

Cross Ways

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

November 2014

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service

Brookfield's oldest continuing town-wide ecumenical service will be held on **Wednesday, November 26th at 7:30pm** **at the Congregational Church of Brookfield.**

This annual service is coordinated by the Brookfield Ecumenical Clergy group. This year the Deacon Carolyn Legg of St. Paul's Church will deliver the Thanksgiving message.

The choirs of Brookfield churches will contribute special music, and pastors of the various churches will lead portions of the service. A time of fellowship and refreshment will be offered afterwards. Please join us for this special Thanksgiving Eve celebration.

An offering will benefit the Emergency Fuel Assistance Fund of Brookfield Social Services.



Please remember to turn your clocks **back 1 hour** before going to bed **Saturday, November 1st!!** See you in church at 8:30 am or 10:30am EST on Sunday, November 2nd!!

Minutes of Church Council for October 14, 2014

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

- The Planning Task Force presented a summary of the information they collected during the recent listening sessions. A total of 328 actionable ideas were collected from 65 people at 13 sessions. The suggestions were separated into items that were within the goals and responsibilities assigned to the PTF and those that were not. The items that were outside the realm of the PTF will be passed on to the committees and individuals who are able to address them. The remaining items were categorized and tabulated. The next step of the PTF is to “listen” to input from the Church House Committee. Information provided by Church House is being treated separately because of their expertise and exposure to conditions that might not be apparent to the general congregation. The PTF will present a combined list of ideas for consideration in their next report. (Long version)
- Council reconsidered changing the date of the Yankee Fair to Columbus Day weekend in 2015. The outcome of the vote was again to change the date, to Columbus Day Weekend. Five voted in favor of changing the date, four were against, and there were four abstentions. As with the previous vote, the change is not permanent.
- Budgets for 2015-2016 are due at the November Council meeting.
- Council voted in favor of hiring Barbara Crandell as Church School Coordinator.
- Council approved a request to call a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of proposing a change to the By Laws that will officially create the position of Assistant Treasurer. The meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2014.
- Council approved a request for \$228 from the Christian Growth & Enrichment Fund. The request will cover the cost of sending our delegates to the annual meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, attending the Fall meeting of the Fairfield East Association, and for our new Church School Coordinator to attend Boundary Training. Council also approved a request for \$480 from CG&E to reduce the cost of tickets to Empower Leadership Sports for 24 junior and senior youths. The latter vote was taken by email.
- Council accepted a donated wall clock for Fellowship Hall. The clock is a gift from The Business Network International (BNI), a group that meets in Fellowship Hall regularly.
- Treasurer’s Report: Income is still behind budget. Expenses are lower than budget as well, but are expected to increase. Both trends are following a familiar seasonal pattern.
- Church House representative Larry Ruschmeyer gave a detailed report on the condition of the barn. He described and showed pictures of many significant structural problems.
- Worship Committee: On November 15 the cushions will be removed from the pews in order to demonstrate their effect on the acoustics of the Meetinghouse.
- Church in Society will partner with the Stephen Ministers to offer an educational series on Mental Health. The Alternative Gifts Fair returns on December 6 and 7.
- The Fellowship Committee and the Junior Youth Fellowship hosted a Pasta & Pumpkin Night on Oct. 26 at 5:30
- The Stewardship Committee is working on their next campaign which will be titled, “We’ll Keep the Light On”.
- Church House reports that the Ross Solar contract is signed.
- CCB will be hosting the ecumenical Thanksgiving service on November 26, with Deacon Carolyn Legg of St. Paul’s Episcopal preaching. The Association of Religious Communities (ARC) Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be at 7 pm on Monday, November 24th.

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.



