

February 2010



First Congregational Church
Deep River, Connecticut
Established 1834

The Messenger

February Council Meeting

Monday, February 1, 2010 is our 1st Council meeting of the year. Please make sure your Council Rep. or another member from your board or committee is attending. Many issues are discussed at these meetings and your input is needed. *Bob Butkus, Moderator*
Deb Van Wyngaarden, Clerk

Sunday February 14, 2010

Women's Valentine Breakfast



Women's Valentine Breakfast

It is time again to nominate your choice for our annual Woman of the Year award, to be presented at our annual Women's Valentine's Day Breakfast. Ballot forms and a submission box will be in the narthex of the church through Feb. 7. All women and girls of the church are invited to attend free. You may reserve a seat by signing the list in Fellowship



Women of the year

Hall or e-mailing your reservation to the church at congregational.chrch@snet.net. The breakfast will be prepared and served by the men of the church. They will also provide entertainment following breakfast. Ladies, put on you favorite red outfit and be there.

February 17, 2010 (6:30 a.m.)

Ash Wednesday (Violet)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

This service is a sacred start for this most holy season. Come for a short but meaningful service before work or school or just before you start your day. Join your Church family to celebrate the beginning of this Holy season .



ASH WEDNESDAY

A **Service for Healing and Peace** will be held from **7 to 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday evening** in the Sanctuary, which will include music and a time for those wishing individual prayers and blessing.



HEALING SERVICE

Worship: 8:30 & 10 am

February 7, 2010

5th Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

Sacrament of Holy Communion
Rev. Timothy Haut preaching
Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 14, 2010

Transfiguration Sunday (White)

Women's Valentine Breakfast
10 a.m. Service Only (No 8:30 Service)
Rev. Timothy Haut preaching
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)



Transfiguration OF THE LORD

February 17, 2010

Ash Wednesday (Violet)

Sacrament of Holy Communion (6:30 a.m.)

Service of Healing and Peace (7 p.m.)

Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



Ash Wednesday

February 21, 2010

1st Sunday in Lent (Violet)

Rev. Timothy Haut Preaching

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 28, 2010

2nd Sunday in Lent (Violet)

Rev. Timothy Haut Preaching

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

UPCOMING

Thank you....

Thank you to the person who made an anonymous donation of \$1,000 to our church's Good Samaritan Fund at Christmas time! We want to make sure that you know that we received this gift which came in the mail. This money is used to help those in need in our own community with various kinds of assistance, including food, rent, clothing, medicine, etc. I am deeply grateful for the generous spirit in our congregation, which reaches out so readily to help others here in our own area as well as around the world. Thank you again so much! -- Tim Haut, Pastor



First Congregational Church of Deep River

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Sr. Pastor: The Rev. Timothy E. Haut
Organist/Choir Director Annetta Sekula
Pianist Patricia Smith
Bell Choir Director Claudia Hardy
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congregationaldavi@sbcglobal.net
Day Care Director Stacy Bowe
csc.drcc@snet.net
Sexton Will Grote
Stephen Ministry Coordinators
Pam Garner & Grace Krick

Stephen Ministers-

Trudy Harding, Linda Hostetler, Bill Morris,
Kris Lindner, Stuart Palmer, Nancy Peluso,
Helen Rankin, Peter Razowski, Carol Sheriden,
Lori Staib, Fred Stempel, Sandra Tilley, Art
Tirrell, Carolyn Wehr, Vern Wehr

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Thank you to everyone who has so generously pledged their time, talents and financial contributions to our church. We are currently 73% of the way to our goal of \$229,358. We understand that this is a difficult time for many. Your pledge lets the church plan what it will be able to do for the upcoming year. If you have not done so, please consider a monetary pledge to our church. There are pledge cards in the Narthex or please contact a Stewardship Committee member.

Our church family gives so much to our local community as well as the world community. It makes us feel good when we can help others. Our church is the spiritual support of so many, especially today when the economy and natural disasters impact our members and church friends. Give to God Cheerfully ...

"Give as you are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which he has given you. Not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. And you will be enriched in every way for your great generosity".

II Corinthians 9:7-8

Your Stewardship Committee thanks you...

Dale Winchell- drwinchell@gmail.com
Paul Karam- paulkaram@sbcglobal.net
Ch. Deb Van Wyngaarden- busytown@comcast.net
or (860) 767-3285

The Epistle Of Timothy



Seventeen years ago this Valentine's Day, I proposed to Phyllis from the pulpit of our church. This is the sort of thing, I imagine, that doesn't happen very often. It had never happened to Phyllis before, of course, and maybe that accounts for the stunned look on her face as she sat there in the congregation until she realized that an answer was required. She said, "Yes."

This February 14th I would like to read again from the pulpit the letter from Aunt Tillie that was my sermon that morning. I hope it will be a special way to celebrate a special morning—as it will also be our annual Women's Valentine's Day Breakfast. I hope it will also be a reminder of the deep and powerful way that love works in all of our lives.

The years since that winter day in 1993 have been wonderful. Our love has grown and flourished in those years, but it would be false to say that it has been an easy and uneventful ride. Authentic relationships always move beyond the sweetness of romance to the honest encounter between people who are different from each other. Ultimately, that truest love is a relationship in which someone cares about us enough to challenge us to honestly encounter our own deepest self. That's how we grow. The process of looking honestly at ourselves, with all our warts and cracks and flaws, is the beginning of becoming a real person. To see that self reflected in the eyes of someone who loves us deeply is both terribly painful and amazingly wonderful. It is painful because a real, loving relationship moves past pretense and façade. When someone loves us honestly, they expose the selfish, superficial, fearful person that none of us want the world to see. But it is also wonderful because those who love us truly look at our broken, cracked self with redeeming, forgiving eyes. And that allows us to be healed. What a miracle!

A few days ago in the car we were listening to one of Phyllis' favorite musicians, the great Canadian troubadour and singer Leonard Cohen. In his song entitled "Anthem," he says:

*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.*

In our relationships, we all wish for perfection. It would be nice if we could go through life without an argument, without conflict, without the guilt and failure that our brokenness makes us feel. I am envious when someone tells me that they've been in a relationship for years without ever having had an argument or difference of opinion with their spouse or partner. What a peaceful home they must have! But my experience is that it must be very hollow relationship, too. There must be cracks so that the light can get in.

