

The GOOD News

June The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Haddam 2011

WHAT'S UP?

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE!

On July 3, the first Sunday in July, we go to a 9:00 am service for July and August. We return to 10:00 am worship on Sunday, Sept. 4.

June 5, 2010
7th Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

June 12, 2010
Pentecost
Children's Sunday
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34; 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23

June 19, 2010
Trinity Sunday
Genesis 1:1-2; 4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 26, 2010
2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 22:1-4
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

July 3, 2010
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Children's Sunday & Ice Cream Social June 12th



Come to the Farmers' Market

FCCH will be selling handmade bread at the Higganum Farmers' Market on Fridays at 3:30 on the Higganum Green beginning June 3. Do come and buy some bread; better yet, volunteer to help out. (see p. 4 for details)

Vacation Bible School



July 11th - 15th 9 a.m.-noon
(see page 6 for details)

WHAT'S NEW?



AMAZING GRACE!!!

This is a reminder that during the summer, especially when folks are on vacation, it's important to keep our commitment to Amazing Grace Food Pantry. The 1st Sun., is tuna, the 2nd peanut butter, the 3rd cereal and the 4th pasta and sauce.

ROAST BEEF DINNER GREAT SUCCESS!

We served 120 very happy and satisfied people a lovely roast beef dinner on May 21 and made over \$1000 for the church. It was a very good time of fellowship for all that were there.

Thanks to those who worked so diligently May 15 to make the landscaping around our Sanctuary beautiful. It was hard work and took a long time, but the product is something we can all be proud of. You "landscapers" are greatly appreciated.

A Christmas Quilt show is being planned for December 3, 2011. Various Quilt Show Committees will meet in the summer. We expect to have at least 100 quilts on display. (For more details see page 5)

Reminder: There will be no Sunday School or Nursery coverage for the months of July and August.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Sometimes things just come together, and when the forces of the universe cooperate, it can be inspiring. Recently I had one of those moments and many of you shared the experience with me. I recently volunteered our church to arrange the first Giv2 project for our area. Giv2 brings together local churches, youth, and adults for a day of community service. With the help of Cheryl Chandler and H/K Youth and Family Services, we identified a local family in need of some home repairs and maintenance. Nancy Geromin, a single mother of two, agreed to allow an unknown number of people to descend upon her house for our first project.

Barely able to distinguish between a wrench and a pair of pliers, I sent out an email to members of our church, as well as the Higganum Congregational Church asking for volunteers to go to the Geromin house to determine what needed to be accomplished. Much to my surprise, thirteen people came on a wet Saturday afternoon, and we made a list not only of what needed to be done but also of what was possible for us to accomplish in one day. I was overwhelmed by the turnout, not to mention the level of talent, and felt completely out of my comfort zone which, as a handy person, isn't all that large to begin with.

Keith and Cheryl Chandler began formulating a plan, developing a chart detailing what needed to be done, what supplies needed to be rounded up, and who would take charge of each item. I began looking for a washing machine and made a list of supplies that I could obtain for the project. Cheryl's office arranged for a dumpster to be donated, as well as arranging for a porta-potty to be rented. Three women from our church met with Nancy Geromin to decide what could be discarded from the garage.

Two days before the event, Laurie confessed to me that she was feeling anxious about our project. That was a relief to me, because I was feeling incredibly anxious and secretly began praying for rain. When a parishioner comes to me and says they are feeling overwhelmed, I ask them if they have prayed. Had I? Not yet, but I decided it was time to hit my knees and ask for God to be there and to make things work. My advice to Laurie, then, was to turn the matter over to God and to trust that, no matter what, God would be there with us and the Geromin family.

On the day of the event, 55 people joined us at the house and everything fell into place. Though it rained for days before and days after, for one 8 hour period the skies cooperated. Mike and Kristin Battistoni tackled the masonry work, ably assisted by their four year old twins, Alex and Brigitte. Bob Reynolds climbed a ladder twenty feet and painted the trim work, then installed paneling in the kitchen. Ginny Evensen and Richard Gault supervised the cleaning of the garage, and Keith Chandler installed the washing machine and provided oversight of the projects. Chris Stack and Paula Fernald painted the window trim. Many more pitched in with landscaping and other tasks, including Ed Munster, Dana and Mitchell Stack, John Anderson, Tracy, Missy and Alex Thompson, Nancy, Gunnar, Emma, and Colton Soneson, Kevin Hunt, Laurie Malone, Katherine Dole, Cheryl Chandler, Chris Carlin, and students from The Franklin Academy.

