

THE TIE that binds

December 2017



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The Meaning Of Christmas

Far away in Bethlehem, a Baby Boy was born;
Born with neither riches nor with fame,
Yet Wise Men came from all around to
bring to Him their gifts,
And peace was felt by all who heard His name

Angels watched Him as He slept,
and gently rocked His bed;
Their voices singing softly in His ear;
His Mother and His Father both gave thanks to God above
For the greatest gift of all, their Son, so dear

They knew His life upon this earth
would not be filled with wealth,
They also knew He would encounter strife;
But most of all, they knew that He would be a loving Child,
And teach the love of God throughout His life.

At Christmas, as we celebrate
this Birth of Jesus Christ,
Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day;
For it's not the Christmas wrappings,
nor the gifts that lie within,
But our gift of love to others in every way...

Pastor's Page



A Season of Gifts

With joy and gratitude we recognize the abundant gifts you have shared: from presents for our Christmas family to your tremendous work at the Holiday Bazaar; from the collection of holiday food items to the commitment of pledges and financial support; from the love and gracious hospitality shown for our six new members to the gifts you make to the Retired Ministers Offering. It has once again been a busy Advent season, filled with the giving and receiving of time, treasures and talents. 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 ministers and missionaries who have served our denomination so faithfully over the years. These gifts provide Thank You checks and emergency financial assistance to over 3,000 retired pastors and spouses...a beautiful way of showing gratitude for service, spiritual guidance, support and countless acts of love... just a few of the ways in which they have served our family of faith. Envelopes will be distributed in the bulletins on Sunday, December 17th.

Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Claudine will be away on vacation from Wednesday, December 27th through Monday, January 1st.

If there are emergencies or pastoral needs during this time, please call Barbara Brant in the church office or our Moderator, Dianne Dellarco, at 860-326-9962.

We look forward to welcoming Dave Rowley as our Lay Preacher on Sunday, December 31st.

Love and blessings to all as we celebrate the beginning of a New Year of ministry and service in God's name.



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 ITEMSCEREAL



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*



NOVEMBER MINISTERS

Communion: Prepare: Catherine Hiller & Jon Hiller

**Serve: : Catherine Hiller
Jon Hiller
Gail Neff
Rick Tourjee**

Assist Pastor: Dianne Dellarco

Lay Leader:

**05 – Jonathan Liu
12– Rick Tourjee
19 – Catherine Hiller
26 - Jon Hiller**

DECEMBER MINISTERS

Communion: Prepare: Marilyn Baird and Mei Ling

**Serve: Marilyn Baird and Mei Ling
Ron Land and Bob Nelson**

Assist Pastor: Richard Tourjee

Lay Leader

**03 - Alex Lew
10 - Barbara Brant
17 - Dennis Piscitello
24 - Holly Boyle
31 - Pete Wong**





NOVEMBER

- 04 – Andrea Dellarco
- 05 – Alex Lew
- 05 – Barry Morton
- 07 – Peg Straub
- 08 – Britni Tourjee
- 09 – Carolyn Land
- 10 – Eva Tourjee
- 11 – Vance Lamb
- 14 – Dave Rowley
- 18 – Belle Jordan
- 20 – Jenny Sanda
- 23 – Holly Mulvihill Boyle
- 24 – Megan Taylor
- 25 – Marilyn Baird
- 30 - Cathy Lewis Myers
- 30- Peter Dellarco

DECEMBER

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



Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 13, 2017

Meeting was brought to order at 6:30pm.

Devotions: Dianne Dellarco led us in devotions

Review November Minutes: Received a change post meeting issuance; minutes amended then and accepted as amended.

Communications: None

Treasurer

Cash Flow Detail handout filed with minutes.

Benevolence Treasurer:

September income \$40.00 – Disbursements - \$ 0

Checking Account Balance: \$594.70

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Claudine was not feeling well but sent updates
- Darrell Tootell should be coming home from the hospital tomorrow, and she thanked everyone who responded to his emergency during the service yesterday
- She has scheduled a vacation from December 27th to January 1, 201. Dave Rowley will be our Lay Preacher during her absence
- Barbara also let everyone know that Portia Freeman had been hospitalized that day for tests

Deacon and Committee Reports:

Building/Grounds

- Alex informed everyone that the fire extinguishers are being refurbished. Shipman took out five and will have them back within the next 10 days to 2 weeks. In the interim period we have temporary equipment on loan from Shipman.
- The church, parsonage and rental property furnaces will receive their yearly cleaning in February 2018 by Anderson Oil.
- Richard reported the sanctuary, roof has been fixed and he thanked Jeff Kent for being his youthful assistant.

Education/Discipleship

- The children had a great time helping to decorate the sanctuary
- The children were supposed to sing yesterday but due to circumstances their performance will be rescheduled.

Hospitality

- A beautiful cake was provided for the new members.
- Things are all set for Christmas Eve Service refreshments.

Pastoral Relations

- **No Report**

Worship/Membership

- Peg and Li Ling thanked everyone for decorating the sanctuary. Their Annual Report has been submitted along with their budget request for 2018.

