

Cross Ways

The Newsletter of
The Congregational Church of Brookfield
160 Whisconier Road,
Brookfield, CT 06804
(203) 775-1259

September 2014

Join Us Sept. 7 for our “Back to School” Church School Party!

***Register your child and learn more about
Choirs and Adult Education Opportunities****

Church School Registration

Sunday, September 7th – 9:30 to 10:15am & 11:30am In Fellowship Hall

Church School Registration will be held in Fellowship Hall on **Sept. 7th** in between services and during Fellowship Time. We will have special “Back to Church School” coffee hour treats & more! Register your child(ren) for Church School and/or learn more about our Music Program and Adult Education opportunities. If you can't make it, don't worry. You can register children any Sunday with Pastor Jen or a member of our Christian Education Committee.

Hope to see you there! The Christian Education Committee



***Note:** See inside article for details about church school and Adult Education.

Meetings of Church Council for June 10, July 8, and August 12, 2014

In an effort to keep the congregation informed this is a brief summary of items discussed during the monthly Church Council Meeting.

June

Council welcomed Jane Moran, our summer intern.

Council approved spending \$10,000 from the Designated Youth Endowment Fund to cover airfare and other expenses for the South Dakota mission trip this summer.

The Moderator presented a schedule of listening sessions to be conducted by the Planning Task Force (PTF) over the summer.

Council accepted a bequest from the estate of Dirk Davenport. Dirk grew up in the church. The bequest was a book titled *The Annals of Brookfield: The 150th Anniversary of the Congregational Church of Brookfield*.

CIS's theme for the coming year will be Mental Health. CIS will hold a sandwich-making session to assist the Loaves & Fishes food program. Sandwiches will be assembled after 10:30 worship on the first Sunday of each month.

In May, Welcome committee hosted breakfast for the confirmands, helped Fellowship with the Fairfield East Association (FEA) meeting and dinner, and handed out bubbles at the Memorial Day Parade.

The Worship committee discussed the sandwich board. General practice is to use it only for special announcements such as the Thrift Shop, and for no more than a few days, in consideration of aesthetic objections.

July

Heather Berner resigned in June as Church School Coordinator. The Personnel and Christian Education committees is beginning the search for a new Coordinator.

The Moderator announced "Welcome" as the church's theme for the coming year. Council discussed ways to incorporate "welcome" into upcoming programs. The Planning Task Force has begun compiling the data collected at June listening sessions.

The "For All the Saints" Capital Campaign's books were officially closed, leaving \$82,440 unspent. The congregation will vote in the future to decide how the remaining funds will be spent, relying partially on recommendations from the PTF.

Council approved increasing the fee charged to families for a memorial reception coordinator from \$100 to \$175.

The Christian Education committee took over from the Worship Committee the hosting of Wednesday campfires. They were to be held July 9, 16, 25 & 30.

Church House: Legal and insurance conflicts in the Ross Solar contract were resolved.

Church in Society raised \$1,750 from the June 14th Thrift Shop. CIS will give \$1,000 to the youth mission trip and the balance to Brookfield Social Services.

Council approved Pastor Whipple's request to spend \$1,150 from the Christian Growth and Enrichment Fund to provide scholarship assistance to youth and adults participating in the summer mission trip.

Church Council Notes (cont.)

August

In order to acquaint church members with the various committees and their functions, one committee will be highlighted each month. During each committee's month they will host a coffee hour, speak during service and write pieces for CrossWays and the weekly bulletin.

The Personnel and CE committees presented a draft description of the Church School Coordinator position. The job description is posted, and the position is open to all church members, including those with daytime jobs.

Council was asked to consider moving the date of the Yankee Fair on week up or back starting in 2015 due to a conflict with the date of the Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting. Every year the pastors must choose whether to attend the Fair or the Conference. Council will vote on the change in September.

The Treasurer reported pledge income was down only \$5,000 from budget this month, which is better, compared to this time of year in previous years. The improvement in cash flow is in part a result of more people using Vanco (on-line giving) to remit their pledge.

Pastor Whipple expects to return \$300 to the Christian Growth and Enrichment Fund and \$1,000 or more to the Youth Endowment Fund. Jennifer deserves recognition for her skillful management of the mission trip's finances.

Investment Treasurer's Report: As of June 30 the market value of the Endowment Fund (General and Designated) is \$1,167,017.

Council approved the following as recipients of 2014 Yankee Fair Funds: Silver Lake Conference Center, ARC (Association of Religious Communities), Simply Smiles, Refugee Resettlement. Church in Society will decide how the funds will be allocated among the groups.

The Church House Committee reminds all members and groups that the Parsonage is available for church meetings and events. Please speak to Jeannine in the main office to book usage of the Parsonage.

Council approved accepting a granite handicapped parking marker which will be donated by Larry Ruschmeyer. The marker will be installed at the handicapped parking spot by the Memorial Garden.

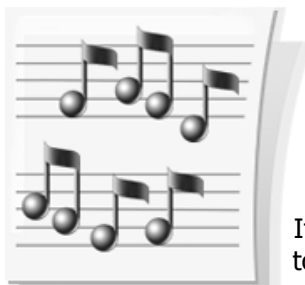
The Worship committee has re-named REACH "the Media Team" and discussed the need to update our audio/visual equipment. The committee will submit a written proposal to Council and may request permission to hire a sound consultant to advise on what acoustical improvements should be made.

Council approved high school sophomore Jill DeLucia to serve as a youth deacon. Council thanks Tom Young for coordinating Greeters for the 10:30 service. He would like to expand the effort to the 8:30 service as well.

Sunday School starts on September 7. The Christian Education committee will add Welcome and Mental Health themes to the curriculum.

The mission trip Stockholders Breakfast will be held on September 21 in between Sunday morning services, the day the SYF leads worship to share experiences from their trip to South Dakota. Pastor Whipple thanks everyone for supporting the youth mission trip.