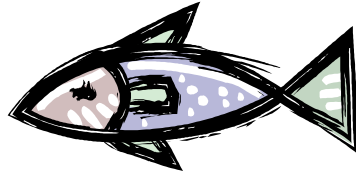
As 2014 Mission Possible Fair Chairs we wanted to share with you our Top 10 list:

What We Learned Being Yankee Fair Chairs

1. Yankee Fair Day is one of our church's High Holy days. That must be why the anticipation building up to Yankee Fair Day is almost as exciting as Christmas!
2. Your love and support can get us through the rough moments.
3. Hugs are worth more than gold!
4. The transformation of the clutter in the barn to a cozy home of beautiful treasures is miraculous.
5. The talent, creativity and energy of the booth teams are awesome!
6. "Food glorious food" everywhere you look!
7. You cannot say "no" to Walt Fisher. His kindness and humor make every day better.
8. Past Fair Chairs are wonderful encouragers. You are truly a blessing!
9. The CCB is filled with the hardest working people we have ever met. You are "Bucket Fillers".
10. Rainbows are a gift! Thank you, God, for your ever present love and encouragement.

God calls us to serve others. Mission Accomplished!

Wendy, Lyn and Mark



LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER IN BROOKFIELD?

“Neighbors helping neighbors” best describes those who drive for Brookfield FISH (Friends in Service Here). Ambulatory disabled and/or senior residents who need rides to medically related appointments, Monday-Friday from 9AM-2PM, are matched with volunteers willing to drive. Volunteer as little or as much as you can.

We accommodate your schedule.

Get involved and make a difference!

For additional information call Carol Howe.

MINI-FAIR! ***SUNDAY, NOV. 23rd***

On Sunday, Nov. 23rd, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will have a second chance to make purchases of items left from the Yankee Fair. Whether you were working at the Fair and didn't have an opportunity to make purchases or perhaps you did some shopping but now have discovered that you need a special gift for someone for Thanksgiving or Christmas, this is your chance.

The mini fair will be open between services and after the second service, and all are welcome!

Stephen Ministry Corner



A Time of THANKSgiving? (Compilation of thoughts by Rick Warren)

Thanksgiving is a difficult holiday for many. How can you be thankful when your doctor says it's cancer? How can you feel grateful when the one you love just walked out of your life? Or when you've been fired, or your dream has collapsed, or an economic tsunami has wiped out all you've worked for?

And yet the Bible tells us "Give thanks IN ALL circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." The key is the word "in". God doesn't expect us to be thankful FOR all circumstances, but IN all circumstances. There's a huge difference. We're not supposed to be thankful for evil or sin, or the innocent suffering caused by these things. But even in heartache and grief and disappointment there are still good things that we can be thankful for.

So what can we be thankful for this Thanksgiving?

We can be thankful that although life is not always good, God is always good. Know without a doubt that God sees all you are going through. He cares. He grieves with you. He is close, and his strength is available at all times.

We can be thankful that even though we don't have all the answers, God does. In tragedy we seek explanations, but explanations never comfort. It is God's presence that eases our pain.

Be thankful that God can bring good even out of the bad in your life, when you give him the pieces.

May God be with you all this Thanksgiving Season.

*Talk to God. Talk to your Pastors. Ask for a Stephen Minister.
Your CCB Stephen Ministry Team*

Movie and Pizza Night :
It's Kind of a Funny Story (Rated PG-13)

Sunday, November 16th
5:00-7:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Come join the youth and families of our church for a delicious pizza supper, followed by viewing and discussing this award-winning **film which addresses peer pressure, being yourself, and finding out who you are**. During the film, which is rated PG-13, child care and separate age appropriate children's programming will be provided for our younger kids (grades K—7) upstairs in the Church School wing.

"It's Kind of a Funny Story" is a 2010 comedy-drama film written and directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, as an adaptation of Ned Vizzini's 2006 novel. The film stars Keir Gilchrist, Zach Galifianakis, Emma Roberts, and Viola Davis.

The 2006 novel by author Ned Vizzini was inspired by Vizzini's own brief hospitalization as a teenager for depression and contemplated suicide. The book received recognition as a 2007 Best Book for Young Adults from the American Library Association, and NPR named it #56 of the "100 Best-Ever Teen Novels."

Look for more detailed information to follow in upcoming Sunday bulletins and posted on the website and Facebook. Questions? Call the church office at 203-775-1259.

