



Cross Ways

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

January 2017

Call to Congregational Meeting

In accordance with Article V, Section A, of the by-laws of the Congregational Church of Brookfield, a congregational meeting is hereby duly called to be held Sunday, January 8, 2017, immediately following the 10:30am service of worship for the following purpose:

- To consider and approve a Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2017.
- To consider and approve Council's recommendation to spend \$523.50 from Book of Remembrance for a replacement CIS Giving Tree.

Dave Goral, Moderator
Kathy Wandelmaier, Church Clerk

Church Council Notes: December 13, 2016

Long Range Planning Committee Update: The sewer connection project has been completed on time and on budget.

CIS Request: On behalf of Church-in-Society, Luke D. moved for Council to recommend spending \$523.50 from the Book of Remembrance for a new artificial "Giving Tree" for Brooks Hall. Jennifer seconded. CIS wants to use their budget to give more to those in need rather than spending it on a tree. The motion passed. Book of Remembrance spending must be approved by a vote of the congregation, so the motion will be on the agenda of the January 8 Budget Meeting.

Moderator's Report: Luke D. made a motion to approve the pastors' housing allowances for 2017. Greg D. seconded. The IRS requires the church to inform the IRS every year what part of each pastor's compensation is allocated to housing, the allocated amounts must be approved by Council. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Income is \$8,000 lower than budget, but expenses are \$16,000 under budget, yielding a surplus of \$8,000.

Worship: The new wreath is up in the Meetinghouse. Christmas Eve Services this year are 5pm, 8:30pm, and 11pm. Next year the choir will be singing at the 8:30pm Christmas Eve rather than at the 11pm service.

Deacons: Ruthie Maxim will be assisting the Deacons by sending cards to members with special prayer concerns. Kelly Mangold sent literature from Guideposts that can be a supplement to Care Notes.

Christian Education: Good weather allowed the carolers to go out caroling. This year's Christmas Pageant had top attendance and top participation by children.

Stewardship: Skits based on this year's Stewardship theme will be performed during most Sunday services during this year's campaign, from January 8 through the end of February.

Nominating: Jennifer made a motion to approve adding Theresa Guadagno to the Stewardship Committee. Audrey H. seconded. The motion passed. Mark Lyon has accepted the nomination for Vice Moderator. The congregation will vote the nominating slate at the Annual Meeting on April 30.

Church House: No major repairs in November. Bids of \$4,000 and \$5,500 have been received for the new cottage boiler. Lead paint was detected at the cottage and will be investigated further.

Church in Society: Gifts from the Giving Tree have been distributed to six Brookfield Social Services families and three Interfaith Aids Ministry families. Gifts to other organizations are still being collected. Thrift Shop sales were over \$600 in December. The Alternative Gifts Fair took in over \$2,800.

Welcome: Two new members were welcomed at the 8:30 service on Nov. 13. Welcome requests help in finding places for church ads in various community programs instead of only in the Danbury News-Times. Additional handicapped parking spots have been requested. Church House will discuss.

Refugee Resettlement: Because refugees have difficulty leasing an apartment with no credit history, IRIS recommended having CCB co-sign their lease. The liability implications will be investigated.

Vice Moderator's Report: Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

The first draft of the budget included a 15% pledge increase. Council consensus was that this is not realistic. Higher payroll expenses are responsible for much of the budget increase. Medical and dental insurance for pastors has gone up. A 2% salary increase was included, plus salary for a new part-time position: Business Manager. The new position won't be created unless it can be funded. Greg D. made a motion to reduce new position hours so that total budget needed would be \$497,315.34, requiring a pledge income increase of 11%. Bryn seconded. The motion passed.

Pastors' Report:

Jennifer: Bryn's 10 year anniversary with CCB is at the end of January, but will be celebrated on Pentecost, June 4, 2017. There will be one 10:30 am service followed by an all church picnic.

Bryn: Bryn led a funeral service for Jane Burgess. Dan Leniart is recovering and feeling well enough to be ushering again. Kate Luce had surgery and began chemotherapy. Larry Ruschmeyer has been in and out of the hospital. Serina Quinsland is moving to Pittsburgh.



Notes from the Choir Room

This is a time for new beginnings. The choirs are all starting up again with new music. The beginning of the New Year is the perfect time to join a choir. For some of you it is returning to musical skills you have acquired over the years. For others, it is stretching yourself to learn new skills. Wherever you are in your musical journey, you are welcome in choir. Please speak to Toni if you want to join a choir or have any questions.