Church Council Meetings are open to all and are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 in Brooks Hall. If you would like to have something put on the agenda for a Church Council meeting please contact Nancy Vodra, Moderator or Dave Goral, Vice Moderator.



NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM - SEPTEMBER 2014

It's choir season once again. We have the wonderful opportunity to join voices together to make music for the Lord. I hope you will consider joining one of our choirs.

The **children's choirs** will be meeting on a different afternoon this year. Children's choir is a great way for kids to learn about their faith, while having fun singing. Children make friends in choir and learn those musical skills that they can carry with them for life.

Children's Choir Rehearsal Times

Wednesday afternoons (beginning September 10)

Cherub Choir (grades K-2) - 4:00—4:30pm

Alleluia Choir (grades 3-5) - 4:30—5:15pm

Youth Choir (grades 6-12) - 5:15—6:00pm

We have a new **Beginner Bell Choir** this year, directed by Karen Garren. This will be an intergenerational choir for all who would like to ring, but do not know how to read music. It will meet on **Wednesdays from 5:15 - 6:00pm**.

Bell Choir Rehearsal Times

Wednesday evenings (beginning September 10):

Beginner Bells - 5:15 - 6:00pm

Glory Ringers (*intermediate choir*— those with some ringing experience) 6:45 - 7:30pm

Jubilate Ringers (*advanced choir*— experienced ringers) 7:30 - 8:30pm

Adult Choir Rehearsal Times

Thursday evenings (beginning September 4):

7:30 - 9:00pm in the Choir Room

Sunday mornings (beginning September 7)

9:30-10:20am in the Meetinghouse

The Adult Choir welcomes singers of all abilities, high school age and older. We lead the congregation in hymns and sing an anthem in 10:30am worship on most Sundays of the school year (often NOT on first Sundays of the month, when the bell choirs usually play). This choir enjoys singing a variety of styles of music, and we have a lot of fun together. Think about joining us this year!

Toni Sullivan, Director of Music



This year's Yankee Fair and Barn Sale theme is **Mission Possible!**

Our church has such a rich history of mission work, and continues to support wonderful projects both locally and globally. We will take the opportunity on Fair Day to showcase many of these CCB missions in an extravagant display in **Brooks Hall** throughout the day of the Yankee Fair and Barn Sale.

The most important part of the Yankee Fair and Barn Sale is the people! We have so many who volunteer their time to work in the booths and the Barn, and many more who are behind the scenes ensuring that everything is operating smoothly for the huge crowds that show up on Fair Day.

The Yankee Fair and Barn Sale will offer all of the traditional booths everyone loves, including **Quilts**, the **Garden Shop**, **General Store**, **Crafts**, and **SERRV** on the upper floor; and **Silent Auction**, the **Coffee Shop**, the **Bake Shop**, **Cheese Booth**, **Used Books** and the **Fudge Booth** downstairs. **Autumn Harvest** will fill the Courtyard area with flowers and pumpkins. Of course, the **White Steeple Inn** will offer delicious lunch selections and homemade pies in the Church Library. The **Grill** will be serving up wonderful breakfast sandwiches and lunch choices. **Second Hand Rose**, **Jewelry**, **Collectibles**, and **Used Toys** will be over in the Parsonage and the Cottage. As always, the **Barn** will be full of treasures, and there will be **Games** aplenty for the children.

This year, the special live musical attraction will be our very own **Still River Ramblers**.

Admission and parking for the Yankee Fair and Barn Sale are free. Proceeds support church programs, charities, and of course our continuing mission work. This year's fair mission proceeds will benefit Refugee Resettlement, the Association of Religious Communities (ARC), Silver Lake Conference Center, and Simply Smiles.

Here are a few helpful dates and other important items to keep in mind as we get closer to Fair Day:

The last day for Barn donations will be on Saturday, October 11th. We will need many hands to help sort and arrange the barn for the fair. If you would like to volunteer please call Lyn or Mark Lyon at 203-775-6190.

Baked good donations for the **Bake Shop**, **Coffee Shop**, and the **White Steeple Inn** - please deliver to Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., or no later than by 9:00 a.m. on Fair Day. Please be sure to include a list of ingredients with all your donated food items.

The **Silent Auction** can always use donations. If you are able to provide a service or a basket to offer in the silent auction, please contact Keith Stewart or Richard Nyers

Volunteers are still needed in many booths and to help put the church "back to normal" for Sunday morning services. If you are able, please complete a volunteer form, or contact Walt Fisher or one of the Fair Chairs.

Thank you everyone for sharing your time and talents in making this year's Yankee Fair and Barn Sale a huge success.

Faithfully, Mark and Lyn Lyon, and Wendy Elsen, 2014 Yankee Fair and Barn Sale Chairs



Yankee Fair & Barn Sale - Saturday, October 18, 2014

Volunteers are needed before, during and after the fair!

Please volunteer your time at the **Yankee Fair** on Oct. 18th.
It's not too early to sign up! Join with us in the spirit of fellowship.

Please indicate below where you'd like to help. *We can't do it without you!*

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

I can help with the following:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| _____ Set-up (4PM Weds/Thurs/Fri) | _____ Telephone Committee |
| _____ Bake for the Coffee Shop | _____ Clean-up |
| _____ Bake for the Bake Shop | _____ Barn Sale Set-up |
| _____ Bake pies for the White Steeple Inn | _____ Help anywhere |

I'll work at a booth

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ Barn | _____ Autumn Harvest | _____ Bake Shop |
| _____ Coffee Shop | _____ Cheese | _____ Children's Games |
| _____ Fudge | _____ Collectibles | _____ Crafts |
| _____ Grill | _____ Garden Shop | _____ General Store |
| _____ Quilts | _____ Jewelry | _____ Parking |
| _____ Silent Auction | _____ Second Hand Rose | _____ SERRV |
| _____ Used Toys | _____ Treasurers | _____ Used Books |
| | _____ White Steeple Inn | _____ Brooks Hall |

Please fill this out today and: 1) Drop it in the collection plate

2) Give to Walt Fisher

3) Mail to:

The Congregational Church of Brookfield
160 Whisconier Road
Brookfield, CT 06804



Get Your 2014 Yankee Fair T-shirt! **Mission Possible!**

Shirts are white with red lettering and come in adult sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL. The cost is \$8.00 per shirt. Cash (or check payable to CCB) gladly accepted. If paying by check, please write "T-shirt" in the memo line.