Mission/Outreach

- Jennifer Kent delivered the Second Sunday Food Collection to Groton Human Services.
- We have our Adopt-A Family for Christmas from Groton Human Services.
- Groton Human Services assigned us a family of Dad, Mom and 4 children: 12 year old boy, two 10 year old boys and a 5 year old girl. Gifts are not to be requested by or for the parents, but gift cards for groceries and gasoline are acceptable. The donations have been very generous and prompt. I very much appreciate the enthusiasm, ideas, encouragement, and support for this outreach. In addition to \$210 in cash donations given to Carol so far, donated gifts include VISA gift card, 4 Razor scooters (ie., one for each child), two Barbie dolls and accessories, box of mini cars, remote control vehicle; pants, shirt and hooded shirt, and decorations. The cash has been used to purchase 1 pair ice skates, a remote control vehicle, pajamas and top for each of 3 boys with logo/design of football team of preference, hooded outer shirt, Monopoly board game, Easy Bake Oven accessories, and Shopkins character item, with plan to buy gift card for Big Y and gift card for Sonoco gas station.

Nominating Committee

- The Nominating Committee has set forth the slate of new Council Members for 2018
- They are as follows: (New members or if people changed position will have an asterisk by their name)

Moderator: Catherine Hiller*

Vice Moderator: Patti Tootell

Clerk: Kathy Piscatello*

Financial Secretary: Ron Land

Treasurer: Mei Ling Liu*

Worship and Membership: Peg Straub and Barbara Brant*

Buildings and Grounds: Jeff Lew and one opening*

Stewardship/ Finance: Dave Rowley

Benevolence: Dianne Dellarco*

Missions/Outreach: Carol Gatlin

Education/Discipleship: Li Ling Liu* and one opening

Pastoral Relations: Darrell Tootell*

Hospitality: Sandy Vocalina and Marilyn Benson

Other members:

Delegate to SNUL/ABCCONN : TBD

Memorial Fund: Jon Hiller

Mission Treasurer: Rick Tourjee

Historian: Catherine Hiller

Auditor: TBD

Old Business:

PBBC Support

- It was noted in last month's minutes that Dave and his committee will resume after the first of the year.

Snow removal contract

Dick met with Mr. Hodge of Odd Jobs Landscaping (referred by Marilyn Benson). After viewing the property, Mr. Hodge agreed to plow the church parking lot, the overflow lot and the parsonage driveway for the same price as our previous contractor. Since all of the estimates received thus far were for more than double that price, Dick motioned we raise the rate to \$100 and proceed with signing a contract with Mr. Hodge. Dave Rowley seconded and

Old Business Cont.

and a short discussion followed. The vote was then taken and it passed unanimously. Yvette informed Richard that we would need a copy of his liability insurance.

Good job once again Mr. Tourjee in getting a difficult job done!

OMBC

- New officers are now in place, and they are proceeding. Let us continue to hold them in our prayers and be ready to extend the possibility of partnership.

2108 Budget:

- Dave has received quite a few budgets and he will meet with Ron Land, Bob Land, Richard Tourjee, and Yvette on December 13th to develop the budget recommendations for the upcoming year.

Square Inc. Credit Card device

- This worked very well during our Bazaar and Estate Sale, especially since we had several purchasers who spent several hundred dollars. A few more items still need to be picked up from the Silent Auction, and some of these people have requested being able to use their Credit Card.

Just as a reminder this next part is from last month's minutes to refresh memories as to how it works

- This is a device that attaches to an iPad or and iPhone and will allow us to accept Credit Cards at our sales. It will allow people not only to be free to spend more money but they also will not have to run out to and ATM because we demand strictly cash sales. It was brought before Council and discussed a bit then Holly Boyle made the motion and Marilyn Benson seconded that we get two to be used at our upcoming Holiday Bazaar and Estate Sale.
- There is no equipment or monthly fee and will give us the flexibility to use credit cards for major expenses.
- We will need devices (iPad- iPhone or any Android device) on the day of the sale with the apps downloaded
- Square will charge 2.75% fee on the dollar, PBBC will limit the use of credit card sales to a minimum of \$10
- Square will deposit the money (after the deduction of the 2.75% fee) to PBBC checking account
- Ron Land (Financial Secretary) will have access to Square account and statements to know the amount we made during the sale
- Treasurer (Yvette Ackley) will see the deposit in the checking account

New Business

Emergency lights batteries

- Ron mentioned during the last power failure the emergency lights did not work as they should and they probably need to have their batteries replaced. Since all the lights take different batteries, he will look into what is needed and then he will connect with Alex/Building and Grounds to take care of it. It should be noted these were last replaced 4 or 5 years ago.