Music for January

January 8 - "Jazz Gloria" Chancel Choir

January 15 - Men's Ensemble

January 22 - "Hush" Chancel Choir

January 29 - "Tis the Gift to be Simple" Chancel Choir

Toni Sullivan, Director of Music



Dining For Women 6:00-7:15pm Monday, January 9th

Dining For Women will meet on January 9th at Karen Underhill's house to learn about Mith Samlanh, Cambodia. The project aims to provide safe shelter to marginalized girls who are separated from their families in Phnom Penh as they are transitioning back to families or participating in vocational training. It focuses on marginalized girls to secure their rights to education and employment while assist-

ing them in their reintegration to their families. By providing transitional shelter and support services, Mith Samlanh is reducing the vulnerability of young girls to human trafficking.

Join us to learn more about it on the 9th 6:00 PM- 7:15 PM. As always it's a potluck affair so bring whatever is convenient and plan to take your leftovers home. Let Karen know if you plan to attend or let Olivia Quinsland know.



Share the Good News!!

Silver Lake: Encounter God's Love in Creation

Silver Lake Conference Center (SLCC) is your UCC Summer Camp for children and youth entering 4th through 12th grade in fall 2017.

Registration opens January 15th online at www.silverlakeect.org.

Scholarship assistance is available through SLCC, the Fairfield East Association (FEA) and our own church. Please don't let financial need keep your children from having the best ever camp experience in "God's backyard" next summer.

Talk with Pastor Bryn or Pastor Jen if you have questions.

Deacon Spotlight: Doug Fisher

Deacon Branch: Last names **BR-CL**

I have been a member of CCB since 1976. In fact, I was blessed and confirmed on our country's Bicentennial, July 4, 1976. I grew in faith here alongside my family members: my dad, Walt, my mom, Judith (who died this past year), and my siblings, Diane, Stephen, and Jennifer. I still live here in town with my wife, Mary and our dog, Dallas. I sell emergency equipment – ambulances, rescue vehicles, and fire apparatus – for a living.

Throughout my time at CCB I have been involved in a number of ways. I was the head of the senior youth group in the 1970's and later served as a senior youth group advisor. I was on the property committee, have sung in the choir, and can be seen in the parking lot directing traffic every year during the Yankee Fair. I love CCB because of the friendship, caring, and spiritual guidance I receive.

I am currently involved in Stephen Ministry and serve as a Deacon. I said "yes" to serving as a Deacon because I have used the spiritual help of my Deacon several times over the last few years, and their care, compassion and support is what I have based my faith on. I felt I could bring the same gifts to our church family. I love being able to use my Stephen Ministry training in my work as a Deacon as well to help support members in need – in both sad times and happy times. I try my best to use the gifts God gave me in the ways Jesus taught.

Alternative Gifts Fair THANKS!

We would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came to the Alternative Gifts Fair on Sunday December 4th 2016! As confirmands in this year's class, we hosted this event as our Confirmation Project, and we are so happy it was such an enjoyable day and a very successful one. We truly appreciate your support!

We'd also like to say a warm thank you to Karen Underhill, who graciously contributed her guidance and patience on this project, our wonderful confirmation mentors, Linae Wutzl, and Kelly Mangold, who were with us every step of the way, and all of the volunteers from the various organizations who worked at the booths. We appreciate all of you who generously baked delicious treats for the Bake Sale also. Many thanks for all the generous donations; we raised over \$2,800! This money was donated to all the charities represented at the Fair.

*We thank you again and wish you all a safe and Happy New Year!
Warm regards,
Evie and Catie*



Confirmation Classes in January:

January 8, 2017— Mission & Stewardship—12-2pm in the Parsonage

January 29, 2017— The Bible—12-2pm in the Parsonage



January Serendippers Gathering
Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 11:45am
“Getting to Know You”
Learn more about your Serendippers friends!

Our menu:
Snowflake Punch
Chicken Parmesan
Green Garden Salad
Garlic Bread
Coconut Pie

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



Sunday Fellowship Time Volunteers Needed!