A Mental Health Awareness Program
Sponsored by CCB Church-in-Society Committee and Stephen Ministry



**Advent Wreath Workshop—Sunday, November 30th!
After both the 8:30am and the 10:30am services
in Fellowship Hall**

Everyone is invited to come and make an advent wreath to take home with them at our annual Advent Wreath Workshop. We'll provide the container, greens, candles and some treats and music to keep you motivated. (A \$5 donation per wreath is Appreciated.)



Note: Our children and youth will also lead worship on Dec. 14th with our annual Christmas pageant.

Update Solar System

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

- The contract between the church and Ross Solar LLC was signed in October.
- Church House is working to complete some of the modifications to the church school building to accept the solar system's installation.
- The Contract is now in the process of applying for all of the CL&P and Brookfield building permits
- At this time, the manufacturing and delivery dates of all of the equipment are being reviewed to determine an installation schedule. The solar industry, in general, has had a great deal of positive activity this year and resulting costs have been lowered. This decreasing cost trend may have an effect on our system whereby we can improve our financial agreement with Ross Solar LLC.
- As the permitting process and equipment availability dates are solidified we will be able to establish a workable installation schedule.

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



Meet Our New Church School Coordinator

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to the congregation as your new Church School Coordinator. My name is Barbara Crandell. Although I was raised Presbyterian I became an official member of The Congregational Church of Brookfield in March of 2013. My husband and I and our two little girls make our home in New Milford. Currently, I am a stay at home mother and work part-time as a personal trainer. In the summer months I teach swim lessons. Prior to my adventures in motherhood, for over ten years I worked as a Health Education teacher. Additionally, I hold a certification in Physical Education. I have also coached cross country, track & field, and swimming. When my children are older, I am looking forward to returning to the classroom.

What drew me towards this position is that I could use my talents in education to help expand upon an already great program. First, I want to thank Heather for her years of service in this position. I know my oldest daughter has always loved having her as a teacher. I also want to thank Miss Debbie and Reverend Jennifer for their encouragement to apply for this position. Finally, thank you Reverends Bryn & Jennifer and the personnel committee for giving me the opportunity to serve our church in this capacity. I am excited about this new adventure and thank you for welcoming me into this role.



CONGREGATIONAL MEEETING — November 16th at 11:30am

In accordance with Article 5, section a, of the By-Laws, a Congregational Meeting is hereby duly called for Sunday, Nov. 16, immediately following the 10:30 am service of worship to vote an amendment to the By-Laws of the Congregational Church of Brookfield to create the position of Assistant Treasurer.

Signed,

Nancy Vodra, Moderator

Kathy Wandelmaier, Church Clerk

Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Church Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a period of one year and may serve no more than six consecutive years total in either the role of Assistant Treasurer or Church Treasurer. The Assistant Church Treasurer shall be a full member of the church.

The Assistant Treasurer shall serve as support and back-up to the Church Treasurer, and could be expected to transition to fill the role of Church Treasurer as elected at the Annual Meeting.

In the absence of, or under the direction of, the Church Treasurer the Assistant Treasurer shall disburse the operating funds and pay all employees of the church under the same requirements and restrictions detailed above for the Church Treasurer.

In the absence of, or under the direction of, the Church Treasurer the Assistant Treasurer shall prepare monthly financial statements, including summaries of all operating funds and designated funds, for submission to the Church Council.

The Assistant Treasurer is not considered a member of Church Council but may be required to report to Council in the absence of the Church Treasurer. In this event, the Assistant Treasurer would not have voting rights at the Council meeting.

Church Council shall ensure that the Assistant Church Treasurer is bonded at the expense of the church for a sum to be determined by the Church Council.

Celebrating Christmas with Church in Society (CIS)

As with any request made at the Congregational Church of Brookfield, we hope you prayerfully consider which, if any, contribution you can make at this very busy time of the year!