One of the gifts that Phyllis has given me in these wonderful 17 years is the gift of honestly engaging me in a relationship where light comes through the cracks of our own brokenness. I hope it doesn't come to you as a surprise that your minister is a cracked and broken person, who has arguments with his wife and occasionally makes her fighting mad. Sometimes she has to remind me, in the midst of one of those arguments, to stop using my "preacher voice" so at least the neighbors don't have to be a part of the conversation. But in love's most daring and truthful encounters, we discover that we are not just wrestling with a stubborn and determined human opponent, but that we are wrestling with the angel of God's love. For love is the invitation for God to come in. It is the opportunity to be transformed into a better person, and to be the sign of God's healing, hope, and forgiveness. When God's light penetrates the cracks of our broken hearts, we begin to encounter the mystery and joy at the heart of love itself.

So we must take a great risk when we dare to love anyone—whether it be a friend or family member, a husband or wife. Like February's groundhog, some of us catch a first glimpse of the sunlight of God's truth and we head back into our dark holes, where we have learned to be comfortable. But when we dare to come out of the shadows, to tear down the protective walls of our self-righteousness and fears, and to live in the light of God's grace, we start to be free. We begin to most truly love those around us in spite of their differences and in spite of their own flaws. We begin to feel like Spring is coming!

Happy Valentine's Day! Can you feel the light coming through the cracks?

WHAT'S HAPPENING???

Treasurer's Report

As of 12/31/2009 (preliminary)

| | Actual | Annual | YTD % |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | Year to Date | Budget | 100% |
| Income: | | | |
| Pledged | \$ 214,757.76 | \$ 225,212.00 | 95% |
| Prayed For | \$ 34,790.80 | \$ 30,000.00 | 116% |
| Prior Year Pledges | \$ 580.00 | \$ - | |
| Sunday School | \$ 730.91 | \$ - | |
| Messenger donations | \$ 734.00 | \$ - | |
| Missions (Blessings) | \$ 267.00 | \$ - | |
| Other Income | \$ 27,114.67 | \$ 23,800.00 | 114% |
| CSCC donations | \$ 16,600.00 | \$ 16,600.00 | 100% |
| Church Fund-raisers | \$ 19,266.14 | \$ 16,000.00 | 120% |
| Total Income | \$ 314,841.28 | \$ 311,612.00 | 101% |
| Expense: | | | |
| Youth & Family | \$ 491.52 | \$ 500.00 | 98% |
| Music | \$ 2,457.18 | \$ 3,200.00 | 77% |
| Christian Education | \$ 5,342.00 | \$ 5,438.00 | 98% |
| Deacons | \$ 9,431.77 | \$ 11,453.00 | 82% |
| Trustees | \$ 14,928.65 | \$ 17,055.00 | 88% |
| Care of Property | \$ 57,539.47 | \$ 62,870.00 | 92% |
| Christian Service/Missions | \$ 13,655.00 | \$ 13,655.00 | 100% |
| Salaries & Benefits | \$ 197,200.96 | \$ 197,441.00 | 100% |
| Total Expense | \$ 301,046.55 | \$ 311,612.00 | 97% |
| Net revenue | 13,794.73 | | |

Trustees

At the All Boards Meeting in January, Peter Razowski was welcomed as a new member. Following the All Boards Meeting, the Trustees met to elect officers and establish assignments for the new year, as follows:

Chairman: Jack Coulter
Vice Chairman: Don Grohs
Secretary: Jayne Mather and Jane Syme
Council Rep: Jack Coulter

Jack Coulter, Don Grohs and Richard Higgins:
Church, Interior and Exterior
Bill Spitzschuh, Peter Razowski: Parsonage
Jane Syme: Church Street Child Care
Jayne Mather: Personnel and Investments

Pledge Request

In order for the Trustees to plan for the expenses incurred in the day-to-day operating of our church, as well as any unanticipated expenses for repairs, etc., it is extremely important that the budgeted dollars are adequate to cover these things.

While the budget was approved in November, we looked at the report from Stewardship and see that to date only \$171,000 has been pledged. This would create a significant shortfall that would be difficult to manage.

The Trustees encourage everyone who has not made a pledge yet, to do so at your first opportunity.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Harvest Table Assets and Contributions by The Macmillan family

who thank the congregation for its monetary contributions to the Harvest Table, 2009.

Additional thanks are given to veggie contributors: Betsy Macmillan, Kris and Tom Lindner, Ruth Ziobron, Ruth Adams, Arlene Macmillan, Steve West, Fran and Fred Phinney, Tracy Hardy, Pam and Ron Garner, and Sally Marston.

Last year's Harvest Table was not as successful as in years past. Even though the early contributions from May 10 through July 15 were ahead of the best previous year, contributions after July 15 waned. By the early end of the Harvest Table on September 16, we were hundreds of dollars behind the same week in each of the two previous years.

The total amount contributed by the congregation was \$957.02. 2009 distributions were:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Mission Sunday | \$ 35.50 |
| Anniversary Quilt | \$ 109.05 |
| Good Samaritan Fund | \$ <u>812.47</u> |
| Total | \$ 957.02 |

The Board of Christian Education

met on January 4, 2010. New members to the Board are: Maureen Douglas, Kathy Hauswirth, and Kira Petrovic.

Sunday School seems to be running smoothly. Better attendance in 3rd grade is a goal for the coming months.

Students are learning about the Bible and will each receive their own Bible in June. Communion classes for the 4th grade will begin on Feb. 21st.

The Confirmation Class continues to meet through the first half of May. Confirmation Sunday is May 23, 2010.

The 7th and 8th graders have collected supplies for hygiene and school kits. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

A Teachers' Forum is scheduled to discuss any ideas, suggestions, or concerns that teachers might have so these can be addressed.

Emily Bjornberg discussed the 30-Hour Famine project that involves youth 12 years and older as well as adults.

If you have any questions, please contact Sybil.



