

The Beacon

JULY/AUGUST 2014



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

“Philip asked him, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I unless someone guides me?’” Acts 8:30b-31a

This verbal exchange between Philip, a follower of Jesus, and a court official of the Candace, or Queen of Ethiopia, is from one of my all-time favorite Bible stories. I know, I know – I say that about all of them. But this one really is special because it is about reading and how we grow as people of faith when we talk about what we are reading with others. Reading on our own is enjoyable but it has its limits because we have only our own knowledge and experiences with which to engage the book. That’s why it’s so wonderful to be a part of a book discussion group, like Books on the Beach or others in the community. These conversations with others about what we read enrich the entire experience, deepening our understanding and broadening our perspectives.

Reading is the focal point of this year’s “One Church” project of the United Church of

Christ. Technically, the focal point is on literacy as a social justice issue which is why the denomination is suggesting a specific book for congregations to read and discuss – *Hotdogs and Hamburgers: Unlocking Life’s Potential by Inspiring Literacy at Any Age* by Rob Shindler. I haven’t read the book so I can’t speak about it one way or the other. I do know that reading this or another book together is an excellent way for us to get to know more about each other as persons and to explore possibilities for what we as a congregation might want to consider as our calling from God moving forward.

That’s why I am suggesting we do some reading as a congregation this summer to be followed by opportunities this fall to talk together about what we have read concerning some key issues facing our church, or any church, moving forward into the future. With that as a very informal goal, I am sharing with you a list of books with a common theme for your reading pleasure this summer. That theme is how the church can work to become stronger so that it is able to make a difference in our world which is so broken and hurting. Here’s my list, in no particular order:

Christianity for the Rest of Us by Diana Butler Bass
Christianity After Religion by Diana Butler Bass
Real Good Church by Molly Baskette
The Future of Faith by Harvey Cox
Hurt 2.0: Inside the World of Today’s Teenagers by Chap Clark
When Kids Hurt: Help for Adults
Navigating the Adolescent Maze by Chap Clark & Steve Rabey
Everything Must Change: When the World’s Biggest Problems and Jesus’ Good News Collide by Brian McLaren
Traveling Mercies: Thoughts on Faith by Anne LaMott
Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith by Anne LaMott

Of course, my list could go on and on – but this should be enough to get you started. I have some of these books available for you to borrow and most of them should be available through the local library. So my suggestion – and my hope – for you this summer is to read one or more of these wonderful, thought provoking books. As you do, I also suggest you read with a pencil in your hand to note your questions and comments. Don't be afraid to talk back to the book! Then let's see about having some conversation together this fall growing out of our collective reading about just what God might have in mind for us as we move into the second half of our first century as a congregation.

As summertime comes into full bloom in our midst, may God open our minds and hearts to all the amazing possibilities just waiting for us. Happy Summer!

Blessings,

Rev. Ruth

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next **Church Council meeting** will be held on Sunday, **July 13th** at **11:00 am** in the Parlor. All Council Members please submit your reports for the meeting to Cathy Gray by July 3rd. **Electronic submissions are preferred.** (Cathy's email address is graygc@mindspring.com) Thank you.

Congregational Mission Trip

Thursday, July 31 - Sunday, August 3
"Providence Experience" based at the
Irons Homestead in Gloucester, RI

We have just a few slots still open if you would like to join us for what is shaping up to be an amazing experience. Cost \$125 includes everything. Speak to Rev. Ruth soon!



Worship Services this Summer

We continue to meet at 9:30am throughout the summer. Don't be a stranger!

Sunday, June 29 *Singspiration Sunday*
with some of your old time favorite hymns!

Sunday, July 6 *Worship with Rev. Ruth*
and Communion by Intinction

Sunday, July 13, 20, 27 *Worship as usual –*
Rev. Ruth's sermon series on Romans
continues

Sunday, August 3 *Worship with*
Communion by Intinction led by Rev. Ruth's
friend and colleague, Rev. Dr. Bruce MacLeod

Sunday, August 10 *Worship with our own*
Jenny Brummund as Lay Preacher

Sunday, August 17 *Singspiration Sunday*
Gospel Style!

Sunday, August 24 *Worship with Rev. Ruth*
featuring the Blessing of the Backpacks
followed by the Church Picnic at noon!

Sunday, August 31 *Worship as usual with*
Rev. Ruth

Sunday, September 7 *Worship and*
Communion with Rev. Ruth

Sunday, September 14 *Rally Day and*
Opening Day of Sunday School!



July Birthdays

- 13 Ann Brown
- 13 Mark Comito
- 19 Bobbie Del Pozo-Waldron
- 21 Ane Torres
- 22 Ed Schilke
- 27 Jim Cornell
- 30 Elvis Torres

August Birthdays:

- 1 Rosemary Jette
- 10 Liz Dessaulles
- 13 Amanda Dessaulles
- 30 Shirley Miller

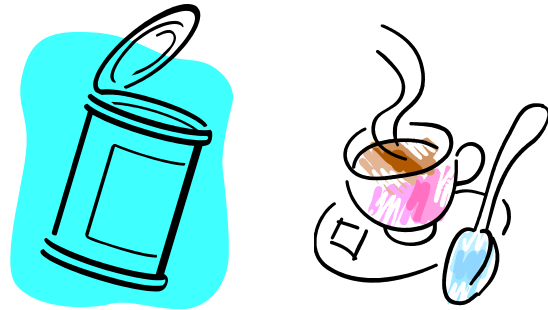
Happy Anniversary to:

- Elvis & Ane Torres – July 20, 2002
- Eugene & Carolyn LeRoy – August 4, 1962
- Andy & Heidi Schilke – August 4

Please add in your special days by calling the church office!