We are continuing this year with our Giving Tree. How does this work? We receive gift requests from both Brookfield Social Services (approx. 3 families) and Interfaith AIDS (approx. 3 families). Adults are allowed one gift, children two gifts; gift costs are not to exceed \$30. CIS writes these requests on special shaped tags (each shape is for each family) and places these gift tags on the large Christmas tree in Brooks Hall by November 23rd – just in time to do your shopping on Black Friday! You and/or your family can choose a tag off the tree, purchase that gift and return it to Brooks Hall by Sunday, December 14th – in time for CIS to deliver the presents to these social agencies.

Also on the Giving Tree will be tags for a ministry we joined last season, Baby Bundles. This ministry was started many years ago to help new moms with items such as diapers and diaper wipes; items that cannot be purchased with food stamps. We also include requests for gift cards for gas/groceries/Target, etc, which are used at the discretion of the Pastors for those in need.

Another wonderful moment is when Margitta Savo shares her Blanket story for the Church World Blanket Fund. If you would like to made a donation to this worthy cause, we invite you to write a Christmas card to all your CCB friends, mail the card and donation to the church office or place it in the collection plate, and your Christmas card will be placed on the Card Tree in Brooks Hall.



We are also looking forward to the annual return of the Salvation Army Kettle in December, date to be determined. All monies collected will be distributed in our area.

Lastly, please look for the Alternative Gifts Fair on December 6th and 7th. This opportunity to purchase items, or make donations to many worthy causes, will be run by our very own Confirmands, Loren Wurst and Amanda Bray.

CIS would like to wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season, and thank you for your outpouring of generosity to those less fortunate.

Dining for Women

We will meet on November 3rd at 6:00 PM, with Linda Siciliano hosting. As always it's a pot-luck dinner where you bring whatever suits your fancy. Don't worry if all you can muster is takeout because you don't have time to cook. We somehow manage to eat it all. If you plan to join us please let Linda know or speak to Olivia Quinsland.

This month's program is **Gardens For Health International, Rwanda.**

DFW's grant will support health and agriculture programming at Bumbogo Health Center. The program will target the mothers of children with a clinical diagnosis of malnutrition and will arm them with the knowledge, resources, and support to feed their families now and into the future. Gardens For Health International will accomplish this through a combination of comprehensive health education and targeted agricultural support, delivered by community leaders in close collaboration with the partner health center.

The objective is to meaningfully reduce rates of malnutrition in the Bumbogo Health Center area by equipping 120 mothers with the seeds, knowledge, and support to overcome malnutrition over the long term.

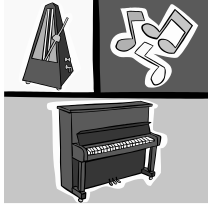
WOMEN'S MISSION TRIP!!

Calling all women who can give 2 days of their busy lives to helping someone less fortunate (and enjoy the company of other wonderful women).

We will travel to Providence, Rhode Island to volunteer at the Providence Rescue Mission on Saturday and then volunteer at Irons Homestead, the Rhode Island UCC camp on Sunday. Volunteer opportunities are available for everyone.

- Friday, January 16th evening departure, Sunday evening return (MLK weekend)
- Stay at Irons Homestead with real beds, bathrooms, heat, etc.
- Dietary issues easily accommodated
- Cost anticipated to be approx. \$30, with scholarships available
- One fundraiser—making pies before Thanksgiving

Please contact Marianne Gaffey or Pastor Jen with any questions or to let us know that you would like to attend.



Notes from the Choir Room

Psalm 100:1,2 — Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with Gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Music was as important to the ancient Hebrews as it is to us today. It provides such a soul-filling way to praise the Lord. I have a plaque in the choir room that says "He who sings, prays twice." Amen

So have you done any soul-filling recently? We have some wonderful opportunities in our music ministry to do just that. Christmas is coming and so is our Christmas Cantata, which will take the place of Lessons and Carols on December 21. It actually is a form of Lessons and Carols but seen through the lenses of the *Light of God*. Hence the title, *By Heaven's Light*.

You are invited to join the choir to sing the Cantata. We will dedicate the first half hour or so of our rehearsal to working on the Cantata. Rehearsals begin at 7:00. Rehearsals are already underway, but there is still time to join us. Just show up on **Thursday** evenings at **7:00** in the choir room.

