

The Messenger

July 2011



The United Methodist Church, Clinton, CT
Pastor M. Craig Fitzsimmons



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Our mission statement

We celebrate the presence
of the Holy Spirit;
being and making disciples of Christ
by sharing God's gifts
through word and deed.



FROM THE PASTOR

“This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on...” So begins the words to Hymn Number 383 written by Brian Wren. This hymn kept echoing in my ears over the last two months especially as I attended and celebrated graduations from colleges and high schools, made (and will make) trips across the country to get daughters settled in new jobs, and attended Annual Conference.

The first morning of Conference is always the Memorial Service in which we remember the members of Conference who have died in the past year. This includes clergy, lay members, clergy spouses and clergy children. Having been around for so long (this was the 36th anniversary of my Deacon’s ordination), I have known many of those who were remembered. That same evening we had a presentation and recognition of those who were retiring. I also know most of them as well. The following evening was the service of recognition, commissioning and ordination (I knew fewer of them). Finally, on Saturday morning, the District Superintendents read the new appointments to start in July and the Bishop “fixed” them. In just three days the cycle of clergy leadership is recognized for the past and coming year. For me, as well as most of the other clergy in the Annual Conference, this is a time for us to come home to our “church.” As members of the Annual Conference, we do not hold membership in a local congregation. So in most years, we get to go to our home church, the New York Annual Conference, only once for four days!

While there was lots of business to be done (this year especially since there will be a General Conference before we meet again) the fellowship and the worship is usually key. The conference wrapped up on Saturday with a wonderful mission celebration. Bev Jones and Ellen Hoyt came down with the church banner, made by Carol Bell and Sue Alexander, and processed in the parade of banners. Our lay members, Sue Alexander and Ginny Burr, sat in a special section reserved for churches that have received and were receiving the *Go For The Gold* Mission award – this year we attained 18 karat! I was among those Volunteers In Mission who were asked to stand on the stage and be recognized (representing our people who traveled to Haiti in May as well as my being part of the Conference Disaster Administrative Committee). The Conference acknowledged all the

Continued on Page 6

New members of the church family

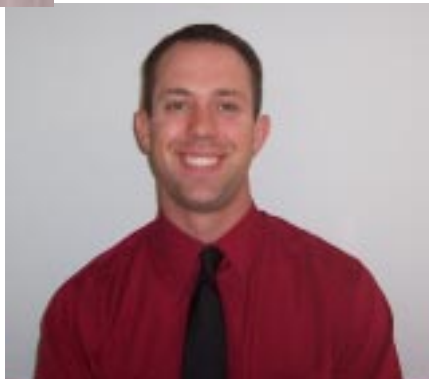
On June 12, we received seven new members into the church. Three had completed two years of confirmation classes and four were adults, who have decided to unite with the United Methodist Church of Clinton.

Beth and Scott Kutz
of Clinton



Ray Silvernale
of Madison has a son,
Christopher.

Roger Templeton
of Niantic will become Becky
Hale's husband on July 29! He
sings bass with the Chancel
Choir, teaches math, and in
season works as a lifeguard.



Month of Sundays

July 3

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter
Ushers

Arline Johnson
Evelyn Scaglione, Sharon Minick,
Gay McPhee, Ellen Hoyt,
Lynda Larson

Infant/toddler care
Sound coordinator
Camera operator
Worship leader
Lectionary scriptures

Linda Symmes
Now is a good time to volunteer...
Leave your name with the office.

Sermon
Communion steward
Fellowship host

Mickey Brown
Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67;
Psalm 45; Romans 7:15-25a;
Matthew 11:16-19,25-30
Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons
Linda Symmes
Judy LeVesque

July 10

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeters
Ushers

Beverly Jones and the Rileys
Sally Cotter, Ginny Burr, David Moore,
Lyle Cubberly, Drew Dupre

Infant/toddler care
Worship leader
Lectionary scriptures

Linda Symmes
Laura Attanasio
Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119; Romans
8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Sermon
Fellowship hosts

Sue Alexander
Bev Jones and the Riley Family

The bridge

To confess your sins to God is not to tell anything God doesn't already know. Unless you confess them, however, they are an abyss between you.

When you confess them, they become the Golden Gate Bridge.

