

THE TIE that binds

December 2016



1241 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340
860-445-6126

Christmas isn't showy gifts
Or glittering decoration;
It's honoring our Savior, Jesus Christ
In humble adoration.

It's serving those less fortunate,
Meeting their needs before our own;
It's making sure at Christmas time
That no one is alone.

It's taking what we would have spent
On things that no one needs,
And using it to help someone
With service and good deeds.

Our Savior showed us how to live
With charity, faith and service.
It makes the holidays a joy,
More peaceful, and less nervous.

So let's remember Christmas is
About our Savior's birth;
That's the way to happiness,
The way to peace on earth.

By Joanna Fuchs

Pastor's Page



Thank you for Sharing Your Gifts

With gratitude we recognize the many gifts you have shared: from Christmas family presents to the Holiday Bazaar; from the collection of Thanksgiving and holiday food items to the commitment of pledges and financial support; from funeral receptions for two church families to the gifts you will make to the Retired Ministers offering. It has been a busy Advent season; may God bless you in all the seasons yet to come!

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

This month we have the opportunity to say “Thank You” to the retired American Baptist minister and missionaries who have served our denomination so faithfully over the years. These gifts provide Thank You checks and financial assistance to over 3,000 retired pastors and spouses, a beautiful way of showing gratitude for the service, spiritual guidance, support and countless ways in which they have served us and our family.

Celebrating the Ministry of Kristen Negaard O'Brien

After 12 years of serving as Leader of our Co-Op Youth Group, Kristen is retiring and moving with her husband, George, to England. On Sunday, January 8th, 2017 we will gather at Noank Baptist Church at noon for a special potluck luncheon in her honor. If you cannot be present that day, please send us a card, letter or email, celebrating her ministry and giving thanks for her faithful years of service. We will miss her so very much!

Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Claudine will be on vacation Monday, December 26th through Sunday, January 1st. If there are emergencies or pastoral needs during that time, please call Barbara Brant in the church office or our Moderator, Dianne Dellarco, at 860-326-9962.



DECEMBER MINISTERS

Communion: Prepare: Marilyn Baird & Holly Boyle
Serve: Marilyn Baird Ron Land
Anita Fernald & Bob Nelson
Assist Pastor: Richard Tourjee

Lay Leader:

04 - Jon Hiller
11 - Barbara Brant
18- Dennis Piscitello
25 - Holly Boyle

JANUARY MINISTERS

Communion: Prepare: Gail Neff & Peg Straub

Serve: Gail Neff & Peg Straub
Ron Land & Pete Wong
Assist Pastor: Barbara Brant

Lay Leader:

01- Pete Wong
08- Anita Fernald
15- Dianne Dellarco
22 - Alex Lew
29 - Dave Rowley



Birthdays



December

04 - Sandy Wong
05 - Joan Watkins
06 - Robert Nelson
10 - Ted Hespeler
17 - Clyde Myers
21 - Sheila Manchester
25 - Catherine Hiller

JANUARY

02 – William Deveau
02 – Noelle Butler
04 – Mackenzie Ackley
05 – Eric Bianchi
05 – Ronald Land
06 – Sarah Adams
07 – Pete Wong
08 – Phyllis Ross (Passed)
08 – Pete Deveau
09 – Barbara Bellefleur
15 – Patti Crooks
15 – Adam Greene
15 - Matthew Greene
16 – Jackie Dorobkowski
17 - Go Tuang
18 – Richard Tourjee, Sr.
22 – Libby Ribarich
25 – Pebbles Quibble
31 – Candy Zeppieri



Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church
Council Meeting Minutes
DECEMBER 5, 2016

Moderator Dianne Dellarco opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and Yvette led us in devotions.

Review of November Meeting : Minutes were filed as printed then later corrected when the buildings and grounds gave their report – certification of the fire extinguishers will be taken care of soon.

Correspondence:

- None

Pastor's Report:

- Claudine sent a report to Dianne sharing the Ledyard/Gales Ferry Baptist Church will be joining us for Christmas Eve Service. Their pastor, Bill Aldridge, will join Claudine in leading the service. Any choir members will also be invited to join our choir for that night as well.

Deacon and Committee Reports:

Buildings/Grounds:

General Maintenance:

- One new doorknob was installed in one of the rest rooms in the purple room – thank you Dick Tourjee
- New lights were installed in the hallway downstairs – thank you Ron Land and Dick Tourjee
- Loose tiles in Fellowship room – Richard will check
- Shipman will be in to re-certify the fire extinguishers

Education/Discipleship:

- The Christmas tree in the sanctuary was decorated by the children prior to the first Sunday in Advent
- .