The Fellowship Committee has many wonderful volunteers that sponsor coffee hour every Sunday after the 10:30am worship service. Coffee hour is more than cupcakes and muffins. It's about hospitality and fellowship and the grace that sharing food makes real. If you have been looking to get involved, this is a perfect way to do something that is not a huge time commitment. It would only require you to do coffee hour two Sundays per year. You would not have to do it yourself since we are sure to match you with an experienced person to work with. It can be as simple as coffee and a plate of store bought cookies or more for those who choose to do so. If you would like to help out, please contact Elayne Schwartz or Monica Pondiccio.

Christmas Flowers and Greens

The beautification of the sanctuary is a gift to all who worship and celebrate with us this joyous holiday season. The poinsettias and greens have been placed. . .



In loving memory of:

Charles & Hattie Hill and Henry & Leola Beck by Dr. Curtis H. Beck
Loved ones by Bob and Jean Bergman
Marian Boughton, Walter Boughton, Joan Gould by Sandy and Sue Boughton and family
Loved ones by Bob and Jane Brown
Jane M. Burgess by Gordon O. Burgess & family
Anna Williams by Manny and Tania Carreras and family
Arthur Outhouse by Sue, Luke, Joel and Kyle Duval
Colleen Eagan by Jim and Carol Eagan
My wife, Sally by Bob Emrich
Barbara Erlenbach by Randy Erlenbach
Marge and Harold Nohe, Pat and Adam Fernand by Linda and Ed Fernand
Judith A. Fisher by Walter Fisher
Donna Geck by Ronald Geck
Roger M. Henley and William J. Cline by Vivian M. Henley
Barbara and Martin Howe; John Neubert and family by Carol Howe
David Mariano, Karen Felicissimo by Marie Immohr
Loved ones by the Labas family
Loved ones by the Bob Lambert family
Dan and Vivian Morehouse by Walter and Eleanor Loesch
Loved ones by Ruth and Warren Malkin
Saints of the Church by the Matson family
John Mix by the Mix family
Lawrence and Iva Quinsland, Jan, Gary and Erin Hamilton by the Quinsland family
The Moores and the Rockys by Joe and Tina Rocky
Pete and Janice Cushnie by Susan and Kevin Ronan
Frank Arents and Eleanor Loewenstein by the Rosa family
Loved ones by Margitta and Larry Savo
Katie Davidson by Elayne Schwartz
Loved ones by the Sikorski and Duggan families
Gladys Benn, Elizabeth Benn, Barbara and Don Smith by Nancy and Tony Smith
Calvin and Anne Merrill by Kathy Wandelmaier
Mr. and Mrs. A. Winkler by Mr. Howard and Dr. Catherine Winkler
Our beloved parents by Rodger and Joan Wutzl

In honor of:

Family and friends by Rowland Bankes
Our Children and grandchildren by Alex and Mary (Gallagher) DeLucia
Our children Matthew, Kasey Anne and Cory by Jeannine and Keith McCullough
Nicholas Ruschmeyer by the Ruschmeyer family
John, Joyce and Jean DeBisschop and Josette Whipple by the Whipple family

The large wreath in the Meetinghouse was given in loving memory of:

Harold & Ruth Swenson, Chester & Dorothy Anderson,
Julian V. Richards & Doris M. Wills; Donald E. Baker;
Herbert G. MacIntosh; and Marion & James Gaffey by their families
the Anderson, Baker, Sikorski, and Gaffey/Montgomery families

Angels for Anthems

Donations toward our Christmas music have been given. . .



In loving memory of:

Henry and Althea Beck by Dr. Curtis H. Beck
Loved ones by Bob and Jean Bergman
Jean Balivet Roper ("Nana") by the Berner and Roper families
Loved ones by Don and Elizabeth DeLambert
Samuel E. Hunter by Sian Hunter
Hilda and Frank Felicissimo by Marie Immohr
My dad David M. McCuin by Kelly Kelly
Great Gam and Papa by the Lazorchak family
Walter and Geraldine Loesch by Walter and Eleanor Loesch
Loved ones by Ruth and Warren Malkin
Our parents by Lauren and David Matte
Debbie Canter by Keith and Jeannine McCullough
Ivan Park by Joni Park
Novis, Olivia and Victor Ridge, Pat Still and Jim Stoddard by the Quinsland family
The Moores and the Rockys by Joe and Tina Rocky
Ed Ronan Sr. by Susan and Kevin Ronan
Gertrude Nagy by Margitta and Larry Savo
Our parents by Toni and Steve Sullivan
David DeBisschop by the Whipple family
Loved ones by Dorothy Wilson
Mr. Harry Gerowe by Mr. Howard and Dr. Catherine Winkler

