

THE HERALD



*Worship Service 8:30am
Compo Beach
By the Cannons*

JULY & AUGUST CALENDAR

WORSHIP SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY

8:30 COMPO BEACH BY THE CANNONS

10:30 SAUGATUCK CHURCH SANCTUARY

Board & Committees:

Personnel: 7pm July 6

Trustees: 7:30pm July 15

Church Council: 8pm July 27

Membership: 7:30pm July 28

Deacons: 7:30pm August 10

Other Meetings:

Bible Study 9:30am every Wednesday through the summer.

Men's Group 8:15am every Thursday through the summer.

July 3 - Wilton Baptist Church (communion)

July 10 - Norfield

July 17 - Green's Farms

July 24 - United Methodist

July 31 - Green's Farms

August 7 - Saugatuck (communion)

August 14 - Norfield

August 21 - United Methodist

August 28 - Saugatuck

September 5 - Wilton Congregational with breakfast following the worship service



from the desk of Howie Tobak, Transition Minister:

"You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, . . . Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert . . . to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise." Isaiah 43:10a, 18-19, 20c-21

The 28th General Synod of the United Church of Christ will convene in Tampa, Florida, July 1 - July 5. The theme this year is, "Imagine what's possible! God is still speaking." It comes at a time in our denomination's life when we are considering anew where we are going as a denomination, even as we continue to seek to be faithful to our calling from God -- how our denomination is living out its ministry, and what our role in that might be. For there have ever been questions

about our denomination's polity (how we govern ourselves), as compared with that of other mainline Protestant churches. For, many have wrongly come to believe -- mostly through inaccurate media reporting -- that the biennial UCC General Synod makes decisions for our local churches. And yet, that is far from the truth.

The UCC General Synod is essentially a gathering of a religious community of laity and clergy who have been elected by

their local Association, Region or Conference to serve. The Connecticut Conference has 52 such delegates. And throughout history, these delegates to General Synod have gathered to worship, to fellowship, to listen for the word of God, to share in Holy Communion, and to prayerfully deliberate the issues of the day. They have not gathered to set an agenda for the local church or to make "infallible" pronouncements on matters of faith and teaching, but to report

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New from Christian Education

It is with the deepest appreciation and gratitude that we celebrate the gifts, dedication and vision that Abby Peterson shared with our congregation over more than a decade in her service as our Director of Christian Education. This spring, Abby let us know that she would be stepping down from this role following the end of the program year.

Abby's positive impact will be felt for years to come. She infused the Christian Education program with enthusiasm and love as she guided both our children and our teachers. Her creativity and energy added church school events such as the Angel Breakfast and Walk Through Holy Week, and she was committed to teaching our children Christ's call to reach out to others with mission projects that supported the Saugatuck Feasts as well as indigent families through the Heifer Project.

She prays for an energized and enthused replacement, and assures us that Saugatuck is still her church home. While she is stepping down from her position on the staff, Abby plans to remain active and fully participatory in the life of our congregation.

Sue Ellison
Christian Education



Abby and Brad Peterson. Both Brad and Abby have been important contributors to our church school, music program and handling the sound equipment at the Compo Beach services.

(Continued from page 1)

From the desk of Howie Tobak, Transition Minister

on and listen for the activity of God in their lives and in the church, and to then seek to discern God's yearning for us -- the mission to which God is calling us. Hence, while delegates do typically take up contentious and often difficult issues, they are called upon to prayerfully listen for the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit in their midst and respond. It is not so much what any delegate wants, but what God might want to see happen. And if history is any indicator, that discernment rarely speaks with a unanimous voice. And we who are in covenant with them, we who are the members of UCC churches, we are called upon to hear from them, that we may prayerfully discern the part we may yet play.

These gatherings, in one form or another, have been going on for years. Previous General Synods have debated such topics as women's suffrage, equal rights, abortion, and same-gender marriage. There have been theological debates on the authority of Scripture, the role of women in the church, the personhood of Jesus, and the autonomy of the local church. In each of these, local churches and their members were free to hear the reports brought back by their delegates, and to either agree or disagree with the larger body. This year, one of the proposals to come before the gathering, after 7 years of ecumenical dialog, is to consider the "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism." Forged between the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and the reformed Protestant denominations of the United States, including the UCC, it would allow Catho-

lic priests to presume that baptisms performed in these communities are "true baptism" as understood in Catholic doctrine and law, paving the way for ease of marriage among us, as we live into the unity we share in Christ.

