



The Reverend Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Senior Pastor
brenda@rhccucc.org

The Rev. Meghan D. Young, Acting Associate Pastor
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860 529-4167 Church – 860 257-9637 Fax

The Church Mouse

November 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



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

7:00 PM

Tuesday, November 25th

at St Andrews Episcopal Church

331 Orchard Street

Join us in worship at the annual Rocky Hill Thanksgiving Service, as we give thanks and praise to God with our brothers and sisters of the various Christian faith communities in town. Raise up your voice with an ecumenical choir that will lead us in song.

Refreshments to follow.



SEED, BLOSSOM, FRUIT

*I will not die an unlived life.
I will not live in fear
of falling or catching fire.
I choose to inhabit my days,
to allow my living to open me,
to make me less afraid,
more accessible,
to loosen my heart
until it becomes a wing,
a torch,
a promise.
I choose to risk my significance,
to live
so that that which came to me as seed
goes on to the next as blossom
and that which came to me
as blossom
goes on as fruit.*



-Dawn Markova

Seed, blossom, fruit... the natural order of things. Harvest-time reminds us of this, seasons of thanksgiving and generosity remind us of this. Each thing starts out as a hint of itself, then goes on to its next stage or form, and then its next, to become more of what it is ultimately meant to be. Everything is in process, always.

So it is with purposeful people, and with purposeful churches. Partners in the mysterious growing-and-harvesting of God's creation, we live with a willing courage and engagement, so that what comes to us as potential we can pass on as gift. To see life this way is to see it as sacred... and to be unwilling to let it go unlived, unshared, unfulfilled.

May it be so with us!

Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda



Worship SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m., sanctuary. Child care provided.

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, as well as for how they speak to our own experience, is one way to use the lectionary for growth in Biblical understanding.

Nov. 2 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints; Communion

Dedication of Confirmation Class

Josh. 3:7-17; Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37 OR

Mic. 3:5-12; Ps. 43; 1 Thess. 2:9-12; Matt. 23:1-22

Nov. 9 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Reception of New Members

Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps. 78:1-7 OR

Wisd. of Sol. 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-24;

Wisd. of Sol. 6:17-20 or Ps. 70;

1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

Nov. 16 Consecration Sunday (Stewardship)

Guest preacher: Cindi Bates

All-church catered luncheon following.

Judg. 4:1-7; Ps. 123 OR Zeph. 1:7, 12-18; Ps. 90:1-8;

1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 25:14-30

Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Sunday; Reign of Christ

Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps. 100 or Ps. 95:1-7a;

Eph. 1:15-33; Matt. 25:31-46

Nov. 25 Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service

7 p.m. The Church of Saint Andrew the Apostle (Episcopal)
311 Orchard St., Rocky Hill

Nov. 30 First Sunday of Advent

Isa. 64:1-9; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor. 1:3-9,
Mk. 13:24-37.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Sun. Nov. 30	First Sunday of Advent Advent Family Night	5 – 7 p.m.
Tues. Dec. 9	Visioning Dinner	5:30-8 p.m.
Sun. Dec. 14	Service of Lessons and Carols	4 p.m.
Wed. Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services	5 & 11 p.m.



Senior Pastor Search Committee Update

Over the past month the Search Committee has continued to receive, review, and discuss profiles. We conducted a second mock interview with a test candidate via Skype in order to make ourselves familiar with this technology, as we have many candidates in other areas of the country. It went well and was a very helpful exercise for the group! We are now looking to begin set up for our first interviews with candidates we are interested in

considering and will continue that process throughout the next months.

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

Senior Pastor Search Committee: Liz Reed-Swale - Co-Chair, Gregson Curtin -Co-Chair, Stephanie Heneghan - Chaplain, Hilaire Leavitt - Secretary, Meghan Montana - Communications, Neal Cox, Diana Hellyar, Michele Jokl, Rhody Triblets

SAVE THE DATE!!

**The Council invites EVERYONE – adults, children & youth –
to a special
Visioning Dinner**

Tuesday, December 9 -- 5:30 PM to 8 PM

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend dinner and this special event in the life of our church. It is always healthy for an individual, family, or church to stop, evaluate, and understand where they are and where they are going. During this fun and fast paced evening, we'll revisit and update our vision: "Who are we, and who do we want to be?"