In honor of:

Our grandchildren by Sandy and Sue Boughton
My granddaughter, Alexa Quiroz by Daryle Brown
Our bell ringers, choirs, musicians, and Toni Sullivan by Sara Henley Cline
Rev. Jen, Ryan, Brayden and Chloe Whipple by John and Joyce DeBisschop (mom & dad)
Scarlett Shapiro by Donna MacKenzie

***The small olive wood crèche in Brooks Hall was donated to the church
by Cindy Field and Dom Barillari in loving memory of Charline McNiff.***

Youth Fellowship in January:

All youth in **grades 6-8** are invited to join us for **Junior Youth Fellowship**, and youth in **grades 9-12** are invited to join us for **Senior Youth Fellowship**. These groups meet regularly on Sundays. Our schedules are posted in our Sunday bulletins and on our church website at www.uccb.org. Weekly email reminders are also sent, so be sure that Pastor Jen has your email address if you would like to receive those reminders. You can email her at jennifer@uccb.org.

Youth groups will meet this month on January 8th, 22nd, and 29th. We look forward to starting the New Year in faith, service, and FUN with our wonderful youth!

2016 Reflections from Church School



How old were you when you realized you wanted to make a difference in the world? Creating world peace takes many forms, but surely it begins with individuals. It continues to be the most significant challenge of humankind and requires the efforts of each of us. Here are some ideas for creating a more peaceful world with your

child:

- Be generous with your smiles.
- Commit daily acts of kindness.
- Respect the Earth.
- Recognize your unique potential.
- Laugh more.
- Play with a child.
- Accept personal responsibility for creating a better world.
- Sing.
- Help someone.
- Plant seeds of peace. Work in a garden.
- Share.
- Send a note of appreciation.
- Tell your friends how much they matter.
- Say "I love you" more.

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

~Desmond Tutu

CCB Thrift Shop - THANK YOU!!!! (and we still need your help!)

The CCB Thrift Shop continues to be open in the Parsonage the first Saturday of every month with great success! ***Our next sale will be Saturday, January 7th from 9am-12noon.***

- Please remember us for your gently used clothing donations which can be dropped off outside of the church office during regular office hours or at the Parsonage during the monthly sale.
- If you know of someone or a family in need of clothing, please contact someone on the team below so that we may help them.
- If you would like to join us, we sort clothing on the Wednesday before the sale in the parsonage with both morning and evening shifts, and we can always use help during the Saturday morning sales. ***The next sorting date will be Wednesday, January 4th.***
- Come shop on the first Saturday morning of each month from 9am – 12noon.

Remember all proceeds go directly to Brookfield Social Services.

Thank you for your support!
Joni Park, Sue Slater, Karen Underhill, Sally Markiewicz,
Monica McInerney, Lyn Lyon and Marianne Gaffey

Fellowship Of Concern



CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Lillian Covill,
Evelyn Gerowe,
Anne Hardin,
Vivian Henley,
Kate Luce,
Ruthie Maxim,
Millicent Morrison,
Pat Roehling,
Larry Ruschmeyer,
Lavinia Schmaling,
Rod Schmaling,
Shirley Stoppel,

WITH SYMPATHY:

- Gordon Burgess and family on the passing of his wife, Jane, on December 5th.

BAPTISM:

- Logan Blakeslee Sprole, son of Robert and Heather Sprole, on November 11th.
- Kayla Madison Bayles, daughter of Michael McNamara and Brooke Bayles on December 11th

THANK YOU:

Dear CCB,
Thank you very much for your generosity.
Your thoughtfulness will make the holiday special.
A family from our giving tree.

Dear CCB family,
My most sincere thanks to each and every one of you who helped with my Dad's Memorial Service on November 11. From the coordinators, to the bakers, set-up help, clean up help and more you all made the day the best it could be. My Dad would have been humbled by your efforts for him.

May God grant you peace, health and much joy in the New Year.