*Order forms can be placed in the "T-shirt Orders" basket in Brooks Hall, or mailed to the Church Office.

Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Quantity _____ Size(s) _____ Amount Due (\$) _____

Orders with payment are due in the Church Office, or to Sue Ronan, by Friday, October 10th. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office 203-775-1259

T-shirts will be ready for pick up at the Church Office beginning on Tuesday, October 14th during regular office hours.

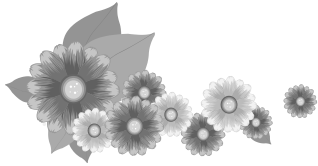
Dining For Women

Dining For Women will meet on September 8th at 6:00 PM at Jeanine Hanewicz's house. Please join us at a simple potluck dinner to learn more about this featured program. We start at 6:00 and are finished by 7:15pm. You can let Olivia Quinsland or Jeanine know if you plan to attend.

This month's featured program is the Nyaka AIDS Orphans Program

In rural Uganda, more than 2 million children have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and most are being raised by their grandmothers. The **Nyaka AIDS Orphans Program's** Training of Trainers program provides resources to these grandmothers to equip them with the business, life, and empowerment skills necessary to improve their lives and the lives of the children in their care.

The peer-to-peer training programs that our \$45,000 grant will fund are aimed at improving life skills, helping the grandmothers secure micro-finance loans to encourage economic stability, and to teach them to cope better with being elderly and poor raising small children. More than 273 trainers will be trained and a total of 7,000 women and 43,000 children will be directly impacted.



Please join us!

**September Serendippers “Welcome Back” Gathering
Tuesday, September 9th at 11:45am**

Program: Janet McGovern, with “Praise Moves”

Menu:

Welcome Back Punch
Garden Marcaroni Salad
Fruit Rolls
Butter Pecan Turtles

Please contact Eleanor Loesch for additional information
OR you can contact the Church Office 203-775-1259
Hope to see you all there!

Note: Serendippers is open to daytime-available people of all ages. We are happy to provide childcare if we know of your need in advance.

Refugee Resettlement Ministry Update

The Refugee Resettlement Ministry (RRM) Steering Committee would like to thank those of you who signed up and volunteered to help with Refugee Resettlement for your willingness to be part of this wonderful ministry! It is clear that this is not the right time for our church to commit to trying to resettle a new family, however. It would be great to be able to begin another round of RRM in the future though. So to all those who signed up, or who didn't sign up but are intrigued by the idea, please do consider becoming a part of the team in the future!

Welcome, Newcomers!

Fall Visitors Gatherings - September 28th following both services.

Meet the Welcome Committee and other friendly church members and staff **after the 8:30 worship service in the Church Library** and **after the 10:30 worship service in the Creation Station classroom**, which is downstairs in the Church School wing, next door to Fellowship Hall. This is your chance to get together with others like you to learn more about our church, our history, our mission and ministries, and how to get involved. We also will enjoy learning more about your life, what brought you to our church, and why you keep coming back. Hope you can join us!



Confirmation Class of 2015

Informational Meeting – Sunday, September 7th at 5:00pm

All incoming confirmands (and a parent) are asked to attend this meeting in the Youth Room in order to learn more about our Confirmation Program.

Youth Fellowship Groups

We are looking forward to our fall program season as we have a chance to reunite with our youth in our two youth fellowship groups. ***We have a Junior Youth Fellowship Group (JYF) for 6th-8th graders that meets Sunday nights from 5-6:30 pm, and a Senior Youth Fellowship Group (SYF) for 9th-12th graders that meets Sunday nights from 7-8:30 pm.*** Both groups spend time building community, exploring issues of faith and everyday life, participating in service and outreach opportunities, and having A LOT of FUN!

Any information about upcoming events and more will be mailed to all of the youth in our database at the beginning of the year, as well as posted on the Youth Events bulletin board outside the Youth Room and on our webpage at www.uccb.org. We also try to send weekly emails about upcoming meetings and special events, as well as post information to our CCB Senior Youth Fellowship Facebook group. If you are not in our database or connected to us via e-mail or Facebook please be in touch with Pastor Jen at Jennifer@uccb.org or 203-775-1259 (ext. 308). We look forward to seeing you!

Junior and Senior Youth Fellowship meetings resume September 21st!

JYF meets from 5-6:30 pm

SYF meet from 7-8:30 pm

Both youth groups meet in the Youth Room.

SYF Mission Trip Thanks & Save the Date

Our Senior Youth Fellowship Mission Team would like to thank our church family for all of your support of our trip to work with Dacotah Tipis Habitat for Humanity (and its related organizations) out in Fort Thompson, South Dakota at the end of July. It was an amazing week full of hands-on service projects, relationship building, and learning about the wonderful people we had a chance to serve with and learn from and about Native American culture.

We are excited to share some of the stories and images from our mission trip with all of you and will be doing so on ***Sunday, September 21st at both services.*** (Our Stockholders' Breakfast will also take place in between worship services that day.)

We hope you will be able to share in worship with us as we tell the stories of our trip and the amazing people we met in South Dakota.

Confirmation Project: You Can Help “Walk to End Alzheimers”

Hi, my name is Dominick Lobraico, and I am working on my confirmation project. On Saturday, Sept. 27, I will be in the “Walk to End Alzheimers.” For three Sundays, I will be sitting downstairs either collecting donations to reach my team goal of \$600.00 or to provide information about joining my team. I will be available **Sunday, Sept. 7 and 14 after the 10:30 service.**

Checks can be made out to *Alzheimers Association Connecticut Chapter* and given to me after church, or you can go online to www.alz.org/walk and click “donate.” Then look up my team name, *Teens Support*, fill out the information page, and any amount you are able to give will help me raise money for Alzheimers research and treatment.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to help me raise money for a great cause and for supporting me in my confirmation project.

