

# The GOOD News

February

The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Haddam

2012

## WHAT'S UP?

February 5

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Epiphany

Worship 10:00 am

Communion

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

February 12

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Epiphany

Worship 10:00 am

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalms 30

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Mark 1:40-45

February 19

Transfiguration

Worship 10:00 am

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 26

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

There will be a **Quilt Show** meeting February 1, 2012 at 7 pm at the Trinity House. Come share your ideas to improve the show for this year. Or contact Ginny Evensen (860-345-8204) if you want to help with this fund raiser.

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>



Our youth will be collecting donations in soup pots following the morning service.

**Pancake Brunch**  
**February 19, 2011**

11:15 a.m.

Come join the fun!

## WHAT'S NEW?

**CHOCOLATE!**  
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Now that we have your attention...FCCH is presenting a Chocolate Event on Saturday, Feb. 11, in the Fellowship Hall between 11:00 and 1:00. Learn how to make (and sample) truffles from expert Maria Brandriff just in time for Valentine's Day. A lunch of homemade soup, bread and hot fudge brownie Sundaes will be served. Admission is \$20 prepaid and \$22 at the door. Proceeds benefit the church's mission trip to Costa Rica. To order tickets, call the church office at 860-345-2742.



**FEBRUARY 22, 2012**

Imposition of Ashes and worship service will be held at 7:00 pm marking the first day of Lent.

## **A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

Being relatively new to New England, I have already grown fond of the four seasons of the year, something you don't get in California. When you start feeling tired because winter has gone on too long, you know that spring awaits right around the corner. When the dog days of summer become burdensome, you know that the crisp air and changing colors of autumn await.

The church year also has its seasons beginning with Advent, followed briefly by Christmas, then Epiphany, and then Lent. The season of Lent will begin February 22, and it is the period of time leading up to Easter, the highest holy day of the Christian year. Lent lasts for forty days, not counting the six Sundays, and includes special days such as Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22), Palm Sunday (April 1), Maundy Thursday (April 5), and Good Friday (April 6).

Lent is the season where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and possibly fasting, focusing on the inner spiritual life that is often neglected. Ash Wednesday is the day we focus on our mortality, repent of our sins, and make a conscious effort to make some lasting changes in our life by giving something up or possibly taking on a new spiritual practice. If you attend an Ash Wednesday service, the minister or other leader may make the sign of the cross on your forehead to signify both your mortality and your repentance from sin.

Some people give something up during Lent, such as watching TV, and use that time to help someone in need. Others collect food for a food pantry, volunteer to tutor a child, or reach out to someone they know who is lonely or hurting. Some folks give up a daily cup of coffee and use that money to help our children raise money for the Fidelco Guide Dogs. Instead of reading the newspaper or online news, one might spend 30 minutes in meditation or reading Scripture.

I hope you will enter into the season of Lent as Jesus did when in his desire to be closer the father, he entered into the wilderness before beginning his ministry and with the help of the Holy Spirit rejected the temptation of Satan to give up his 40 days of fasting, prayer and study of scripture.

I also hope you will attend one of our special services during the season. Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 7 PM on February 22. If you've never had ashes placed on your forehead, you will find it very humbling and spiritually moving.

*Pastor Michael*



When you are hospitalized, you or your family members should notify the church as soon as possible. Upon admission to the hospital, you will be asked if you desire to have your religious affiliation as part of your medical record, and for permission to make your name available to clergy. Please state both your denomination and church name.

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

### **Visitation**



If you would like to receive a visit from the pastor or know of someone who is in need, please contact the church office or sign up in the church vestibule. If you are signing up a friend, please make sure they are aware they will be receiving a visit before you sign them up.

Please pray for the following: **William Wintsch; Ben Steinhilper; Gene Porter; Alex**, who had brain surgery; **Deb Duval**.

We celebrate the baptism of **William Gates Wintsch** at FCCH on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

**FROM AN OLD FRIEND**

*Pastor Malone & friends at FCCH,*

*We wanted to remember you in some small way for the kindness you extended to the Stanley Hanson and Gail Manning Hanson family this past September.*

*I fondly remember the warm welcome I received from Rev. Edmondson and it is FCCH that started me on my journey of seeking many years ago.*

*May your continued ministry be blessed in 2012 and beyond! Blessings and peace, Martha & Millard Manning (former PF advisors)*

**Joys to Share**

Recently a request was made in the Sunday bulletins to "Share Your Joys"-- to briefly write what joys are occurring each week using an enclosed slip then putting the slip in the offering plate. Here are some that were received. (Where given, names have been included.)