There was no other New Business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Submitted by:
Barbara Brant, Clerk

Next meeting: January 8, 2018, 6:30 pm
Devotions: Richard Tourjee

Schedule of Events for MAEC

DECEMBER

Christmas Bazaar @ St. Mark's Episcopal, Mon. Dec. 18
from 10-3pm

Christmas Dinner @ Union Baptist, Mon. 12/25 from 2-4pm

JANUARY

Dinner @ N. Stonington Congregational - 3rd Sat.(1/20) from 5-
7pm

FEBRUARY

Dinner @ N. Stonington Congregational - 3rd Sat. (2/17) from 5
-7pm

MARCH

Dinner @ N. Stonington Congregational - 3rd Sat. (3/17) from 5
-7pm

APRIL

Dinner @ N. Stonington Congregational - 3rd Sat. (4/21) from 5
-7pm

MYSTIC CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Wednesday evening, December 20, 2017
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.

Youth News

Youth Co-Op Christmas Party



*Sunday, December 10th from 4-7 pm
Noank Baptist Church*

Let's celebrate the holidays together with a white elephant Yankee swap! We will enjoy treats and hot drinks and listen to Christmas music, while we play games and maybe even watch Elf! Please bring a wrapped gift valued at \$5 or less to participate in the swap. Should be something random or silly! I still have a plastic swan in my house from one many years ago. Also bring a treat to share if you are able.

Christmas Caroling



Friday, December 15th 6-8 pm

We will be visiting local elderly care facilities spreading holiday cheer! We will also attempt to visit some church members that may not be able to leave their homes to attend Christmas services..

Go to Courtney's email to respond to these invitations:

youthcoopdirector@gmail.com



A Community Handbell Choir

Shoreline Ringers, a Community Handbell Choir based out of Southeastern Connecticut, awes and inspires audiences with their ringing. Under the direction of Jane Nolan, this dynamic and energetic handbell choir is dedicated to musical excellence and handbell education through their exciting and uplifting performances.

The repertoire performed by this inspirational handbell choir, is secular and popular in nature, and includes varying techniques and rhythms that promise pleasure and fun for all.

Upcoming Events

[Niantic CT](#)

Saturday, Dec 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM

[Essex CT](#)

Sunday, Dec 17, 2017 at 4:00 PM

[Christmas in Song*, Watch Hill RI](#)

Friday, Dec 22, 2017 at 5:00 PM

[Somers CT](#)

Friday, Jan 5, 2018 at 7:00 PM

[North Stonington CT](#)

Sunday, Jan 7, 2018 at 3:00 PM

[Putnam CT](#)

Saturday, Jun 9, 2018 at 7:00 PM

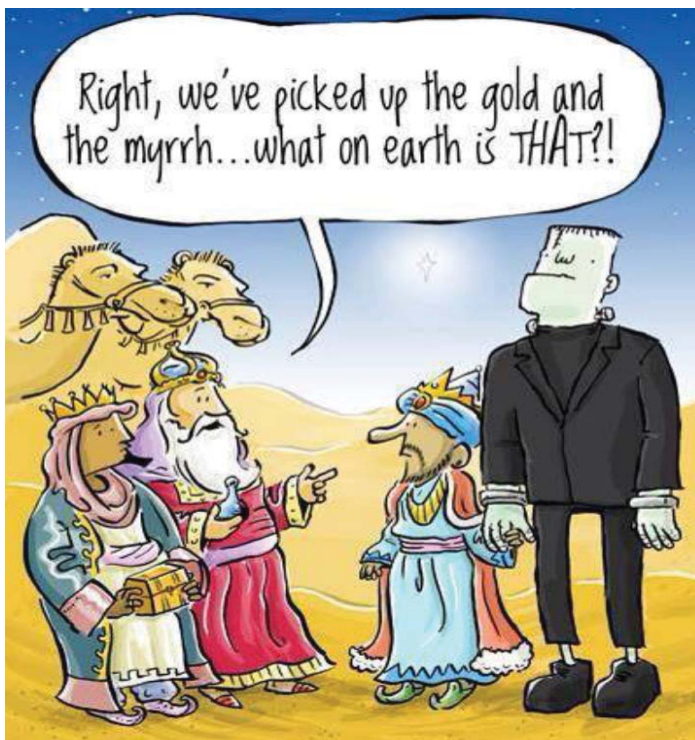
A Little Church Humor

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Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005

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



LIVING NATIVITY

SEVEN SCENES-DRIVE THRU

"ROAD TO BETHLEHEM"



Christ United Methodist Church
200 Hazelnut Hill Road, Groton, CT
860-445-0088
December 15-16, 2017
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Our gift to the community
Suggested donation:
Non perishable food items
for the Groton Food Locker

This Living Nativity provides a unique opportunity for people to drive through and view the seven scenes of the story of Jesus' birth located around the perimeter of the church property at 200 Hazelnut Hill Road in Groton. Many who came in past years said that they experienced the true meaning of Christmas, which lifted up their spirits.

Community



Christmas dinner

Monday, December 25, 2017

1:00 pm

Union Baptist Church

Mystic

All are Welcome

For Reservations or

*To arrange a ride, schedule a meal
delivery, or donate food.*

Call 860-572-7158

Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church
1241 Poquonnock Road
Groton, CT 06340