help us pray. We might even say they *are* prayer. They help us preach. They help us hear. They help us remember. They help us carry our faith.

I know that sometimes members of congregations can feel resistant to singing hymns they happen not to have already sung a lot in their particular experience. "We don't know that one," they tell their pastors. In response to that, what I think is "That just means we don't know it well *yet*." But of course, if we sing it, then it becomes more familiar. And then if we sing it again some time – even more familiar! *We remember what we sing*. Why would we want to learn and remember only a small portion of our vast hymnody and its beauty, when we could be touched by more of its range?

And how would we know what treasures we were missing, unless we were willing to sing hymns we hadn't sung yet? Every hymn we would now consider a familiar "favorite" was once new and unknown. They all got rolled out for the first time, at some point – Christmas carols, Easter hymns, "Jesus Loves Me," all of them. I have sometimes imagined the esteemed Martin Luther, first offering up his (we would now deem) majestic hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," and the people murmuring that Sunday about how they couldn't sing that, they didn't know it. Some of them may even have said that the tune was "un-sing-able." Good thing that didn't stop him, or any other composer of hymns, from writing that music which has – once we've been willing to sing it – helped our spirits feel the presence and reality of our God, in so many meaningful, beautiful and soulful ways.

Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda

JUNE WORSHIP

Listed below are the several lectionary texts for each Sunday. The lectionary is a three-year cycle of Scripture readings shared in common by most major Christian denominations. (The preaching text for any given Sunday may or may not be taken from these.) Reading them and looking for thematic connections is one way to do some Biblical exploration.

June 1 Seventh Sunday of Easter; Communion

Acts 1:6-14; Ps. 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Pet. 4:12-14, 5:6-11;
John 17:1-11

**June 8 Pentecost
Children's Sunday** – Worship led by Church School classes

Acts 2:1-21 or Num. 11:24-30; Ps. 104:24-34, 35b;
1 Cor. 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

**Sat.
June 9 Ordination of Meghan D. Young
10 a.m.**

June 15 First Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 1:1 – 2:4a; Ps. 8; 2 Cor. 13:11-13; Matt. 28:16-20

June 22 Second Sunday after Pentecost
*Guest preacher will be the Rev. Ed Ayala, retiring Executive
Director of the Christian Activities Council, Hartford.*

Gen. 21:8-21; Ps. 86:1-10 or Jer. 20:7-13; Ps. 69:7-10 (11-15), 16-18;
Rom. 6:1b-11; Matt. 10:24-39.

June 29 Third Sunday after Pentecost
Summer worship begins in Chapin Hall.

Gen. 22:1-14; Ps. 13 or Jer. 28:5-9; Ps. 89:1-4, 15-18;
Rom. 6:12-23; Matt. 10:40-42.

**CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES COUNCIL AND BOARD OF MISSIONS
FOOD DRIVE ~ JUNE 22**

We'll have a Christian Activities Council focus in our service on June 22. Retiring Executive Director **the Rev. Edwin Ayala** will be our guest preacher, and **Pat Johnson**, CAC's Community Leadership Development Coordinator, will be with us that day as well to tell us about the **CAC food drive for those in need in North Hartford.**

OUR CONGREGATION IS ASKED TO SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE BY BRINGING FOOD ITEMS TO CHURCH THAT DAY.

The list below highlights especially needed items. Please be as generous as possible! We all thank you very much for your help.

God bless,

Pat Johnson, CAC
Rich Pawlich-Pagiccio, RHCC rep to CAC
Meghan Montana, RHCC Bd of Missions



Any imperishable food items such as:

Dry cereals	Soup	Crackers/graham crackers
Dried fruits	Healthy snacks:	Granola bars,
Cereal bars,	Trail mix	Canned
Meats/vegetablesBeans	Peanut butter	Rice/pasta

Ready-To-Eat foods Simple preparation items (only require water)

Cups of soup	Seasoned Noodles	Tuna/chicken salads
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Personal Care Items

Soap	Diapers	Baby lotion
Deodorant	Feminine hygiene products	
Zip lock bags	Garbage bags	Toilet paper
Band-aids	Antibacterial Ointment	
Toothbrushes and toothpaste		
Bibles and bookmarks		



S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner Check-in:

Church School

May marked the end of our final curriculum unit of the year, *Following Jesus' Way*. During this unit we learned about Paul's travels as he went from place to place, sharing the life-changing story of Jesus' resurrection and instructing others how to live in Jesus' way. We focused on the events of Acts 16 where Paul meets Lydia and survives imprisonment for the sake of the gospel. We took to heart the themes of forgiving, healing, welcoming, and loving – words that summarize the heart of Jesus' life and ministry, and invite us to live in his way.