Frederick Buechner

July 17

Greeters
 Ushers

 Infant/toddler care
 Worship leader
 Lectionary scriptures

 Sermon
 Fellowship hosts

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Jess Ryan and Beverly Jones
 Dennis Scaglione, John Pope,
 Gerald Cotter, Alan Anderson
 Linda Symmes
 Fern Pope
 Genesis 28:10-19a;
 Psalm 139; Romans 8:12-25;
 Matthew 13:24-30,36-43
 Mickey Brown
 The Scagliones

July 24

Greeter
 Ushers

 Infant/toddler care
 Worship leader
 Lectionary scriptures

 Sermon
 Fellowship hosts

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sally Cotter
 Rachel Benisvy, Haley Parent,
 Jonas Thelin, Alex Attanasio,
 Megan Lohutko
 Linda Symmes
 Ginny Burr
 Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105;
 Romans 8:26-39;
 Matthew 13:31-33,44-52
 Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons

July 31

Greeters
 Ushers

 Infant/toddler care
 Worship leader
 Lectionary scriptures

 Sermon
 Fellowship hosts

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Evelyn Scaglione, Sharon Minick,
 Gay McPhee, Ellen Hoyt,
 Lynda Larson
 Linda Symmes

 Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17;
 Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
 Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons

Food pantry needs

You are doing wonderfully well at keeping our larder full during the warm weather.

Foods to fill a few gaps are canned fruit cocktail, pear halves, sliced beets and sweet potatoes or yams.

As you can see from the “Church family notes” page, we have contributed many items to the food distribution site at Holy Advent Church, which makes take home bags for area families in need.

The next Messenger

We are issuing the next Messenger on August 14, with the deadline for news August 10. This will enable us to include the fall plans of the church and most of all, we won't have to hurry back from Michigan to have it ready by July 31! Please see page 18 for early August activities.

Pastor's words

(Continued from Page 2)

places we have been as well as the places that we are going (time to remember and move on).

As I shared with the congregation, it was wonderful to hear the Bishop in his Episcopal Address to mention “a church in Connecticut” with a heart for mission and outreach exhibiting real vitality and making its presence known to the community with a new steeple. I am pleased to be reappointed to Clinton and know that we remember what God has done in and through us, is doing now, and look forward to the new things God will do. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on.

Shalom,

Craig

Editor's note:

Our gold award is hanging in the west Fellowship Hall entry. The ribbon which accompanied it will be attached to the mission banner.

A Celebration of Missions

The Annual Conference theme this year was “For Such a Time as This: We Are Heart Warmed United Methodists in Mission” — a long title that rolled off the bishop’s tongue easily throughout our four days together.

Pastor Craig, Ginny Burr and I got all the way to Hempstead Ave. before we remembered the checks and health kits back in the church office. At the collection area, they nicely gave us labels so that Roy could send them via UPS the following Monday along with some from another church that didn’t get to Hofstra in time for the truck departing for Pennsylvania.

Because the collective churches in the conference own property and assets worth 1.455 billion dollars, Bishop Park kept reminding us that we are billionaires and should celebrate that fact. As in most Methodist gatherings, offerings were received every day. The one for Anchor House (an 18-month recovery program) was \$5,166; for the Black College Fund, \$4,018 and for the Ministerial Education Fund, \$4,985. We will eventually hear how much was received late on Saturday for the Bishop’s Partners in Mission.

Randy Nugent, a former general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, told us that human contact is an essential element in mission - we can’t just send money. “If you don’t humanize mission, it’s like sending a kiss by a messenger.”

*The bishop also repeatedly asked us to lower the average age of New York Conference Methodists by having more babies! The two newest churches helped a lot in this effort. The Broken Builders Church has an average membership age of 27 and an average congregational age of 20. The other new church, Morningside UMC, is also a young Korean congregation.

*

Lisa and Don Sutherland are the proud parents of Natalie Lenore, who was born at 6:01 pm, Friday, June 17, 2011. She was 19¾ inches long and weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces.



Scenes from the 2011 New York Annual Conference



Ellen Hoyt and Beverly Jones arrive with our contribution to the Parade of Banners



Women from West Haven and their pastor, Rhonda Taylor



Confirmation Day, June 12, 2011



*Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons, Raegen Riley,
Alex Attanasio and Katie Desrosiers*

Share your talents

A talent is worth only what you do with it.

Imagine your talent as a plain bar of iron that's worth about \$5. That same bar of iron, when made into horse shoes would be worth more than \$10. If made into needles, it would be worth around \$3,500. And if turned into balance springs for watches, it's worth would become over \$250,000.

What is your talent, and how are you using it?