- 1) Come to dinner anytime between 5:30 and 6:15 PM.
- 2) At 6:30 PM sharp (!!) we will break into smaller groups and have our visioning fun!
- 3) We'll be done by 8 PM. We promise!!

Our Vision (from 2008)

....to be a church of....

- **Extravagant welcome**
- **Active engagement**
- **Generous service**
- **Diverse worship experiences**
- **Value children and youth**
- **Joyful generosity**
- **Preserve traditions; build on foundations**



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

Church School

We are enjoying our increased time together, worshipping, singing, and sharing together in our new style of Church School. This month we discovered our inner heroes as we learned about the heroes of the bible, who were ordinary folks who God used for extraordinary ways. For November and December we will follow the stars to the Manger, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ.

Youth Group

Youth group navigated a moonlit corn maze this month. We're looking forward to some great conversation, faith formation, and time outdoors in November.

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. Schedule is subject to change based on activities determined by the Youth Group.

Children & Youth Leadership Programs at RHCC

The children and youth leadership programs at RHCC have launched. This program is for those between the ages of 2nd-12th grade. Get involved, be a leader, and be part of your church. For information and to sign-up, contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

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

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

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

Date	Lesson
Sunday, November 2	Communion Sunday. Family worship. BIBLE SUNDAY – All Pre-K, K, and 2-3 graders will receive Bibles.
Sunday, November 9	S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Follow the Stars"
Sunday, November 16	Family Worship.
Sunday, November 26	S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Follow the Stars"
Sunday, November 30	S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School: "Follow the Stars"

Youth Group Calendar: *October*

Date	Fellowship Gatherings
Sunday, November 9	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 12 PM – 4 PM <i>Let's go explore God's beautiful creation. Wear warm clothes and hiking shoes. Don't forget to bring water and a lunch/snack. Drivers and chaperone's needed.</i>
Sunday, November 23	Noah's Table (6 th -12 ^h Grade) → 5 PM – 6:30 PM. <i>Real conversations with Jesus are always dangerous. Bring a song you're listening to right now. Join us for a unique conversation as we make dinner together.</i>

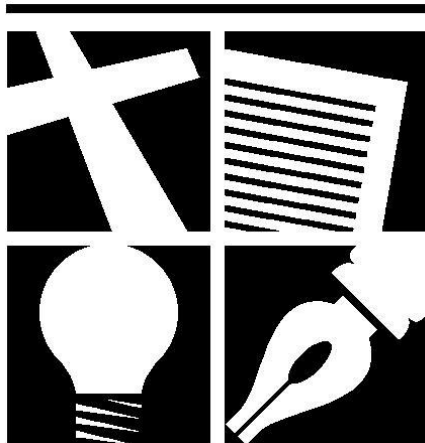
****Please RSVP with Meghan Young for all youth group events, and to volunteer as a chaperone or driver for any youth group event.**

GROW YOUR FAITH & GET INVOLVED WITH S.P.I.R.I.T.

The RHCC S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School is a place that values intergenerational relationships, growing in faith, and learning throughout our lives to be the disciples Christ calls us to be. You are invited to come join the circle and get involved. For the 2014 church school we are looking for:

- 1) **Youth Group Advisor** – Regularly assists with youth group and coordinating events. Must be college age or older.
- 2) **S.P.I.R.I.T. Teachers** – Teachers commit to no more than 4 Sundays in a row. Teachers provide support and assistance to our children and youth during our chapel times. Programming is provided on days with individual classes break out for faith formation rotations. Training is provided. Ideally we are looking for 8 - 12 teachers willing to rotate throughout the year. Up to 4 teachers slots are available for high school students.
- 3) **S.P.I.R.I.T. Contributors** – Do you have a gift or skill, an ability to cook/bake, a love for crafts, a musical ability, an affinity for story-telling, a love of all things theater, a passion for organizing mission projects? Sign-up to be a S.P.I.R.I.T. Contributor. Join us for a one time class or chapel worship, and share you gift.