Never infallible, but always sincere, the United Church of Christ struggles to be faithful to the call of the word of God. And from July 1 through July 5, at the Tampa Convention Center, in Tampa, FL, delegates to the 28th General Synod will convene. Visitors are welcome. The General Synod agenda, resolutions, other formal motions, and workshops, as well as a Live Webcast of the proceedings may be viewed at www.ucc.org/synod/.

SUMMERTIME AT SAUGATUCK



Summer Hours

From July 5-September 6 the Church Office will be closed on Fridays. Hours on Monday-Thursday are (9:30 am to 3:30 pm).

During July and August the Sunday 10 am worship service will begin at 10:30 instead of 10 am.

Deacons on Call for July are Doug Johnston 203 964-7330 and Susie Benton 1 203 767-3749.

The Deadline for the September Herald will be Saturday, August 20. Please send material to Jane Mangold, jmangold@optonline.net.

The Music Ministry Team welcomes all volunteers in the Saugatuck Church family -- both nuclear and extended --to enrich our summer worship services by sharing your musical talents with us. Whether you sing, play a musical instrument, or both, please speak with a member of the Music Ministry Team.

Susie Benton, Team Leader; Doug Johnston; John Canning; Gayle Martin Henry



FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

*Remember not the former things,
Neither consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing,
Even now it is springing to light.
Do you perceive it?*

Isaiah 43: 18-19

The consultant for the search committee's survey observed that we seem to be a church community that is grieving. If his insight is correct It is good to acknowledge our grief, the losses that we may be feeling, whatever they may be: pastors that we loved and followed, people who have passed or we no longer see, times that seemed more predictable and less challenging, church budgets that seemed more manageable. Whatever. Grieving always entails looking backward toward what once was and is no longer.

Isaiah tells us not to dwell on "former things" but to look ahead because, we are assured, the Holy One is "doing a new thing." It is toward that we should turn our eyes. At this time of some uncertainty and even apprehension for many of us, even now this new thing is aborning in and for Saugatuck. We are not told just what that new thing might be, which adds to our uneasiness. Looking forward to what?

Theologian Paul Tillich advises to be patiently "ready":

"The new being is born in us, just when we least believe in it. It appears in remote corners of our souls which we have neglected for a long time. It opens up deep levels of our personality which had been shut out by old decisions and old exclusions. It shows us a way where there was no way before. It liberates us from the tragedy of having to decide and having to exclude, because it is given before any decision. Suddenly we notice it within us! The new which we sought and longed for comes to us in the moment in which we lose hope of ever finding it. That is the first thing we must say about the new: it appears when and where it chooses. We cannot force it, and we cannot calculate it. Readiness is the only condition for it..."*

God is at work doing a "new thing" in Saugatuck. Do you perceive it? Not yet? Let us be ready.

*The Shaking of the Foundations (Scribner ed.) 182

Contributed by Russ Brenneman

From the Deacons

At its June meeting the Board of Deacons voted to reaffirm the covenant addressing the behavior of our church community that was adopted by a previous board ten years ago. The deacons urge everyone to affirm these principles personally and incorporate them into their lives, and the deacons further urge that the covenant be read together on appropriate occasions, including the meetings of boards and committees, so that these guides may become ingrained in our covenantal relationship. The covenant:

[We affirm our faith by...]

Praising God by

Welcoming and practicing hospitality toward all people as children of God.

Nurturing the children in our midst in the Christian faith and the values expressed in this [church] Covenant;

Caring as faithful stewards for God's earth and all of God's gifts;

Participating, as a relevant part of the greater community, in meeting the unfolding needs, physical and spiritual, of all of God's people; and

Relating to other faith communities and religions in a covenantal manner, honoring and respecting the work and ministry of each of them.

