

JULY & AUGUST CALENDAR

WORSHIP SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY

8:30 COMPO BEACH BY THE CANNONS

10:30 SAUGATUCK CHURCH SANCTUARY

Congregational Meeting 11:30 July 11

Interim Time Workshop 7pm July 21

Interim Time Workshop 7pm August 8

Board & Committees:

Missions: 7:30pm July 6

Trustees: 7:30pm July 15

Church Council: 8pm July 27

Membership: 7:30pm July 28

Deacons: 7:30pm August 10

Other Meetings:

Men's Group 8:15am every Thursday

Staff Mtg. 11-Noon every Wednesday

THE HERALD

July/August 2010

Volume 13 Issue 7

from the desk of Howie Tobak, Transition Minister:

The apostles returned to Jesus, and reported all that they had done and taught. And Jesus said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a quiet place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

Mark 6:30-31

With the arrival of summer, many of us are looking forward to some well-deserved rest. And yet, in a culture (our culture) that views busy-ness as a goal, rest all too often seems strangely out of place. So it seems, we have grown accustomed to un-rest -- to a steady unrelenting rhythm of work and recreation. Yet somewhere along the way, Jesus calls to us to "Come away . . . and rest a while." That was Jesus' message to the disciples. And in light of our rather busy lives, maybe it is time we heard its call as well.

But do we know how to rest? Have you ever wanted to ask someone a favor or a question, and started by first saying, "I know you're busy, but . . ."? Or upon being asked how you are doing, responded, "I am well," but in the back of your mind is, "but I am also tired"? Of course, busy-ness is a relative term. During the current economic crisis its meaning has become blurred, as some have lost positions of employment and the busy-ness they once knew, and maybe a degree of self-esteem, and find themselves now seeking other means of support and other meaningful purposes for their time.

(Continued on page 2)

Beach Services Schedule

Compo Beach by the Cannons, 8:30 a.m.

- *July 4 Green's Farms Congregational Church
- July 11 United Methodist Church of Westport
- July 18 Saugatuck Congregational Church
- July 25 Norfield Congregational Church
- *August 1 United Methodist Church of Westport
- August 8 TBA
- August 15 Green's Farms Congregational Church
- August 22 Saugatuck Congregational Church
- August 29 Wilton Congregational Church
- *September 5 Wilton Congregational Church

*Communion Sundays

Summer Hours in the Sanctuary

It's summertime, and that means our popular beach services are underway. However, for those who prefer the comfort of air-conditioning, services will continue in the sanctuary. There's a time change, though: starting July 4th through Labor Day, the second service will start at **10:30** instead of 10:00. This gives Pastor Howie sufficient time to travel from the beach to our church in order to prepare for the service. Whether you join us at the beach or in the sanctuary, we look forward to seeing you this summer!

Blessings,

Shelly Coppola Ames

SAUGATUCK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Notice of Congregational Meeting **JULY 11, 2010**

Notice is hereby given of a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, July 11, 2010 in the Meeting House following the 10:30 AM service to take action on the following:

The Church Council's recommendation, based on input from the Trustees, the Deacons and the Board of Missions, to accept the proposal of the Saugatuck Nursery School to renovate the Daniels Room at the Nursery School's expense to make the room suitable for an expanded program of the Nursery School. When the Nursery School is not in session the Saugatuck Congregational Church will have use of the room.

Michael Hendricks
Moderator

Janet Canning
Clerk

(Continued from page 1) From the Desk of Howie Tobak

And yet, busy-ness is not the vital, life-sustaining cause we have made of it. After all, we can be busy but totally unproductive. We can be busy and not devote any effort at all to learning, to helping others, to prayer, or to discerning God's will for our life. We can be busy and ruin our health. We can be busy and forfeit our family, our friends, our faith. We can be busy and fail at life. For me the question is not, "Am I busy?" But, "Am I meaningfully engaged in life?" and "Do I rest well?" "Do I rest in a way that honors God, and that restores my body, my mind, and my spirit?"

Just think about it. Do you find that you need extra days to recuperate after a vacation? I know I sometimes do, and I would guess that this is a reality for some of you as well. We often get caught up in the frenzy of vacation activities, and all because of some need, some desire, or some personal expectation to get it all in. More often than not, we do not rest along the way, but try to squeeze in a spate of rest as an afterthought, and often at the point of exhaustion.

When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, one of those commandments was to observe the Sabbath even as did God. "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work -- you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it." [Exodus 20:8-11] And you and I, we have a responsibility to ourselves and to each other, borne of a faith that honors life, to live this blessing into our lives as well.