Many of you donated snacks, as did our friends from the Higganum Congregational Church. Da Vinci's Pizza of Higganum supplied our lunch, Halfinger Farms provided plants, Portland Electric donated a washing machine, John's Refuse contributed the dumpster, and Home Depot came through with a \$25 gift card. The project was also funded by contributions to our Green Envelope Fund, a \$250 grant from HK Youth and Family Services, and \$100 each from the other participating churches: Our Lady of Sorrow in Essex, the Essex First Congregational Church, and St John's Catholic Church in Deep River.

I was moved by a note that Laurie received from one of the adult volunteers from Our Lady of Sorrow after the project was completed: *"I just wanted to say that it was a wonderful project and I was so sorry that I had to leave when I did. I thoroughly enjoyed every moment and cried as I drove away, because the need was so great and the willingness to give by ALL was so immense. I thank you for the opportunity to give of myself."*

It was great to have the support of so many in our congregation through the giving of your time, talent, and treasure. We are a church that is moving outside of our church walls and into the community to bring about God's mission in our community and world. We are a church that is discovering the needs of people in our area and mobilizing the resources to meet those needs. We are a community of faith that is discovering that God has a way of providing us with the assets needed to fulfill Christ's mission to love our neighbor as ourselves if we are willing to open ourselves to God.

I am looking forward to our next Giv2 event this fall in Essex. Isn't it amazing what God can do through us?

Pastor Michael

GIV² AT THE GEROMIN HOUSE



Above, Mike Battistoni applying his masonry skills



And here's the finished product!



Workers begin filling the dumpster.



Over the top, at the end of the day



Keith Chandler leaf blowing and Kristin Battistoni Planting



Painting crew, totally focused on their work

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

A Memorial Service for **Jean P. Curtis** will be held at Field Park, Haddam CT at 10:00 am, June 4, 2011. Rain location will be the Old Town Hall. In Jean's memory, a tree will be planted on the Meeting House Green on Walkley Hill Road. Donations for the tree are appreciated and can be sent to Village Park Society, Box 272, Haddam, CT 06438.

Please remember the following in your prayers: **Karen Newhouse**, Liz Anderson's sister, who is recovering from bypass surgery; Candy Casale's partner, **Jim Buck**; **Sue Craffey**; **William Porter**, Jan Berry's brother in hospice care; the family of **Marge Gephard** (details regarding her service at Camp Bethel will be announced soon); **Jack Beebe**; **Lisa Porter**, who is recovering from back surgery; and all those struggling with the challenges of aging.

Haddam Farmers' Market Venue for bread sales again this year!

An idea which came out of The Fishermen's group, an *ad hoc* committee dedicated to increasing the presence of FCCH in our community, will be repeated this summer. FCCH will be selling freshly baked artisan bread at the Higganum Farmer's Market. The purpose, besides being a presence in Haddam/Higganum, is to raise money for the Haddam fuel bank, so we call it: Bread for Heat. The bread is made here at the church each Friday morning, and all of the proceeds will go to help area residents who are in danger of having their heat turned off during the winter months. Frequently the fuel bank has a waiting list due to a shortage of funds.

If you are asking yourself, "How can I help?" Here's the answer. First, you can help by making the dough here at the church on Tuesday mornings at 9 AM. Making enough dough for 40 loaves will take less than an hour. Then each Friday at 9 AM it will be time to shape the dough, let it rise, and then put the loaves in the oven. This shouldn't take more than 2-3 hours. Believe it or not, no experience is necessary!