Mission Memos

THANK YOU to *everyone* for providing donations to the Deacons Emergency Fund for the **WARM Center meal** in June. For **July 13** the Trustees will be providing the meal. For **August 10** we will again be relying on your generous monthly donations to the Deacons Emergency Fund in order to provide the meal.



The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) has requested our assistance in **July and August** with **chicken or beef broth, tea bags, coffee, and white rice**. Please bring your items to worship on or before Sunday, **July 13** and (again for **August 10**) and we'll get them to the PNC!

Thanks for all your help! Please speak to any member of the Missions Committee with your ideas and questions – *Sandi Davis, Melissa Stratton, Audrey Steinetz, Dixie Lufbery, Peter Hainsworth, Jenny Brummund, or Christina Brummund.*



A note of thanks:

Thanks to a donation from Jay Macko a single mother's 2 little boys have a set of beautiful bunk beds to sleep in. I'm sure they are much appreciated! Thanks, Jay

Congratulations

to our Barbara Murano
Scholarships Recipients
for 2014:

Robert Cornell
Jamie Foster
Megan Gray



Vacation Time

Rev. Ruth's Summer Schedule

Friday, June 27 through Friday, July 4
On vacation!

Saturday, July 5 – Wednesday, July 30
Working as usual ☺

Thursday, July 31 – Sunday, August 3
Congregational Mission Trip!!

Monday, August 4 – Tuesday, August 5
Working as usual ☺

Wednesday, August 6 – Wednesday, August 20
On vacation!

Thursday, August 21
Back to the usual routine!

For pastoral care issues when Rev. Ruth is on vacation, please contact the Diaconate Person of the Week or either of the Deacons Co-Chairs: Elvis Torres (#860-460-0861) or Lynn Murray (#401-450-9249).

Susan will be out of the office on her vacation on Monday, August 4th, and Thursday & Friday, August 7th & 8th. *Bobbie del Pozo-Waldron* will be at the office on Thursday and *Ed Stratton* will be in on Friday from 9 am – 12 noon to answer the telephone. Pastor Ruth will be here on Monday, August 4th!

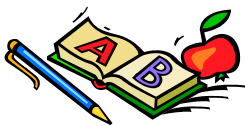
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Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name & Telephone</u>
Jul 6	Bethany Foster (401) 539-4003
Jul 13	Elvis Torres (860) 599-5572
Jul 20	Becky Morrone (401) 596-1070
Jul 27	Lynn Murray (401) 539-7578
Aug 3	Elvis Torres (860) 599-5572
Aug 10	Jay Macko (860) 705-3512
Aug 17	Becky Morrone (401) 596-1070
Aug 24	Lynn Murray (401) 539-7578
Aug 31	Ane Torres (860) 599-5572

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Operation Christmas Child

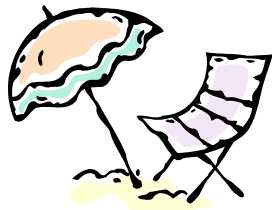


Many thanks for all the *flip flops* for June. As a reminder, the **July** and **August** collection will be school supplies – anything that can fit in a shoebox. Last year, someone very clever filled some sliding pencil cases with pencils, pens, glue sticks, erasers, paperclips...Great idea!
– Lynn Murray

REMINDER!

PLEASE sign up to host Fellowship Time after worship every Sunday. The sign-up sheet is next to the Flower Chart. Thank you.

BOOKS ON THE BEACH



**Thursday, July 10,
July 17, & July 24
@ 5:30 pm**

We will be meeting 3 more times in July at 5:30 pm at the Pavilion at Misquamicut at the picnic tables to the right facing the ocean. Bring some munchies and a drink and join us as we continue discussing Anne LaMott's *Traveling Mercies*. We may switch to another book before the end of July, or we may not. We'll let you know if we do! Come and join us! Good conversation if you've read the book, or just thought about reading it.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Tuesday, July 15 at Noon

Please join us at Sally Panciera's home for a Summer Luncheon! All the women of the church are warmly invited. Please bring a dish to pass. Swimming will be available. When the sign-up sheet is posted, please sign up!

News from Christian Education **Baseball Game & All-Church Picnic**

Would you like to go to a **CT Tigers Baseball Game** on Friday, July 11th? The game starts at 7:05 pm. Check out the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the entrance to Fellowship Hall! The tickets cost \$7.00 each. Just sign up on the sign-up sheet posted there and please give your check or cash to Susan Lanphere. Thanks!

The Christian Ed board is sponsoring an **All-Church Picnic** in North Stonington this year at the Rocky Hollow Recreational Area.

Plan to come at **12 noon** on Sunday, **August 24th**! Don't forget to sign up in Fellowship Hall. Thanks.



Please pray for the following members and friends of our church:

Ann Brown	Barbara
Madelyn Stratton	Sandi Davis
Fred	Catherine
Jeff	Jim
Millie Silver	Debbie
Shirley Harrington	Lisa
Beverly & Family	Carole Kus
John Dillon	Brian Madill
Sheryl	David Jones
Vince Amkhamavong, US Marines	
Doris	Jennifer Clancon
Eugene Ravenelle	Kim Brown
David Stratton	Beverly
Karen & Bill	Doris Whitehead
Scott & his parents	Vivian Roode

If you would like anyone added or removed from this list for the next newsletter, please call the office or let one of our deacons know. Thank you.

OUR STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth

Organist: Darla Rines

Sunday School Contact Persons: Tanya Sylvestre
and Susan Lanphere

Secretary: Susan Perreault

Sexton: Debby Johnson

CHURCH OFFICE SPECIFICS

Mailing Address: 9 Castle Hill Road
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Telephone # & FAX: **860-599-1226**

E-mail: **uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net**

Website: **www.uccwesterly.org**

Office Hours: Monday, Thursday, & Friday
from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.