Thank you, Dominick



Update: New Solar Power System

Here is a brief status on the solar system installation approved by the Congregation at the annual meeting in April 2014:

- We have hired a contract attorney to represent our interests, and he has reviewed and modified the contract wording to better protect us. A draft copy of the contract has been distributed to the Church House committee, Moderator, and Vice Moderator for review. A small stumbling block involving insurance questions in the contract wording was addressed by both the contractor’s and our insurance company. My expectation that these issues would be resolved by the end of June did not pan out. However, as I write this in August, the issues have been resolved, and we are now in the process of getting the final version of the written contract completed.
- A completed written document will be submitted to the Church House Committee and Moderator for final review and approval.
- I anticipate having a signed contract sometime in September.
- The contractor, Ross Solar LLC, has completed design work and is ready to submit the design for engineering and regulatory review upon contract signing.
- I do not yet have an estimate as to when the system will be installed.

We will keep you informed of the progress on this project.

Ken Arifian
Chair, Church House Committee

Church In Society Committee Update

CIS has been busy this summer.....

Our **Annual Thrift Shop** in June was a success once again. Thrift shop funds of over \$1,700 were disbursed to Brookfield social services as well as to the SYF mission trip to South Dakota. The unsold clothing was donated to The Bridgeport Homeless Veterans, TBICO—an organization that assists unemployed women with clothing for interviews and employment, and we also had The Grady family come and pick up clothing for children in an orphanage in Honduras.

CIS's **focus theme** for this year is "Mental Health." We are working on providing programs and resources to go along with our theme. We hope you saw our sources regarding services surrounding Mental Health issues in our weekly worship bulletins this summer.

On August 24th the "**Ben's Bells**" **Painting Party** was a success. The Ben's Bells Project seeks to promote kindness in order to grow happier healthier communities.

On the 1st Sunday of the month we are making **lunches for Loaves and Fishes**, directly following service. Join us on September 7th (and on the first Sunday of each month) in the Creation Station at 11:30am for our next opportunity.

Finally, the Church in Society Committee made recommendations to Council in August regarding the 50% of our **Yankee Fair Funds** that go to outreach projects in our community and beyond. The recommendations made to and accepted by Council were for the funds to be given to:

- *Refugee Resettlement Ministry*—our own ministry program helping to resettle refugees from around the world.
- *The Association of Religious Communities (ARC)*—serving the Greater Danbury Area with issues of homelessness and housing, food insecurity, domestic violence, building relationships between communities of faith, strengthening the community, and more.
- *Silver Lake Conference Center*—our CT Conference Outdoor Ministries Center that has served a number of our church family members as they have participated in summer camp weeks, served on Camp Staff, participated in Men's Retreats and service projects, the Annual Women's Retreat, and Confirmation Retreats.
- *Simply Smiles*—a CT based nonprofit whose mission it is to bring smiles to children whose lives might otherwise seem incredibly bleak. Members of our church have served with Simply Smiles in Oaxaca, Mexico and the surrounding communities and on the Lakota Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.

This multi-level recommendation will help us serve our church ministries, our local communities, youth and adults throughout the state who attend meaningful events at Silver Lake, and beyond into the United States and the world. What better way is there to share our Fair Funds in this year when our Yankee Fair theme is "Mission Possible," focusing on the many ways God calls us to use our gifts in service locally and out in the world.

Fellowship Of Concern



CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Judith Fisher,
Evelyn Gerowe,
Anne Hardin,
Ruthie Maxim,
Joe Rocky,
Carlo Santi,
Shirley Stoppel,

IN MEMORIAM: Our sympathy is extended to:: Tom Young on the passing of his mother, Sarah, on August 17th.

BAPTISMS:

- On June 8, James Michael Conley son of Jennifer Bayles and Jason Conley.
- On June 8, John Joseph Gillotti, son of Alicia and John Gillotti.
- On July 13, Grant Rudolf Anderson, son of Chad and Michele Anderson.
- On July 20, Rory Joseph Kenyon, son of Matthew and Jill (Rocky) Kenyon.

THANKS...

To prayer shawl ministry from Ruth Allen (July 12, 2014) ...

With the overwhelming care and concern that has come my way in the past few weeks, I don't know where to begin in thanking everyone. It all started when I received a beautiful prayer shawl for my sister, Carole, who is undergoing a multitude of serious health issues. When she received the shawl, she couldn't help but cry... with the knowledge that so many people were praying for her and will continue to keep her in their prayers. Enclosed is a thank-you card from Carole who has already draped her shawl over her sofa and can't stop telling the story of how she came by this very special gift.

When I read the card sent from the church, I could not help but cry myself. It is not every day that one feels so loved and cared for knowing they and their family are being lifted up in prayer. Your prayers, concerns and kindness just lets me know that I am not alone. You are all a blessing in all you do for others, and I can't thank you enough. God bless you all.

And the thank-you note from Ruth Allen's sister, Carole Weissensee ...

When I received the prayer shawl package in the mail on Saturday, I was absolutely overwhelmed with your prayers and caring thoughts. The pocket prayer shawl and the larger one were quite beautiful. But most of all I will always cherish your kind thoughts & wishes. My sister (Ruth Allen) is so very lucky to be associated with such a wonderful church and ministry.

CrossWays Deadline

The deadline for the October issue of CrossWays is September 15th. You can e-mail articles to Jeannine McCullough at office@uccb.org or leave them in the CrossWays mailbox outside of the church office. Please e-mail or call Jeannine McCullough, Office Manager at 203-775-1259 if you have any questions.

Planning Task Force Update

Dear Friends,

Our CCB Church Council has charged the Planning Task Force Committee (PTF) to use our church mission and vision to develop a 3-year action plan to meet the expected ministry needs of our church and community for the future, as well as lay the groundwork to establish a Long-Range Planning Committee.