If you are interested in getting involved the S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School, please contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org to sign-up or to find out more information.



NEW SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

Small Group Ministry at RHCC: Fall Faith Formation Opportunities

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

NOVEMBER:

Storytellers.

Sunday, November 23

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Church Parlor

Jesus was the ultimate story teller. Jesus also invited the disciples to tell stories. Come learn about what it means to share our stories of faith, practice the art of storytelling, and learn how to offer testimony.

COVENANT GROUPS:

On-Going

Covenant Groups provide an opportunity for church friends to share their faith in a more intimate setting. They are comprised of 6-12 people who “covenant” to meet regularly in homes for socializing, support, study, and prayer. The caring that comes from these small groups enriches both the individual and the church at large. For more information, contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

CONFIRMATION



Confirmation means affirmation of faith. It is an acknowledgment by both the individual and the faith community of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The rite of confirmation is celebrated in worship as a community, both in response to and in anticipation of the work of God in the life of a believer.

On Sunday, October 16th, our confirmation class covenanted together and began their year of learning, discovering, and discerning within our faith community. Join us this month as we dedicate and prayer for our confirmands as they embark on this journey. Participation in confirmation means regular attendance in Sunday worship, acolyte responsibilities, participating in the life of the church, organizing a mission project, engaging with mentors, and attending class twice a month.

If you would like more information about being part of the Confirmation class (9TH & 10TH graders), or if you are interested in being a mentor for the confirmation class please contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.

November Schedule:

Here's what we're learning and doing this month...

Date	Class/Event	Times
Sunday, November 2	WORSHIP: Confirmation Dedication CLASS: Bible	10 AM 5 PM – 7 PM
Sunday, November 16	CLASS: Worship	5 PM – 7 PM
Tuesday, November 25	WORSHIP: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service	7 PM Service St Andrews

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sunday Morning Worship
Communion 1st Sunday
10:00 a.m. with childcare



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
2 All Saints Sunday 10:00am Worship Confirmation Dedication Bible Sunday 11:30am Children's Choir 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Confirmation class	3 10:30am Apple Rehab 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	4 11:00am Lodge Service 7:00pm Board and Committee Mtgs	5 9:30am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
9 10:00am Worship New Members join 11:30am Children's Choir 12:00pm Noah's Table 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:30pm Stewardship / Council	10 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	11 8:30am Breakfast Club 7:00pm Council	12 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:30am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
16 10:00am Worship 11:30am Children's Choir 11:30am Storytellers 12:00pm Consecration Sunday 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Confirmation class	17 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	18 NEWSLETTER MAILING 11:00pm Retired Clergy	19 9:30am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
23 Thanksgiving Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:30am Children's Choir 11:30am Storytellers 12:00pm Noah's Table 4:00pm Tamil Sangam	24 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	25 6:00pm Community Group 7:00pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Svc (St Andrews Episcopal) 7:00pm Confirmation	26 9:30am Quilters 7:30pm Adult Choir
30 10:00am Worship First Sunday of Advent 11:30am Children's Choir 4:00pm Tamil Sangam 5:00pm Advent Family night			

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 Senior Pastor | 202 | Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music | 207 |
| Meghan Young, Acting Associate Pastor | 203 | Mike Halpin, Custodian | 205 |
| Mitsey Baker, Office Manager | 201 | RHCCNS (Nursery School) | 208 |

2014



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	1 DON'T FORGET TO TURN CLOCKS BACK
6 8:00pm Men's AA	7	8
13 8:00pm Men's AA	14	15
20 8:00pm Men's AA	21	22
27 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED 8:00pm Men's AA	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29

New Address
 Dick & Lynn Webster
 6574 Weldon Cir. NW
 Concord NC 28027

WORSHIP RECORDINGS AVAILABLE
 Audio recordings, written sermons and bulletins for many of our Sunday worship services are available on the church website, **rhccucc.org** (See WORSHIP BULLETINS), or you may contact the office to request an audio CD or printed sermon.

Change your clocks?

Remember to move
 your clocks
 back one
 hour.