Stephen Minister Retires

Jack Lawrence has served our church in many ways over the years. One of those areas of service came to an end this month as Jack "retired" as a Stephen Minister. He's been active with

this ministry group of one-on-one caregivers for the past four years, not including the pre-requisite 9-month in-depth training. Jack was in a caring relationship (concluded recently) for most of his four years. We thank Jack for his service in the name of Christ who asks all of us to care for one another. His ability to keep us on time and the camaraderie he provided will be greatly missed!

If you need more information or would like a Stephen Minister, please call Grace Krick (526-8193) or Pam Garner (526-3603).

Board of Christian Service

The Board had their first meeting of the year with several new members and are excited to announce their participation with Emily and the youth groups in the "No Room at the Inn" event on January 30th. BOCS provided breakfast for all those brave enough to weather the night. Board members Maura Carver and Rebecca DeMichael will participate in the event.

This year the Layette program, formerly sent to Church World Service, will be directed toward local young mothers and families in need. The dates of collection will be determined later - probably early in the spring, please keep the program in mind. Among items needed include diapers, wipe refills, receiving blankets, wash cloths, baby soaps and shampoo, and onesies for newborn to 24 months. This will NOT be a one time donation, instead kits and items will be made available to those who need them all year round. If you know someone who could benefit from the Layette Program, please contact Melissa Alsback at msymonds12@msn.com or 860-227-2843.

Please don't forget our participation with the Eddy Shelter. We have been preparing and serving dinner on the first Wednesday of each month and could really use more people to sign up to help. Based on whatever you are comfortable with, we need people to cook and prepare the meal at our church, deliver and serve the meal at the Eddy Shelter, or donate food items or cooked meals. Anyone interested can contact a member of the board or put your name and number on the sign up sheet located across from the kitchen

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

30-Hour Famine February 26th -27th

We are getting ready for another 30HF, as of now we have 27 youth signed up to participate in the famine. It is going to be a great time! We are still looking for chaperones to stay for the overnight at the church, so anyone who would be interested in this is encouraged to take part. We would love to have you join in! The community service projects will be a food drive, and restocking the Deep River food pantry, and also some youth will be visiting a local convalescent home.

We are looking forward to a great time together while we fast to raise money at DRCC for World Visions mission work around the globe to help fight world hunger.

For more information you can contact Lisa McNeely @ 526-9359 or e-mail mcneely28@comcast.net

Council Members-at -Large

Our Church Council is the governing body of the 1st Congregational Church of Deep River. It is comprised of members dedicated to the ministry and mission of our congregation. It functions to oversee the life and activities of our church and to assure that these reflect the purpose and faith of this church. Even if you are not on a committee or board, you do have a voice in what happens in your church.

Three Council Members-at-Large are nominated annually. They are "your" voice if you cannot attend a Church Council meeting. If there is something you like that is happening in our church or if there is an issue you would like Council discuss, you can ask a Council Member at Large to approach Council for you. You can reach them by e-mail, phone, or there is a mailbox at church.

It is important to remember that your name does not have to come forth at a Church Council meeting, but the Members-at-Large must know who is contacting them so they can call you with what decision was made by Council regarding your issue.

As permanent members of the Council, along with the Moderator and Clerk, these members cast votes on your behalf. Get to know them and talk to them.

It is important to remember that your name does not have to come forth at a Church Council meeting, but the Members-at-Large must know who is contacting them so they can call you with the decision made by Council regarding your issue. For the 2010 year, your Council Members-at-Large are:

Fred Phinney 860 638 4689
 FredFranPhinney@sbcglobal.net
 Dennis Giroux 860 526 9409
 Laurie Eriksson 860 526 3818
 Ceriksson4899@sbcglobal.net

Ye Olde Christmas Faire 2009

Figures below show the comparison in net sales between 2008 and 2009.

| Booth | 2009 Net Sales | 2008 Net Sales |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Brick Oven | 1172.73 | 1208.25 |
| Curiosity Shoppe | 877.02 | 610.00 |
| Dessert by Candlelight | 654.00 | 453.00 |
| Devonshire Gardens | 1275.27 | 1181.00 |
| King's Treasures | 1140.47 | 1169.90 |
| Lantern Light Chocolates | 336.59 | 100.55 |
| Olde Country Delights | 3433.40 | 3186.07 |
| Painted Sleds | 240.00 | |
| Photos with Santa | 204.58 | 154.01 |
| Quiet as a Mouse | 646.00 | 730.00 |
| Reindeer Restaurant | 771.90 | 881.31 |
| Santa's Workshope | 99.00 | 168.50 |
| Sweet Shoppe | 536.25 | 687.05 |
| Thread & Needle | 1260.00 | 1291.00 |
| Toy Shoppe | 295.77 | 547.75 |
| Wreath Corner | 249.00 | 335.00 |
| | | |
| Donations - General | 250.00 | 206.27 |
| Concert Tickets | 666.00 | 997.50 |
| | | |
| Total Faire 2008 | | 13509.37 |
| | | |
| Total Faire 2009 | 13,552.17 | |