We have been meeting nearly every Thursday night since the end of January 2014. Last winter, we began working together to better understand our objectives, and set a timeline for what we hope will be a year-long process. During this spring and summer our PTF has planned and held 10 listening sessions with the congregation, after rolling out and testing our process at the All-Church Leadership Retreat on May 10.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to hear what you are thinking about the current state of our church, and to brainstorm together about our top priorities for future mission and ministry — both in spiritual terms and in relation to specific concerns about our physical campus. We have been inspired to hear your passions for putting faith into action, in spite of certain financial challenges that remain before us.

We have had a good response, from a percentage standpoint; about 13 percent of the congregation has participated. The committee, while very appreciative of all those who have taken the time to meet with us, is concerned that this number, while significant, is still a small percentage.

We understand that the summer months are a difficult time to reach everyone so we are continuing our efforts both through emails and an additional listening session. ***We will have listening session feedback forms available at both Sunday, September 7th worship services for those who would like to take them home. We ask that you fill out the form and return it to us by Friday, September 12th.*** It can be given to anyone on the committee or dropped off or mailed to the church office. Or you can request an online version of the form from our PTF email: planning@uccb.org. You may send us questions or ideas at that address as well.

On Saturday, September 13th, the PTF will hold its final listening session from 9:30-10:30am in Fellowship Hall. Then the PTF will be ready to begin prayerfully discerning and creating a recommended strategic plan for presentation to Council, including (where possible) action steps for project implementation and estimated costs.

The scope of the action plan will include:

- Enhancement of worship and faith community life
- Good stewardship of our ministry resources and properties
- Outreach to the wider community
- Faithful use of human resources – members, volunteers, and paid staff.

This is a very active, vibrant and spiritual congregation. We hope you will continue to demonstrate that vitality by helping us. Please take advantage of the opportunities we are offering to share your thoughts, so that we can proceed into the future of our church together — with care, sensitivity, clarity and faith.

Thank You,

CCB Planning Task Force, Les Slater (Chair)

Jeanine Hanewicz, Sian Hunter, Larry Ruschmeyer, and Dan Smolnik

Nancy Vodra (Moderator), Dave Goral (Vice Moderator),

Bryn Smallwood-Garcia and Jennifer Whipple (Pastors)

Pastor's Page

Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia

It's official. Congregational Church of Brookfield is a "teaching parish" once again. Like a "teaching hospital," we have given three young women now the opportunity to learn and grow into their calls to serve the Christian church as religious professionals.

First it was Alanna Copenhaver, in her Yale Divinity School "middler" year of 2012-13. Working with the YDS Department of Supervised Ministries, Alanna got course credit for two semesters of "field education," with me as her primary mentor and teacher. Our Moderator Nancy Vodra volunteered to chair our CCB "Teaching Parish Committee," which included several other lay people who met with our students regularly to give them feedback and an opportunity to learn from a wide range of church experiences.

Alanna's experience helped her enormously – so much so that she talked it up with her YDS friend Kendra Joyner, who was able to add to her parish experience (which had been primarily in youth ministry) with a 2013 summer internship with us, where her primary mentor and teacher was Pastor Jen.

And now, this past summer, our own church "daughter" Jane Moran, a member of the Confirmation Class of 2008, served as our 2014 Summer Intern. Now a rising Senior at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Jane will be completing her B.A. in Classics and beginning further discernment about seminary and authorization for a future in ordained pastoral ministry.

I asked Jane to share with us her wonderful "three sentences" of farewell that she offered on her last Sunday preaching and leading worship with us, on August 17th:

Why do I love my church?

I love my church because no other place has been such a constant and caring source of support in my life. The church has given me worship on Sunday mornings, with all those beautiful hymns and sermons and prayers, and Bible study on Mondays. Going back further, it's given me Sunday School and Confirmation Class and a thousand other opportunities to learn more about my faith and myself. I give to my church because, in short, it feels right. This community has given so much to me—things tangible and intangible, things far too numerous to name here. I know that the scale will never be even, but I think it only fitting that I should give back what I can. My gifts, and my words, fall painfully short of expressing the depths of my gratitude, but I feel it would be ungrateful of me not to make an attempt.

In addition, Jane submitted the following thank-you note to CCB:

This summer has been a wonderful opportunity for me to learn more about ministry and the inner workings of the church. I can't tell you how much I've appreciated your willingness to have me sitting in on your meetings or stumbling over the call to worship in the pulpit on Sunday mornings. As much as I'm going to miss all of you when I'm back at college, I want all of you to know that I couldn't be prouder to have such a wonderful church family supporting me. I've enjoyed getting to know all of you this summer, and I'm looking forward to coming back and visiting CCB. Thank you so much for everything you've done for me.

Isn't it wonderful to know that our little local church is living up to our call from Jesus, in Matthew 28, to "go out and make disciples of all the nations"? Seminaries cannot do the job alone of preparing church leaders; it is truly the "work of the people" to plant the seeds that grow the next generation of pastors. If you have any doubt, you may enjoy these brief updates from our former students:

Since graduating in 2014, Alanna has served on the Chaplain team at Harvard Divinity School. I am attending Kendra's ordination October 3rd, at her home church in Salisbury, NC. She has been called as an Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Glen Ellyn Congregational Church in the suburbs of Chicago. Kendra was married August 2 to Dan Miller, who is studying to become a Lutheran pastor.

Committee Spotlight

What we love about the Christian Education (CE) Committee...

Serving on the CE committee allows us to encourage our children, youth and adults to learn in exciting ways about God's love and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. AND we get to enjoy fun and fellowship while doing so!

Our committee creates learning opportunities for our children through the church school program which includes both Sunday morning classes and worship in Children's Chapel. CE also coordinates our Time With Our Children portion of regular Sunday worship. We hope that this ministry reaches out to the youngest members of our church family to teach them and to let them know that they are an important part of God's plan for CCB. We love planning and presenting special events for the children like the Instant Christmas Pageant, Easter Scavenger Hunt and Church School Sunday.