The children and youth of RHCC have also begun planning and writing worship for Children's Sunday, reflecting on the ways we have formed in our faith over the last year. Over the last 9 months we have explored what it means to journey with God. As a church community in transition, we have listened for the word of God in the story of Noah's Ark, the Journeys of those who witnessed Jesus' birth, the Lord's prayer, the journeys of the women present at the resurrection, and Paul, Lydia, and the Jailer at the birth of the early church. On Children's Sunday, June 8th, We look forward to sharing the Good News that Christ is with us, inviting us into new life, even in the midst of transition and journey.

Youth Group

This month the Youth Group spent the evening helping church member Elaine Motta with some yard work. We stacked and moved wood, raked, learned about Elaine's awesome service dog Rudy, and Elaine even showed us how to use a lawn mower! It was a great time of service and fellowship! Many thanks to Elaine for inviting us to come and graciously hosting. See pictures below.

All Youth Group events for the year will be open to 6th-12th graders, and when appropriate 6th-8th graders and 9th-12th graders will break off for separate discussion groups. We will meet several times throughout the year for Youth Group Night Out events and service projects. Noah's Table now meets twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5 PM – 6:30 PM for dinner, fellowship, and faith formation.



Here's What's Happening This Month...

S.P.I.R.I.T Church School Calendar: *What we're learning this month.*

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, June 1	Communion Sunday, Family Worship
Saturday, June 7	Children's Sunday Rehearsal, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Sunday, June 8	Children's Worship Sunday, 10 AM <i>All children leading worship should meet at 9 AM.</i>
Sunday, June 15	Family Worship, Father's Day
Sunday, June 22	Family Worship
Sunday, June 29	S.P.I.R.I.T. Summer Programming begins for children Pre-K – 5 th Grade.

Youth Group Calendar: *June*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Sunday, June 8	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM Service Project and Picnic.
Saturday, June 22	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM Join us as we paint the Youth Room canvases.

****Incoming 6th Graders are invited to all Youth Group events beginning in June.**

****Please RSVP with Diana Hellyar for all youth group event, and to volunteer as a chaperone or driver for any youth group event.**

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: Nursery Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery during Sunday morning worship, please contact a member of the Childcare Committee or email them at RHCCchildcare@gmail.com for more information. You can also sign-up outside the Nursery.

S.P.I.R.I.T. Summer Volunteers – If you are interested in helping with any of our summer programming, whether it be teaching, baking, sharing a craft, telling a story, sharing music, assisting with the nursery, being a safe church volunteer, coordinating, or setting up, please email Meghan at meghan@rhccucc.org.



**HONOR LOVED ONES
DEDICATE SANCTUARY FLOWERS**



Please sign up to contribute flowers for the sanctuary. It is a lovely way to honor the memory or special events of family and friends. There are openings for June. Sign up on the flower calendar in **Chapin Hall**, email office@rhccucc.org or call the church office (860-529-4167),

Small Group Ministry at RHCC

Join a small group to explore and enrich your faith in new ways!

Pentecost Small Groups: **The History of Pentecost.**

Minimum of 4 committed participants required. Maximum of 12.

Sign-Up for Easter Small Groups in Chapin Hall or contact the Church Office.

Open On-Going Groups:

Art + Faith.

It has been said that creativity requires faith, and that art itself is an incarnational activity. The Art + Faith Group will meet twice a month to explore scripture and faith through the arts. The group will look at the work of various artists as well as engage in individual and group art projects. Additionally the Art + Faith Group will work with the pastors to design Altar Scapes and incorporate visual elements into worship. No artistic skill or experience needed. *Please contact Stephanie Heneghan (860-529-4672) or Nancy Rolfe (860-257-3489) for more information.*

Interested in starting or hosting a Small Group Ministry? Contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

RHCC ADULT CHOIR IN ECUMENICAL CONCERT!!



