



The Church Bell

**The Federated Church of Christ
American Baptist Churches and
United Church of Christ**

Worship and Sunday School on Sunday at 10:00
Office Hours: Tues–Thurs, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

April 2014

Secretary: Linda Huber 860-774-9817
FCCoffice@FederatedChurchBrooklynCT.org
Pastor: Mary Little Apicella 860-774-3761
Minister@FederatedChurchBrooklynCT.org
Moderator: Mark Rollins 860-779-1784
Moderator@FederatedChurchBrooklynCT.org
Clerk: Kathryn Stellitano 860-774-9210
Flowers@FederatedChurchBrooklynCT.org
Deacon Contact:
Deacons@FederatedChurchBrooklynCT.org
Head Trustee: Russ Parker
Trustees@FederatedChurchBrooklynCT.org
Treasurer: Lori Bailey 860-774-4418
Treasurer@FederatedChurchBrooklynCT.org
Pastor/Parish Relations: Cindy Rollins
860-779-1784

Missions:
Missions@FederatedChurchBrooklynCT.org
Christian Education Coordinator:
Theresa Carpentier - 860-230-2284
ChristianEd@FederatedChurchBrooklynCT.org
Woman's Group (WCGCS): Kathryn Stellitano
Worship Committee: Sandy Motasky
860-974- 1302
Music@FederatedChurchBrooklynCT.org
Church Bell: Linda Huber 860-774-9817
ChurchBell@FederatedChurchBrooklynCT.org
UCC Interim Eastern Regional Minister:
Rev. Tom Clough 860-928-0765
toms@ctucc.org
ABCCONN Exec. Minister: Rev. Judy Allbee
888-236-5421 jallbee@abconn.org

The Church Bell is a forum for the church, and input from you is always welcome. Articles may be e-mailed to the Pastor or to the secretary's office at federated.church@snet.net

Notes from Pastor Mary

March 5, Ash Wednesday, marked the beginning of the church season of **Lent**. During these 40 days before Easter (not counting the Sundays, which are always days of celebrating Jesus' living presence among us), we take time to intentionally reflect upon what God has done for us, with us, in us, and through us. It is my hope that this time of reflection and renewal will lead to a deeper sense of awareness, authenticity, and agency for each of us as individuals and collectively as a church family.

As a church of "GRACE at the Crossroads" how do we offer Good News to our community? How do we offer Good News to one another? In the midst of the busy traffic of our lives, it is often difficult to pause and center down and allow the hunger of our spirits to guide us into a deeper, more authentic, relationship with God, with one another, and ourselves. Each Sunday during Lent we are singing "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me," an old spiritual that gets to the root of our journey with Jesus in the wilderness towards the cross and towards resurrection. In our trials and troubles, as well as in our joys and celebrations, we call on God to accompany us and trust that we are never alone.

I invite you to come and be part of the process of walking the path to Easter with us on Sundays, and take part in a sermon series I am calling "Easter According to John." Each week presents a story and a central question for us to ponder before we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. By knowing more about Jesus – how he interacted with people from all walks of life, what he said, and what happened concerning him, we are transfigured like Jesus to have the eyes of God to see our world and our place in it in a new way. **We are, after all, Resurrection People – those who have heard the testimonies, believed the impossible, and followed after Jesus who was crucified, died, and rose again in order to tell the world that love always wins.**

Chat Room/ Party Line

It is so good to have some of the "snowbirds" returning to our flock after extended stays in Florida. Peg Wasstrom was away for several weeks, spending some time with daughter, Susan who works in Miami. Lucy and Jim Stuyanski are back from Florida also. We are still scanning the horizon for Debbie Bastien.

Despite a busy schedule of babysitting, and volunteering, Betsy and David Burgess managed to fit a cruise in. They had a great time.

Alan and Norine Nichols vacationed in Florida recently. While there, Alan went fishing with his brother in law. They caught 15 bass in just a few hours – one weighed nine pounds! Wonder what they used for bait???

Evalin Berris is anticipating the arrival of two new great grandchildren! Harley and Emily Hayden are expecting a baby girl in June. Ian and Kiku McDonald are expecting their first child on Labor Day! This will make a grand total of 10 "greats" for Evalin.