Happy Birthday!

| | | | |
|------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Rebekah Hale | 6 | Ken Bowen | 18 |
| Jenefer Bell | 9 | Deborah Anderson | 21 |
| Eva Robinson | 9 | Nathan Vancil | 22 |
| William Atkinson | 13 | Carol Martens | 23 |
| Karin Thelin | 15 | Ryan Bowen | 24 |
| Stephen Leslie | 15 | John Smith | 25 |
| Polly Peterson | 16 | Kevin Strukus | 28 |
| Vera Smith | 17 | Mickey Brown | 30 |
| Garrett Symmes | 17 | Jane McLeod | 30 |



New table

If you usually sit in the balcony, there were a few weeks when you reached for your bulletin on the window sill and hit the plexiglass, which was installed to protect the beautiful stained glass.

So when our grandson asked if he could make something for us in his woodworking class, we measured the space and said, "Please." On Memorial weekend he brought this great table just perfect for holding the balcony bulletins, pencils, prayer cards, etc.

Thank you, Ben and Canton High School, for supplying our need!

Mother Daughter Dinner



**May 7
2011**

The History of Fans



Scouting news

On June 11, Troop 55 celebrated another Scouting achievement when Jake Gerte became the latest of thirty-four from this troop to attain the Eagle status. One needs to complete the work for several badges and finish a special project to become an Eagle Scout. Jake's project was the paving of the brick walk and construction of benches for Esposito Beach making it a beautiful park on Clinton's shore.

There is a new plaque listing the Eagle Scouts in the corner of Fellowship Hall. Beginning with David Nance in 1976, at least nine of the thirty-four Eagles were in the United Methodist church family, which sponsors the troop. Also in the same corner you may find our charter of sponsorship, a signed picture commemorating 100 Years of Scouting in 2010 and the colorful plate given to the church by the Gerte Family.

Chuck Hill and Tom Gerte are the adult leaders of Troop 55.

Make a difference

Planning for "Make A Difference Day" in October, the Mission Committee would appreciate donations of medium weight fabric to make outer covers (shells) for the Ugly Quilt sleeping bag assemblage.

Thank you for your continued support of all our projects.

Carol Martens
for the Committee

Thank you for your work on our behalf...

Our church had to purchase 18 Commerce Street a few decades ago in order to access the back of our property. The garage for 18 Commerce was then turned to face the church and moved to make room for our driveway. I do not know how the horse shed that was behind the parsonage was accessed!

At any rate, we have rented the house for many years and it needed a lot of maintenance. The trustees - especially John (and Fern) Pope, Carol Bell and Neal Sorensen - have put in many hours to improve the place and oversee bids and work on the heating system, painting, and floors. Neal and the Bell Family have worked on the yard and it is now being shown to prospective residents.

Where Calisto lives

The New York Conference has a Mozambique Connection. We are the first missionary group to address the needs of both the southern and northern parts of the country. Volunteer in Mission teams go to:

Maputo, the capital and center of the southern conference.

Cambine, where Calisto Jairesse attends the seminary. There also is a U.M. compound with an orphanage built and supported by the New York Conference.

Beira, where we are building a Christian fellowship center.

Lichinga, the northernmost place where we have sent teams.

The population of this country which is about the size of California, is 21,397,000. They speak various indigenous languages as well as Portuguese.

If you are interested in a VIM trip to Mozambique, you might want to speak with Annette Griffith@earthlink.net. Her church in Monroe, Connecticut is quite involved with this ministry.

Veterans who are Methodists

I began just before Armed Forces Day to collect names and services of the church's veterans, figuring that by Veteran's Day November 11, we would know most of them. You may call the office 860-669-8396, with new names or to know who is currently listed.

Then I received a list of the veterans in the cemetery at Boehm's Chapel and thought with some research we could know who from our church served since 1830! Of course our church records are not that complete, but if you would like to help with this project, I'm sure you would find it interesting. The two men I can think of are:

Frederick E. Cookson, Jr., who died in the Korean War and who is honored by the Hillard - Jones - Cookson Legion Post 66. His parents were members of the church when I moved here and I'm assuming Fred, Jr. also worshipped here. I do not know his branch of the services.

George Parker, who was our church sexton in the 1970s. He enlisted in the Navy when very young (circa 1920) and reenlisted during World War II.

Sunday School
Superintendent
Glenna Bishop



Pastor Craig
presenting gifts
to our high
school seniors
Jonas Thelin,
Haley Parent &
Rachel Benisvy



Leading a song
on
Children's
Sunday



The Last Algonquin

This book by Theodore Kazimiroff is the topic for the July 25 book discussion at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall.