February 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>8:30 AM Early Worship Service 9:00 AM Jr. Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Jr. Choir Rehearsal 11:30 AM CONFIRMATION CLASS</p> | <p>1 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Church Council</p> | <p>2 6:00 PM CSCC Spaghetti Dinner 7:00 PM Stephen Ministers' Meeting 7:30 PM A.A. </p> | <p>3 10:00 AM Community Play Group 7:00 PM N.A. 7:00 PM Sr. Bell Choir</p> | <p>4 7:00 PM A.A. 7:30 PM Senior Choir</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6  8:00 AM Guiding Eyes for the Blind Puppy Training 8:30 AM Women's AA Group 7:00 PM N.A.</p> |
| <p>7 8:30 AM Early Worship Service 9:00 AM Jr. Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Jr. Choir Rehearsal 11:15 AM SOUPER BOWL COLLECTION 11:30 AM CONFIRMATION CLASS 5:30 PM Mission Trip Chaperones 6:00 PM Mission Trip Meeting</p> | <p>8 5:15 PM Church Street Child Care Board</p> | <p>9 7:30 PM A.A.</p> | <p>10 10:00 AM Community Play Group 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM N.A. 7:00 PM Sr. Bell Choir</p> | <p>11 7:00 PM A.A. 7:00 PM Historical Committee 7:30 PM Senior Choir</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13  Messenger Articles Due 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 8:30 AM Women's AA Group 7:00 PM N.A.</p> |
| <p>14  8:30 AM Annual Women's Valentine Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Jr. Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>15  Church Office Closed Today 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Christian Education 7:00 PM Christian Service</p> | <p>16 7:30 PM A.A.</p> | <p>17  6:30 AM Ash Wednesday Communion Service 10:00 AM Community Play Group 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Healing Service 7:00 PM N.A. 7:00 PM Sr. Bell Choir</p> | <p>18 12:00 PM Church & Ministry Committee, Middlesex Assn. 7:00 PM A.A. 7:30 PM Senior Choir</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20 8:30 AM Women's AA Group 7:00 PM N.A.</p> |
| <p>21 8:30 AM Early Worship Service 9:00 AM Jr. Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM 4th Grade Communion Class 11:15 AM Jr. Choir Rehearsal 11:30 AM CONFIRMATION CLASS</p> | <p>22 7:00 PM Deacons 7:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders' Meeting 7:00 PM Trustees</p> | <p>23 7:30 PM A.A.</p> | <p>24 10:00 AM Community Play Group 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 7:00 PM N.A. 7:00 PM Sr. Bell Choir </p> | <p>25 9:00 AM WIC 12:00 PM Middlesex Clergy-UCC 7:00 PM A.A. 7:30 PM Senior Choir</p> | <p>26 6:00 PM 30 Hour Famine begins</p> | <p>27 8:30 AM Women's AA Group 7:00 PM N.A. 7:30 PM 30 Hour Famine Concludes</p> |
| <p>28 8:30 AM Early Worship Service 9:00 AM 4th Grade Communion Class 9:00 AM Jr. Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Jr. Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>1 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Church Council</p> | <p>2 7:00 PM Stephen Ministers' Meeting 7:30 PM A.A.</p> | <p>3 10:00 AM Community Play Group 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 7:00 PM N.A. 7:00 PM Sr. Bell Choir</p> | <p>4 7:00 PM A.A. 7:30 PM Senior Choir</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6 Boy Scout Pasta Dinner 8:30 AM Women's AA Group 7:00 PM N.A. </p> |

CHURCH BOARDS AND COMMITTEES 2010

*Denotes Rep. Church Council
(1st Monday)

*Moderator Bob Butkus 663-8077
*Clerk Deb VanWyngaarden 767-3285
Collector Claudia Hardy 526-5272
Treasurer Dayle Larson 526-5229

COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE

Dennis Giroux 526-
Laurie Eriksson 526-3818
* Fred Phinney 638-4689

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

(3rd Mon. 7:00)
Gerry Nolin 339-5080 - Chair
Fern Tryon 388-1766
Lynn Butkus 663-8077
Dorothy DeMichael 526-3888
Rebecca DeMichael 526-3888
Maura Carver 526-9369
Andrea Chiappa 526-5340
Bette Tarte 526-3272
Melissa Alsbach 526-3488
Irene Phinney (Event Participant)
Jane Moen (Event Participant)

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(3rd Mon. 7:00)
Stella Beaudoin 526-5403 (Chair)
Lyn Gates 860-536-1364 (Messenger)
*Cheryl Jacome 526-5771
Kathy Hauswirth 526-3355 (Secretary)
Maureen Douglas 526-3206 (Mission Fair
Coord)
Kari Petrovic 767-7746 (Programs Coord)
Jen/Chris Dobbs 526-5506 (Classroom Coord)
Sybil Higgins, Director 526-4203

CHURCH DELEGATES

Phyllis Haut 526-9048
Kathryn Russell 917-826-6886
Tom Lindner 526-2345
Jim Macgregor 767-1242
Tom Griffin 526-5433
Brooks Rozelle, Jr. Delegate 526-1894

ACCOUNT EXAMINERS

Tracy Hardy 526-4356
John Bauer 526-2306

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Evie Grohs 526-5215 Chair
David Houghkirk 526-9944
*Valerie Nucci 526-9627
Jon Hardy 526-5272
Fred Stempel 526-9717

DEACONRY (4th Mon. 7:00 p.m.)

Heidi Lee 526-2295 Chair
Brenda Kollmer 526-9724 Secretary
*Nancy Peluso 526-5968
Sally Marston 526-1729
Sam Alsbach 526-3488
Mary Karam 767-8530
Donna Sheldon 526-5451
Scott Paulson 526-1563
Peter Smith 526-1875

Matthew Haut 322-4028
Greg Brennan 526-0832
Lisa Brennan 526-0832
Grace Krick 526-8193
Mike Sacrey 526-4814
Art Tirrell 526-4829
Chelsea Chiappa, Jr. Deacon 526-5340
Abby Visel, Jr. Deacon 767-1063
Jim Macgregor 767-1242 Emeritus

STEWARDSHIP

Deb Van Wyngaarden 767-3285 (Chair)
Dale Winchell 526-2501
*Paul Karam 767-8553
(Need)
(Need)

TRUSTEES (4th . Mon. 7:00 p.m.)

* Jack Coulter 526-5274 Chair (Church)
Don Grohs 526-5215 Vice Chair (Church)
Bill Spitzschuh 526-2166 (Parsonage)
Jane Syme 860-575-5724 Secr. (CSCC)
Jayne Mather 526-5433 Secr. (Personnel & Inv)
Richard Higgins 526-4203 (Church)
Peter Razowski 345-2004

CHURCH LIBRARIANS

Kris Lindner 526-2345
Kathy Welch 526-5449

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

2nd. Thurs 7 p.m.
Jim Macgregor 767-1242
Nell Johnson 526-2326
Bill Spitzschuh 526-2166
Audrey Taber 526-2949
Cliff Taber 526-2949
(Need)

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Timothy Haut 526-9048 Perm.
Heidi Lee 526-2295
Ed Lorenson 526-4308
Joe Peluso * 526-5968
Lori Staib 510-0853
Audrey Taber 526-2949
Susan Rozelle 526-1894
Brian Howell 526-1421