- Thankfully acknowledge that God has built a rhythm into our days -- one day of rest in every seven.
- Allow those around you to rest as well. (Do not impose your work on others so that you might rest.)
- Spend time with God, and with those who might inspire you in faith and in an atmosphere of spiritual joy.

- Spend time in the company of those who honor your intention to rest.
- Use this time to slow down, to do what fulfills your sense of well-being, and to meditate prayerfully on God's word.
- Don't do any work that day, except to aid the ailing.
- Don't dictate "rest" as a pre-condition for righteousness, but simply recognize it as a blessing from God.
- Avail yourself of the time to be a blessing to others.

Finally, instead of squeezing out a little time here and there for a semblance of rest, turn off the busy-ness and truly rest. For rest is God's offering to us, to deepen our faith, to nurture our relationships, and to restore our souls. Jesus knew this, and he cared for his disciples so much that he offered it to them. "Come away . . . to a quiet place and rest a while." During these days of summer, and in all your days, may you heed Jesus' call to abide a time of rest and renewal, and so to pay homage to both God and self in the process.

[With inspirational gratitude to The Rev. Karl H. Duetzmann; Devon UCC; Milford, CT.]

From Our Moderator, Michael Hendricks

The church works on many schedules. We have a liturgical year, in which the Christmas season leads to Lent, then into Easter and Pentecost, then into Advent.

We have a budget year that follows the calendar year. We have what I might call a service year that begins and ends at the Annual Meeting, and establishes who will be serving on the Boards and Committees that operate our church.

We also have a program year that takes us from early September to the end of June, and maybe it's because I teach church school, but this is the calendar I tend to focus on most.

The program year closely resembles the school calendar. Nowadays for me, summer mostly means a change in the weather. But back when I was a student, summer meant serious time off, a real break from the work on which I was judged, the work that really mattered.

At Saugatuck, we don't have an official summer vacation, but it's fair to say that things do slow down a bit. We've had congregational meetings when necessary, but we also tend to allow some downtime. There is no church school scheduled. And Boards and committees tend to reduce their meeting schedule.

In my head, I know there's a real importance to downtime. I understand, and truly believe, in why we need time to regenerate and lie fallow. Some of my favorite Bible verses are even those beginning with the lines, "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under Heaven."

And, yet, at least for me, sometimes the things I believe the most are the things that are the hardest for me to live into. I don't know that I trust rest. Whether at work or at church, too often, it feels like wasting time. Too often, it elicits anxiety about the issues and work on the horizon that I'm just not doing anything about in my downtime.

And yet, summer comes.

Let us give ourselves permission to refresh.

In the words of the old hymn:

For the beauty of the earth
For the Glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

NEWS FROM THE CONFERENCE

Many of you are aware that, with the recent retirement of Davida Crabtree, our conference has been going through a similar transition to what we at Saugatuck are experiencing. I am pleased to let you know that the Interim Search Committee has presented the Rev. Charles Wildman to serve as Interim Conference Minister. Rev. Wildman served for 20 years as Senior Pastor of Rock Spring UCC in Arlington, Virginia. Prior to his ministry in Virginia, Chuck served for 12 years as Senior Pastor of Vine Congregational Church, UCC in Lincoln, Nebraska. He brings a wealth of pastoral, administrative, financial, and supervisory experience, and he has been deeply involved in the UCC at local, conference, and national levels. Rev. Wildman will officially begin his time as Interim Conference Minister on August 15th.

Michael Hendricks

PROGRAMS DURING THE INTERIM TIME TO HELP GUIDE US INTO THE FUTURE

1½ Hour Workshops: For All Members and Friends of Saugatuck Church.
Childcare will be provided.

(Program 4)

The United Church of Christ : What's it all about? *How Is Our Denomination Different from Other Denominations?*

Wednesday, July 21st, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

(Essential Information Needed to Search for a New Senior Minister)

(and)

(Program 5)

Communications Among and Between Us -- *Discourse for a Healthy Future*

(an interactive dialogue)

Wednesday, August 18th, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

All forms of communications are not created equal.

What means of communication best serve which purposes.

Proactive vs. Reactive Communications

Communications that convey desperation; Communications that convey entitlement.

How do we want to be perceived?

What message are we sending?

How might communication happen well?

Come and be part of the discussions as we plan for our church's future.

Leadership for the workshops will be provided by Rev. Howie Tobak.

Announcing our new Pastoral Relations Committee.