Affirming our unity in Christ and our love for one another by

Demonstrating our commitment to our church with prayers, presence, gifts and service;

Respecting, trusting and honoring our ordained pastors and lay leaders and remaining open to their transformational leadership;

Working cooperatively to build a shared vision for the future, giving priority to the well-being of the church family;

Listening with open and non-judgmental minds to the words and ideas of others;

Communicating openly in a spirit of trust, love and respect and seeking constructive solutions to problems; and

Forgiving one another for our failings, as we expect to receive forgiveness ourselves.

Following the path of Jesus by

Praying, to thank God and ask God's help in our lives and our church.

Listening for God's response and always humbly seeking to do God's will.

To the end that we may be, become and do what God intends for us

From the Moderator



As most of you are probably aware, Shelly Coppola Ames announced in last month's Herald that she was stepping down as Moderator. I want to express my gratitude to Shelly for the time I have worked with her as Vice Moderator and wish her well as she finds how, in her words, her "gifts and talents can be better used outside of Council." Several people have assumed that I have therefore succeeded her as Moderator. In fact the process is a little more involved than that and I wanted to take this time to explain the process, as set forth in our By-Laws.

Under Article 9, Section 5 of our By-Laws, if there is a vacancy for the Moderator or Vice-Moderator, a nominating committee "made up of the Moderator, Vice Moderator, a member of the Council selected by the Council and the Senior Pastor" makes a recommendation to the Council for filling the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting. If the terms of the Moderator and Vice Moderator would not expire at the next Annual Meeting, the committee also makes a recommendation to the Council for adjusting their

terms, which will also be presented to the Annual Meeting.

In accordance with the By-Laws, at the last Church Council meeting on May 24th, the Council chose Janet Canning as its member selected to serve on the nominating committee. The committee has met and resolved that I be nominated as Moderator for approval by the Council at its June 28th meeting. The committee is also working on selecting a Vice Moderator for approval by the Council.

Perhaps only a lawyer could be interested in these details, I couldn't say for sure. But I feel reassured that in an uncertain situation like this we can rely on rules that have been with us in various forms from the beginning of Saugatuck Congregational Church, amended in compliance with their terms. The By-Laws represent to me the collected wisdom of our forebears, men and women like Ned Dimes, George Mangold, Marshall Baldwin, Dorothy Bryce and so many others: wisdom that shows us how to govern ourselves in a tradition that stretches all the way back to the Pilgrims, who left England to practice their religion in accordance with a covenant agreed to among their members, not imposed by a hierarchy. That tradition extends forward to the Congregational Churches in New England (including our own) and beyond, but also to the origins of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut and thence to the United States Constitution. That makes it a pretty powerful idea.

I look forward to serving Saugatuck Congregational Church in accordance with those By-Laws and the covenant they represent, to the best of my ability.

Jeff Boak



*Wild Camel Productions Presents The Story Tent Players In
 “What Time Is It?”*

Written and Produced by the Seventh and Eighth Graders and their Teachers.

For this year’s class, we focused on the Bible’s wisdom literature. We began by looking at the famous words of Ecclesiastes 3—to everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven. The passage then goes on to list several opposing times, such as a time to be born and a time to die. After we spoke about the different times, we asked ourselves how do we know what time it is? And what if it’s one time for one person and a different time for someone else? How do we move forward together? We then jumped to the New Testament to look at Jesus’ parables as guides. We wrote our own parables and interpreted them. Then we forced ourselves to re-interpret them to take on almost opposite meanings. We learned that often wisdom literature is not so much about finding a single truth as much as it is about listening for what God asks of us in any given situation and being humble enough to recognize that God just might also be asking someone else something that feels completely opposite. The wisdom we need is in learning how to live and how to live together.

We would like to thank Carla Bowden, Tina Crosby, Craig Gillespie, Sarah and Dana Johnson, Abby Peterson, all the Church School teachers, and all the parents who helped get us to and from rehearsals. We would also like to dedicate this year’s production to Cameron Bruce and Cliff Ross who were so much a part of our Story Tent family and have been in our hearts throughout the year.