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Roger Cole 526-2265
Ed Lorenson 526-4308
Jayne Mather 526-5433 (Trustee Rep)
Jon Hardy 526-5272
Nancy Peluso 526-5968 (Deacon Rep)

DAY CARE COMMITTEE

*Jane Syme 860-575-5724 (Trustee rep,
Chair, & Secretary)
Donna Taber 526-9792
Cathy Smith 526-1875
Pam Graham 526-3258
Pricilla Soucy 663-2048
Sybil Higgins 526-4203
Amy Winchell 526-2501
Heather Mudge 526-4976
Day Care Director, Stacy Bowe

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Emily Bjornberg 575-1127
Fran Phinney 638-4689
Melissa Alsbach 526-3488
Lorraine Shepard 526-3174
Jim Ressler 322-4074

CHRISTMAS FAIRE COMMITTEE

Kathy Alsop 526-9607
Cathy Smith 526-1875
Nikki Cunningham 526-5461
Lorraine Shepard
(Need)
Nancy Peluso 526-5968 - Advisor

FLEA MARKET

Lynn & Bob Butkus 663-8077
Bill West 526-3461
Art Tirrell 526-4829
Kris Lindner, Registrar 526-2345
(Need)
Audrey & Cliff Taber, Advisors 526-2949

RUMMAGE SALE

(Not doing this year)

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Grace Krick 526-8193
Pamela Garner 526-3603

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

Sybil Higgins 526-4203,
Emily Bjornberg 575-1127

JR. CHOIR Annetta Sekula 663-2067

SR. CHOIR Annetta Sekula 663-2067

SR. BELL CHOIR

Claudia Hardy 526-5272

JR. BELL CHOIR

Claudia Hardy 526-5272

SR. MINISTER Rev. Timothy Haut 526-9048

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Annetta Sekula

OFFICE MANAGER Kris Lindner 526-2345

SEXTON William Grote 526-4568

OUTSIDE SEXTON

CHURCH OFFICE 526-5045 FAX 526-9357

E-mail: congregational.chrch@snet.net (Tim)

office.drcc@snet.net (Kris)

Web Site: www.deepriverchurch.org

PRAYER CHAIN

Bobbie Hemmann 526-9747

Sally Marston 526-1729

Fran Phinney fredfranphinney@sbcglobal.net

CRAFT FAIR

Claudia Hardy 526-5272

Class Attendance: We will be starting to stress the importance of regular attendance in Sunday School, especially the 3rd Grade. They are studying the Bible and will have an opportunity to earn their own by attending classes on a regular basis from now until the end of the Sunday School year. These Bibles will be award to them on Children's Sunday in June. If you have any questions, please see Sybil.



4th Grade Communion Classes: The fourth grade will start their Communion Classes during the month February. Attendance to these classes is very



important for a different topic will be discussed each week. Please note classes start on February 21, which will meet during regular class time; classes on February 28, March 7, 14, & 21 will

meet at 9 am, for there will be a special presenter to work with the 4th grade, and then the teacher will roll right into their Sunday School classes. March 28, which is the final class, will meet during the regular class time. These Communion classes will culminate on Maundy Thursday, April 1, when the children will partake in Communion for the first time. **Your child's attendance to these classes is a very important part of their spiritual journey. Please make sure they are present for this 6 week program.**

Souper Bowl: Not a typo; just a great mission! Teen Issues will be outside the Sanctuary on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th, for the annual collection of money to benefit the Soup Kitchen. Please be sure to clean out those spare change areas to help fill our soup pot!



Vacation Bible School ~ July 19 -23

All children 4 years old through entering 5th grade are welcome to attend VBS. Bible stories, crafts, games and snacks are all part of this special week.

Register on-line at www.deepriverchurch.org.

Volunteers needed for the following positions:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| VBS teachers | Guides |
| Snack Coordinator | Decorating Team |
| Registration | Safe Church |

ATTENTION WORKING FAMILIES: Childcare will be available after VBS. Advance sign up required.

**All questions can be directed to
Amanda Higgins at
860-575-2938 or vbs.drcc@yahoo.com.**

7th/8th Grade Mission Work

The 7th/8th Grade class is taking on the mission of hygiene and school kits this year. They are very excited to be involved with such a great project. Check the list below and see where you can help!

School Kit Bags

*** **HELP NEEDED** *** We need school bags made for the kits that we will be assembling. A total of 55 bags are needed this year, which are simple to make; a 12"x14" finished bag with two 10" handles. We can't assemble these kits without the bags, so please see Sybil if you can help! Material is available.

After our Fall collection of school kits we are still in the need of the following items to complete them (quantities wishing for are in bold):

- 156 - Notebooks-spiral bound ~ 70 sheets only
- 31 - 30 cm (12") rulers
- 5 - 2" pink pencil erasers (no pencil top or ink erasers)
- 19 - Blunt tip scissors
- 2 - Crayons ~ 24 count only
- 27 - Pencil sharpeners ~ hand held

Hygiene Kits

It's also time for the annual collection of hygiene kits for Church World Service. These kits are distributed throughout the United States and abroad to those in need. Please place all items in the Donation Station across from Sybil's office. A container has been labeled for these items listed below that you might be able to contribute:

Items Needed - We need the following quantities to make our goal of 60 kits:

- 58 - New hand towels
- 44 - New wide tooth combs (with or without handle)
- 46 - Bars of soap (bath size only)
- 59 - New nail clippers (not emery boards or nail files)
- 56 - Toothbrushes (in original packaging)
- 324 - Band-Aids (1" x 3" only)

CWS is specific in the items they include with the kits. We ask that you only purchase items as noted above otherwise we cannot use them.

Please have items in no later than February 28.

If you have questions or wish to donate money to help defray the cost of processing & shipping, please contact Sybil at ChristianEd.drcc@snet.net or 860-526-4203. Thank you in advance for your continued support!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Middlesex Association Mission Together

On January 30th we kicked off our first ever Middlesex Association “Mission Together” program. We had participation from many area churches including: Deep River, Chester, Old Saybrook, Westbrook, Essex, Clinton, Middle Haddam, East Haddam, Middletown, Middlefield, and Killingworth!

