

THE TIE that binds

January 2017



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

New Year's Wishes

What shall I wish you?
Treasures of earth?
Songs in the springtime,
Pleasure and mirth?
Flowers on your pathway,
Skies ever clear?
Would this assure you
A HAPPY NEW YEAR?

What shall I wish you?
What can be found
Bringing you sunshine
All the year 'round?
Where is the treasure,
Lasting and dear,
That shall assure you
A HAPPY NEW YEAR?

Pastor's Page



From Advent to Christmas to Epiphany

As we begin the journey of a new year together in Christ, let me offer a word of thanks for the season now past. With joy and gratitude I acknowledge the many hands and hearts that helped make our Advent and Christmas season so rich and full of blessing. As we move through the season of Epiphany, may the themes of hope, peace, joy and love continue to guide our ministry and may God's light born in each of us radiate into the world throughout the coming months.

Special Thanks to our Lay Preachers

We offer heartfelt words of gratitude to Catherine Hiller who served as our Lay Preacher on January 1st. Her sermon was a gift of spiritual inspiration and meaningful wisdom. Dave Rowley brought the message back in August, sharing faithful insight and thought-provoking reflections. We celebrate the leadership of these newly called lay preachers. Thanks be to God!

Our Ecumenical Family

Each month Bob Land represents us at the monthly meetings of the Mystic Area Ecumenical Council (MAEC), serving as treasurer and helping to manage the Care and Share Ministry. This month we have two opportunities to share in ministry with our wider church family.

On Thursday, January 12th we will host the monthly meeting of the MAEC, with Carolyn Land providing refreshments, and Bob and I hosting the meeting. Then on Friday, January 20th, to mark the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we will host the MAEC annual potluck dinner at 6:00pm, a time to share joyful fellowship and recognize this year's recipient of the Neil and Pat Kleupfel Community Service Award. All are welcome to join us for this evening gathering; please see Bob or Carolyn if you are available to help.

Youth Group News and Events

And a note to our Leader Kristen...
We all will miss you!

Happy Trails to you and George!





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**

FEBRUARY MINISTERS

**Communion: Prepare: Jackie Dorobkowski
Mei Ling Liu**

**Serve: Jackie Dorobkowski
Mei Ling Liu
Cathy Piscitello
Catherine Greenfield**

Assist Pastor: Catherine Hiller

Lay Leader:

**05 - Barbara Brant
12 – Jonathan Liu
19– Bob Nelson
26 - Holly Boyle**



Birthdays



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

February

- 01 - Gary Benson (Passed)
- 02 - Althea Gordon (Passed)
- 14 - Yvette Ackley
- 18 - Celia Lew
- 20 - Richard Tourjee
- 20 - Donna McLaughlin
- 23 - Kristin Greene
- 27 - Richard Bassett



Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2017

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

Review of December Meeting : Minutes were filed as printed

Correspondence:

- A letter of resignation from Council member Jackie Dorobkowski was read and accepted with much sadness...and appreciation for her ministry among us.

Pastor's Report:

Claudine sent a report via Dianne – it read as follows:

- I extend my apologies for missing tonight's meeting. I am attending a previously scheduled meeting with the pastors of Noank Baptist Church and Union Baptist Church to discuss and plan for the future possibilities of our shared youth ministry program. I will share an update of this conversation at our next council meeting.
- Kristen's Farewell Gathering was postponed to this Sunday, January 15th, at noon at NBC
- Many thanks to all for helping to make our Advent and Christmas season so meaningful. Also for the prayers and support during the difficult months of October, November and December when we lost three beloved members of our family: Nuzzy Packer, Phyllis Ross, and Garry Benson. Our thoughts continue to be with their families and friends, as well as with Mei Ling for her long journey of recovery, Brenda (Ron and Betty's Daughter) for her healing, and for Carolyn out in Ohio with her daughter, Connie, as she deals with many complications in her treatment for cancer. We remember Joan and Jerry Watkins who have been quite ill over the holidays, and Mela Magno who has been going through some personal family struggles. Special thanks to our most recent Lay Preacher, Catherine Hiller!
- I did meet with Jackie Dorobkowski following the submission of her letter of resignation. Let us love one another, holding Jackie and her family in our prayers and giving her the gift of time away, that it might bring healing and renewed faith to us all.
- This Thursday we will host the MAEC monthly meeting at 4 pm, and on Friday, January 20th, the Annual Potluck and Award Dinner for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Please speak to Bob or Carolyn if you can help with the dinner, it begins at 6:00 pm
- Looking ahead to Lent. We have some breathing time during the month of February! Ash Wednesday will be on March 1st with a service here at 6:30 pm. Bread and Broth will run for five Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm from March 8th to April 5th. In the rotation of our three churches gathering together for Maundy Thursday, this year we have been invited to worship that night at the Ledyard-Gales ferry Baptist Church. Good Friday service will be here on April 14th, Easter Sunday on April 16th.
- I have offered to meet with the By-laws revision committee as a resource on some issues that might relate to my pastoral role and insight. Many thanks for their hard work.
- With love and gratitude for the many blessings of this congregation...

Deacon and Committee Reports:

Buildings/Grounds:

No Report – but Richard Tourjee wanted us to be aware of a situation that may be upcoming.