Betty Minor, Janet Neilly and Paul Van Orden have agreed to serve on a newly formed Pastoral Relations Committee for Howie Tobak. In an effort to improve accountability for both the pastor and the congregation, the Committee along with our Interim Pastor Howie Tobak will engage in conversations with the intent of fostering communications and clarity of understanding between the congregation and the pastor. The Committee will serve as a sounding board for both. Ideally, it will promote direct communication between the two. But, in addition, the congregation may freely bring any appreciations or concerns to members of the Committee for further discussion among them, that a fitting response may be sought. Please join me in thanking Betty, Janet, Paul and Howie for their service.

Michael Hendricks

Howie's Weekly Schedule

Generally, Sunday through Thursday.

Available for appointments mid-late mornings, afternoons, and early evenings.

Specific in-office hours vary depending on weekly commitments. Please call to confirm availability.

Thursdays are typically devoted to preparing Sunday's worship service.

Friday is Howie's definitive day off.

In an effort to keep a clear boundary between church and home,

Howie will not typically check e-mail and voice mail messages from home on his days off.

If someone has become hospitalized or has died, or the church is on fire,

please call Howie directly at home regardless of the day.

If Howie is not home, please contact the *Deacon-on-Call*. Phone numbers are on the church voice mail system.



Our Confirmands and their Mentors:

1. *Emily Brittany Borner and Mentor Dana Dembski*
2. *Fallon Alexandra Bottone and Mentor Betty Minor*
3. *Joseph Dylan Bottone and Mentor Al Barone (Chad Tanaka subbing for the day)*
4. *Matthew Louis Cozzi and Mentor Dan Long*
5. *Charles Wolf Cross and Mentor Jim Langham*
6. *Jessica Rose Ellison and Mentor Peggy Brady*
7. *Mary Yocum and Mentor MaryEllen Hendricks*

Photos by Steven Yingling



SAUGATUCK HAPPENINGS

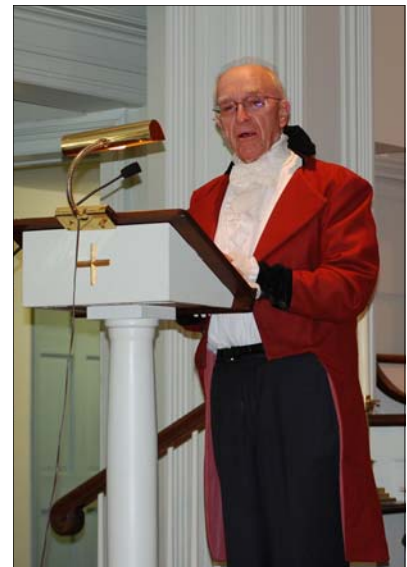
April 30—May 2, Middle School Youth Group Trip to Heifer Overlook



Photo by Mark Mathias

May 28th, Westport's 175th Birthday Celebration! A Very Special 175th Birthday Re-enactment!

Starring



The Westport Historical Society celebrated Westport's 175th birthday by staging a re-enactment of the first town meeting 175 years ago that was held at the Saugatuck Church. Ebenezer Jesup (Carl Leaman) is shown receiving Westport's charter from Ariane Mermod, the messenger, delivered by horse from Hartford. Daniel Nash (Craig Matheson) was instrumental in persuading the Connecticut General Assembly to create a new entity out of the existing towns of Fairfield, Norwalk and Weston. Eliphelet Swift (Andy Neilly) along with other dignitaries described town highlights from the past 175 years.

Following the meeting refreshments were served including a Great Cakes masterpiece. First Selectman Gordon F. Joseloff and Marion Yingling, blew out sparklers on the birthday cake.



Photos by Larry Untermeyer, Westport Now; Bob Yingling; Dan Woog, <http://06880danwoog.com>

Saugatuck Happenings Continued: May 31st , Westport Memorial Day Parade



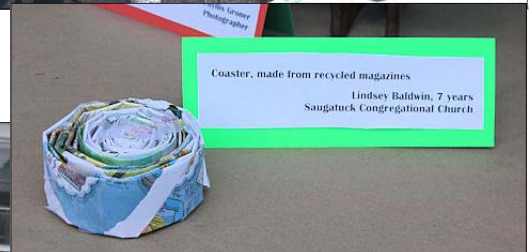
Saugatuck Church won first for the best Organization Float.



Larry Aasen, a WWII veteran, enjoying the parade

Photographs by Bob Yingling

Saugatuck Happenings Continued: June 6th. Celebrate the Earth & Opening of the Sunday Farmers' Market



Celebrating the Earth with Irish Music, Lalia Madriguera singing, an art exhibit including Samantha Sorrentino's portrayal of women & child abuse, Green Art submitted by children & adults and the opening of the Farmers' Market..