**Come for an afternoon of spirited music
as our own choir joins the choirs of St. James and St Andrews
in a**

PENTECOST CONCERT
Sunday, June 8, 4:00pm
at

St. James Roman Catholic Church
676 Elm St. Rocky Hill

For questions or info: See Mary DeLibero

Why it Matters.

If faith formation doesn't matter to you – it should. If the vitality and longevity of Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC, matters to you, than so should your faith formation and that of entire congregation. Faith Formation matters because it is the *life-long* work of the *entire* community. Faith formation matters, because without it our faith stagnates and our churches lose their relevance.

The biblical concept of home and household, of family, is inclusive, cross generational, and includes more people who are not simply connected by birth, marriage, or adoption. It is the community where we enact the love of Jesus, extending that welcome in love, service, peace, justice, action, and solidarity. This is where faith formation happens. Faith grows and thrives when the diverse, cross-generational community of the church forms together as an inclusive household, where all members learn from each other.

Each week, each month, each year at RHCC, we ask for volunteers to teach in the church school and help faith come alive and grow for our young people. Each week, each month, each year at RHCC, we ask for volunteers to offer the gift of hospitality to our young families, by staffing the child care room. We ask for volunteers so youth group can go on service trips or to denominational revivals. We offer opportunities for Bible Study to deepen our understanding of scripture, shared devotionals to offer our faith journeys before one another, and small group ministries to ask questions and learn how to testify in our faith. Here's the thing, at RHCC, we routinely are short teachers for the church school (and what teachers we do have are almost always women and parents of children in the church school, youth group, or nursery), the nursery is rarely staffed with a volunteer forcing young parents who came for worship to listen from the child care room, youth group often gets canceled for lack of chaperones, and small group ministries are canceled due to lack of interest. What kind of message does that send to our families, to our young people, to each other, when we don't offer the gift of our time and talents? What kind of message does it send when hospitality is not our priority? What kind of message does it send to each other when we aren't willing to be vulnerable enough to share our faith?

If faith formation doesn't matter to you – it should. Rocky Hill Congregation Church, UCC, is full of people with vibrant stories of faith, with talents and gifts to share and be realized, with hearts and minds that are searching and thirsting for the space and grace for their faith to grow, make meaning, and come alive. Awaken to that. Be part of making that community alive. Because when you risk your faith by joining a small group and sharing testimony, when you risk your faith by offering hospitality to one of our young families by getting to know their child in the nursery, when you risk your faith by teaching in the church school or chaperoning a youth group event and honor the covenant you made with each child at RHCC on the day of their baptism to help them grow in faith...your faith grows in ways you couldn't imagine, and as a church we become relevant and revitalized.

So the next time you see an opportunity to grow in your faith by teaching, volunteering, or joining a small group, risk your faith, be part of the community that is working to renew and revitalize RHCC, and see where God could lead you and this community of faith. It matters.

In faith,
Meghan Young
Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation

Treasurer's Report without Numbers (almost)

A lot has changed over the past 15 months from a financial perspective. When the budget for the just-completed 2013-14 fiscal year was prepared and adopted, we knew that Rev. Donna Manocchio would be leaving. But we didn't know that we'd also be replacing our office secretary and head custodian. From a staffing perspective, it's certainly been a year of significant transition.

Last year's pledge campaign started out with a goal that was equal to the actual pledges from the prior year. But we ended up falling considerably short (15%) of that target. I was recently asked why that happened, and the answer is that there were a number of contributing factors. Several large pledgers left the church, and pledges from some continuing members were reduced. We did receive some new pledges and some increases, but the net decline was pretty significant. Those decreases were proportionately greater for Benevolence pledging, which in part prompted the recent change in the way we will now allocate our aggregate giving to Missions.

In response to the lower expected revenues, we restructured the Office Manager and Custodian positions. We postponed our plans to hire a communications manager. Those staffing adjustments went a long way toward closing our budget gap. With additional savings in areas such as office supplies, kitchen supplies, postage, and computer maintenance, we managed to close the year with a balanced budget. On the Missions side, we significantly reduced our allocation to OCWM, and made minor reductions in donations to several other concerns. If you want more details, the usual Treasurer's reports (with numbers) appear as part of the RHCC Annual Reports.