Music for the month of November:

- November 2 - The Glory Ringers will play an arrangement of
"All Things Bright and Beautiful" (arr. Sondra Tucker)
- November 9 - Adult Choir - "Keep Your Lamps" (arr. Andre Thomas)
Cherub and Alleluia Choir - "Living in the Light"
- November 16 - Adult Choir - "Pues si Vivimos" (arr. Alice Parker)
Youth Choir - "Praise the Lord with Jubilant Song"
(Lightfoot)
- November 23 - Adult Choir - "Thanks Be to God" (Pote)
Alleluia Choir - "Every Good and Perfect Gift"
- November 30 - "Lost in the Night" - (Haugen)



Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF) in November

Our Junior Youth Fellowship meetings are open to all 6th-8th graders.

Sunday, November 2nd – Veterans Day Conversation & Activity – 5-6:30pm

We will welcome Mike & Danielle Gallop as they share information about an organization called “Hope For Heroes”, and we will help with a special project to honor veterans.

Sunday, November 9th – Meeting – 5-6:30pm

Sunday, November 16th – Special Event – 5-7:30pm

Join us for an evening hosted by CIS & Stephen Ministry to get us talking about issues of stress, identity, and mental health. More details to come.

Sunday, November 23rd – Thanksgiving Basket Scavenger Hunt – 5-6:30pm

We will be putting together another basket for a family at Brookfield Social Services this year to help them enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving. Join us as we hunt for the items on our list!

Sunday, November 30th – Advent Wreath Workshop – 9:30 & 11:30am

Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF) in November

Our Senior Youth Fellowship meetings are open to all 9th-12th graders.

Sunday, November 2nd – Care Package Night – 7-8:30pm

Bring that leftover Halloween Candy, another special item (i.e. pens, pencils, etc.), or a few dollars (to help offset the shipping cost) as we reach out to our former SYF folks who are now making their way in college.

Sunday, November 9th – Special Service Project – 12-4pm at Prince of Peace

We will be providing childcare for a special event at Prince of Peace. As their church family celebrates their 50th anniversary we will be celebrating in a special way with their children. We will have SYF members sign up for shifts. Pizza and cake will be provided. We will provide the FUN!

Sunday, November 16th – Special Event: Pizza & A Movie – 5-7:30pm

Join us for an evening hosted by CIS & Stephen Ministry to get us talking about issues of stress, identity, and mental health. More details to come.

Friday, November 21st or Saturday, November 22nd – Thanksgiving Service Project

More details to come. We will be assisting with a project through the Jericho Partnership in Danbury.

Sunday, November 30th – Advent Wreath Workshop – 9:30 & 11:30am

Domestic Violence Awareness – ARC’s Program

Home Sweet Home is not a reality for many local families. With the month of October, *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*, just behind us here are a few things we can do to increase awareness:

- 1) *Be an advocate for family safety* – don’t dismiss or otherwise hesitate to **call 911** if you see or hear domestic violence,
- 2) *Help inform others* – let people know about the services that are available right here in Danbury, through the Association of Religious Communities (ARC). You can call Danbury ARC at 203-792-9450 to access counseling and referral for families experiencing domestic violence.
- 3) *Participate in "A Peaceable Home"* – **Friday, Nov. 14, 2014, from 7:30 to 9am** at Ethan Allen Hotel in Danbury. Our Church-in-Society Committee has purchased a table at this fundraiser for Danbury ARC, and has also committed a portion of this year’s Yankee Fair proceeds to Danbury ARC. (If you are interested in attending please speak with one of the pastors.)

Did You Know???

ARC has 30 plus years of ongoing services in helping intimate partners get at "the root cause" of their domestic violence. Classes are tailored to specific abusive behaviors and are directed by professional facilitators. ARC's expertise is in group work for perpetrators to change their behaviors from bad to good. ARC's services are the only ones of their kind for families from Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, Easton, New Fairfield, New Milford, Ridgefield, Sherman, and Wilton.