Hospitality:

- Carolyn Land thanked Jackie for doing a wonderful job in her absence
- Cookies will once again be the bill of fare for Christmas Eve. A request for cookies will be listed in the bulletin
- As she needs to devote a significant amount of time/travel to family matters in upcoming months, Carolyn regretfully gave notice she will not be able to serve as the Hospitality deacon once this calendar year of service ends at the annual meeting. As Nominating Committee chair, Pat will seek to fill this role.

Mission/Outreach:

- Jackie reported she will deliver the Christmas gifts for our adopted Family Monday December 12th.
- Moment for Mission for The Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering (RMMO) will be December 18th.

Worship/Membership:

- We are in the Season of Advent and things are going well. All is prepared and ready.

PRC:

- No Report.

Old Business:

- **Church Cushions:** Ron said that about \$550 had come in already for this project. It was agreed we would actively promote this much needed project after the first of the year. If anyone in the congregation would like to “buy a pew”, the cost would be \$175. Donations of any dollar amount would be welcome at any time and should be noted to be directed to the cushion fund.
- **September 2016 Vandalism Court Update:** Nothing received from the courts about this issue.
- **Handbells:** There will be no hand bell choir this Christmas due to schedules/availability of the ringers/leader.
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- **2017 Budget:** Dave said his budget committee met, and he presented us with a proposed 2017 budget reflecting an increase of less than 1%. There were a few items questioned, and a very lengthy discussion followed about our inability to make this years’ budget. We need to think long and hard about increases for next year. Ron once again mentioned that pledges were down by \$6,000. This month our assignment is to look over the budget for possible areas to reduce spending and come back next month to finalize the proposed budget to be presented at the annual meeting for approval.
- **Vanguard Monies:** It was determined the Vanguard fund was a Memorial Fund Account, so that check was deposited in the Memorial Fund.
- **By-Laws:** The By-Law Revision Committee consists of Dave Rowley, Kathy Piscitello, Jackie Dorobkowski, Holly Boyle, and Catherine Hiller. The Council commended them for such a thorough, thoughtful proposed revision of our church by-laws. As the revisions were provided to the Council last month, we had a month to review them and prepare questions. There were many ideas and concerns brought to Dave and Catherine Hiller. All were addressed, discussed, and discussed again. There was also an additional handout given out that contained revisions not completed previously, and there were recommendations there as well. After all was said and done it was determined that this is a document that cannot be rushed and will NOT be completed by the Annual Meeting. They will meet again after the New Year and then come back to council with their second draft for approval. They will take under advisement all suggestions from to-night’s meeting. It was realized that this will require a Special Congregational Meeting which must be announced one month in advance and then two weeks ahead from the pulpit.

Meeting minutes cont.

New Business:

- **Frontier vs. Thames Valley Communications phone/internet service for the church:** Ron Land checked with Thames Valley Communications and found out they are more economical than Frontier for our Phone and Internet Service. He motioned, with Holly a resounding second that we switch from Frontier to Thames Valley, and sign a two year contract with no installation charge. The bill will be \$95.94 a month – which is about \$30 cheaper than Frontier. There was very little discussion and the motion was carried. Ron will follow through and make this happen.
- **Fundraiser:** Darrell would like to have an Art Show Fund Raiser. This would entail many vendors renting space from us. He will check on more details and get back to us after the first of the year. He foresees this as a spring project. He will also check on what insurance is needed.
- **Copier:** Richard Tourjee made a motion that we purchase a new copier for the church using the monies that were donated in memory of our beloved Nuzzy Pack-er. Ron Land seconded. A lengthy discussion ensued. There is no doubt that the copier is on its last legs. It was purchased as a refurbished model 7 years ago, it has served us well. Barbara presented three options received from Jamie of Independent Copiers (Jamie has assisted with our copying needs for the past decade).
 1. We could purchase a new one at \$3,399.
 2. We could get a refurbished one at the cost of \$2,500 - \$3,000. Although it would be refurbished, it will be a step up and maybe more than we need.
 3. We could lease one for approximately \$120 per month plus the service contract fee. After three years we could purchase it, but the interest rate is about 10%.
 4. Jamie from Independent Copiers assured us we could not get a smaller, less expensive model due to the volume of copying we do.

It was agreed this would be a lovely, fitting way to honor Nuzzy as she spent countless hours assisting with the bulletin/Tie. Pros and cons were brought up about spending the money that we may need for other things in the future. The discussion continued, and Dave Rowley called the motion to the floor. The vote was taken by a show of hands. Twelve were in favor and 1 was opposed.