We will now be working on an intergenerational Middlesex-wide “Mission Together” project for April 24th. We’re hoping that people of all ages will participate in a day of mission work. We will put together mission activities all over the county and mix up participants from different congregations so that we can work side by side and compare notes on our different churches. This is a great family activity and can be done by kids as young as 6 months or adults as old as 106! Please consider joining us.

If you have any ideas for mission projects in our own community we’re working on our list this month. For instance, if you have a neighbor with a project they need help with, or an idea for a community garden – anything is possible! Suggestions can be emailed to Emily at yandfm.drcc@snet.net.

Pilgrim Fellowship

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help out PF leaders throughout the school year. If you can help our fearless leaders – even for one simple activity – your assistance would be very much appreciated. Please email Emily if you are available. Pilgrim Fellowship cannot work without the support of many members of the congregation.

Our big February activity is the 30-hour famine. If you would like to participate in the famine please speak with Lisa McNeely at McNeely28@comcast.net.

Eddy Shelter Meals

Please take a look at the Eddy Shelter Sign-up outside Upper Fellowship Hall. We have committed to bringing them a meal on the first Wednesday of every month. This is a fun and fast mission activity that can be done by couples, families, or groups of people in the congregation who want to roll up their sleeves and spend some time serving the less fortunate. If you have questions please speak to Emily or a member of the Board of Christian Service.

The Eddy Shelter Meals are also now open to members of the Senior PF as long as they sign up with an adult. This has worked particularly well for teenagers who want to volunteer with a parent or confirmants who choose to bring their mentors. Please let us know if you want to volunteer for this mission. Or if you want to hear more about what it is like to deliver a meal to the Eddy Shelter, we have lots of folks with experience who are willing to share. Email Emily if you want to be put into contact with one of our “experts!”

Community Playgroup

Please join us for our weekly FREE playgroup, every Wednesday morning from 10-11 am. Anyone is free to join at any time and there’s no need to RSVP – just show up at church and look around for our group. We will either be outside on the lawn, or in Upper Fellowship Hall! Please remember that there is no need to be a member of the church to join us so feel free to recommend it to your friends and neighbors. All are welcome!

If you have older children and are cleaning out old toys, please keep our community playgroup in mind. We are looking for crafty or educational activities that we can do with the kids and we are always glad to take used toys off your hands!

Youth Leadership Council

We’re looking for a few teens to spend some time this spring talking about how to improve Youth Activities at church. We already have some volunteers and some great ideas!! If you can contribute thoughts or want to be involved in PF in the coming years please contact Emily at yandfm.drcc@snet.net. We need to make some recommendations to PF leaders so that our programs continue to flourish. Anyone can join our leadership council!

Additionally, if you are a parent who is interested in running a program next year we need your input at the Youth Leadership Council. We always need adult leaders and are happy to help implement new programs if you have ideas!

Midnight Run

This year the Midnight Run will happen in April. We’re hoping to collect some “warm weather” clothes to hand out to people on the streets. If you are in the process of cleaning out your closets please keep us in mind. We’re looking for light pants, shorts, t-shirts, light long-sleeved shirts, shoes and socks as well as the usual toiletries, blankets, warm clothes and bags. Please remember that one of the hardest things for these people to get their hands on is clothing that is appropriate to wear to a job interview. If you have any nice-looking button down shirts or ladies sweaters those are really appreciated. Email Emily if you have any questions.

Family Mission Trip

The Board of Christian Service and I are working together to introduce a new program this year: family mission work. Along with the January 30th sleep out and the “Day Of Missions” here in Middlesex County, we’re looking to do a very short overnight mission trip for families. We have a few interested families who are looking at local options which include, among other things, a three-day weekend at Camp Claire. If you and your family would be interested in joining a “family mission trip” please email Emily at yandfm.drcc@snet.net.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Prayers Answered

During the hours after the devastating earthquake in Haiti the Bentrott family (Kelley Frazier) received a phone call from her missionary nephew Patrick, Kim and their baby Solomon.



CLEVELAND -- For one Cleveland clergyman, the earthquake in Haiti hit a little too close to home.

Eric Bentrott's brother and sister-in-law are United Church of Christ missionaries in Haiti and they were just arriving home from work when the massive earthquake hit.

"I knew that communication would be down, power would be out so even if he was OK, there would be no way to let us know," Bentrott said.

Patrick and Kim Bentrott have been in Haiti for nearly two years. She's a doctor and he is a teacher. Tuesday night was a long night for their brother in Cleveland, but finally at 5 a.m. the phone rang.

"Their house collapsed. They have a third story apartment that collapsed. They had to jump out from the second floor as it came down. They lost their belongings, so they're homeless. But friends are helping them find a temporary place to stay," Eric Bentrott said.

Bentrott said his brother and sister-in-law are giving people and they try to put others ahead of themselves. After the earthquake, they were trying to get some of the victims to a hospital, but the hospitals were so full, the doors were locked. The Bentrotts spent the night in a parking lot.

January 14, 2010 from Patrick in Haiti

That's were the good news ends. Port-au-Prince is a disaster and there are countless people that are dead, injured, trapped beneath wreckage, and homeless. Most people are setting up little communities in the middle of the streets and on the sidewalks because they are either displaced or too scared to go back into their homes.

CONASPEH, the organization that we work for, has been completely destroyed. We made it over there yesterday to find the worst possible scene imaginable. The building (6 stories) has completely collapsed and countless people were inside at the time of the earthquake. Several bodies have been pulled out already but there are dozens more inside. It is devastating to say the least.

Currently the three of us are staying about an hour up the mountain from Port-au-Prince in a town called Kenscoff. The owner of the guest house that we lived in for three months has been an amazing help to us and has taken us to this town.

We spent last night in a little hotel and he is making arrangements for us to stay with a pastor in Kenscoff. Tomorrow we will go back to PAP to see if we can find the Villiers (the heads of CONASPEH who are both safe) to see what plans they are making. We are also hoping to stop at the U.S. Embassy to talk with people there as well. For now I would say that we are uncertain what the future holds for us. Our house and organization have been destroyed and even if we wanted to we probably cannot leave Haiti because Solomon's adoption is far from complete. We would like to continue to help with relief efforts, but things are complicated due to security and having to take care of our baby. We will let you know what happens when we can. Currently our internet is working at the hotel but phone service is basically non-existent in Haiti right now.