- Apparently many years ago a pipe was installed from the pond (by the overflow parking lot) and goes through our parking lot under South Road and empties into the river. This is to prevent the overflow water from flooding. Now that construction has begun with the apartment complex, water back-up has become an issue for them. A gentleman from the apartment complex spoke with Richard and asked about the pipe. Richard agreed to meet with him to discuss further. However, one day Pastor Claudine called Richard and asked why there was equipment digging in our parking lot. Richard came right over and stopped them. There had been a misunderstanding and they thought they had permission to find that pipe. Now they are checking with the state, and it is ‘in limbo’. Richard just wanted us to be aware that it may be an issue in the future.

Education/Discipleship:

- No Report

Hospitality:

- No Report

Mission/Outreach:

- No Report—Richard volunteered to deliver the Second Sunday Food Collection to Groton Human Services this week.

Worship/Membership:

- Spoke about the new Lenten Banner – Craft Ladies will make the new one eliminating two squares. Claudine/Peg are to get the proposed design to Pat in enough time for the banner to be made for use this year.

PRC:

- No Report—Everything is wonderful

Nominating Committee Report

- Most positions have been filled – one outstanding but waiting on an answer when that person gets back from vacation. Slate of officers will be ready to present at Annual Meeting.

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 Annual Meeting. Anita may be willing to create a visual tool measuring donations, and fundraising ideas will be entertained.

However...If anyone in the congregation would like to “buy a pew cushion”, 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.

Meeting minutes cont.

- **2017 Budget:** The Finance Committee heeded the recommendations of council last month and presented a revised budget. Richard Tourjee motioned that we approve this budget and present it for final approval at the Annual Meeting on February 5th. Ron Land seconded. The motion was carried.
- **By-Laws:** Dave asked that any changes to the revised By-Laws be submitted in writing to the committee. There were a few more suggestions, so Kathy Piscitello recorded them and will bring them back to the committee. She expects they should be done by May or June for final approval. This is a monumental task and hats off to the entire committee.
- **Frontier vs. Thames Valley Communications phone/internet service for the church:** The changeover has been completed at a savings to the church. The church office staff greatly appreciates the improvement in service!

New Business:

Annual Reports due:

- Barbara reported that most of the reports have been submitted and she is working on compiling the Annual Report for the February 5th Annual Meeting. People responsible for the few reports still outstanding have been emailed. She would like to have the report done and printed for distribution by January 22nd which is two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Brant

Next Meeting Monday February 1, 6:30 p.m.
Devotions: Dianne Dellarco



SAVE THIS DATE

TAG SALE

POQUONNOCK BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

1241 Poquonnock Road

Groton, CT

Thursday, April 20th * extra day

First Hour Early bird fee of \$3.00

9 am- 10am

Be first to see the unique items!

Friday, April 21st 9AM – 2PM

Saturday, April 22nd 9AM – 2 PM

COME AND CHECK IT OUT!!!

BAKE SALE ON FRI. AND SAT. ONLY

CLOTHES - SHOES - POCKETBOOKS

ANTIQUE BUTTONS – LINENS - COLLECTA-

BLES

DISHES – POTS & PANS - UTENSILS

FURNITURE

JEWELRY & ANTIQUES

BOOKS - TOYS – TOOLS - TREASURES

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!!

GREAT BARGAINS!!!!

Help Needed!!!

Tag Sale Team Members will meet each Monday at 9 am

To prepare for the April Annual Tag Sale

Many hands make light work!

This tag sale is a church wide project.

100% of all monies earned goes into the General Fund

\$10,000 is budgeted each year for the tag sale but the workers are not limited to just a few. ALL members and friends of the church are urged to do whatever they can to help in any way!

This is YOUR church and YOUR outreach project so won't you help?

Start cleaning out your basements, your attics, your

Closets and your sheds!

We need "stuff" to sell

We need PEOPLE to work

We need YOUR support!

Plea from our church historian Catherine Hiller

Photos needed for church albums for any events of 2016 (or earlier). I can use photos already printed, on a thumb drive (will be returned), or sent to me email.

Thank you,
Catherine

catbird1933@gmail.com



***ARE YOU AWARE THAT THE
“CRAFT ROOM BOUTIQUE “
ITEMS CHANGE WITH THE SEASONS?***

*Stop in and check it out if you
need a gift for someone or just
for yourself!*



Support our Craft Ladies!

*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.

A Little Church Humor

Dear Lord,

So far today, am I doing all right.



I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think that I will really need your help then.

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Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2000

AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT UP IN A STABLE HOME

MAEC – Mystic Area Ecumenical Council

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Annual Potluck Supper

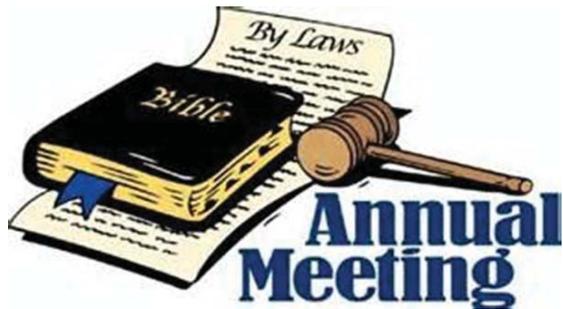


Friday evening
January 20 at 6:00 pm

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



11:30 POT LUCK LUNCHEON FOLLOWED BY:

**CALL FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OF**

Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church

12:00 noon, Sunday, February 5, 2017

The 2016 Annual Business meeting will be held to:

- Receive reports from all areas of ministry for the year 2016
- Act upon the proposed Mission Fund and General Operating Fund budgets for the year 2017
- Elect officers and deacons to the Church Council, and
- Act upon any other business that shall come before the membership.

Barbara Brant
Clerk

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