Recently Earl McWilliams ran into Marilyn Perry, Debbie Wright and new baby, Hunter, who was born on Christmas Day. Everyone looked great.

Kathleen Hart would like everyone to know that the Canterbury Library is sponsoring a Shredding Day on May 3rd from 11AM to 2 PM at the Canterbury Town Hall. This event is free and available to anyone. It's certainly a good opportunity to get rid of papers you don't want to throw in the garbage.

Women's Group

Mother's Day Plant and Bake Sale May 10th 9 AM to 12 Noon

It's hard to imagine with all this chilly weather we have been having, that the Women's Group Plant and Bake Sale will be here in a few short weeks!!

This year's plant sale will be slightly different as Wagon Road Greenhouse will no longer be supplying plants. Frank and Donna Anastasio have retired to grow a few vegetables for the Farmers' Market, make wine and enjoy their grandchildren. We will be getting our plants from Woodward Greenhouses in Chaplin. Jeff Woodward is a very successful commercial grower and has frequently supplied the church with plants for Christmas and Easter. **This year, we will not be able to return the plants that have not sold!** This means we will make a list of the plants we want before the sale and we will probably be somewhat conservative in our orders. If there is a particular type of plant you would like to see at the plant sale, please call Kathryn Stellitano and let her know by April 10th.

On Friday, the day before the plant sale from 2 to 6 PM everyone is welcome to come to the Stellitano garage at 88 Gorman Rd. for the presale. The more we sell on Friday, the less will have to be transported to church on Saturday morning.

We hope our church family will support this event with donations of baked goods. The baked goods can be dropped off at church after 8 AM on the morning of the sale. We are also in need of volunteers on the morning of the sale to help transport plants from the Stellitano garage, set up and dismantle tents and help out during the sale itself. Please speak to Kathryn Stellitano or Ruth Stetson if you would be willing to help in any way. This is always a busy but fun morning and we hope to see you there.

SPRING CLEAN UP!

On Friday and Saturday, April 25th and 26th, as many of us who can make it will be joining forces to participate in the annual Spring Clean Up. Bring rakes, tarps, shovels, pruning shears and we will get the grounds ready for summer. The fun starts around 9:00 in the morning both days. In case of rain (or snow...) we will move the date to the next weekend, May 2nd and 3rd.

VOLUNTEER LIST

Sign up lists are beginning to appear on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. The coffee hour list has been changed to include volunteers who will help the week's coffee hour host by cleaning up after the coffee hour. There is also a list for volunteers who will help keep the lawns trimmed and mowed this summer. Volunteers will be given a thorough orientation. Thanks to Dave and Betsy who have volunteered to regularly clean the first floor of the Chapel. Thanks also to all the volunteers who have agreed to serve as liturgists over the next several months. We're still looking for coffee hour hosts (maybe "teams") for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The church Facebook page is getting an update!

Please search for us using "Federated Church of Christ, Brooklyn CT" and be sure to "Like" us and tell your friends!

In our church page, you can now post comments and pictures, and in the near future, RSVP to events and share the exciting things happening at FCC with your friends.

Coffee Hour News

For those of you who would like to host the weekly coffee hour after church but were unsure of what to do, we have put together a Dummies Guide.

Dummies Guide to Church Coffee Hour

- **The church provides coffee, sugar, and the paper goods.**
You will need to bring milk for the coffee, juice of some kind for those who do not drink coffee and some goodies. If you want to bring paper goods or a table cloth from home, that is fine. Table cloths are stored in the bottom drawer in the kitchen and in a clear plastic box over the sink.
- **Coffee Hour does not need to be a lavish spread.** Baked goods, crackers and cheese, pretzels, or in season vegetable and fruit are all enjoyed. If you bring anything that is gluten free, it is nice to label that. Coffee hour should be a bite to go with coffee and conversation, not lunch!
- **One of the deacons usually gets the coffee pot ready before church and helps set up the card tables.** The coffee hour volunteer needs to get everything organized before church i.e. get out the paper goods, milk, sugar, juice, paper goods and also organize the snacks so that they are ready right after church.
- **Cleaning up involves washing** and putting away any dishes, packing up the food, putting away the tables and chairs, emptying the coffee pot and wiping down the counters. Usually some helpful souls stick around to help out with the cleanup.