As you have heard, the next pledge campaign is being deferred until the fall. We've all been asked to continue our recent pattern of giving as we transition to a new pledging approach. Instead of setting a budget and then doing our best to fund it, we'll now be determining our resources first and then setting a budget that fits those expected revenues. The current fiscal year provides the transition period from the prior model to the new one.

It's premature to know if and at what level our revenue resources will stabilize. But since staffing costs comprise two-thirds of our consolidated budget (and more than three-quarters of our local operating costs), staffing will be one of the dominant considerations in making our financial ends meet. This will be one of the challenges for the Council to grapple with over the coming year. Please pray for us!

Dave Hall, Treasurer

Senior Pastor Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has done some great work and made some significant strides. We have almost completed our church profile; and have met with Brenda and Meghan, as well as Tamara Mooreland, our regional minister, to go over it and gather some final suggestions, updates and additions! As the Committee worked through and discussed all the profile items, we learned much about our church community and hope to reflect the unique personality we have here at RHCC to potential applicants. There is still much to be done, but we are looking eagerly towards what is to come in these next steps.

Survey Says...

One of the congregations' favorite things about our church is the Pastoral care that is given to ourselves and our families during times of hardship and times of joy.

Something we are looking for in our next Pastor is someone who will bring more cohesiveness to our congregation.

More to come in next month's Mouse!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members.

Liz Reed-Swale - Co-Chair, Gregson Curtin - Co-Chair, Stephanie Heneghan - Chaplin, Hilaire Leavitt - Secretary, Meghan Montana - Communications, Neal Cox, Diana Hellyar, Michele Jokl, Rhody Triblets

"STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH"



The "Strengthen the Church" offering is on Pentecost Sunday June 8, 2014. As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your generous gifts will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking." All gifts are directed to activities within your local conference, as well as to UCC national ministries. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience to bring on the 8th or to mail to the church office (805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067).

Recap of Scrip-Sure Fundraising Program

If you review the details of the year-end Treasurer's report in the Annual Reports, you'll see that we booked about \$17,500 of income from the Scrip-Sure program this year. That compares to \$14,000 in the previous year, up about 25%. Since the program's inception in November, 2009, we've earned more than \$55,000. (If you are unfamiliar with our Scrip-Sure program, please visit the church website and click on the "Scrip-Sure" button.)

What explains the growth over the past year?

1. We've been carrying a wider variety of card in inventory, which means that buyers usually don't have to wait to get the cards they want. Having all of those cards available each Sunday at the scrip table in Chapin Hall also facilitates a lot of "impulse buys." Scrip is now sold almost every Sunday, and the program has good visibility during the fellowship hour.
2. More than 75 member and friends bought scrip during the year. For a church of our size, that's pretty good penetration. And we've noticed that after people make their first scrip purchase, most come back for more as they realize how easy it is to use scrip for so much of their everyday shopping.
3. Grocery cards still account for just over 50% of all profits, dominated by Stop & Shop, Big Y, and Westside Marketplace. Even though we have been carrying a wider variety of cards in inventory, that 50% grocery share has remained very consistent. So the growth isn't just coming from the wider inventory.
4. We've increased publicity over the past year, with weekly emails for scrip customers, weekly specials, and a constant presence in the bulletins.
5. Word of mouth – our best advertising is when scrip buyers spread the word, especially during fellowship hour when the scrip table is visible, accessible, and often busy.

We now sell \$20,000+ face value of scrip in a typical month. Our average profit margin is about 7%. Some cards offer a higher percentage, others lower. But that average rate of 7% has been pretty consistent over the past several years.

There's still plenty of potential for growth. Since January 1st, 50% of our profits have come from just seven families! And 20 families have produced 80% of the total profits. The key to further growth is for more scrip buyers to use more scrip! And we've seen plenty of evidence that this has been happening.