Please keep the people of Haiti, especially the CONASPEH community, in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for all of your concern and prayers. Please forward this to whoever might be interested as internet connection has been inconsistent. Take care.

Patrick

January 14, 2010 from Kim in Haiti

I've been trying since the earthquake to call, but our phone networks are down. Yesterday Patrick and I snuck into our apartment--that miraculously didn't crumble when our apartment building went from three stories to two in one big crunch of the first story. The landlord got out--not sure how... but no one in our apartment complex was seriously injured or killed.

I'm sure you know by now that Patrick, Solomon and I are safe. Patrick and Francois are safe. The entire group miraculously is safe. had they been on time for dinner, it would have been another story.

CONASPEH is flattened with all nursing students inside. It is in complete ruin. Francois and Patrick lost one of their foster care kids inside. Pray for them. Patrick and I got the group to the American embassy yesterday. The embassy was planning on shuttling people 100 at a time to Santa Domingo, and from there AA would take them back to the states. So they all had a plan on getting out. Veniel--the manager of the guest house, has taken Patrick and I under his wing and took us up the mountain to Kenscoff last night to find a hotel to stay in. We'll be here for two nights and try to figure out where to go next.

We spent most of the day at CONASPEH helping remove bodies and rescue the last few voices inside the rubble. We haven't been able to contact the Villiers since yesterday morning. The phone system continues to either be completely down or jammed.

We'll stay in contact. We hope to head to Port au Prince today or tomorrow to find the Villier's and see what we can do to help.

Pray for us. Pray for Haiti. The horror and tragedy here is beyond description. Such huge loss of life. Such devastation.

Kim

Haiti.... Is there someway we can help?



The Current Situation

Patrick and Kim Bentrott are an American couple who have been serving the people of Haiti for over a year and a half. They survived the earthquake, but they have lost everything. Their home, current offices, school they taught in, and medical clinic have been destroyed. They would like to continue to help with relief efforts, however things are complicated due to security and having to take care of their baby, Solomon. They therefore may need to seek evacuation to the US. The situation is complicated by their son Solomon not having a complete adoption process. One thing is for certain, though, they will not leave Haiti without their foster child Solomon Joseph being legally adopted. Abandoning him is not an option. They need your help to expedite Solomon's adoption process

You can find information on your representatives at the following websites. To help our chances of getting Solomon out, please consider employing both methods—phone and fax/mail.

January 20, 2010

Patrick called at about 5:20 this morning. He said that there was a large aftershock and they are fine.

They received a call from the orphanage this morning. The orphanage (there is a press release on this that I got per email) is going to walk the 133-135 children to the US Embassy this AM and "demand" visas for the children. There is a cargo jet available to take them to the US. Patrick and Kim + Solomon would accompany the orphans to the US. They do not know where they would land (when I spoke to Kathy she thought maybe Miami then Denver).

Please keep the prayers coming for these children and also my family.

Communication Kelley to Patrick

We are moved to tears to read your blog. We only wish we could do more...we have taken up an offering at church and hope to have Pfizer match. Don has also contact Pfizer to see what they are doing. Would it be at all useful to collect the supplies that you need and send them to CCAI? I would be happy to do this here. I have had an offer of formula. If this is something that would be helpful, please give us a list and it will not be hard to make it happen. If this is another way in which you can receive goods, please let us know.

We continue to keep you in our prayers each day and know that the people of Haiti are so lucky to have you. We look at those little children and wish we could have a few here staying with us. You are doing God's work and making the world a better place. We are so proud of you.

Patrick's reply

Not much time to talk, but don't send anything at this point. CCAI is trying to get all of their children out of the country (Solomon included) with humanitarian visas soon. Raise money, supplies, any support and keep them for when we can better use them for the people of Haiti. Right now nothing can be received in a timely manner that will help the children, but in the future these things will still be extremely important.

I love you aunty. To follow the Bentrotts:

<http://www.kimandpatrick.blogspot.com/>





Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Mackenzie Gill | 16 Deb Campbell |
| 2 John Kollmer, Jr. | Gloria Copeland |
| Dillon Eriksson | Roy Jefferson |
| Ray Hayes | Dayle Larson |
| Kiter Lawrie | Jennifer McNeely |
| 3 Emmie Macgregor | Samuel Michael Paulson |
| Carly-Ann Thompson | Kelly Lynn Schweitzer |
| 4 Patrick Boughton | Timothy Ressler |
| Avery Moore | 17 Cathy Fremut |
| Hanna Moore | Evie Grohs |
| Leah Ann Sopneski | Arianna Smith |
| Tamara Tabor | 18 Jean Brown |
| Fern Tryon | 19 Colton Bailey |
| Neil Hamblett | Robyn MacKenzie Lane |
| 6 Tanner Alsop | Chase Rozelle |
| 7 Ed Judd | Nancy Warner |
| Simon Laplace | Isaac Jeffrey Tucker |
| Jonathan Layton | 20 Erica Anderson |
| Nancy Schmitt | David Stein |
| Jon Ely | Betty Tracy |
| Ethan Powell | 21 Chris Lawrie |
| 8 Sonja Stein | Katie Munsell |
| Dawn Powell | Travis Olson |
| Peter Thomas | 22 Chelsea Chiappa |
| 9 Hal Jones | Timothy McDonald |
| Christopher Koritkoski | 23 Cooper Graham Robbins |
| Donna Machold | 24 Joan Cole |
| Emma Rose Green | Jack White |
| Jake Bloomquist | Mia Jacquelyn Cost |
| David White | Ellie Jane Cost |
| Linda Zimmel | 25 Sarah Bengston |
| Art Robbins | Dominique Burrows |
| 12 Kelly Marie Layden | Cynthia Filacchione |
| 13 David Bugbee | Sammy Roy |
| Joan Burns | Abby Saglimbeni |
| Donna Gesick | 26 Chris Ficke |
| Angie Narducci | Jeremy Groth |
| Amy Nelson | Eric Rannestad |
| Elena Peterlik | 27 Mark Freudenstein |
| 15 Thomas Grant | Fred Phinney |
| Cindy Knudsen | Jacob Andrew Taylor |
| Robert Lanouette | 28 Sally Carlson Crowell |
| | Erin Hardy |
| | Robert Ziobron |

Baptisms

Taylor Anne Root, born Aug. 30 2009, son of Christopher Root and Angelica Ramsdell of Deep River. Baptized in the Deep River Congregational Church Jan. 3, 2009.

