

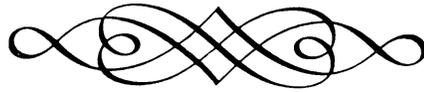


The Church Bell
The Federated Church of Christ
American Baptist Churches and
United Church of Christ
March 2014

Worship and Sunday School on Sunday at 10:00
Office Hours: Tues–Thurs, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM
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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 Linda Huber - federated.church@snet.net



To all the disciples of Jesus at the Federated Church Christ in Brooklyn, grace to you and peace.

My name is Mary Little Apicella, and I am honored to have received the call to be your next settled pastor. For this my first report, I want to share some of the facts of my foundation, and I look forward to getting to know each of you better in the weeks and months to come.

I was born on September 24, 1986 and grew up in Marion, North Carolina. I graduated from high school in 2005 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion from Wake Forest University in 2009 and a Master of Divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology in 2013.

While in seminary, I was the student pastor at The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, MA, an American Baptist congregation, which sponsored me in the ordination process with the ABC, USA. I will be ordained at FBC in Jamaica Plain on April 6, 2014, becoming the first woman ever ordained into the ministry at that church.

I have been a Baptist all my life, growing up in the First Baptist Church of Marion, NC, which was a Southern Baptist church until 2003 when the Southern Baptist Convention dis-fellowshipped the church over the issue of women's ordination (FBC Marion was ordaining women as deacons and pastors). The church then affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a moderate association of Baptist churches who broke away from the Southern Baptist Convention in 1990. Upon entering seminary in Boston, I joined the First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain and became American Baptist.

I am active in the life of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut as well as with two other Baptist groups, the Alliance of Baptists and the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, both of which also have strong connections with the United Church of Christ.

My husband, Jason, and I were married on August 3, 2013 and we now make our home in Granby, CT. Jason grew up outside Watertown, Connecticut and graduated from Central Connecticut State University in 2007 with a Bachelors of Science degree in education, and in 2010 received his Master of Divinity degree from Wake Forest University Divinity School, where he and I met. Jason is currently the associate pastor at the First Baptist Church in West Hartford, CT and is also active in Connecticut Baptist life, serving on the planning committee for the Annual Gathering of ABC churches in Connecticut.

Among my interests and hobbies, I enjoy being outdoors, weight lifting, reading, and cooking and eating delicious food with family and friends.

Again, I am thankful and happy to begin my journey of pastoral ministry with you all. I know that God has amazing things in store for our church, and I am glad to be on the journey of faith with each of you.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mary

It's official! The Search Committee would like to announce that the Federated
Church of Christ has a new pastor!
The Reverend Mary Little Apicella

Despite the snowy weekend of February 15th and 16th, many friends and members of the Federated Church turned out to meet Mary Apicella and her husband, Jason on Saturday morning. On Sunday Mary delivered an inspiring sermon and led us in worship. At the close of the service, the congregation voted to call her to become our new pastor. We are all very enthusiastic about Mary and her many gifts.

We on the Search Committee are very grateful for the support we have received from the congregation, Pastor Barbara, the UCC and ABC conferences and the Good Lord during this process.

In the next few months we will be looking forward to Mary's ordination and installation as the new pastor of the Federated Church.

Christian Education

March 5th will be the beginning of the Lenten season.

March 9th, 2014 the Sunday School children will start their Joyous Noise Collection so save all that loose change to put in the children's buckets on Sunday mornings. The money the children collect will benefit the Kids Care program.

March 16th, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the Sunday School.

May God's blessings be with you all, Therese H. Carpentier (CEC)

Deacons:

The Deacons Offering (special offering on communion Sunday) for the month of February was for the fuel fund. March's offering will be for Capital Improvements.

Note from the deacons: If you know someone who needs a visit or a phone call, please indicate on the prayer request card in the pew. We would also like to call members who have not been in church for some time.