You may also want to ask ARC’s Executive Director, the Rev. P.J. Leopold, to speak, or invite ARC staff to speak, to your professional organization, or civic group. Please help spread the word. Thank you!

In Christ’s Peace,
Rev. Bryn Smallwood-
Garcia
ARC Board Member

Parents’ Support Group Beginning Soon

Over the summer the town of Brookfield experienced much sadness and a state of shock as, within a period of six weeks, four young adults from our community died from addiction or drug related behaviors. Brookfield CARES has been working to increase awareness and to create supportive networks for those most closely affected by these losses. To that end, a new support group for parents, grandparents, guardians, relatives and others with children or loved ones who are fighting substance use and abuse battles will begin on Monday, November 3rd. If you or someone you know may benefit from participation in this group please find the details on the next page and do spread the word.



Confirmation Class in November:

Our confirmands are off to a great start in this year's journey. We had an opportunity to lock in for a night at the church and to be transported back to the days of the early Christians to get in touch with our own faith history and to get to know one another a bit better. We have talked about images of God and who we believe God is to us. Now it is time to focus on the other two members of the Trinity. To that end, the Confirmation Class will meet on the following dates:

Sunday, November 2nd – 12-2pm in the Parsonage to discuss Jesus

Sunday, November 23rd – 12-2pm in the Parsonage to discuss the Holy Spirit

Note: Confirmands, Psalm 23 assignments are due this day.

Please keep our confirmands and their mentors in your thoughts and prayers as they faithfully walk this journey.

FYI....

The Worship Committee in conjunction with the Church House Committee will be temporarily removing the pew cushions on Saturday, November 15th. The Worship and Music Committees are anxious to test the acoustics of our meetinghouse without the pew cushions. This will also enable the cushions and pews to be thoroughly vacuumed. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience. The cushions will be put back in place Sunday, November 16 after worship. Thank you for your cooperation.



Church School in November:



Our children and youth have been busy growing in faith through our church school program this fall. We hope you have had or will take the opportunity to check in with our kids to hear what they have been learning about and taking away from their weekly lessons.

Our 8:30 class and our pre-k through 4th graders have been focusing on some of the figures that appear in Jesus' family tree – folks like Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah, Jacob & Esau, and David. Through art, science, drama, cooking, computers and more, they have been learning about how God chooses people to serve and fulfills promises to His beloved children. They have also been learning about the fact that we are all a part of God's family, and no matter what decisions we might make or things we might do, God calls us and uses us to do God's work in the world.

Our 5th-6th graders have been focusing on some of the important Old Testament Bible stories – lessons about people like Adam & Eve, Moses, Joseph, and David. Our 7th & 8th graders, when they have met together, have been asking questions about the Bible and God such as, "Who Wrote the Bible Anyway? Is God male? What does it mean when we say God is 'Three In One'?"

We are excited about the opportunity we have to gather feedback from parents and students, to examine our curriculum options, and to see what God has in store for our Church School program in this time of transition as we bring Barbara Crandell, our new Church School Coordinator, on board. We are ever so grateful for our volunteer Church School teachers and for Miss Debbie who keep things rolling and make learning about the Bible meaningful and fun for our children and youth. We invite your prayers for them, for Barbara, and for our children as we seek new opportunities to learn and grow together.



November Serendippers
Tuesday, November 11th at 11:45am

*Please join us as we honor and give thanks
for our teachers and veterans .*

Walt Fisher will be leading our program.

Our menu:
Pilgrim Punch
Turkey and Gravy
Sweet Potato and Apple Casserole
Corn Spoon Bread
Molded Cranberry Salad
Pumpkin Pie

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. Child-care can be provided if we know in advance as well.

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:

- The family and friends of Edie Yake, the wife of the late Rev. Don Baker, who passed away on Oct. 1 in Pennsylvania.
- Mary Gallagher DeLucia and family in the passing of her mother, Joan Bennett, on Oct. 15.
- Keith Stewart and family on the passing of his mother, Vicky, on October 27.