Betsy Gillespie, MaryEllen Hendricks, Michael Hendricks and Kathy Ross & the 7th & 8th Grade Class



*Photographs by
 Bruce Borner &
 Jane Mangold*



**Confirmation Class
2011**



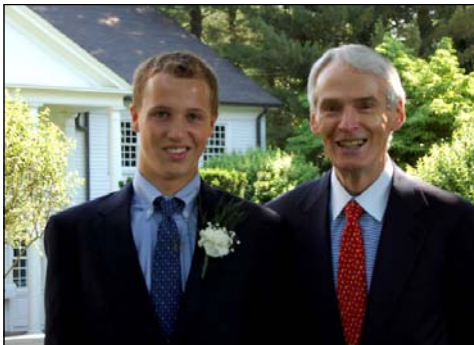
Alexander Michael Frawley & Mentor Bill Shaffer



Khaliq Melle Sanda & Mentor Jim Langham



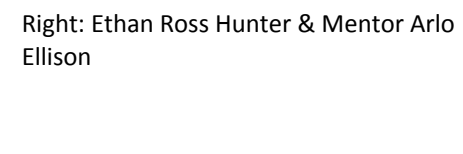
Katherine Lynn Wargo & Mentor Michelle Weir



Above: Jeremy Tyler Langham & Mentor John Walsh



Brett Walter Johnson & Mentor Craig Matheson



Right: Ethan Ross Hunter & Mentor Arlo Ellison



Photographs by Steve Yingling

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Confirmation Class 2011



Above: Michael Anthony Bottone & Mentor Bill Shaffer



Above: Daniel Albert McCarthy & Mentor Craig Matheson

Right: Olivia Christine Crosby & Mentor Michelle Weir



Above: Nicholas George Wargo & Mentor Arlo Ellison



Above: Jansen Philip van Arsdale & Mentor Bill Meyer

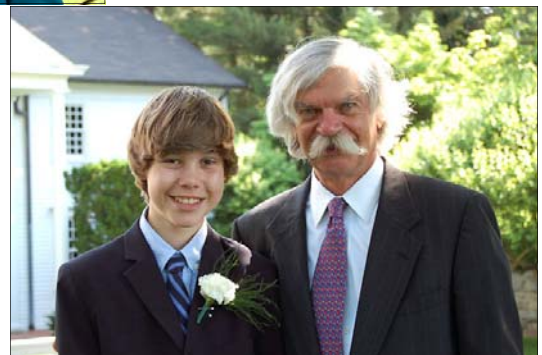
Photographs by Steve Yingling



Left: Julia Elizabeth Yingling & Mentor Pat Doolittle



Above: John Edward Mendillo & Mentor Craig Gillespie



Above: Alexander Eric Martinson & Mentor Carl Leaman

Congratulations to Our Confirmands!

This past year was an exciting year for Confirmation at Saugatuck. Last summer, the Boards of Deacons and Christian Education voted to switch the Confirmation class from 9th grade to 8th grade. This was our transition year where a combined class of 8th and 9th graders joined together to explore the meaning of full membership at Saugatuck.

Our teachers Abby and Brad Peterson, and Jeff Boak took on the task of leading this lively group through a year of Sunday evening classes held in one another's homes, group retreats to Camp Aspetuck and Camp Silver Lake, and an overnight mission project raising money and awareness for the American Cancer Society at Relay for Life. We are indebted to them, as well as all of the mentors who shepherded this group.

**THANK YOU ABBY, BRAD, JEFF, HOWIE AND OUR MENTORS
FOR YOUR TIME, TALENT AND DEDICATION TO OUR YOUTH!**

Sue Ellison
Board of Christian Education



High School Graduates being introduced to the congregation by Abby Peterson: Devon Gillespie, Audrey Twitchell, Eva Hendricks, Amanda Long, Chloe Ellison and Margot Bruce.

Well Done!

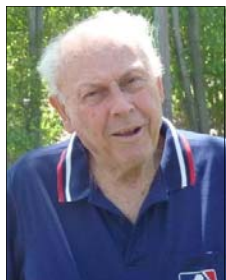
Baptisms on June 26th

Ryan Oliver Hart,
son of Rachel Ann
Hart & Kenneth Hart
and brother of John
Aidan Hart.
Godparents are
Leslie Block and
Ken Hart.