We also oversee, help to plan, and support the Junior and Senior High Youth Groups' weekly activities as well as special outreach projects and mission trips.

We encourage all adults to try one of the adult education classes we offer. CE tries to create various ways for adults to become involved in continuing their Christian education. We realize that all of our schedules are different and we try to accommodate this by offering one time educational events and short-term and long-term classes. We are also working on an online Bible Study forum for those who are unable to participate in an onsite class.

We get to develop special intergenerational events such as the Advent Wreath Workshop, Shrove Pancake Supper, Summer Campfire Vespers and our All Church Picnic. These events bring fellowship and education together for all of our church family. And those are some of the many reasons that we love to serve on the Christian Education Committee.

Please pray for the CE committee, especially during the month of September as so many activities are beginning for the fall. We invite you to reach out to our committee members with ideas or suggestions as to how we can better serve you.

Currently serving on CE:

Bob Pursell	Dave Honeyford (Council Rep)
Susan Dodd	Melanie Shapiro (Chair)
Sian Hunter	Jennifer DiLorenzo
Wendy Elsen	Madeline Honeyford
Kathy Taylor (for events)	

Report from the Welcome Committee - Our New Greeter Ministry

Make Jesus Your Mentor: Pray Share WELCOME

Our new Greeter ministry is now a year-long program. We hope you have enjoyed learning more about your fellow members – as well as being greeted!

In keeping with this church year's theme of Welcome, our own Welcome Committee decided to promote more opportunities for both long-time and recently joined members to reach out in our community and get to know one another better. Figuring that knowledge is power, the congregation now has more opportunities to get in touch with one another besides passing the peace to one's pew neighbor and to learn more about each other.

This opportunity also goes along with the request we heard about our Congregational Church of Brookfield's "welcome" vision priority and our United Church of Christ's credo of "extravagant welcome." Congregants have stated that welcome should be extended to all who enter our doors, whether someone enters for the first time ever or the first time that day.

We began our new Greeter ministry at the end of June, and it has been a great success. We station Greeters outside the front entrance of our worship space at 8:15 or 10:15am just to say "hello" to whomever arrives. (A member of the Welcome Committee still stands at the courtyard entrance.) If someone needs information ("Is Communion being served today?" "When and where is Church School?") then God provides – through the Greeters. After worship, Greeters attend coffee hour and are a familiar face to someone who might have passed by them. We include a short biography of that Sunday's greeters in the bulletin so that each week we all have an opportunity to learn about one another.

With the goal of having families, singles, and groups as greeters – and publishing their bios - we continue to recruit for both the 8:30 and 10:30 services. Greeting is a ONE-TIME ONLY duty. (You can, of course, volunteer to greet more than once.) Tom Young can send you the Greeter Bio form to fill out electronically. Contact him.

Or you can answer the questions found elsewhere in Crossways and place answers in the Welcome Committee's mailbox. Please give us the best phone numbers to reach you. (Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will not be published in the bulletin.)

Once Welcome has your bio completed, you will be asked what tentative ONE Sunday and service (8:30 or 10:30) fits your schedule. It would be a blessing to receive as many bios ASAP - even if you know you can't be a greeter until sometime after Groundhog's Day. We can schedule around choir, usher, and perhaps even ministerial duties.

Thank you,
Tom Young, Welcome Committee

Thank You, Volunteer Greeters!

Because members of a congregational church enter into *covenant* to engage in ministry together, we believe getting to know one another is vitally important – both to our spiritual health as individuals and to our efficient functioning as an organization of disciples of Jesus Christ. That is why the Welcome Committee is so grateful that you will help us with this new service by both greeting all congregants as they enter and leave and will begin conversation if opportunities present themselves. To encourage this, we ask you to fill out this brief (half-page) bio below. It will appear in the bulletin on any Sunday you agreed to schedule yourselves as greeters. Please fill in the blanks below – or compose your own bio – and return to Tom Young via e-mail (wilsonet203@aol.com).

Who are your family members? Whether they are here to greet with you or not (or even “all grown up”), it would be great to read about them as well. (Include children’s ages.)

A. *Where do you live and work?*

B. *What is your family, faith, or educational background?*

C. *How did you come to the area?*

D. *What brought you to CCB?*

E. *What do you love about / enjoy at CCB?*

F. *What CCB projects / committees / initiatives have you been involved in? (Examples: Women’s Fellowship, Bible studies, prayer groups, prayer shawl ministry, usual booth or service provided at Yankee fair, mission trips, choir, bells).*

G. *What are some of your hobbies or passions?*

CCB Mission Statement:

*As followers of Jesus Christ, and as a people gathered by the Holy Spirit,
we covenant together with God and each other to receive and share the Good News as we seek to live God’s Word in our church and in the world.*

RAINY DAY PAPERBACK EXCHANGE

We currently have over \$600 in store credit at the Rainy Day Paperback Exchange book store in Bethel. We donate many of our unsold books from the Yankee Fair there and receive store credit in return that any members of our church family can use toward purchases. Prices are usually 1/2 off the cover price to begin with...then you can use store credit to pay for half of the store price. That means that you only pay 1/4 of the price out of pocket...pretty GREAT deal! You can check out the inventory online at <http://www.rainydaypaperback.com>.

So how does it work? Visit the Rainy Day Paperback Exchange, tell them you belong to CCB, and they will give you the credit. It’s just that easy!



Visit Our Library Corner

(in the Church Library between Brooks Hall and the upstairs kitchen)

The Insanity of God by Nik Ripken. The author writes under a pseudonym to protect the people whose stories unfold in the book. It is a true story of a missionary family who served in Somaliland in 1992 after the area went through a civil war to win independence from Somali.

The area at that time reminded the author of an Old Testament world that did not know Jesus and never heard his message. There was so much destruction and hate that he wondered what he was doing there and how he could make a difference. “How can someone live the abundant victorious life that Jesus promised in the world’s hardest places?” Ripken started traveling to places where he knew Christians were persecuted for their belief in Jesus the Christ. It is not something most of us in the U.S. have experienced. Certainly not here in Brookfield, CT. We are very lucky to be able to go to church whenever and wherever we want or buy a Bible, including several different versions, in any book store.