BAPTISMS:

- On October 8, Vivian Laurianne King, daughter of David and Jane (Matte) King, born August 8, 2013 .
- On October 26, Addison Lynn Salcito, daughter of Daniel and Jacquelyn Salcito, born November 5, 2013.

WITH THANKS:

Dear Church,

The church fair was once again a wonderful experience! The love at CCB is incredible - it would have been worth a 2 hour drive to attend. So many caring, kind people in one location. My friend that drove me from Milford to Brookfield also commented on the love in my church - she always enjoys coming "North". Thank you all for your love and hugs and kind words, especially my former Deacon, Sharon.

Love to you all,
Ruthie Maxim

CrossWays Deadline

The deadline for the December issue of CrossWays is November 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.

The dictionary defines the word "Interdependence" as "the quality or condition of being mutually reliant on one another." There is a powerful African Proverb called "Ubuntu – I am because you (or we) are." Archbishop Desmond Tutu once explained it like this, "Ubuntu speaks particularly about the fact that you can't exist as a human being in isolation. It speaks about our interconnectedness. You can't be human all by yourself."

As I sat in a small group sharing about this concept of interdependence at our CT Conference Annual Meeting our facilitator asked the question, "How does interdependence show itself in your local church?" Considering I was at this meeting on October 18th, I couldn't help but blurt out, "Well, it's Yankee Fair Day at the Congregational Church of Brookfield today – a day when our whole church comes together to open our doors to the community near and far to help support amazing ministries at our church and in the world." I was able to say that with thanksgiving for the tone that was set surrounding the Yankee Fair this year. What was going to happen was going to happen, and we weren't going to stress out about it – but rather focus on coming together, providing extravagant welcome, and sharing what we love about our church and the ways that we strive to reach out into the world.

The truth is that we can't survive the Yankee Fair, or any other day in the life of our church, without one another. It would be very boring if I was hanging out in worship on Sunday morning, at a committee meeting, or a church family event by myself. (The company wouldn't be nearly as exciting or the food nearly as good as when I get to gather with all of you!) The wisdom and talents we share, the way we help each other consider and question and grow in our faith, the opportunities to learn about new ways to serve – those things and many more are what makes our church worth coming to, giving our time, talents, and treasure to. We are challenged and called to look beyond ourselves - to care about and pray for and with each other, and to come together to be agents of change and healing in our world.

The truth is that we also can't be the church without other churches and the world around us. As we come together on Thanksgiving Eve or at our Ecumenical Christmas Concert & Carol Sing, or as we gather at Association and Annual Meetings, we realize that we have a lot to offer one another about faith practices, best practices, and the wisdom and challenge that comes from encountering that which is different or diverse. As the church we are also affected and called by the world around us, and all that is taking place in it, to reach out, to think differently, to share our faith and our gifts.

We can't be without each other. We can't be without our brothers and sisters in Christ and in other traditions. We can't be without our world. We are all interconnected and interdependent. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." May we go about our daily life and work grateful for the part of the Body we each are and that we are together at CCB, and may we figure out ways to extend that gratitude and service out to each other, to our brothers and sisters in faith, and to the world.

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 Kim Downey
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	sullivantt@hotmail.com
Membership Care	Sue Ronan	sue@uccb.org
Church School	Barbara Crandell	barbara@uccb.org
Church Office	Jeannine McCullough	203-775-1259 office@uccb.org

**SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S MISSION TRIP!
ORDER YOUR PIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!**



An opportunity to support the Women's Mission Trip and eat pie at the same time - what a deal! Our very own church ladies will be making and selling apple and pumpkin pies that you can eat right away or freeze for your holiday events. Pies will be available for pick-up on Sunday, November 23rd just before Thanksgiving and must be ordered in advance. Cost is \$12/pie.

Order forms will be in your bulletin or you may sign-up at Coffee Hour or contact Marianne Gaffey .

******See inside for details on the upcoming November 16th
Congregational Meeting******

CrossWays – the newsletter of
The Congregational Church of Brookfield
160 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804
(203)-775-1259 Fax (203)-775-3466
Email: office@ucb.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