Here's an interesting breakdown of recent purchases by customer by category:
77% of all RHCC scrip buyers buy at least some grocery cards
55% buy at least some cards for restaurants, fast food, coffee shops, etc.
44% buy at least some cards for department stores (mostly Target or Walmart)
33% buy pharmacy cards (mostly CVS or Walgreens)

24% buy Amazon cards

23% buy cards for home improvement stores, like Home Depot or Lowes

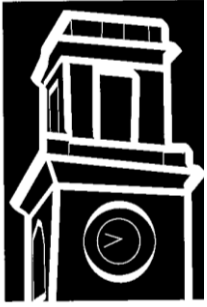
20% buy travel related cards, like gas stations or hotels

If you are a scrip buyer, are you taking advantage of all of these opportunities?

As you might expect, the summer months are the slowest period of the year for scrip sales. That's obviously a side effect of reduced attendance during the summer months - "out of sight, out of mind." If you are going to be away on a given Sunday, you don't have to forego scrip. You can order scrip by email, and pick it up in the church office during the week (or ask a friend to pick it up for you). In addition to groceries (which you presumably need during the summer as much as the rest of the year), be aware that we offer a variety of travel-related scrip as well - gas cards, restaurants (including fast food), rental cars, some hotel chains, - even Disney! If you have a summer vacation planned, please consider whether you could use scrip to fund some of your travel expenses.

One final note on the scrip ordering schedule for the next few months. For those cards that we don't stock in inventory, we usually place an order at the end of each month. In order to avoid holiday weekends and Hall family vacations, **the "end of May" order deadline will be deferred to June 1st** (with delivery on June 8), and the **"end of June" deadline will be pushed all the way back to July 13th** (delivery on July 20). For those of you who take advantage of those special order opportunities, please plan accordingly.

THINK SCRIP



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship

Communion 1st Sunday

10:00 a.m. with childcare



**CHILD
care**
Provided

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 10:00am Worship 11:00am Annual Meeting	2 5:30pm Apple Rehab Svc 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	3 7:00pm Boards/Committees	4 9:00am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
8 Children's Day 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Noah's Table	9 2:00pm The Lodge Svc 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	10 8:30am Breakfast Club	11 9:00am Quilters 6:00 RHCCNS 7:30pm Adult Choir
15 10:00am Worship	16 7:00pm Women's AA	17 4:00pm Lodge Svc	18 9:00am Quilters 11:00 Retired Clergy 6:00 RHCCNS 6:00pm Community Event
22 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Noah's Table	23 7:00pm Women's AA	24	25 9:00am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
29 10:00am Worship	30		

VOICE MAIL INSTRUCTIONS – If you call the church and the Voice Mail answers, you do not have to listen to the entire message. Anytime during the message you can have the call transferred directly to the person you are trying to reach by simply keying in the following numbers:

Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Sr. Pastor	202	Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music	207
Meghan Young, Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation	204	Myke Halpin, Custodian	205
		RHCCNS (Nursery School)	208
Mitsey Baker Office Manager	201		

JUNE

2014

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 8:00pm Men's AA	6 5:00pm Youth Group Gathering	7
12 8:00pm Men's AA	13	14 10:30am Meghan Young Ordination
19 8:00pm Men's AA	20	21
26 8:00pm Men's AA	27	28

Summer worship
in air-conditioned Chapin Hall
June 29 through August 31
10:00 a.m.

DEACONS

Spring finally arrived and while we are enjoying warmer weather, seeing our flowers and trees bloom much of the country has been living through tornados, fires, mudslides or droughts. The people and communities impacted by these disasters need our prayers as they rebuild their lives.

In June, life in the church will be as active as ever. We will recognize and celebrate in worship the academic achievements of members and friends who have graduated from high school through post-graduate programs. We will take the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the Great-grandfathers in our congregation and remind ourselves to hold them close in our hearts and cherish them as a gift from God. Please plan to attend these services so you can join in the celebration and recognition of our members.

In May, we recognized and celebrated our Great-grandmothers in worship on Mother's Day. A thank-you to Judy Graham for the lovely flowers given to each Great-grandmother in attendance. The Deacons have made a donation of \$100 to the Loaves & Fishes Sewing Program, in honor of our Great-grandmothers. The sewing program provides training to women from basic sewing techniques to tailoring skills. The training has led to jobs in area dry cleaners.