*Saugatuck Happenings Continued: June 13th, Youth Sunday
The Story Tent Players Presented "First Person Plural" A Play About the Lord's Prayer*



Saugatuck Happenings Continued: June 11 & 18th, Field of Flags



Randy Christophersen



Mary Ann West



Bob Yeager, Jim Goodenough and George Marks Sr. enjoying a beautiful day and a short respite after planting several flags..



Michael Hendricks



Places on the Field of Flags honoring the 52 fallen heroes from Connecticut.

The flags are in the ground and waving their silent tribute to those who have lost their lives in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. It is an impressive sight that shows our freedoms do not come without a price.

We have a new generation of heroes. An apt quotation describes those who are protecting their country, "Heroes are the people who do what has to be done, when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences."

Some of our troops are on their third and fourth assignments to Iraq and Afghanistan. They are living and fighting in alien countries, much different from their hometowns in the USA. The winters are severely cold and the summers are brutally hot. The customs of these countries are not those of the USA. Little positive news comes from the frontlines. In these wars there is a very high incidence of depression among the troops and attempts at suicide.



It's Up To Us!

We have placed our flags to remind us of the terrible cost of this war. With very little research it became apparent that there are things that we at home can be doing to help our troops. They need to know that we are very, very grateful for their choosing to protect our country. Letters are one way we can let them know how proud we are of them and that each of them is a hero in our eyes. During the set-up of the Field of Flags I was privileged to talk with a young woman who had served and had been in combat. She said that one of the things they really enjoyed was getting letters from children. The letters certainly took their minds off the war and took the women back to the normalcy of children and their usual lively outlook on life. She said it was so good to smile and chuckle as they read the letters together.

Several people in our congregation have "adopted" a soldier and correspond with them regularly. For further information on doing this, contact Lisa Gray.

Writing letters of support is something we can all do. We won't be heroes, but we will make a soldier feel that what he is doing is very worthwhile and that his/her country thanks them for their service. We "can do what has to be done, when it needs to be done." The consequences will be a happier soldier knowing he is doing an important and appreciated job for his country and fellow countrymen.

There are several addresses available to send letters to soldiers. They are sent in a large pack together. We could make a Letter Box for the Soldiers and when we have a bundle, ship them off.

It would be really nice if a group of men (or women) got together to visit the injured in the Veterans' hospitals. If you get a group together, let me know and I can find out the procedure for such visits. This information comes from a mother who has lost two sons and devotes her time to hospital work.

Christmas is coming. There are lists of things that can be sent in stockings to the troops. The stockings can be hand-made, making them more special.

Winter is coming. Helmets need liners. We have patterns. Afghans and quilts are needed and very appreciated. One soldier was showing his mother the quilt someone had made for him before he even said hello to her. Some blankets, quilts, afghans, are sent to the hospitals where the wounded are transferred. Some are used to cover the wounded as they are moved from the battlefield.

We won't be "heroes" per se, but we will be to those we reach out to. We will be doing what has to be done, when it needs to be done - and our consequences, unlike the usual connotation of the word "consequences" will be POSITIVE.

In the words of the recent Story Tent "IT'S UP TO US!"

Nancy Pool



Dear Saugatuck Members and Friends:

Just a reminder: Thanks for prayerfully considering a donation to the Campership Offering, to continue to help provide children ages 6 to 14 in the Bridgeport area six weeks of Summer Camp at the McGivney Community Center. Two weeks after our mailing went out we are about two thirds of the way to our goal.

The cost to support a younger camper for the entire 6 weeks is \$225 and the cost for a camper going into grades 7-9 is \$325. You can sponsor a child for one week of camp for about \$50. Or you are welcome to contribute any amount you are able to give. You can send your check, made out to Saugatuck Congregational Church, attn: Camperships to the Church Office or leave it in the offering plate on Sundays.

As Chair of the Mission Board, I thank you in advance for your generous support of this Special Offering and the many other ways in which you support our local mission agencies.

Sincerely,
Jeff Boak



Alyssa Barone
John Crosby
Eric Edmund
Jenny Johnston
Becky Ross
Elizabeth Walsh

Cameron Bruce
Robert Cross
Sarah Johnson
Wes Langham
Samantha Sorrentino

Well Done!



Just two weeks before the Tag Sale on May 22, Betsy Boak and I wondered if we had enough "stuff" to even have a sale. We decided to go ahead on faith, and sure enough, you - the faithful - came through! Like loaves and fishes, stuff started to appear, and appear, and appear. Hoskins Hall was filled, even with larger items being put on the front lawn.