- 01 Neal Cox
Bill Pierson
Lanaya Rupaka
- 03 Phil Swain
- 05 Meghan Wilcock
- 06 Tom Matthias
Mary DeLibero
- 07 Michael McKenna
- 08 Rob Grandell
Alyssa Somes Kellogg
- 09 Lisa Taylor
Jennifer Martin
- 10 Jon Morgan
- 11 Dale Rowland
Harry Blaise

BIRTHDAYS

- 12 Diana Belliveau
- 13 Donna Rowland
Kari McCaw-Blaise
- 15 Roland Lataille
- 19 Robert Simmons
Sheila Elliot
- 20 Mary-Edith Bowman
Hannah Fuller
- 22 Julia Pawlich
- 24 Kim Batterson-Biglow
- 25 Jeannie Alessi
- 25 William McKenna
- 28 Kade Lamontagne
- 30 Gael Curtin



Joseph and Janet Kunzelman
were married on
November 3, 1958

Warren and Gladys Carpenter
were married on
November 5, 1955

It's time now, before the cold winds blow and the snow falls deep, to think of the American natives on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, who will be in need of warm winter clothing and blankets. Please consider a donation of any kind of winter clothing in good, ready to wear condition for all ages – men, women, children and infants. The last day for collecting will be Sunday, November 16th. For information call Joan Tennyson (860)529-8789, or leave your donations in Chapin Hall on the last table to be picked up on Sundays. It's a good thing!



DEACONS

Everything Changes! Not much stays the same. Fall is here and our landscape reflects so much beautiful color. Some recent days have felt like a preview of early winter and then the next day one reminds us of summer. Our lives as well as the weather are constantly in motion. And we have no idea what is around the corner for us. So, living in the moment seems the best way to great each day. However, I know that my yesterdays could have been lived better. I could have done more for those I know and more importantly for those I do not know. I need to get past yesterday, but then I start to think about tomorrow, next week, next year. I guess I like to be in control. Planning is good and helps put structure in our days giving us a focus and a direction to our efforts. But life does not give us the certainty of a future or the future of the ones we love. There are surprises – good and bad. If I had known the disappointments and challenges of the year, I could not have enjoyed the good while anticipating the bad. It is important to live today, applying ourselves to God’s will. God is with us now and will be with us tomorrow. He has a plan for us and will carry it through. It makes sense for us to choose to trust in him.

As fall activities continue in our church, take advantage of the opportunity to attend small groups. We can study God’s Word together and at the same time feel free to ask questions (if you just attend the worship service, you can’t stand up and ask Brenda or Meghan a question!). In our ever-changing lives, make God central to all we do.

The Deacons will once again accept a **special Thanksgiving offering**. Thanksgiving is more than a day. It is a celebration of family, friends, and food. We gather and forget our problems, our pains, and the quirks of those around our table. After all, we are getting ready to share an incredible, over the top meal. It is a time we thank God for all that we have and will have. Some of our neighbors are not as fortunate. There will be no invitation to a meal or the ingredients in the pantry for a special meal. Keeping with the recent sermon themes of Jesus serving food, your generous offering will be given to an area organization(s) supporting food insecurity.

In our ever-changing lives, make God central to all we do.

Gail Tine
Board of Deacons



Global and Local Mission News

"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history." - Mahatma Gandhi

Mission Opportunity! **Thanksgiving Food and Clothing Drive** **November 2nd – 23rd**

This drive was so successful last year that the RHCC Missions Board is holding a food and clothing drive to benefit our friends at Peter's Retreat again! We will be looking for warm weather clothing items that are either new or very gently used, both male and female, as well as dry goods and pantry items to help stock their kitchen. We will begin collecting items the week of November 2nd and end on Sunday November 23rd. Please drop off items to either the Missions Room, or by the Missions Board in Chapin Hall. Please contact Meghan Montana with any questions 203-640-2386 or meghan.montana1105@gmail.com

Clothing Items Needed: sweaters/sweatshirts/fleece, long sleeve shirts, coats, gloves, hats, scarves, warm socks, blankets, twin bed sheet sets (sheet sets must be new).

Food Items Needed: dry cake, muffin, and other baking mixes, dry pasta, sauces, rice, beans, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, dried fruits, oils, cooking spray, spices, etc. All food items must be new and unopened.