Gail Tine, Co-Senior Deacon

Board of Deacons 2013-2014

Michael Bower, Judy Graham, Stephanie Heneghan,
Bill Hoffman, Ellie Mahar, Don Pagnucco (Co-Senior Deacon),
Nancy Parsons, Candy Smith, Gail Tine (Co-Senior Deacon)

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!

We extend an invitation to all great-grandfathers to worship with us Father's Day on June 16. During this worship we will proudly recognize our great-grandfathers of the church.



Honoring Great Grandfathers
on Father's Day

If your name is not listed below or if you recently became a new great-grandfather, please contact the church office at 860-529-4167 and we will add your name to our list.

Rudy Burgess
David Dean
Bob Hansen
Richard Some

Larry Carlson
Albert Griswold
Joe Kunzelman
John Sword

James Griswold
Ralph Lexa
James Ussery Jr.

Neal Cox
Bob Hamilton
Tom Schreier
Frank Vann



Calling All Graduates

In June, we celebrate and acknowledge all our members who have graduated from high schools, colleges and post college degree programs. Please notify the office, by phone or email of anyone to be recognized and supply the institution and degree earned.

Global and Local Mission News

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that, some have entertained angels without knowing it...." – Hebrews 13:2

We strive in our community here to be a church of extravagant welcome. We imprint this on our boards, our bulletins and our brains. But do we ever stop to consider what this really means? A meaning that is beyond being nice to visitors because they may come back and add to our headcount. When was the last time that you purely, without agenda or intent, asked a new member or visitor to come back again simply because it brought you joy to have them there to share the message that day? When was the last time you offered a church home to someone who was struggling with faith, life, or purpose and didn't just pass them off to "someone else"? When was the last time you looked at the sanctuary as a warm home full of life and friends as opposed to counting how many seats were occupied? In order to be a church of extravagant welcome, we need to be a church that is open in our hearts and hospitable in our souls. A church full of curiosity and love, compassion and courage, and who at the heart yearns to bring the beautiful teachings of our faith to life in the world today. We can all be that church, we only need to take the first step, reach within ourselves, reach out into the world, and be a community that entertains angels...

In Faith,
Meghan Montana
Chair – Board for Missions

Since the last newsletter, your generosity has helped the following:

Foodshare	\$1,500
Adventures in the City (CAC)	\$3,500

EASTER OFFERING

Many thanks to all of you who donated so generously to our Easter offering this year. With your help, we were able to send \$1,784.00 to our friends at the Charter Oak Cultural Center – Beat of the Street Program in Hartford! We look forward to hearing about all the amazing work that the BOTS program continues to do. Keep an eye out for future opportunities to hear about the BOTS program in the fall!

FOODSHARE WALK AGAINST HUNGER

RHCC had a small group of 5 at the walk but, as a team, we were able to exceed our goal of \$1,500 and raise \$1,770 for Foodshare! Thanks to Thomas Kainamura and Kari Blaise for co-captaining this event and a special thank you to Thomas for setting up his corporate match through Chase which really boosted our totals to have a total contribution of \$2,970!

Overall for this event, Foodshare was short of their goal of \$650,000 but was able to raise \$602,653! Thank you to all who donated to this wonderful cause!

PRAYERS FOR COSTA RICA

Prayers this month for our Global Ministry partners in Costa Rica who are working to continue to raise awareness for ecological issues and poverty. – Prayer written by Global Missionaries Rebecca and Scott Hardin-Neiri.

God of the howler monkey, quetzal, and mighty fig strangler tree, loving Lord of the orphan, coffee bean picker, child prostitute, dairy farmer, politician, priest and cab driver, your creation is so vast and diverse. Costa Rica is but a small part of your world and yet it contains an incredible amount of diversity. Perhaps this country and within it the area of Monteverde are ecological glimpses to your amazing creativity and capacity for abundance. Thank you for the 400 species of orchids within the 2500 species of plants in Monteverde. We are grateful for the incredible web of life that is evident in the 400 species of birds, 100 species of mammals and tens of thousands of species of insects. We recognize that even the thousands of miles that separate us from the creatures and people in Costa Rica that somehow we are connected through your grace. Like the dependency of the hummingbird on the flower for food and the flower on the hummingbird for pollination we depend on Your love, our fellow humans and our delicate ecosystem. Your bent toward human and biological diversity cannot be contained or stifled, only forgotten. God help us to remember. Help us remember that each of us has a unique place in Your Realm. That you have the capacity to love each of us into wholeness, into not only the fullness of our individual lives, but You have the capacity to love us back into community. Help us remember that we are made for relationship beyond our immediate families. May we remember that we are uniquely called into community as members not only of our town, but also the whole of humanity, and beyond that all of your splendid creation. In the name of the ever expanding love of Christ we pray. Amen.