In Memoriam

Charles Edward Vincelette, Jr., of Haddam, husband of Holly and father of Geoffrey and Stephen Vincelette, (Jan. 26, 1966 – Jan. 1, 2010), Funeral at the Deep River Congregational Church. Graveside service at Centerbrook Cemetery, Jan. 6, 2010



A ray of sunshine on a cold winter morning

Note from the Board of Deacons

Ever wonder what all those different envelopes are in the pews? If you use the envelopes labeled Pew Envelopes for a donation this money goes to the Church's General Fund. If you use the Neighbor in Need envelopes for a donation this money goes into our Good Samaritan Fund and is used to help local families who may need assistance. We use the One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes only during that special time of year around Easter for that specific fund drive. If you want our Collector to record your donations on a yearly basis your best bet is to get a box of numbered envelopes from our collector Claudia Hardy.

Senior Birthdays

- 3 Emmie Macgregor
- 7 Ed Judd
- Nancy Schmitt
- 17 Cathy Fremut
- Evie Grohs
- 19 Nancy Warner
- 20 Betty Tracy
- 27 Fred Phinney



Senior Anniversaries

- 12 Nancy & Bob Schmitt

The Promise of Easter



We are worthy; we are worth Jesus' giving his life for us. Instead of explaining all the reasons we don't deserve such a gift, let's just say "thank you" by living for Christ. Nothing could please God more.

Thought for the day None of us is worthy to approach God, but each of us is welcome.



February 2010

Handicapped Accessible

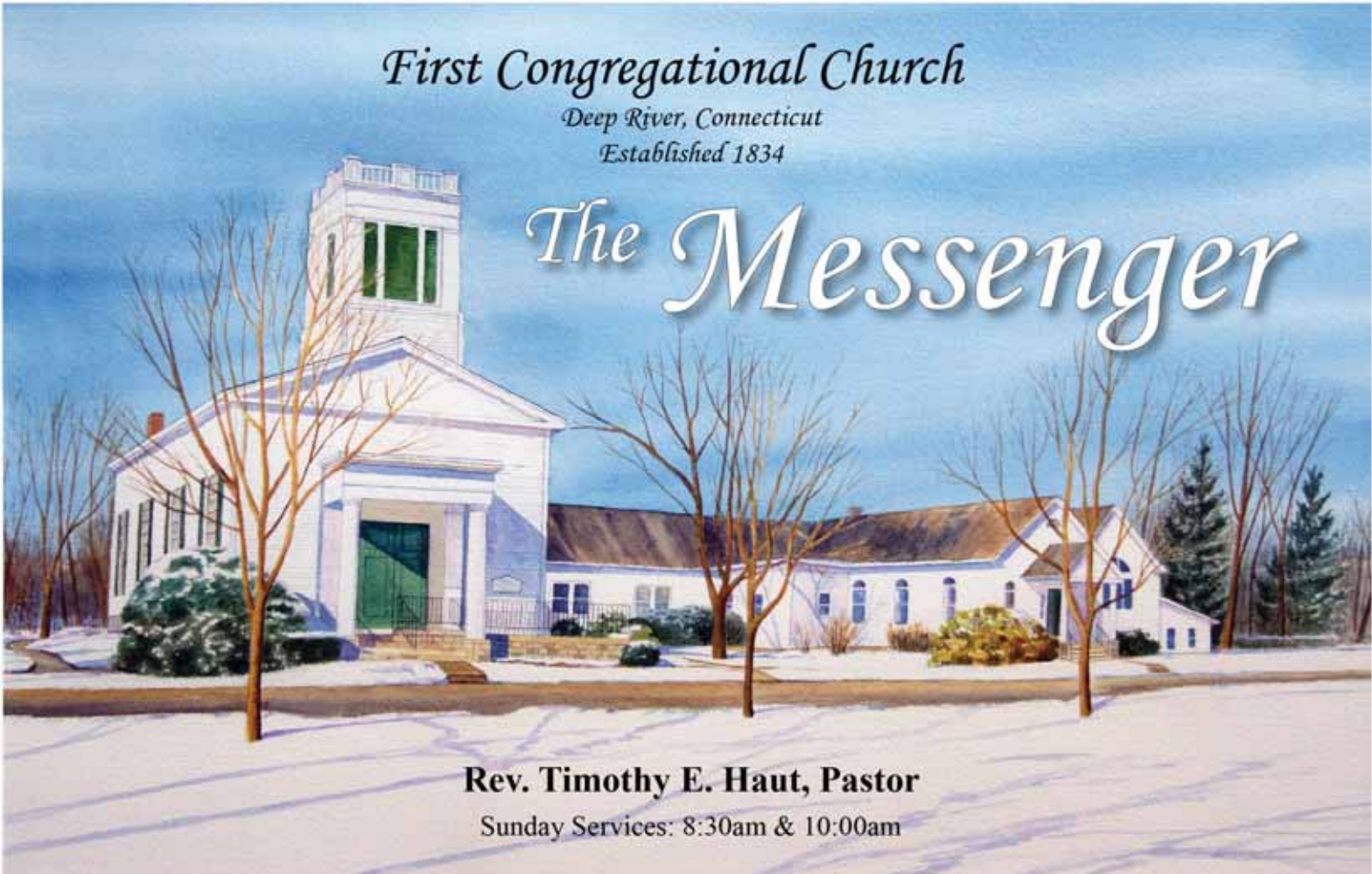
First Congregational Church
P.O. Box 246, Church Street
Deep River, CT 06417

First Congregational Church

Deep River, Connecticut

Established 1834

The Messenger



Rev. Timothy E. Haut, Pastor

Sunday Services: 8:30am & 10:00am