The motion was carried but because the amount of potential purchase is over \$1,000, according to the by-laws it must be brought before the congregation in a formal meeting for final approval. The meeting must be announced two weeks prior from the pulpit. Plans will be made to do so.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Brant

Next Meeting Monday January 2, 6:30 p.m.
Devotions Barbara Brant





An Evening of

HOLIDAY MUSIC AND MAGIC

FEATURING HOLIDAY MUSIC BY

STONINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR

AND

HOLIDAY MAGIC SHOW BY

DAVID REED-BROWN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00 PM

OLD MYSTIC BAPTIST CHURCH
151 SHEWVILLE ROAD, OLD MYSTIC

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

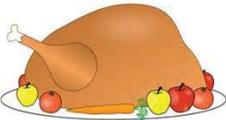


Christmas Basket Donations Needed



Groton Human Services will be providing Christmas Dinner Food Baskets to 500 Groton Families this year!

If you, your family, your friends or a community group would like to help, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NEEDED:



- FROZEN TURKEYS or HAMS*
- CANNED FRUITS*
- CANNED VEGETABLES*
- INSTANT MASHED POTATOES*
- CANNED YAMS*
- STUFFING MIX*
- CRANBERRY SAUCE*
- GRAVY*
- MUFFIN/BREAD MIXES*
- PIE FILLING & CRUST MIX*
- JELL-O*
- DESSERT ITEMS*
- CEREAL*



Monetary Donations towards the purchase of turkey or ham gift checks.

*Donations are needed by December 18th and can be dropped off at
Groton Human Services, 2 Fort Hill Road
Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm*

These are also items for our Second Sunday Food Collection for December.

Community
CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 25, 2016
2:00 pm—4:00 pm



**Union Baptist
Church
Mystic**



ALL ARE WELCOME!

No Charge—No Reservations Needed

Call 860-572-7158

**For reservations, to arrange a ride
or meal delivery or to donate food.**

*Christmas Flower Donations
2016*

*In Memory of Dina Umrysz beloved daughter and mother to Tommy
Given by: Ted and Catherine Hespeler*

*In Memory of Lois & Earle Rowley
Becky Marion & C. D. Chambers
Given by: Dave & Carol Rowley*

*In Memory of lost loved ones
In Honor of Lauren Brant
Given by: Barbara Brant*

*In Honor of Family & Friends
Given by: Peggy Straub*

*In Memory of Virginia & A. J. Brister
Given by: Carol Gatlin*

*In Memory of Jim and Denise Baird
Given by: Marilyn, Karen, Jim & Deb Baird*

*In Memory of Claire and "Red" Marquardt
Given by: Jane Imdahl*

A Gift

Given by: Catherine & Irving Hiller

*In Honor of my sister Peg Straub
Given by: Gail Neff*

*In Memory of Ted and Yvonne Ackley
Given by: Yvette and Peg Ackley*

*In Memory of Austin's great-grandparents
Given by: Austin and his family*

*In Honor of Len Lun Niang & Mei Ling Liu
Given by: The Liu Family*

*In Memory of our parents
Mr. & Mrs. Custodio & Mr. & Mrs. Jose Amuan
Given by: Rey and Aida amuan*

*And a very special "THANK YOU" to Catherine Hespeler for the flowers each and every Sunday during the year.
They add beauty and joy to all of our worship services!*

A Little Church Humor



Due to a slight hearing problem, history does not remember Doug and Gary, chicken herders of Bethlehem.



THE BABY JESUS STARTS TEETHING.

MAEC – Mystic Area Ecumenical Council

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Annual
Potluck



Friday evening
January 20 at 6:00 pm

Here at Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church
More details will follow as we prepare to
host this important event!

You are welcome to attend the gathering
Honoring the recipient of the
Neil & Pat Kluepfel Community Service
Award

Public Invited

MYSTIC CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Wednesday evening, December 21, 2015
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

SERVICE OF LIGHT



*Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*
~ Matthew 11:28

The holiday season, despite all its merriment and joy, can be a time of struggle for many. We may find ourselves sadly separated from those we love for a variety of reasons including distance, estrangement, or death – losses occurring both as recently as this year or as long ago as decades. Some find that the expectations put upon us by our consumer culture make tight financial constraints even more difficult, adding yet another layer of fear and anxiety. Instead of feeling hope and joy when the holiday season arrives, we feel sad, lonely, pressured and sometimes even bitter.

A Service of Light or, as it is sometimes referred to, a “Blue Christmas Service” gives us an opportunity to gather in community to recognize our losses and to move from despair to the hope provided to us by the light of Christ coming into the world. All are invited to attend, pray, listen to song and scripture, reflect in silence and remember that we are never separated from God’s love.

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