www.globalministries.org

Your Board For Missions Members: Meghan Montana – Chair, Kari McCaw-Blaise – Secretary, David Bell - Treasurer, Lisa Eleck, Cindy Hunt, Thomas Kainamura, Sarah Mosure, Marge Murk, Wendy Ware.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

1 J o h n 4 : 7

Pilgrimage of Love

Global Ministries welcomes churches to consider prayerfully the idea of taking a journey to meet our partners in person. A mission pilgrimage is a transforming experience through which participants share themselves and receive God's love in a new way. Participants take common steps of faith in walking with our partners, sharing their joys, understanding their challenges and experiencing their unique connection to our wider church.

It is through the People-to-People Pilgrimage Program that your local church can connect with our partners and share with them their work and witness.

Through People-to-People pilgrimages you will explore the possibilities that would best match the gifts of your church group. Global Ministries offers to initiate communication with our international partners in coordinating your pilgrimage experience, orientation materials to help your group prepare for the cross-cultural experience, and group networking with other congregations, regions, and conferences that have undertaken similar pilgrimages.

In mutuality, we walk humbly toward the future of God's work by walking together sharing our lives, hopes, struggles and faith.

Never Mind

A poem by Dennis Alger

*"Never mind," they say, "about
Persons so distant from you in
Language, geography, and,
certainly culture (norms and
values binding groups since the
Beginning). Too different, too
Remote, too whatever."
However, the same sun
Rises in the East
(Thankfully; because I'm all
Turned around) and the
Same faith connects our
Spirits and the same
Desire for solidarity for
Community for peace for
Friendship that miles and
Oceans cannot dissipate
But merely anticipate and
Celebrate the possibilities.
Never mind the distance for
Shalom unites nevertheless
And like the grace of
God is "'all you can eat' Rice"
and love without measure.*

Dennis Alger participated in an immersion trip to Mindanao, Philippines in June 2013 and has been very involved in partnership with the Philippines.



You make the difference...

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG

1. **New Executive Director**

It is with honor and pleasure that the Board of Directors and Council of the Christian Activities Council have called Cori Mackey as our next Executive Director to lead us into the future. She had an excellent background, energy and a vast knowledge of the urban surroundings that need our attention.

I want to thank The Reverend Ed Ayala for his outstanding leadership as our Associate Director for sixteen years and Executive Director for one and a half years. I wish him and his family the best in his retirement years. Rev. Ayala was scheduled to retire June 30, 2014 but because of Cori's commitments, he has decided to continue his employment until approximately August 20, 2014.

2. **Finances**

Michelle Roberts, staff member, continues to collect back payments of thousands of dollars for land-lease agreements with tenants and our USA Affordable Housing Project. She has done an outstanding job which in turn helps our financial situation at the Christian Activities Council. Because the pledges at RHCC continue to decline, the Board of Missions decided to fund just the Adventures in the City program at the sum of \$3,500. For the first time in memory our Missions Board was unable to contribute the \$2,000 to the Christian Activities Council General Fund. While we are forever grateful to the Board of Missions, any contribution from our members will be heartfully accepted.

3. **Adventures in the City**

Another school year is almost over. During the summer months, this educational program is just outstanding in helping Hartford's kids and youth gain vast knowledge with our excellent curriculum. This year's theme is "Dreams and Careers". Charmaine Simpson, CAC's staff person, works diligently along with AJC's teachers to guide this program.

4. **Community Development Initiatives**

Under the leadership of Pat Johnson, this program continues to reach out to the community to encourage youth and citizens to become leaders in their neighborhoods. Pat also led a food drive and coordinated the coat drive with Best Cleaners as well as the Jazz and the Arts program.