- To be able to spend time with my granddaughter Letie, almost 9 months old, who is the greatest joy in my life at this time. Candy Casale
- David, who was critically ill in intensive care in mid-November, is now nearly ready to be discharged to his home. Truly a miracle.
- A warm house to live in is a great joy, having a car that starts every time the key is turned in the ignition. It's a joy to be able to share with a community of faith.
- My greatest Joy is Anita, my wife, who no matter what the challenge is always supportive. It is true joy that I have found my life partner and have two loving children. Sometimes I forget to count the joys in my life. Thank you to FCCH for giving all of us a chance to reflect on our personal joys. Chris Carlin
- That my grandma is out of the hospital and she's happy and healthy. Maddy
- Larry Manning is out of his splint.
- Our beautiful seasons; our wonderful families; our generous church community.
- Improving health and strength—courage to face all that life has to offer and friends to accompany me on the journey—for my partner who brings joy in my life.
- Thanks for all of the prayers, cards, and meals from our church family. Liz Anderson
- Walked on the beach in RI with my 78 year old mother and the dogs, beautiful day.
- Am truly blessed to have such an amazing husband, who in the last week kept me afloat during a difficult scare with our son William. I couldn't ask for a better partner and best friend.
- We are thankful to God this week for His reminders that prayer works and that He hears and cares for us. "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future."
- Finished breast cancer treatment this past week! Deb Duval
- Colton Soneson turned 13 Jan. 30; Mark and Nancy now have **3** teenagers!

**Offering Envelopes:** If you are in need of offering envelopes, please let Patty Blodgett know by emailing [patriciablodgett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patriciablodgett@sbcglobal.net) or by calling the church office at 860-345-2742.

**Church/Activity Cancellations** With the threat of bad weather, there may be need to cancel church activities or worship. Please tune in to WFSB TV (CBS, channel 3) in Hartford or WTIC (1080 AM) on your radio for announcements.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

The following children and youth will be celebrating a birthday this month:



Andrew Purdy	February 7
Katherine Dole	February 10
Ben Steinhilper	February 17
Alex Twachtman	February 17
Emily Hotkowski	February 26
Ava Harriman	February 26

## **THANK YOU'S**

### **FROM HADDAM PUBLIC HEALTH**

*Dear Friends,*

*With great appreciation I thank you for the \$3000 check from the Bread for Heat initiative for the Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank. We have been able to help nineteen households thus far and anticipate a very busy winter...Each household that we helped was given \$350 that was sent directly to the fuel vendor.*

*I also thank you for the 14 Christmas food boxes. The clients really enjoy seeing how the children decorate the boxes...All in all, we distributed food boxes to forty-eight families. Have a healthy holiday season and thank you again,*

*Sincerely Candy Casale*

### **FROM MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL**

*It is my pleasure to acknowledge First Congregational Church of Haddam's recent gift of \$100 to support the Pastoral Service Program at Middlesex Hospital. Our chaplains deliver interfaith spiritual care to our patients and their families to provide comfort and well-being during their hospitalization. Your gift...ensures*

that this important ministry is available. As an expression of our gratitude, we are pleased to list First Congregational Church of Haddam as an Associate in the Crescent Society. As a member, FCCH is among our most distinguished contributors.

Sincerely, Bobbie Ferione, Director of Philanthropy

**FROM AMAZING GRACE FOOD PANTRY**

During 2011 a total of 10,119 households were served at Amazing Grace Food Panty and over 324,000 items of food were distributed throughout the year. Each month an average of 843 people came to Amazing Grace to select food—free of charge—for their families. We very much appreciate your generous donations of food items during 2011...which were essential to keeping the pantry shelves stocked and ready for shopping. Amazing Grace volunteers now weigh all donations and the figure for FCCH was 1,018 pounds. It is only with the commitment of so many generous members of our community all year long that we are able to provide food for the households which are most in need. We are very grateful.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

January expenses were \$17, 753 while January income was \$17,453. Income exceeded the budget by \$3, 033, primarily because some families unexpectedly prepaid their entire 2012 pledge. January expenses exceeded the budget by \$1,192 largely because elevator maintenance was paid a month earlier than budgeted.

We entered 2012 with \$16,070 in retained earnings which will cover anticipated monthly deficits throughout the year. Our plan for January was to use \$2,141 of this fund to cover expenses. But, because our income was higher than expected, we needed to use only \$300.

There are detailed financial reports available on the Church website. [Click here](#) to view the reports or navigate to the "Document Locator" page under the "Members Only" section of our website: <http://haddamcongregation.org>. Please call (860.345.9252) or email ([wzilahy@comcast.net](mailto:wzilahy@comcast.net)) Walt Zilahy with any questions related to the reports or the Church's finances.