The author's father as a boy met a man, Joe Two Trees in 1924 in Pelham Bay Park. Their friendship inspired Kazimiroff, Jr. to write about the "last Algonquin" and his father, who led a long life as archeologist, naturalist, writer and historian of the Borough of the Bronx.

Linda Symmes will be guiding the conversation and providing refreshments. Please join us.

Adult Bible study

The Adult Sunday School Class will be meeting throughout the summer in Room 103 of the Kathy Fell Building. Lyle Cubberly is currently leading a study of Joshua and Judges.

How do you see God leading the Israelites? What does this have to do with our actions today? What is history? What is a great story? Is there a difference? How does your view of God affect your faith and life? Come join us at 9 a.m. any Sunday.

America the Beautiful

Katherine Lee Bates wrote, edited and taught English in her native Massachusetts.

On a trip to Colorado, she was greatly impressed by amber waves of grain, fruited plains and purple mountain majesties. A visit to Pikes Peak inspired her to write her most famous poem, "America the Beautiful."

Bates also realized that patriotism was an important part of America. She embodied the spirit of thankfulness to God for all she had experienced and been given.

Church family notes

To the United Methodist Church—

Thank you for the ongoing support of Troop 55.

Jake Gerte and Family

This note accompanied the gift of a little plate, which we have hung in the Scout corner of Fellowship Hall. Jake is the most recent Scout to attain the Eagle award.

June, 2011

Dear Clinton Methodists,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful support you provide to our local families in need. From volunteers and donations to providing a home for the meal site. The Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges pantry donations to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries in the past eight months of over 1,000 pounds.

We also thank you so much for the \$350 worth of gift cards!

Lin Smith

June 17, 2011

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Mission Central, I want to thank your congregation for the donation of thirty-five health kits.

I am truly grateful for your willingness to stand beside us as we “Connect God’s Resources with Human Need.” As I recently read, “*Compassion sees a need and does something. Pity sees a need and turns away.*”

Thank you for your compassion to help us reach out to others in the name of the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Rob Visscher

Executive Director

August dates for your schedule

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Clever Crafters | 8 | Clever Crafters |
| 2 | Holly Crafters | 9 | Holly Crafters |
| 3 | Trustee Board | 10 | Church Council |
| 7 | Sunday worship | 13 | Congregational Church Fair |

Are you in the right pew?

Do you know the number of “your pew?” It may be found on the end arm rest. Did you know that renting a place in your pew is a part of your New England heritage? The older Anglican and Congregational churches had boxed areas which were reserved by families for a price and Methodists in the area followed suit, although without the doors.

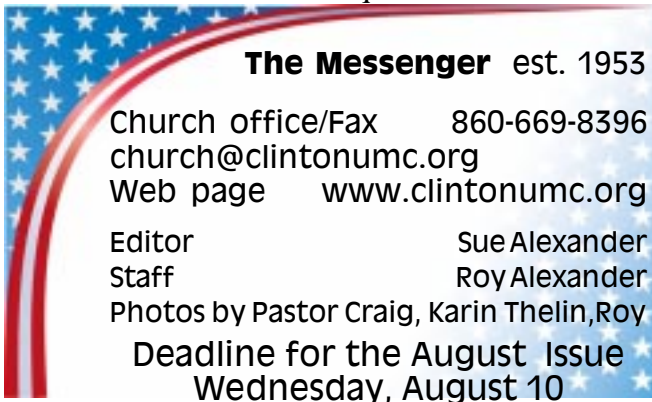
Editor's Office

The General Conference of 1852 had to decide between the practice of men on one side of the sanctuary and women on the other and rented pews (promiscuous seating) which allowed men and women to sit together. The 1852 Conference not only approved, but revised the Discipline to eliminate the practice of separate entries and pews for men and women.

Because the church had split over the slavery issue in 1844, the loss of the southern conferences opened the way for the progressives' agenda of family seating, musical instruments, steeples, choirs and a host of “New England” innovations.

What issues will the General Conference face in 2012? Because members care passionately about the church and have different backgrounds, there are bound to be conflicts — inclusiveness or only the “worthy” for membership; peace or ridding the world of evil; gun sales without background checks as at “gun shows”; the right of workers to collectively bargain not only with corporations but government entities; and the right to celebrate marriage equality.

At Hofstra we elected representatives to the Jurisdictional Conference which will nominate bishops and to the General Conference, which is the only body that can speak officially for the church. I'm sure rented pews won't return, but we will have to see how the new issues are debated and decided for the next quadriennium. *SAA*



The Messenger est. 1953

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**Deadline for the August Issue
Wednesday, August 10**