Blake Kai Merfalen, son of Jessica Lynn Merfalen & Joseph Merfalen, Jr. and brother of Amanda Jada Merfalen. His Godparents are Rebecca Collins & George Desmond.

In keeping with our emphasis on getting to know each other



Mr. Volunteer Bill Meyer

*Excerpted from the Westport News,
June 10, 2011*

The following is an interview with Westport resident Bill Meyer, who at 82 years old, volunteers for several local causes. . .

Q. *Are you retired?*

A. Yes and no—because I am a full time volunteer in Westport. Retired usually means that you don't do anything.

Q. *What did you do when you worked full time?*

A. National sales manager for several companies. In Browning, Montana, for one example, I managed 800 workers on an Indian reservation. We manufactured and sold pens and pencils. The tribe adopted me, giving me the Indian name Black Feet, after their chief.

Q. *What are your main hobbies and interests?*

A. Volunteering. I am on the boards of eight nonprofit entities in Westport.

Q. *Can you name some?*

A. On the Representative Town Meeting 17 years and counting. Also Sunrise Rotary Club; First Night; Y's Men; Friends of the Westport Center for Senior Activities; Westport Center for Senior Activities; Westport Community Theater; Westport chapter of the American Association for Retired Persons; Westport Little League; umpire of Little League games at Bill Meyer Field named after me on North Compo Road; Meals on Wheels; mentoring a 14 year old boy from the age of five; on board of Isaiah House in Bridgeport that hosts parolees for six months as they "transition" into life outside prison.

Q. *What achievements of yours are you most proud?*

A. Two things: Being adopted by the Indian Reservation and finding a second wife as wonderful as Carolyn.

Q. *What brings you your greatest joy?*

A. Being involved in so many community activities. Meeting so many dedicated people that I have come to admire and respect. I also find it very joyful

joining in the life of the Saugatuck Congregational Church with my wife.

Q. *What was a significant memory or defining moment in your life?*

A. When I helped my 88-year-old, cancer-ridden father take his life in 1994. I was arrested for assisting in my father's suicide.

Q. *What happened after you were arrested for helping your father die?*

A. I was facing 10 years in prison. Over 300 Westporters wrote to the judge during my pre-trial. They supported me.

Q. *Then what happened?*

A. The judge said even though I broke the law, no judge would convict me because of the public support.

Q. *What was the effect of that?*

A. I was interviewed on "60 Minutes" about helping my father commit suicide. The story about father and son was detailed on page one of the New York Times, papers across Connecticut and around the world.

Q. *What are you looking forward to?*

A. To continue my involvement and commitment to groups in Westport.

By Patricia McCormack for the Westport News.

A Man for All Islands,

an update on Ted and Linda Hoskins



At 77, the Rev. Ted Hoskins isn't sitting around. "I may get slowed down, but I don't intend to slow down," he said from his Blue Hill home.

To most island residents and to many others along the coast, from fishermen to summer fold, Hoskins is a trusted friend and advisor. For many years he was chaplain to the Bar Harbor-based Maine Seacoast Mission and its succession of boats all named *Sunbeam*. He was there for weddings, births, deaths and many things in-between. In all, he was aboard *Sunbeam* for about nine years and then spent another five years with the Mission on shore.

"I count that as a very special privilege, getting to know the people on the islands," he said. In 1971, the year that electricity came to the island, he taught eight students in the Isle au Haut schoolhouse. He hopes that others will sense the beauty, simplicity and intimacy of island life, and will give it a try, even if they don't stay for good.

The *Sunbeam* continues its traditional visits to island communities, providing medical care, social and spiritual assistance. Before retiring from that post last year, Hoskins had changed his focus from boat minister to fisheries and communities minister, reflecting his concern for the collapse of fish stocks and the fragility of island communities. Among other things, Hoskins serves on the board of Penobscot East Resource Center in Stonington.