Walt Zilahy, Treasurer

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Christian Service Committee**

The Christian Service committee recognizes Sue Purdy for her six years of service. She has been responsible for delivering our contribution to Amazing Grace food pantry every month. A BIG THANK YOU, Sue, for all your help to make our mission activities successful.

We will be making Hygiene Kits for Church World Service during February. Each kit will contain: 1 hand towel, 16"x28", 1 wash cloth, 1 wide tooth comb, 1 nail clipper, 1 regular bar of soap in its original wrapper, 1 toothbrush in its package and 6 band aids. There will be a basket in the vestibule for these items. These kits are used in disaster relief situations and are sent to emergency shelters worldwide.

We have received a donation from the students at Franklin Academy of hand towels, wash cloths and nail clippers. These items made 18 partial kits. They need the soap, comb, tooth brush and band aids to complete them. You could make a complete kit and place it in a zip lock gallon plastic bag or bring combs, toothbrushes, band aids, and soap to complete the 18 partial kits.

This year we are continuing to participate in the Families helping Families food collection program at the Amazing Grace food pantry in Middletown, and four times a year we will collect paper products for Haddam Public Health food pantry.

The Haddam Food pantry has received \$207 from Church World Service from the CROP WALK. This money will be used to pay for Meals on Wheels for Haddam seniors.

The Something from Nothing mission collections are ongoing. We will continue to collect pop tops from aluminum cans, box tops for education, Campbell soup labels, old eye glasses, and used ink cartridges. All of these items are recycled to agencies that convert them to goods and to funds.

We would like new ideas for mission activities-share your ideas. When we work together everyone wins!!

### **Stewardship**

The Stewardship committee and our ongoing campaign are winding down for now. At this writing we officially have 57 commitments for a total of \$101,525. We are so grateful for all of you who remain so generous. At this writing, I am also aware that there was one more commitment submitted on Sunday, January 22, 2012, but I have not gotten the official word from our Collector as to our new total. So unofficially we have 58 commitments which is the same number we ended with last year after our second campaign.

We did not attain our original goal of 70 commitments and \$120,000 but, again, the good news is that folks who commit remain generous and we are in a slightly better position than last year. We remain hopeful that a few, who had committed last year and have not as yet for 2012 will do so very shortly.

Numbers do not often interest many folks however; I thought I would share this information with you. Of the 57 official commitments, 10 are new (meaning they did not commit for 2011), 24 commitments were increased from last year, 9 were decreased and 14 remained the same. These statistics vary due to personal factors that all of us are familiar with and though our economy has stabilized there are still many who continue to struggle.

It is a gift to see so many folks working hard on committees sharing of their time and talent. If you are not as yet involved in a committee you may simply talk to the chairperson of any of the committees and we know they would love to have you join them. Despite the fact that, in our by-laws, committees are stated to have a specific number of members, anyone can join to work on the committee as a member or friend of this church. Your time and talent will be treasured as much as your treasure gift.

We want to, once again, thank Rev. Malone for his guidance and his open, kind and spiritual way of helping us all to better understand our gifts to God of time, talent and treasure. We continue to "Count Ourselves Blessed"

Wishing you all good things,

The Stewardship Committee: Cynthia Nicastro, Scott Thompson, John Anderson and Sue Twachtman

### Christian Education



**Congratulations to the children and youth of this church for the 2011 donation to the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation!**

*Children's and Youth Ministry*  
*First Congregational Church of Haddam*  
 905 Saybrook Road  
 Haddam, CT 06438  
 Date January 1, 2012  
 Pay to the order of Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation \$ 984.00  
Nine hundred eighty four and 00/100 DOLLARS  
 Memo A Loving donation FCCH Sunday School  
 Authorized Signature

This amount reflects the 2011 Sunday School weekly offering amount (\$490), VBS fundraisers (\$294), Middle School Youth Group fundraisers (\$165), and Pennies from Heaven (\$50).

**Children's Offering Envelopes:** Just a reminder that Sunday School Offering envelopes can be picked up from the children's table in the narthex.



### Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 5, 2012

Our youth will be joining young people throughout the country in collecting money in soup pots on Super Bowl Sunday. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a simple effort to "love the Lord our God...and love our neighbors". The money collected will be donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen in Middletown. The Middle School Youth Group will also be doing a service blitz at St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen on February 4<sup>th</sup> as part of this world-wide program.

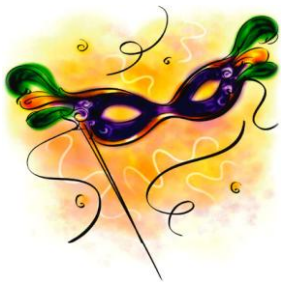


### Silver Lake Conference Center Summer Camp Registration now open!

Silver Lake, located in Sharon, CT, is a camp ministry run by the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. It has been offering top quality camping experiences with a faith component for children enter grades 4 through 12 for many years. Registration information is posted on the CE bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and on the Connecticut Conference website, [www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org).