If you feel a little overwhelmed, share your coffee hour with a friend. It's pretty easy and its fun!
We need some very helpful people to volunteer to do coffee hour on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. See Earl or Kathryn if you would be willing to help out on one of those Sundays.

DEACONS NOTES

The Deacons offering for the month of April will be for **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

Deacon of the month is Mo Girard.

On Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, a pancake supper was held in the fellowship hall. Over 50 people attended.

Deacons will meet after church service to better fit Pastor Mary's schedule.

Feb. 2nd was communion Sunday and Pastor Mary's first service at the Federated Church.

Doris Heimall joined the church and celebrated her 91st birthday with us.

This was a beautiful day in the Federated Church.

Deacon Ruth Stetson

**Mary Little Apicella's
Service of Ordination
Sunday, April 6th at 4:00pm
The First Baptist Church, Jamaica Plain**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Joyous Noise Collection has begun! Remember to bring your loose change to church because our Sunday School Children are eager to go around with their buckets to collect it. The money collected will be to benefit the **Kids Care** program at St. John's Church where they package dry food and send it to needy families. We will be collecting loose change until Easter Sunday. Our goal is \$300, and we are well on our way!

For the Palm Sunday service the Sunday School children will be performing a wonderful song that they have been practicing. Thank you Sandy Motasky for your help with this special event! Please plan on regular attendance for your children so they are able to learn the song for that special day.

On Easter Sunday during the service we will have our annual "Jesus is Risen" egg hunt for the children. There will be a story and fun crafts as well to celebrate our Lord's resurrection.

I wish you all a very joyous Easter season! Yours In Christ, Therese H. Carpentier (CEC)

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

A warm welcome to Seamus Finnegan Clark (Finn) new son of Amy & Todd Clark and baby brother to Hannah and Sam. Congratulations!

Memorial for Ruth Briere

In accordance with Ruth's family's wishes, plans are being discussed for the memorial tree which we will be planting in anticipation of a special memorial service to be conducted this spring. Hope Barton is coordinating this effort. A consensus seems to be building to dig up the forsythia aside of the stone wall on the East side of the Chapel, which has been overtaken by bittersweet. If we were to plant the tree there, we would have room to set out chairs and have a nice spot for an occasional outside service. Pastor Mary suggested to the Deacons that we consider eventually creating a memorial garden there. Early thinking was to plant a cherry tree. But Kyle Collins suggested we consider a certain kind of pear tree whose white blossoms would last a lot longer than those of a cherry whose blossoms are beautiful, but gone in a week. Ian Berris has offered to assist with placing large, flat stones around the base of the tree. If you have ideas or questions please speak to Hope.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,
Thank you all for the lovely party and for the very generous parting gift which was a great surprise!
I wish you all well, and God's many blessings, and know you will do wonderful ministry with your new pastor Mary.
Barbara

KBIC NEWS

The March meeting of the Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council was held at Westfield Congregational on Wednesday the 19th. Sixteen members from eleven different faith communities were in attendance.

The Interfaith Council welcomed Pastor Mary Apicella to her first Council meeting.

Pastor Jon Chapman reported that the concert performed by the Hofstra University Choir drew about 120 attendees and raised over \$ 800 for the Fuel Fund. Several council members who attended praised the performance, one person noting that it was the best choral concert he had ever been to. It was the first time the choir had included a small town on its annual spring tour. Pastor Jon has invited them back again next year.

Deacon Barb Schreier reported that the state's Operation Fuel, administered locally out of the Danielson Methodist Church, had assisted approximately 160 household in our communities. \$ 79,000 of the \$85,000 allotted to our area has been expended. Barb expects that the remaining \$ 6,000 will be allocated in the program's final week. The program ends March 28th. The Federal program (LIEAP) ended on the 17th. The local Fuel Fund now becomes the only source of fuel assistance in our area. The past week has seen a number of requests as this very cold winter turns into a still cold spring. Fourteen households have been assisted so far by the private funds with several more appointments scheduled in the next few days. With limited revenues the Fuel Fund has been able to secure the assistance of Brooklyn Oil which is willing to deliver 60 gallons for \$ 3.54 per gallon. Most oil companies will not deliver less than 100 gallons. This will enable the limited funds to be extended to more homes.