Finally, as I have mentioned numerous times, the entire Christian Activities Council is blessed by your continued prayers and financial support from our Interim Senior Pastor Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Acting Associate Pastor Meghan Young, our Board of Missions, the Diaconate, the Council to all our members.

Peace,

Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio

Delegate and member Christian Activities Council Board of Directors

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church United Church of Christ is called for **Sunday, June 1, 2014** immediately following worship in the sanctuary for the following items of business:

1. To receive and act upon the 2014 reports of Boards and Committees.
2. To vote on any revisions to the 2014-15 budget as presented at Budget and Elections meeting.
3. To vote on any changes to the report of the Nominating Committee.
4. To remember and reflect on those members and friends of the church who have entered the Church Eternal from May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014.

Respectfully submitted;

Marsha Hoffman, Clerk

Q & A UPDATE WITH THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Sunday, June 8, Second Hour (11:30-12:15, Chapin Hall)

An opportunity for the Pastoral Search Committee

- to update the congregation,
- share perspectives on what they've heard and learned through congregational listening sessions and surveys,
- to have all-church conversation about future directions.

INVITATION TO THE UCC CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE CHOIR!!

The UCC CT Conference Choir for 2014 is in the process of being organized. !! Participants will learn selections of diverse styles of music from three choir conductors. Participants can be general congregants or choir members of any age. !! The goal is to present a concert on Saturday, October 11, 2014, and to sing at the worship service at the CT Conference Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 18, 2014. !!

There will be rehearsals during July and September at various churches in Connecticut, to be determined. !!

Please RSVP to anneh@ctucc.org. Please direct any questions to Anne Hughes or Jolie Rocke Brown at 860-573-4412 or jolie.Brown@sbcglobal.net.!!



June 1	Harry Schmidt	21	Glenn Hunter
	Zachary Rupaka		Jack Pawlich
2	Eric Jokl	22	Gail Hall
4	Gordan Titcomb Sr		Frank Murray
6	John Van Epps	24	Philip Carpenter, Jr.
	Sandra Fritzer		Douglas Toft
7	Linda Marchand		Kylie Pirre
8	Thomas Kainamura	25	Andri Smith
9	Samuel Dean-Lee		Kirsten Fulda
	Julia O'Connor	26	Douglas Sudell
10	Paul Wilson		Bethany St Pierre
11	John Goff III		Aiden Montana
	Stephen Kobernat	27	Arthur Peterson
	Morgan McLean		Nancy Robbins
12	Douglas Goodrich	28	Bruce Gegenbach
	Michele Van Epps		Linda Calcagni
	Cheryl Connor		Marjorie Sheathelm
13	Arlene Painter		Matthew Flynn
15	Robert Carberry		Lynn Webster
18	Betty Stedman	29	Jaye Veley
20	Elaine Motta		Riley McLean

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mike and Steph Heneghan
were married on
June 10, 1967



Darrell and Holly Peterson
were married on
June 20, 1970

Donald and Betty Stedman
were married on
June 25, 1960

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067
Telephone # 860 529-4167

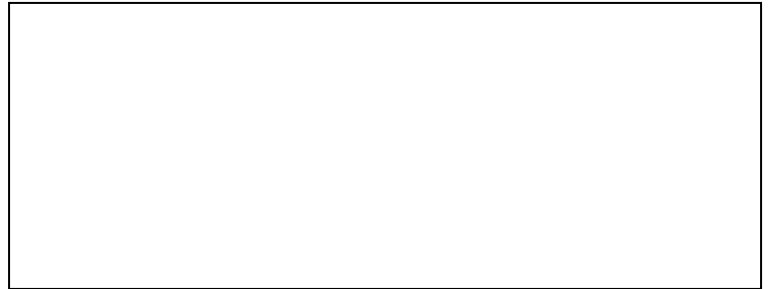
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No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.



Children's Worship Sunday
June 8, 2014 at 10 AM
Pentecost



Come worship with us as the children and youth of the RHCC, UCC, S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School, lead us in worship on Pentecost, inviting us to prayerfully and faithfully ask what it means to journey with God.