Hoskins has a second home on his beloved Isle au Haut, where his father was seasonal pastor at the Union Congregational Church—a job Ted Hoskins now holds. Decades ago, he traded ministering a church in suburban Westport CT for a less conventional life around Penobscot Bay. He already knew the islands from his father's summer work on Isle au Haut, where the younger Hoskins did some lobstering and purse seining to earn money for college. He'd been spending summers on the island from the age of nine.

His hearing and his calling are local islands, but his passion for fisheries has taken him as far away as Belize. There, with the support of the Belize government, he is encouraging sustainable practices and helping fishermen form groups to protect their way of life. He expects local people will take over his own role, which he described as facilitator.

Fisherman Ted Ames, a fellow board member at Penobscot East Resource Center and an authority on fisheries, said, "anything good you can say about Ted Hoskins is an understatement." Ames, who along with Hoskins helped organize the Stonington Fisheries Alliance, said his friend has "enthusiasm and a great passion for economic and social justice."

Ames said Hoskins has the ability to help fishermen see the need for "a fishery that's good for the long term," sustaining both the fish and the communities that depend on those fish.

Hoskins and his wife, Linda, have been married for more than two decades, meeting after each of them had been widowed. She has two grown children

and two grandchildren; he has a daughter in Stonington. Hoskins' son drowned many years ago when his small boat was caught in rough seas at night.

Hoskins remains an optimist in spite of grim reports of fewer fish, increasing environmental pollution and island towns that are barely hanging on as full-time residents move away. He believes that if coastal Mainers understand sustainability, and work together, the situation is not hopeless. "I don't feel like we should ever feel that it's the end of the road. My feeling is that God, in whatever form you want to think of it, that the intent of any deity is to make life work. We can find ways for this creation to really work. We should not be assuming that we're the center of everything."

Is the fishery and island life in crisis? "I think we're always at a crossroads," he said. "The key is recognizing it and choosing to do something positive about it. We have to live with a sense of crisis and make good choices, with a good understanding of what the options are."

If fishermen realize they are stakeholders in the fishery, they can become stewards of the resource, and "winners, not of the lottery, but of the ability to continue fishing." Or, as popular T-shirts in Belize say, "Fish Forever."

Steve Cartwright is a freelance writer who lives in Waldoboro, ME.

Reprinted from the Inter Island News, Rockland, ME 04841

and submitted by Lois Himes



On May 27, the Middle School Youth Group assembled, cooked, and froze a casserole for the Gillespie Center. They then engaged in, what else: a game or two or three of *Manhunt*. Another favorite game emerged; *Apples to Apples (Junior version)*. On June 10, the group ended the year with a dinner and games at the Martenson home. Our youth invited two of their friends, both of whom happened to be Jewish! We spent some time discussing whether or not it made sense for Jewish youth to be part of our group. No one had an issue, but it was natural and good that the youth dealt with the question. The reminder that Jesus was a Jew helped answer the question.

The High School Youth Group ended a year of Monday night meetings by enjoying dinner at *Tengda*. We then treated the graduating seniors to some delicious fried ice cream.

The Mission Trip to Nashville is just around the corner. We welcome your prayers but also give you our thanks for your support throughout the year.

Georgette Huie

**Sunday Farmers Market at
Saugatuck Congregational Church
Market Hours: Sundays 10:00 AM-1:00 PM**

Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA). The program is simply a prepaid subscription for 1 box of (8 market items) for 10 weeks.

The program will start July 10 and run weekly through September 11. The cost is \$200. Each participant will receive 1 box per week for 10 weeks. The boxes will contain a wide variety of products (fresh eggs, veggies, fruit, and market goods) from participating vendors and will change as the growing season continues. The boxes will be assembled and **ready for pick up after 12:00pm**. Proceeds go to pay expenses of the market and support our vendors.

Please consider donating a CSA share (\$200) to our after market mission: **Park City Initiative**. Each week the vendor's donations supply 65 families, Family ReEntry and the Bridgeport Rescue Mission with fresh produce and market goods.

*Sign up by visiting our table at the Sunday Market, mailing or dropping off a check to the church
office payable to: Sunday Farmer's Market*

Sunday Farmer's Market Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____



For more info, contact Mary Ann West 203-554-3964 or e-mail: mwestwrites@gmail.com