In friendship and gratitude,
Sue Ronan and family

CrossWays Deadline

The deadline for the February 2017 issue of CrossWays is **January 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.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ~Isaiah 64:8

Before this verse in the book of the prophet Isaiah there is a confessional moment, a moment in which God's people recognize that they have not been or done all that God has asked them to. They realize that they could/should have listened better, tried harder, and followed more closely to God's word for them and their lives. And here they are, recognizing that they are the work of God's hands—that if God created them, then God can help in the righting of things done and said wrong. That if God works them like the clay then they can be reshaped, reformed, renewed.

We are entering a New Year, and with that comes a moment of pause as we stop to consider the things that we have done or left undone in 2016, as we look ahead to things that we hope to do better for ourselves and others, the things to which we wish to listen more closely, the sense that there is perhaps something to be renewed—even, or perhaps most especially, in our journey of faith.

As I was thinking about the New Year, the reflection, and the resolutions, I stopped to read some prayers in a book that I have called *Prayer Without Borders: Celebrating Global Wisdom*. As I did so, I came across parts of a prayer, or perhaps more aptly a confession of faith, from the Southern African Conference of Catholic Bishops, and some of its words are these:

We believe that we are part of God's dream for the church and the world, and that God is shaping us, as the potter shapes the clay, into the kind of human and church community that is the dream in God's heart. We believe that God has called and chosen us as the potter carefully chooses a lump of clay to make what the potter has in mind. We believe that when God sees the church and the world are not coming out right, according to the divine dream, God does not discard the clay and take another piece, but reworks the same clay, shaping and molding it with firm but gentle hands, on the wheel of life. We believe that God is shaping and reshaping us to be like Jesus, the compassionate one, as we continue the mission of Jesus in the world.

We commit ourselves to shaping with gentle hands the fragile and vulnerable clay, each precious person given to us. We will treat them with the same love and patience we ourselves feel in the hands of the divine potter. We will open our ears to listen like disciples as God leads us forward on the next part of the journey, the journey we are on together.

Throughout the season of Advent we spoke of the gifts we receive from being a part of the church, and in this New Year we will begin talking about the gifts we bring to bear. I would contend there is no better time than this—as so much seems in turmoil throughout our world, as we hear bad news upon bad news, and as we look at our own lives and wonder what we might do better—to remember that we are clay in the Divine Potter's hand. If we are willing, I do believe that God will mold us and shape us and remold us into those God needs to be about the work of sharing love and compassion, of righting some of the wrongs in the world, of working toward peace and justice.

So be gentle with yourselves, dear friends, in this New Year, and be gentle with others. May we listen to the words the Divine Potter speaks to us of how we are gifted to be about God's work in the church and in the world. May we find ourselves reshaped, refreshed, and renewed in God's love and perhaps even able to bring that renewal to others who need it too.

We are pleased to welcome these 8 new members into covenant with our congregation. We hope you can get to know these new members of our church family.

Tim and Krissy Christensen live in Newtown with their 3 children, Ella (age 9), Arlena (age 6), and baby Jack. Tim works for Synchrony Financial in Stamford and Krissy is a stay-at-home mom and seamstress. Krissy was raised in Brookfield and attended St. Joseph's Church and would occasionally cross over to CCB for youth group events and retreats in middle school with her close friends; the Horners and Pellegrinos. Tim was born in Maine, and his grandfather was a pastor of their Baptist church (where Tim's parents met as children). His grandparents were also missionaries and lived in Pakistan for a few years with their 5 children. Tim and Krissy met at Boston College in a Christian fellowship group, IVCF. After college they attended different churches sporadically but had difficulty finding a church that was just right. They are very happy to have landed (back) at CCB and are looking forward to having their children grow in their relationships with God through this wonderful church family.

Robert F. (Bob) Emrich Bob lives in Brookfield and is a retired science teacher. He taught for 37 years at Byram Hills Central Schools in Armonk, New York and was also an off-campus instructor for Boston University and a summer instructor for 9 years at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. Bob grew up in Scarsdale, NY and attended Scarsdale Community Baptist Church. He is a graduate of Eastchester High School and has a B.S. and M.Ed. from Springfield College. Bob did post-graduate work at Bucknell, San Diego State, Iona and Western Connecticut State University. While teaching he enjoyed coaching varsity basketball and was also a high school and college soccer official. Bob first started attending CCB because he was looking for a church as he cared for his late wife, who suffered from dementia. He has decided to stay because he enjoys Rev. Bryn's sermons and likes the atmosphere of the congregation.