Deacon for February was Earl McWilliams.

Sandy Collins is feeling better and well enough to resume her term as deacon. God bless.
The Deacons collectively welcomed Pastor Mary Apicella.

Sec. Ruth Stetson

RANDY AND SANDY ARE BACK IN BUSINESS

We took a break during the holidays but now we are ready to do your home repair or improvement project. The church is starting a new year with a projected budget deficit of close to \$8,000. The labor cost of your project could help to avoid that deficit.

If you have a home repair or improvement project, or need a special piece of furniture that can't be found to your specifications, CALL RANDY AND SANDY. If the job is suitable, they will be happy to do it for you. You will pay for all materials, and a FAIR PRICE for labor. Your check for the total labor amount will be made to the church general fund. Please note that this is not intended to save you money. The purpose is to get your job done quickly, correctly, and at the same time, reduce the church budget deficit.

☐☐GARAGE MAKEOVERS – A GREAT PROJECT FOR SPRING

We will sort through the mess, separate the trash, load your car for a dump run if needed. We will install shelves, hooks, and other organizing devices. We will make a place for everything and put everything in its place. You will be amazed how good it feels to have a tidy garage.

Call Randy & Sandy – 860-974-1302 – or talk to them at church.

WCGCS (Women's Group)

After our two month winter hiatus the Women's Group will be meeting on Monday, March 10th at 1 PM in the Chapel conference room. We will be finalizing plans to help MO with the Be Our Guest Supper on March 14th and also planning for our Take- Out Lasagna Supper which will be held on Saturday, March 29th. Best of all we will begin to think about the Spring Plant and Bake Sale. We would love to see some new faces, so come and join us!



**Take Out Lasagna Dinner
At The Federated Church
March 29th, 4:30-6:30pm
Meat or Vegetarian Lasagna
Salad, Bread, Cake
\$8.00**

Party Line

Due to popular demand, the Party Line is being reinstated in the Church Bell. I am wondering if the word party line dates some of us and thinking that perhaps this section should be renamed "The Chartroom." Your thoughts are welcomed.

Whatever we end up calling it, I am looking for news about you and your families to share in the Bell. Please call me (Kathryn Stellitano at 774-9210) if you have any news that you would like to see included or you may also email me at [sstellitano@charter.net](mailto:ssellitano@charter.net) . You can always see me after church.

Maggie, Shirley Leach's daughter is slowly recovering after her surgery. We are looking forward to seeing her visiting with Shirley soon.

We have heard that George and Jan Geer had a great time on their cruise, except for the little incident with the fire alarm.

Congratulations to Todd and Amy Clark on the birth of their new son, Seamus Finnegan who was born on February 12th. Weighing 9 lbs 1oz.

Thrift Shoppe

open

THURSDAYS 12 to 4pm

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 10 to 2pm

COME SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE REVAMPED SHOP

*90 % SUPPORTS OUR CHURCH AS AN OUTREACH TO OUR LOCAL
COMMUNITY*

10% IS SENT TO LOCAL & WORLD MISSIONS

You can help by volunteering in the shop or by donating gently used clothes and household items

KBIC NEWS

The Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 19th at St John's Lutheran. Seventeen representatives from ten different faith communities were in attendance.

Guest speakers Charlotte Dion and Jean Huber presented their plans for a new food pantry to be located in the basement of St. Alban's Church on Broad Street in Danielson. The new pantry hopes to fill a need for the community's working poor who are often unable to access the Friends of Assisi pantry which is only open during the day (Tuesday and Friday 9:00 to 11:00) when many people are working. The new "Hearts of Compassion" food pantry will be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Used clothing is also being collected and will be distributed from the site. The pantry will open as soon as the group gains 501 c 3 status. Yale law students are working on that. Lists of names are being shared with Friends of Assisi to avoid "double dipping".