We will also need volunteers to move the bread and set up the tent and a table at the Farmers Market, sell the bread, and bring the tent and table back to the church in the evening. Most days the market will run from 3:30-6:30 PM. Other ways to help? Another Fishermen's idea, an FCCH welcoming booklet, will be published after you have had the opportunity to read it and offer suggestions. We hope to have it ready for distribution by late June, 2011. Contact Mark Soneson if you would like to help distribute these booklets and bread.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

June 1
June 1
June 7
June 8
June 9

Gunnar Soneson
Andrew Wilkos
Eric Davidson
Abby Larkin
Erika Nicholas



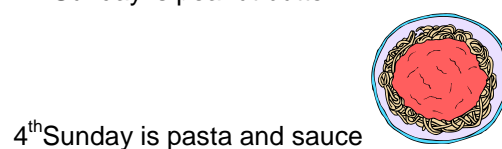
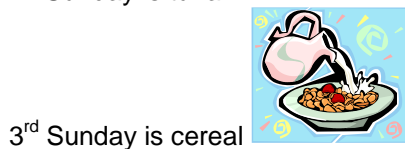
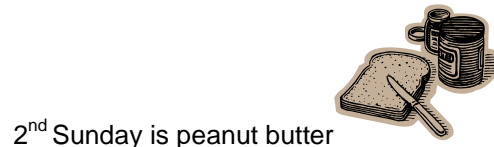
COMMITTEE NEWS

Christian Service

Thank you to everyone who helped with the TAG and BAKE sale. Proceeds of \$1,080 will be used for mission activities on behalf of the church. Some of the money has already been spent for the Community Assistance monthly statements.

SAVE THE DATE: The CROP WALK will be held on October 2, 2011 at Chatfield Hollow State Park. All churches in Haddam and Killingworth are invited.

Amazing Grace Food pantry collection is going well with better participation as it is now more visible to everyone. In May, we donated over 100 pounds of food which was appreciated as donations have decreased in the last two months. As a reminder, here is what we are responsible for



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SCHOOL KITS: There will be a collection of school supplies in late July/early August during the back-to-school sales period. Cloth bags are now being made by several people in the congregation. The school kits include:

- 1 pair of blunt metal scissors
- 3 – 70 ct. spiral notebooks
- 1-- 12"ruler
- 1 handheld pencil sharpener
- 1 box of 24 crayons.

We already have about 400 new pencils that will go in the kits. These kits are sent around the world to children needing school supplies. Some go to shelters in the United States or to survivors of disaster here and far away. During back-to-school sales, it is possible to make up a kit for about \$5.00. If you do not like to shop but would still like to participate in this project, place your donation in the offering plate in an envelope marked "school kits" and Christian Service people will shop for you.

CHRISTMAS QUILT SHOW

A Christmas Quilt show is being planned for December 3, 2011. Committees are being formed and will meet in the summer to plan this event. There will at least 100 quilts on display on Saturday. We are also planning to have a tea room to sell lunch and goodies as well as Christmas decorations. This event will benefit the operating expenses of the church and mission activities. This is an opportunity to work together to benefit the church. The next quilt show meeting will be June 22, 2011 at 7 pm in the Trinity House.

Christian Education



Children's Sunday & Ice Cream Social

June 12, 2011

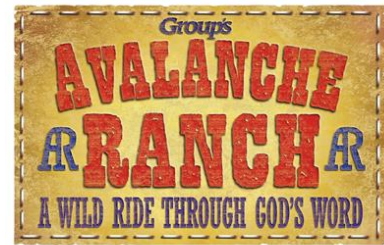
Children should arrive by 9:30 a.m.

Come enjoy this special service completely lead by our Sunday School children. There will be special music and 2nd graders will receive their Good News Bibles. There will also be recognition for teachers and assistants, youth ministry leaders, and graduating seniors.

Hope to see you there!

Avalanche Ranch VBS 2011

Get ready for an exciting celebration of God's love filled with stampeding cattle, yapping cattle dogs, soaring eagles, and a whole herd of friends.



Who: 4 year olds – entering 5th grade

When: Monday – Friday, July 11 – 15, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon



Where: First Congregational Church of Haddam, Haddam, CT

Cost: \$20.00 per child/ \$40.00 maximum per family

Contact the church office to register at FCC-Haddam@att.net
or 860-345-2742.

VBS Volunteers still needed!

It takes at least 20 Volunteers to put on VBS and we need your help! If you are currently in 5th grade or an adult willing to lend a hand, please contact our VBS Director, Nancy Soneson. Volunteers are needed to lead Art, Snack, Recreation, Classes, and Theme Center. Youth are needed to serve as group leaders.