Heather Fraticelli was born and raised in Danbury, CT, where she still lives. She works as a speech-language pathologist for Ridgefield Public Schools, currently serving students of Scotland Elementary School and Scotts Ridge Middle School. Heather was raised as an only child by her father. They attended the First Congregational Church of Danbury, where she was confirmed and attended youth group. Heather graduated from Danbury High School, where she was competitive in track and field. She attended Iona College for her undergraduate degree. There, Heather studied speech-language pathology, ran track/field and cross country, and participated in many service projects. She received her master's degree from Southern Connecticut State University in communication disorders. Heather's hobbies are working out and running, in addition to spending time with family. They are an outdoorsy, active family, and are hoping to pass that love onto their ten-month-old son, Chase. She first came to this church because she wanted to get closer to God, who has blessed her with a beautiful life. Heather felt it was time for her to seek out a church to plant roots for her son to be raised in faith, and to have a church they could call their own. Chase was baptized here this summer, with the intention of having him grow in his faith in this church. After attending for months, Heather knew this was the right church for them. Everyone has been extremely welcoming and supportive, and it felt like home.

NEW MEMBERS (cont'd)

Diane and Mariann Schirizzo live in Brookfield with their sons Luke (4) and Joel (2). Diane is a high school counselor in Weston, and Mariann is a health teacher for New Milford public schools. Diane grew up practicing both Lutheran and Roman Catholic traditions, and Mariann grew up Roman Catholic. They met at Concordia College in 1994 and have raised their children in the Lutheran faith. Diane is a singer, pianist and a flute player. Mariann plays the guitar and uke. They both love the praise and worship style of music. They first began attending CCB because of the music and Sunday school programs, as well as the childcare opportunities. They think that CCB is a place that their children can grow in faith. When asked why they have stayed, the response was, "Why do we eat and sleep? To live and grow in our faith journey so that in turn we can be a light for others."

Chris and Deirdra Wallin live in Candlewood Shores in Brookfield with their son Ben (12). Chris works in Mt. Kisco, NY as a programmer for Eze Software. Deirdra has her own business, The Personal Gardener, and is a horticultural therapist. Ben is in the 7th grade at Whisconier Middle School. Both Chris and Deirdra were raised Roman Catholic and have stayed in the Christian faith under different denominations. Chris graduated from Manhattan College with a computer science degree and New York University with a MBA. He has always been a financial programmer. Deirdra graduated from Western Connecticut State University with a degree in justice and law administration. She worked in the non-profit social service sector while staying home after the birth of Ben. Later she pursued her interest in horticulture and most recently received professional registration as a horticultural therapist. As a family they enjoy the outdoors, spending time hiking, biking and kayaking. Chris also enjoys playing guitar. Ben is active in the Boy Scouts. They began attending CCB with their friends Laura and Evan Welch-Keckley, who were active in Boy Scouts as well. They decided to stay because they like that we say, "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

A VERY BIG THANK YOU!

To this congregation for the outpouring of generosity in helping to fulfill the wishes of so many from the tags on the Annual Giving Tree. Your gifts helped to make a number of families' holidays brighter and merry. You also helped to keep numerous people warmer this year with your warm coat, socks, gloves and hat donations. The families that will benefit from Baby Bundles will be appreciative for the diapers and wipes you have provided. The gift cards donated will give some others help and hope. The Congregational Church of Brookfield is truly blessed with a very generous spirit. That spirit has been shared with the greater community, and they are very grateful.

The CIS Committee

What Will You Bring — WWYB?

We have been blessed with the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, who came to live among us. Centuries have passed, but Christ's teachings still ring true. With every year's celebration of Christmas we are renewed in our hope. We are reminded that the Wise Men who followed the star recognized the significance of God among us. They traveled far bearing gifts of great value to pay homage—GOLD to pay for material needs, FRANKINCENSE to meet spiritual needs, and MYRRH to serve as healing balm. But they also packed their caravans with provisions to sustain themselves on their long journeys. We, too, are called to follow the light of Jesus and bring our gifts to share as we grow in our faith journey.

WHAT WILL YOU BRING? *What have you received from your church home at CCB that can sustain you on your journey? What gifts will you bring to honor God in response to what you have received? This year's Stewardship Pledge Campaign embraces this theme.*

- *Join us at the January 22nd Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am worship service for an introduction to the Wise Men and their Gifts.*
- *Pledge commitments are due by Sunday, February 26 to be included in our pledge dedication worship.*

Winter Warmth Ministry for Families

Did you know that there is a shortage of warm indoor space in downtown Danbury specifically set aside for families? There are shelters available for single women with small children and for men and teenage boys, but no place to sleep inside overnight if you have an intact family with children and teenagers.