Peter's Retreat is a residential housing program that helps individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS to receive the comprehensive and compassionate services necessary to live healthier lives and break the cycle of homelessness.

Please Note: This drive is replacing the Foodshare "Turkey and a Thirty" drive that we have done in past years. However, if you wish to donate to the Foodshare campaign you can still do so at these locations in the area: West Side Market Place (Rocky Hill), Wethersfield Stop and Shop, Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance, or visit www.foodshare.org for more locations.

Global Prayer This Month

Prayers for Kenya

Brought to us by Global Missionary Joel Cooper who serves as a Global Mission Intern with Church World Service East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya.

God, thanks for revealing your glory to us in all goodness. May we continue to appreciate your goodness and pay it forward to everyone in this world, especially those who are far away, so that we may be mutually strengthened. Some of those whom great distance separates are Kenyans and others East Africans. Please encourage us to distribute your goodness to those suffering from drought in Northwest Kenya, the internally displaced in Northeast Kenya, the gay citizens of Uganda, those affected by extremism in Somalia, the extremists themselves, girls subject to mutilation and forced into early marriage across East Africa, the mistreated mentally handicapped, those without access to enough food and safe water, and those students who cannot afford to go to high school, let alone college. God, be with community leaders and international partners and give them the courage and wisdom to address these many challenges as they share God's abundant life. Please force our attention upon the plight of others, no matter how uncomfortable it makes us, so that we may walk in solidarity with them—amen.

www.globalministries.org

Since our last update, your generosity has helped the following:

■ Operation Fuel	\$1,200
■ Inyana	\$1,000
■ OCWM	\$3,000
■ Hartford Seminary 250 Club	\$250
■ Back Bay Mission Food Pantry	\$1,000



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.



2014
COUNTRY FAIR
QUILT RAFFLE WINNER

Karen Wells

SCRIP-SURE:

THE PEAK SEASON APPROACHES



The months of November and December are always the biggest months for scrip sales. Last year, we earned over \$4500 during those two

months alone. This is the period when there are three important uses for scrip:

- 1) Scrip (i.e., gift cards) can be given as Christmas presents
- 2) Scrip can be used to fund your own Christmas shopping
- 3) And, of course, scrip can continue to be used for your everyday shopping and eating, including groceries, pharmacies, restaurants, etc.

Do you plan to do any Christmas shopping at the following retailers?

Amazon	Home Depot	Pier One
Banana Republic	J.C. Penney	REI
Barnes & Noble	Jo-Ann Fabrics	Sears
Bath & Body Works	Kohl's	T.J. Maxx
Bed Bath & Beyond	L.L. Bean	Talbots
Cabela's	Land's End	Tanger Outlets
Dick's Sporting Goods	Lowes	Target
Dressbarn	Macy's	Toys R Us
Eddie Bauer	Marshall's	Walmart
Gap	Old Navy	Williams-Sonoma

Did you know that you can use scrip to shop at every one of these retailers? And the church will earn anywhere from 4% to 20% on the face amount of your purchases if you shop with scrip purchased through our program!

A complete list of participating retailers is available in Chapin Hall, or at the online scrip site <http://shopwithscrip.com>. You can email treasurer@rhccucc.org and I'll send you a listing. Your orders can also be emailed to that address. Just list the cards and amounts that you want in the body of the email. Payments can be mailed to the church office by check, or paid electronically using our online payment service (see <http://rhccucc.org> for details and the link.)

We'll be placing more frequent orders during the next two months to facilitate your shopping needs – every two weeks. Cards ordered on any of the following Sundays will be available on the next Sunday, as listed below:

Place your order by...	... and pick up the cards on
Sun., Nov. 2	Sun., Nov. 9
Sun., Nov. 16	Sun., Nov. 23
Sun., Nov. 30	Sun., Dec. 7
Sun., Dec. 14	Sun., Dec. 21

This is not just a niche fundraising program applicable to only some members. Over the past five years, almost 100 members and friends of RHCC have purchased scrip through our program. In fact, sometime over the next couple of months, we'll reach \$1 million in total scrip sold (face value). If you are one of those who has not yet bought scrip, why not start now? And if you are still uncertain about how the program works, try asking almost anyone on Sunday morning – because most of the people you see each week are already participating.