### Rotation Model Sunday School

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the children will start the Sunday School rotation, *Jesus in the Garden*. During this rotation series, the children will participate in the following workshops: Art, Cooking, Video, Science, and Bible Skills & Games. **Teachers are still needed for this rotation, so please see the signup sheet located in Fellowship Hall if you are able to volunteer.**



### Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch

Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>  
11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tickets will be sold in advance and at the door.

\$6.00 adults, \$4.00 children

*A Middle School Youth Group fundraiser*



### MSYG to make Care Packages

On March 18th, our Middle School Youth will be making care packages for our FCCH college students.

If you would like to donate items to go into these ten packages, you can either contact Nancy Soneson or Tracy Thompson or drop items off at the church office. We are looking for items such as candy, handwritten notes, Dunkin Donut \$5 gift cards, microwave popcorn, etc.



**Mission Opportunity: An Afternoon**

at

**Aaron Manor**

Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

2 pm – 4 pm

Youth and adults are invited to participate in this GIV2 event at Aaron Manor in Chester. Activities include playing games, serenading, and enjoying refreshments with the residents. For more information, please contact The Malones or Nancy Soneson .

**MSYG February Activities**

**February 4<sup>th</sup> – Service Blitz at St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen**

We will be serving lunch from 11 – 2 pm. Drop off/pick up from St. Vincent's.

**February 5<sup>th</sup> – “Souper” Bowl of Caring Collection**

All money collected goes to St. Vincent de Paul Place in Middletown.

**February 19<sup>th</sup> - Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch Fundraiser**

Both youth and their parents are encouraged to sign up for this annual fundraising event. All proceeds benefit MSYG activities.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **BE A PARENT NOT A BARTENDER SOCIAL NORMS CAMPAIGN IMPLEMENTED IN HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH**

“Be a Parent not a Bartender” is a message you will see throughout the Haddam-Killingworth Community. This campaign is part of a social marketing effort by the Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition an Initiative of Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth who has teamed up with Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council (MSCAAC) to target adults and parents who serve alcohol to youth. The coalition wants adults and parents in the H-K community to become part of the majority (currently 80%) of Middlesex County adults who do not serve teens. This statistic was taken from the MSCAAC 2010 household survey.

Research has revealed that in some instances parents succumb to pressure from their children to allow alcohol to be served in the home; this act is called Social Hosting. Individuals who provide alcohol to minors or knowingly permit them to possess or consume alcohol could be subjected, but not limited, to: fines, imprisonment, and liability for injuries stemming from the use of alcohol and other drugs in their home, regardless of when minors leave the home and/or property. Many parents are unaware of the Connecticut Social Host Law, its rationale, and consequences which is why the coalition is focusing on this issue.

The coalition’s role in educating parents on the social host law and the dangers of providing alcohol to underage youth has been active on many different levels in the community. A billboard on Route 154 on the Haddam and Middletown town line features the message “Be a Parent not a Bartender”. The coalition distributed information and posters at local town fairs, open houses and public meetings. The Higganum Package Store is participating in the campaign by putting stickers on brown paper bags that say “Join a community initiative for responsible hosting” during the holiday season to remind parents not to serve teens. Also Dino’s Pizza Restaurant is including an advertisement on their placemats reminding parents about the social host law. The coalition will feature the social host message on pizza boxes in January 2012 and plans to continue to focus on parents to reduce underage drinking through 2012.

The Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition is a substance abuse prevention coalition made up of dedicated community member volunteers and youth service agencies. Funding is provided by the Drug Free Communities Support Program of the U.S. Department of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. For more information on this campaign please contact Kathryn Glendon at 860-345-7498 or visit [www.hc-hk.org](http://www.hc-hk.org) or [www.reponsiblehosting.org](http://www.reponsiblehosting.org)

### **INFORMATIONAL GROUP FOR PARENTS**

This group meets once monthly. The February meeting will meet on February 15, 2012 from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School in the Library. The featured speaker will be **TFC Matthew Ward**, Killingworth Resident State Trooper. Trooper Ward will speak about what students are taught by the Connecticut State Police about alcohol, other drugs, and making good decisions. He will also explain the social host law and what it means to parents as well as sexting and what parents need to know so they can educate their children.

The group is facilitated by Liz Young, Guidance Counselor at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, and Cheryl Chandler, Director of Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth. If school is cancelled for any reason (weather), the meeting will be also. The group is free, but please pre-register by calling 860-345-7498.