CIS is collecting names of people who would be interested in volunteering to help out at a new Winter Warmth Ministry at Central Christian Church, sponsored by Danbury's Association for Religious Communities (ARC). If you are interested please contact Pastor Jen at jennifer@uccb.org, and we will reach out to you with more information.



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 2016-2017

A-BO	Leslie Sands (Stephen Ministry)
BR-CL	Doug Fisher
CO-DON	Jan Labas
DOR-F	Sherrie Ruschmeyer
G-HOR	Pete Lane
HOW-LEN	Mark Lyon
LES-MA	Sue Boughton
Mc-O	Alex DeLucia
P-RO	Mary Gallagher DeLucia
RU-SI	Marie Immohr
SL-T	Dan McKee
U-Z	Greg Labas

Youth Deacons:

Jillian
Chris

Committee Chairmen and Church Council Reps

Moderator: Dave Goral
Vice Moderator: Robin Murphy
Clerk: Kathy Wandelmaier
Treasurer: Greg Dorrell
Assistant Treasurer: Kristi McPadden
Investment Treasurer: Audrey Himebaugh



Committee Chairs

Christian Ed Melanie Shapiro
Church House Ken Arifian
Church-in-Society Lyn Lyon
Deacons Sherrie Ruschmeyer
Fellowship Kelly Kelly
Nominating Sharon Santi
Stewardship Sally Markiewicz
Welcome Tom Young
Worship Patty Moran

Church Council Representatives

Christian Ed Wendy Elsen
Church House Steve Waschak
Church-in-Society Luke Duval
Deacons Leslie Sands
Fellowship TBD
Nominating Tom Young
Stewardship Tom Brown
Welcome Jean Dorrell
Worship Martha Parvis
Historian Bob Brown

Long-Range Planning Committee

Michael Matson (chair), Roman D'Alessandro, Maurice Downey, Deseré Edwards,
Cindy Field, Sian Hunter, Larry Ruschmeyer

Pastoral Relations Committee

Robin Murphy (chair), Gordon Markiewicz, Bob Lambert, Larry Ruschmeyer,
Carol Eagan

Personnel Committee

Dave Goral (chair), Robin Murphy, Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Olivia Quinsland, Bill Robertson
Karen Underhill, Rick Hardin

Senior Pastor	Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia		bryn@uccb.org
Associate Pastor	Rev. Jennifer Whipple		jennifer@uccb.org
Organist/Choir	Toni Sullivan		toni@uccb.org
Church School	Barbara Crandell		barbara@uccb.org
Church Office	Jeannine McCullough	203-775-1259	office@uccb.org
Nursery Care	Debbie Marquardt	203-775-1259	lilstitchtoo@yahoo.com

Clowns Without Borders (CWB)
Sunday, January 29, 2017
From 5:00pm—7:00pm in Fellowship Hall

CCB family members of all ages are invited to join us for a simple supper and an opportunity to learn more about this humanitarian clowning organization. There will be an explanation of their work, an interactive opportunity to “become a clown yourself,” and a chance to hear some testimonies of people in our own church family who have been helped by CWB. CWB offers people experiencing trauma, grief and loss resources to help walk their journeys among other outreach.

See how these performers touch lives: www.ClownsWithoutBorders.org.

A testimony about CWB:

Humor that pokes fun at our shared human experience has the potential to encourage someone watching to let their guard down. Once someone's guard is down and they have shared a common experience they have a temporary sense of community. With this sense of community a message can be conveyed and more easily taken into consideration. Maybe it's a message of cooperation, a message of love or of hope. If all you know is despair, this message can be empowering and maybe life changing.

The art of taking all this into consideration is what experienced clowns do. I say experienced because it takes a lot of getting it wrong before getting it right with any consistency. I am compelled to give credit to those hearts dedicated to such service, especially on the street level, shoulder to shoulder.

I applaud you, Clowns Without Borders. I get what you are doing. Thank you for giving me a level of humanitarian clowning that I can strive for. Without your example I would have never believed that it was possible to touch people across the world.

~Pete Lane

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 8:30am and 10:30am

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