We collected well over \$1,000, and subtracting expenses (including the POD we used for storage) we ended up close to our financial goal. Many thanks to those of you who donated items and money, to Betsy, Jeff and Nick Boak, Sally Duling and her friend Lisa, Sue Ellison, Kathy Ross, Michael Hendricks, Jim Langham and others who literally gave of the sweat of their brows.

Two weeks after the Tag Sale, the High School Youth Group held its annual Car Wash. The rain clouds held off long enough that we were able to wash a steady stream of cars for about 4 hours, some belonging to folks who were also shopping at the Farmers' Market and browsing the Interfaith Council's Environmental Day displays. In the end, we raised nearly \$600.

It was hard work throughout the year, but we have raised enough to meet our budget for the Mission Trip to Pipestem, West Virginia. Please be in prayer for a safe and meaningful trip.

The Middle School Youth Group ended its academic year with an overnight at the church! My guess is that it's been at least a decade since any youth group has slept over at Saugatuck. It was a celebratory time, with snacks and games and time spent getting to know each other better. Towards the end, the youth offered ideas for next year. They like the way youth group has been going, with its mix of activities, and would like an overnight Mission Trip to Hartford in addition to the Heifer trip.

Georgette Huie

SAUGATUCK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
 245 Post Road East, Westport, CT 06880
 203-227-1261 203-226-8225 (FAX)
Church@saugatuckchurch.org (e-mail)
<http://www.saugatuckchurch.org> (web page)

Ministers to the World	All the Congregation
Transition Minister	Rev. Howie Tobak
Minister Emeritus	Ted Hoskins
Director of Music	Charlotte Stacey
Director of Youth Music	Craig Gillespie
Director of Children's Music	Georgette Huie
Director of Christian Education	Abby Peterson
Acting Director of Youth Ministries	Georgette Huie
Secretary	Marcia Harrington
Building Manager	David Doyle
Bookkeeper	Rosemary Smith

Moderator	Michael Hendricks	259-5507
Vice Moderator	Michelle Coppola Ames	226-8424
Clerk	Janet Canning	226-1912
Treasurer	John Loeck	261-0465
Financial Secretary	Patricia Dennis	846-8634
Church Historian	Barbara Van Orden	227-7577
Communications	Mary Ann West	554-3964

SHARING AND CARING: ongoing prayers for the family of Hazel Bradbury, Hazel Baldwin, Amy Bell, Jean Bosch, Judy Bottone, Valerie Burman (Carla Bowden's sister), Tommy Conforti, Elmer Crager, Austen and Pat Doolittle's grandchildren, Christie and Ryan, Jimmy Lerch, Jenna Miller, Kathi Mitchell, Sue Neilly, Ellys Nelson (Luis Nelson's wife), Eileen Parrelli (Lisa Gray's mother), Win Patterson, Colleen Plantinga, Marj Potter, Chiyoko Quasius, Dave Rendleman, Jan Rogowsky, Cliff Ross, Kris Schwindeman-Flandreau, Sam Shaffer, Florence James Shook, Bob Steele, Jane Steen (Meredith Lederer's mother) and Rubi Wentzel (Carla Bowden's mother). Please hold these people in God's presence and in the light of Christ.

*Deacons On Call for July are Ella MacDonald
 203 221-7022 and
 Bob Yingling 203 846-1414*

*Deacons on Call for August are Doug Johnston
 203 454-1941 and Russ Brenneman 203 227-2822*

*The Deadline for the September Herald is Friday,
 August 20th. Please send material to
 Jane Mangold jmangold@optonline.net*

***I was hungry and you gave me food,
 I was thirsty and you gave me drink.***

Our July Food Collection will benefit Christian Community Action. Over the summer many of their clients face a new need. Most of their children receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch at school, now they are home for 3 meals a day. In response to this need CCA would like to collect extras of the breakfast and lunch foods that will be needed to fill this gap. Their wish list is for cold cereal, powdered milk, juice, peanut butter and jelly, tuna, mayo, canned pasta and hearty soups.

Thank you for your ongoing help.

Gratefully,
 Elise Miller on behalf of the Mission Board



Please be aware that July 2nd – September 3rd the Church Office will be closed on Fridays. David Doyle will be on-site during that time, but not on Mondays or Tuesdays. Rosemary Smith will continue her three day work week (Monday - Wednesday). Thank you for your understanding.

Save the Date!

September 26th, 4 P.M.
 Saugatuck Congregational Church
 The Interfaith Amigos

Sponsored by the George Mangold Lecture Series, the Interfaith Council & Temple Israel

Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi and a Sheikh,