The stories Ripken collects from Russia, Ukraine, China, India, Middle East, and other countries, are incredible. The stories have stayed with me; not something I will forget. The stories have stayed with me; not something I will forget. Jesus said, “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also” (Luke 15:20). “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

We are free to witness to others about Jesus more than persecuted Christians around the world. So, who have you witnessed to recently?

Jane Brown, CCB Librarian

Literacy Volunteers Tutor Training

Plant seeds of hope in our wider community by sharing the gift of literacy.

Teach an adult to read, write, understand and speak English, and you will change a family and a community. Literacy changes everything. Make new friends. Develop new skills. Expand your horizons. Most importantly, make a difference in someone’s life.

Volunteer Tutor Training Sessions: St. John’s Parish Hall, New Milford, CT

Saturday, September 13th from 9am - 3pm and

Tuesday, September 16th from 5:30pm-8pm

No prior tutoring experience or knowledge of another language is necessary. After you complete training, Literacy Volunteers on the Green will match you with a student at a time and place that is convenient for you and will provide instructional materials and on-going support. Call today for more information: 860-355-0830. Registration deadline: September 10th.

Farewell to Heather Berner, Church School Coordinator

It is with sadness and gratitude that the Christian Education Committee announces Heather Berner's retirement from her position as Church School Coordinator. Heather has held this position for the last seven years and has shared her time, talent and loving care with our children and our volunteer teachers. She has been a calm, warm and welcoming presence amidst the joyful noise that is our CCB Church school.

We are grateful to Heather for letting our CCB Personnel Committee know of her impending departure from this important role earlier this summer, and they (along with Heather's staff supervisor, Rev. Jennifer Whipple) have been hard at work revising the job description, advertising the position, and setting up a plan for interviews, hiring and transition.

Heather, meanwhile, has been continuing to do her job over the summer months — recruiting new and returning Church School teachers and selecting curriculum materials for the fall semester of our Church School year.

Please join us in wishing Heather well in her new endeavors. We will be celebrating Heather and her ministry here during both services on Sunday, September 28th and with a special fellowship time following 10:30 worship.

Melanie Shapiro
Chair, Christian Education Committee

Church School Coordinator Job Description is Available

The Personnel Committee, in conjunction with the Christian Education Committee, is conducting a search for the position of Church School Coordinator. Heather Berner, our current coordinator, has served our congregation for over 7 years and is looking forward to interacting with our church in new ways. A Church School Coordinator job description, with a list of position responsibilities, is available in the church office. Please stop in or email office@uccb.org if you would like a copy for yourself or for someone you believe would be good at the job.

Potential candidates should submit a Letter of Interest to Nancy Vodra, Chair of Personnel, by September 14th. Your letter should summarize how you believe your gifts, experiences and skills are well-suited for this important ministry within our church. Our goal is to fill the position by October 1st.

If you have further questions or concerns, or suggestions of an appropriate candidate, please contact Nancy Vodra or Rev. Jennifer Whipple.

Board of Deacons

Your Deacon Branch provides a way for you to have a specific member of the Board with whom to relate. If you have requests or concerns that you'd like to share with a lay person, your Deacon is available. Naturally, if you're more comfortable calling one of the other deacons, or one of your pastors, please feel free to do so. Such requests or concerns might include:

- a need for prayer
- a request for help (transport to a doctor's appointment, church function, etc.)
- a sorrow (illness, accident, death)
- a joy (a birth, graduation, upcoming wedding, etc.)
- something that particularly pleases you, or would better meet your needs in the worship service

Remember, if you don't know your Deacon, ask someone to introduce you. He or she will look forward to meeting you – in church or out!

Deacon Branches 2014-2015

A-BRI	Leslie Sands (Stephen Ministry)
BRO-C	Barbara Anderson
D-EA	Jan Labas
EC-F	Sherrie Ruschmeyer
G-H	Carol Howe
I-LE	Mark Lyon
LI-MA	Robin Murphy
Mc-MU	Mike Anastas (council rep)
N-RI	Margitta Savo (memorial garden rep)
RO-SC	Marie Immohr
SH-T	Dan McKee
U-Z	Gordon Markiewicz

Youth Deacons:

Jillian DeLucia
Shannon Downey
Zach Mangold

Committee Chairmen and Church Council Reps

Please call these elected representatives with any questions or comments regarding any matter of interest or concern to you:

Moderator: Nancy Vodra
Vice Moderator: Dave Goral
Clerk: Kathy Wandelmaier
Treasurer: Sung Goral
Investment Treasurer: Greg Labas



Committee Chairs

Christian Ed Melanie Shapiro
Church House Ken Arifian
Church-In-Society Sue Slater
Deacons Sherrie Ruschmeyer
Fellowship Eleanor Loesch
Nominating Kim Downey
Personnel Nancy Vodra
Stewardship Sally Markiewicz
Welcome Carol Eagan
Worship Patty Moran

Church Council Representatives

Christian Ed Dave Honeyford
Church House Larry Ruschmeyer
Church In Society Jeanine Hanewicz
Deacons Mike Anastas
Fellowship Sara Cline
Nominating Sharon Santi
Stewardship Desere Edwards
Welcome Jean Dorrell
Worship Bob Brown
Historian Gordon Markiewicz

Pastoral Relations Committee

Robin Murphy (chair), Leslie Sands, Bob Lambert, Larry Ruschmeyer

Personnel Committee

Nancy Vodra (chair), Dave Goral, Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Barbara Anderson, Michael Matson, Olivia Quinsland, Karen Underhill

Senior Pastor	Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia	bryn@uccb.org
Associate Pastor	Rev. Jennifer Whipple	jennifer@uccb.org
Organist/Choir	Toni Sullivan	sullivannt@gmail.com
Membership Care	Sue Ronan	sue@uccb.org
Church Office	Jeannine McCullough	Office: 203-775-1259 office@uccb.org
Nursery Care	Debbie Marquardt	



Outdoor Worship Extended!!!