With the loss of Project Pin support our outreach to the Plainfield area has had to be curtailed. We received \$ 525 in contributions from churches in that area and those funds have been utilized to help two families in Moosup and Plainfield. We also supply ten gallon allocations from All American Fuel to people in need in that area. Jim Millard and his Great Garage Band will be performing a benefit concert soon and the Fuel Fund will be one of the beneficiaries.

Naomi Weiner and Pastor Jon reported that The Little Theater on Broad Street will again by offering the "audience participation version" of The Sound Of Music on Sunday, August 3rd. This fun event was well received last year. Proceeds will again go to the Fuel Fund.

This Fall's Warm Hearts/Warm Homes concert will revert back to a "warm and fuzzy" production put on by local talent from local churches. Discussion and planning will begin after Easter.

Looking way ahead, Westfield will conduct three Victorian Christmas celebrations on the last three Sundays of Advent in December. Pastor Jon reported that this year the old fashioned Christmas themed performances, which drew hundreds last year, will be enhanced by horse drawn carriage rides around Davis Park.

Pastor Harry Denaker from St Alban's noted that the historic organ at the church has been rehabilitated and is waiting for a talented organist to perform a concert on it. Several names were suggested.

Pastor Greg Thomas announced that the Be Our Guest suppers will be sponsored the second Friday of every month by Cornerstone Baptist Church. This ambitious commitment will last as long as his congregation can manage it. St John's may take it in April. St James has signed up for the second Friday in May.

Brooklyn Federated prepared the meal for the second Friday in March.

The World Day of Prayer held at Maple Court on March 7th attracted over thirty people. The theme was the plight of women in Egypt.

A list has been sent out by Jeanne Huber (Hearts of Compassion Food Pantry) outlining each church's part of the Easter dinner distribution. Brooklyn Federated has been asked to come up with 100 cans of gravy by April 12th. Earl McWilliams is responsible for this one.....

Pastor Lisa Anderson reminded the Council that the **Kids Care** Packaging event is slated for April 27th at St John's. She is confident that there will be plenty of hands to help that Sunday, but is concerned that a lot more money has to be raised to pay for the boxed supplies which will be repackaged into meals to be distributed throughout northeastern Connecticut. The Council voted to contribute \$ 400 from its unrestricted Hunger Fund account.

The prescription assistance fund was utilized once last month.

Pastor Greg reported progress on the creation of the new 501 c 3 organization that several pastors are working on. There's one more form to submit, and then the Feds will issue the tax Identification tax number. Pastor Greg noted that a twelve room, three kitchen, five bath building may be becoming available shortly in Danielson for a nonprofit organization such as is being created.

The Council voted to authorize Pastor Jon to spend up to \$ 200 to purchase a domain name and a hosting service for the Council's new web page. The name will be KBinterfaith.org.

Naomi reminded everyone of the upcoming Community Seder to be held at the Temple on Sunday, April 6th from 2:00 to 5:00pm. People expecting to attend are asked to email an rsvp to NaomiLWeiner@yahoo.com. The Brooklyn Federated Choir will be participating.

On Good Friday, April 17th, there will be a procession of the Cross around Davis Park beginning at 11:00am and ending at St Alban's with a brief service.

There will be an Easter Sunrise Service at Allen Hill Tree Farm again this year scheduled for 5:45am. Pastor Mary and Pastor Jon will be conducting the service.

Rather than try to hold the next meeting during Holy Week, the Council will not have a meeting in April. We will meet again at the Temple on Wednesday, May 21st at 1:30. All are welcome!

Yard Sale and Copper Beech Pens

On May 10th, as part of the plant and bake sale, there will be a yard sale consisting mostly of "overstock" from the Thrift Shop. If members would like to rent a table for \$ 10.00 to sell some of their own "overstock" items at the sale, we cordially invite you to do so. We will also be selling beautiful pens which have been fashioned from the wood salvaged from the old copper beech which came down a few years ago. Thanks to Donna Salmon for connecting us to this project. The pens will be available at all future events sponsored by the church.