Charlotte and Jean also reported that they are launching an effort to feed between one hundred and two hundred families an Easter dinner this spring similar to the Friends of Assisi program which supplies hundreds of families with a Thanksgiving dinner. Each faith community is being asked to supply up to two hundred specific items to provide the dinner. Brooklyn Federated has been asked to provide two hundred cans of gravy by April 6th. Volunteers are also being requested to help assemble the dinners on April 12th at 10:00am at St. Albans's. For more information please call 860-933-1762.

Betty Merow announced that Westfield will be hosting a forty member acapella choir from Hofstra University on Friday night, March 14th at 7:30pm. The Hofstra University Chamber Choir, from Long Island, will perform a ninety minute concert with a free will offering going to the Community Fuel Fund. Volunteers are being recruited to host two choir members in their homes that Friday night and to feed them breakfast Saturday morning. For more information, please call Westfield Church at 860-774-8438, and mark your calendars!

Naomi Weiner and Pastor Jon Chapman announced that The Sound Of Music will again be presented at the Killingly Rec Theater on Sunday, August 3rd at 2:00pm. This "audience participation" event was a big hit last summer. A free will offering will be taken either for the Fuel Fund or for the Thanksgiving distribution in the fall.

There was a brief discussion of the nature of this Fall's "Warm Homes Warm Hearts" concert. There is general agreement that the concert will be a "home grown" affair featuring musical talent from within our faith communities.

The schedule for the "Be Our Guest" suppers at St. Albans was reviewed. Brooklyn Federated will host on Friday, March 14th. (Mo Girard is coordinating this) St.James will host the second Friday in April, and St.John's expects to host the second Friday in May.

Pastor Lisa Anderson from St. John's initiated a discussion on the plans for this spring's "Kids Care" food packaging event which they have conducted for the last three years. The all day packaging event will be held on Sunday, April 27th at St. John's. As Pastor Lisa explained, they have been very gratified with the turnout from all the churches to help in the packaging of the meals which are distributed all over Windham County. Last year, over 52,000 meals (!) were prepared. The only problem has been in raising the funds to buy the cases of food to be packaged. Last year they raised almost

\$ 13,000, but it was a struggle, with several thousand raised on the day of the event. St. John's has about \$ 4,000 already, but are not sure they can raise the rest without substantial help from each of the other

faith communities. The sponsoring national organization will only work with St. John's if they can guarantee \$ 7,500 or 30,000 meals. Broken down, every \$10.00 donation will feed forty people. In each of the last two years, Brooklyn Federated has raised about \$ 250 with the children's "Joyful Noise" collection. St. John's is hoping for an even more substantial assist from churches to support this worthwhile event.

The Temple will host the annual Seder Service on Sunday, April 6th from 2:00 pm until 5:00pm. The Brooklyn Federated Church Choir led by David, Sandy and Randy will again perform. This well attended event is a real joy. If you haven't been able to attend in the past, you're most cordially invited this year. Please RSVP to naomilweiner@yahoo.com or call her at 860-779-0349.

The report of KBIC's Operation Fuel program noted that 114 households had been assisted, including 299 people of whom 122 were children. So far the fund has allocated over \$ 58,000.

The local Community Fuel Fund has raised about \$ 6,000 and has not been tapped by many households yet. It is expected that when Operation Fuel runs out on March 14th, the need for local funds will begin. The Pancake Breakfast at St. Joe's on January 25th netted \$ 549.00 for the Fuel Fund, with an additional \$ 500 coming from Kohl's sometime later in March. Many thanks to Ann Lambert and Steve Stellitano for putting the Kohl's piece together, and to Dave and Betsy Burgess for recruiting the volunteers from the Danielson Lions to make the day happen. We will be repeating the event next year.

The March meeting of KBIC will be on Wednesday, March 19th at 1:30 at St. John's Lutheran Church. All are welcome.

"Saying Goodbye to
our Interim Reverend
Barbara Marston"

After the service on
February 23rd, we will
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