Because we have such a beautiful setting in our outdoor chapel beyond the Memorial Garden, and because God has blessed us with good weather on Sundays this summer, the Worship Committee has extended our ***Outdoor 8:30am Worship season through Sunday, September 14th, weather permitting.*** If you have not yet worshiped with us in the Outdoor Chapel we invite you to do so in the coming weeks!

CrossWays – the newsletter of

The Congregational Church of Brookfield
160 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804
(203)-775-1259 Fax (203)-775-3466
Email: office@uccb.org



Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Jennifer Whipple, Associate Pastor
The Rev. M. S. Desmond, Pastor Emeritus

Welcome Home! Rev. Kent Siladi

Connecticut Conference Minister Preaches at CCB Sept. 14

Save the date and plan to worship with us on September 14th as we welcome back to our midst our former Associate Pastor, Kent Siladi, who got his start in ministry at Congregational Church of Brookfield back in the 1980s.

Our own Rev. Jennifer Whipple was on the CT Conference (United Church of Christ—UCC) Search Committee that called the Rev. Siladi back to Connecticut. He began his duties as Conference Minister in June of 2013. Prior to that time he was the Conference Minister of the UCC in Florida for six years. He was on the Conference staff of this Conference for 10 years, serving as a Regional Minister. He also was a local church pastor for sixteen years serving two churches in the Connecticut Conference (Brookfield and North Guilford).

Rev. Siladi, a graduate of Nasson College and Yale Divinity School, has been involved in all of the settings of the United Church of Christ. He has served as a local church pastor, in the Association setting as a member of a Committee on Ministry, in the Conference setting as staff and in the national setting as a participant in the UCC History, Theology and Polity Network. He chaired the General Synod 25 Nominating Committee and was the host Conference Minister for Tampa's General Synod 28. He serves now on the Board of Directors of the Cornerstone Fund and is the Chairperson of the Council of Conference Ministers. He is one of the writers of the UCC "Affirming Faith" Confirmation curriculum and has written for various faith-based periodicals.

As Conference Minister his responsibilities include offering a ministry of leadership and relationship, communicating the mission and ministry of the Connecticut Conference, providing programmatic and Conference staff oversight, assuring business and financial oversight and representing the Connecticut Conference to the wider church.

The September 14th sermon, "*Please Don't Let this be our Church!*" is based on Revelation 3:14-22. Rev. Siladi will also be available for conversation with you at **9:30am and 11:30am in Fellowship Hall**. Bring your questions!.

An opportunity to learn more about how the wider UCC works...

We invite you to join us on September 14th at 3pm in our own meetinghouse as we gather our friends in faith from our Fairfield East Association churches of the United Church of Christ. We will come together to hear about the CT Conference budget for the coming year, to learn more about the Resolutions** that will come before those gathered at our Conference Annual Meeting, and to listen to The Rev. Kent Siladi as he shares some reflections about the Conference—where we are now and where we are headed. Please speak with one of the pastors if you have questions or would like more information about this opportunity to learn a bit more about how our denomination works.

**The two resolutions coming before Annual Meeting are about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and ending mass incarceration for non-violent offenses. They can both be found at <http://ctucc.org/news/AnnIMtg14>.



Church School Update

As we welcome everyone back home to CCB after a busy summer there are some changes taking place. We are in the search for a new Church School Coordinator, and as we search for that person we have some interim plans in the works. You will see Pastor Jen in the church school more often perhaps and will see some of our Christian Education (CE) committee members greeting families and children as they head into church on Sunday morning or down to the church school wing.

As we begin this new program year we have plans in place to keep church school in the same format as last year—knowing that some more exciting changes may come as we bring a new staff member on. To that end, Miss Debbie will continue to take care of our littlest friends in the Nursery, and our children in Pre-K will continue learning with Mrs. Dykes. We will have a few teachers rotating through our K-4 grade levels, as they learn about the Bible through hands on activities with art, cooking, computers, and more. Our 5th-6th graders will spend time learning about how our faith stories and everyday life connect with their volunteer teachers and the Spark curriculum. Our 7th-8th graders will tackle some of the tough questions of faith with their teachers as they go through the re:Form video based curriculum. Our 8:30 service will continue to offer a one-room schoolhouse learning opportunity.

If you are not on our Church School email list but wish to be, please let Pastor Jen know (jennifer@uccb.org). We will be sending weekly emails once again, to keep you up-to-date. If you have any questions or need further information please speak with Pastor Jen or Melanie Shapiro, Chair of the CE Committee.

Adult Education Opportunities:

We offer many ongoing opportunities for Adult Education and continuing faith growth. Please check out the list below to see if any of these options look interesting to you.

Sunday Evening Adult Study—5-6:30pm in the Parsonage

Sunday, September 7th, this group will resume study of *The Bible: Faith's Family Album*. Class schedule and book order information is posted at http://uccb.org/adult_education/index.htm.

Monday AM Women's Study—9:30-11am in the Church Library

Beginning Monday, September 8th we will be studying *Hot Dogs & Hamburgers: Unlocking Life's Potential by Inspiring Literacy at Any Age*.

Thursday AM Prayers & Bible Study—9-10:30am—Pastor's Study

This group meets each Thursday to pray intentionally for the concerns and joys of our church family and to reflect on the upcoming scriptures through *Lectio Divina* guided meditation.

Saturday AM Men's Fellowship—8-9am—Fellowship Hall

Led by the members, this group gathers for breakfast and study of scripture, contemporary issues, books, and more.

Saturday AM Women's Fellowship—8:30-9:30am—Youth Room

An opportunity to gather with sisters in faith to learn more about contemporary issues, faith practices, and to support one another.

Upcoming Opportunities: The CE Committee is also working on a possible online Bible Study forum, a Drum Circle, an exploration of healing prayer, and guided meditation opportunities.