Thanks to all who continue to support what has become our top year-round fundraiser.
Think SCRIP!

Dave Hall, Treasurer



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you for your ongoing financial support. Please continue to make your offering in the amount that you pledged for fiscal year 2013/2014.

We have a new stewardship program coming this fall and then our new pledge year will run from January to December. Keep your eyes open for announcements coming from the Stewardship Committee! We are looking forward to a new way of considering how we share our gifts.



If you have any questions feel welcome to contact the members of the Stewardship Committee.

Barry Wilcock, Michele Jokl, Dave Sageman, Polly Pagnucco

HISTORIAN NOTES - SEPTEMBER 2014



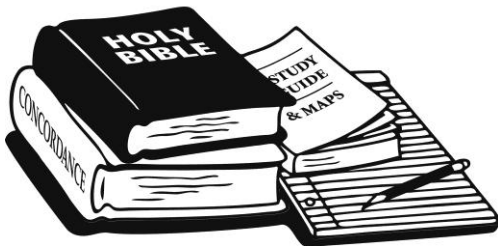
Sunday, September 7, 2014: A leadership training workshop was led by Rev. Brenda and Rev. Meghan during second-hour. This was an opportunity for all church lay leaders to review together the key aspects of being good leaders for the church, including planning and coordinating, communicating, documenting, making effective use of meeting time, and ensuring that church activity serves the church's core purpose. !!

Sunday, September 14, 2014: RE-COVENANTING SUNDAY, a day we remember the promises we make to God and each other to act in love and discipleship as a community of faith. Highlights included our drum choir, set up outside, calling us to worship; honoring our 50-year members; beginning a new year of S.P.I.R.I.T. programming for our children and youth; and concluding with an all-church outside block-party picnic in the little parking lot near the Narthex.

Sunday, September 21, 2014: Baptisms of Zoey Marie Grisham and Grant Richard Hoffman.

Our on-going Scrip-Sure fund-raising program raised almost \$1,300 on sales of \$18,600 in September. !!

Be Nourished



COMING AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.....

Things I've Always Wondered about Christianity (But Was Afraid to Ask)

A small-group exploration series based on topics provided by the congregation.

It's been my experience in many years of ministry that we are often carrying questions and struggles about very basic ideas, beliefs or meanings within the Christian faith that we don't feel we understand very well, or that may once have made sense to us but now make less sense, or that seem ill-fitting in some way with how we have experienced God or our own faith. It's good to have a community of others to talk with about those challenges. (For one thing, we generally find we're not alone in having them). This will be designed as a series of small-group conversations within which any and all questions, doubts or struggles can be shared, and we'll explore them together.

-Rev. Brenda

Examples:

I never did believe in the Virgin Birth. Does that mean I'm not Christian?

I have a lot of trouble with all the violence of God in the Bible. Am I supposed to believe that's really what God is like?

So much in the Bible is not plausible, scientifically or literally. Am I expected to believe it all literally? What if I don't?

I used to believe in a "substitutionary atonement" (Jesus' death was in our place, "paid for" our sins) but now that seems absurd to me. How does someone else's death relieve my guilt?

I struggle with what to tell my children when bad things happen in the world. What can I tell them about God...?

If you would like to participate, please use the tear-off below to submit a question or topic by Dec. 12 (can be returned to the church office or placed in one of the marked boxes in the narthex or Chapin Hall). Please indicate also your preference for a meeting time for the small group. Plans will be announced after the input has been received.

Information for "Things I've Always Wondered about Christianity...But Was Afraid to Ask"

Name (optional) _____

My question or topic: _____

Preference for meeting time: () Daytime () Evening () Sundays after worship

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

Non-Profit Organization
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Hartford, CT 06101

Permit #7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE MAIL



Mailed October 27, 2014

Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we.
The United Church of Christ:
No matter who you are,
Or where you are on life's journey...
You're welcome here.



IT'S
COMING!!!
NOVEMBER 16