



THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS
July/August 2015

North Madison Congregational Church
1271 Durham Road
Madison, CT 06443

From Pastor Jim . . .

During the Deacon's retreat Friday evening June 19, I was struck by the faithfulness, commitment and passion of our deacons. Part of the evening together was honoring the service of the several deacons whose time of service is up: Karen Chapman, Bruce Whittaker and Peter Haff. Another part was to welcome four new deacons (Ann Damarjian, Carol Anne Bachhuber, Miles Dunn, and Kristin Polisky) who will join continuing deacons (Roberta Hanlon, Kate Davis, Jim Connolly, Sandy Dickson, Beth Berestecky and Dawn Barber) in their vital role of leading the spiritual nurture and growth of NMCC.

Throughout, the atmosphere was equal parts light-hearted and serious and we shared our own God-stories and dreams for our beloved congregation. The atmosphere of oneness and passion to serve was truly remarkable. Several remarked that this spirit of oneness and openness was of a degree that seemed new and fresh! I can't tell you how fortunate I am to be blessed with such leaders!

And later that evening driving home it stuck me how committed so many others are to building the beloved Community of God here at NMCC. It requires the effort of many "Vessels" who enthusiastically serve from their passion and talent. They are committed not only to God but to each other.

And it requires *leadership* - the art of holding a vision for a desired future state and inspiring others to offer their contributions to help bring that vision into being.

Looking back on these past twelve months I see numerous examples of committed *leadership* that is leading our ministry forward in fresh new ways.

- Rene and Jeff Chin and Karen Murphy have so ably stepped up to lead our children and youth ministries in the face of staff reductions.
- Those leading our return to a healthy financial path and maintaining the condition of our property has been extraordinary! Several names deserve particular mention: John Gallops (faithfully concluding eight years as treasure), John Nassif (concluding four years as Chair of Board of Finance and EC chair), Tom Lauher (current EC chair and leadership with Property and Planning), in addition to those leading key fundraiser such as the Tag Sale, Antique Fair, Harvest Dinner, Craft Fair, and grocery cards.
- The Steward Committee (Generosity Team) and been steadily and effectively leading a generosity-based culture change at NMCC. I haven't seen the likes of it before. The gentle visionary leadership of Jim Farrales and Peter Meier has been driving it.
- The commitment of those leading our Caring Ministries is beyond anything I've seen in any church I've served. And while we've cared for several families in particularly severe life-changing circumstances, this care has also extended to many others in both our congregation and in our wider community. Peter Haff and Melissa Blundon especially come to mind for their leadership.
- The GFWP (Getting Focused with Purpose) initiative, that was just a twinkle in our eyes a year ago, has now engaged a critical mass of the congregation in a creative process of discerning and articulating how

we are agents for God's transformative love in our community. Sandy Dickson's leadership has been exceptional.

- And the magic of having Bill and Ann's leadership has stretched what anyone would think is possible for a church choir. And, significantly, it has been the point of entry – first “job” at NMCC - for those who have then grown to lead in other areas.
- I should also mention the effective leadership of the below people who have also taken their ministries to a new level –
 - Kate Davis and Karen Chapman for creatively growing our Adult Enrichment program;
 - Holly Francis, Tom Lauher and Rene Chin for creating helpful and timely human resource systems that allow us to respond thoughtfully to the changing needs of our personnel;
 - Roberta Hanlon and Carol Anne Bachhuber for our integrated communication plan and processes that greatly improve the planning of all our ministries;
 - And Melissa Blundon for taking to a whole new level the quality of our hospitality and fellowship offerings on Sundays and the new set of services for grieving families.

Simply put, the above are examples of how your increased commitment to working together for God's purposes is creating a vibrant future for us and is blessing and healing our world. No wonder it's such as joy to serve as your pastor!

On The Path together,

Pastor Jim

Included in this Newsletter:

Getting Focused with Purpose Christian Education

Senior Youth Group – SYG Mission Trip

Fund Raisers

Madison Antique Show - NMCC Virtual Tag Sale

Get Involved / Stay Connected

Summer Hours – Homecoming Sunday – Church Picnic – Our Whole Lives Sexuality Classes

In the News and Noteworthy

Morgan Werth - Andrew Murphy – Ann and Bill Clemmons

- **NMCC Milestones** -

- **Our Prayers of Comfort and Deepest Sympathy** -

Edward Antrim Lottick M.D.

- Getting Focused with Purpose (GFWP) -



GFWP is a process designed to help us effectively link the internal with the external by matching the gifts/talents of NMCC with the needs of the wider community. Or, how do you as a vessel of God use your gifts to become to a vessel for God in our community?

As we concluded our 6th month of the GFWP journey, we continue our journey through the summer by gathering supporting evidence that will help us finalize our statement by October.

In preparing for the June 14th workshop, we took the ideas generated in the April 19th meeting where we examined how we would **bravely** tackle inequalities, violence, health, discrimination and the environment. There didn't seem any strong preference for a particular "vertical" topic. Instead, we concluded that at the center of the collection of answers is a clear NMCC skill: **developing and maintaining personal relationships** that would apply across any need in which we engage. When we connect that skill to its source - the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of Love - we recognized how we can uniquely serve our community.

On June 14th, the Engagement and Discovery Teams lead 5 small work teams - 42 participants in all - through a discussion on the components of a proposed purpose statement. As can be expected, there were 5 resulting views and experiences. Two teams attempted to rewrite the purpose statement while others focused in particular areas. At the conclusion of the workshop we agreed the Engagement and Discovery teams would meet soon to process the results of that workshop and see what common elements came to light.

The joint Engagement/Discovery team quickly met and after reviewing the results of that workshop, we realized we haven't yet asked ourselves - "Who is this for?" If it's for us, we would use "insider language" for the purpose statement. But if it's for posting on our web page and communicating externally then we need to use simpler language. While the team works answers to these questions and refines the purpose statement to fit, we also concluded we needed to brainstorm on how to make connections with people in organizations that we already serve, possibly by sharing our own transformation stories. We'd like to do this in small groups at the homes of the GFWP team members during July and August. We are now putting together a schedule for the summer, while continue to refine a possible purpose statement. We plan to make an announcement of the dinner dates early in July.

Background

If you have not yet participated it's not too late. By way of background, we provided the following opportunities to engage members and friends in the GFWP conversation:

- On May 17th at the Annual Meeting, the Leadership Team summarized the GFWP progress to date.
- On April 19th, the Discovery and Engagement Teams asked us to examine ways in which we could be **BRAVE** in living up to our historical Mission Statement (We are a community seeking to do justice, to love kindness, and walk together humbly with our God).

- On March 1st, the Engagement Team helped us understand the skills, talents, and behaviors that express our spiritual life at NMCC.
- On January 25th, we started with what we do well as a congregation of Christians both inside and outside the NMCC community.

We look forward to you joining us in July or August at one of the dinners. Details to follow shortly!

- Children and Youth Ministries -

Youth Groups



School is over and so ends SYG: ☺ Personally speaking, it has been a great year. The NMCC Senior Youth Group grew significantly this year with the addition of a very large freshman class. The true pleasure has been getting to know each of the SYG members and watching them interact and flourish. The favorite activity this year has been Human Foosball. Similar to the table top foosball, where Fellowship hall is the field and each SYG person is a foosball "player". The real challenge was trying not to break anything inside Fellowship Hall.

Besides playing games, SYG cooked for their parents as an introduction to SYG, baked cookies for past SYG'ers that were freshmen in college and baked lasagnas for the Deacons to distribute to those in need. The last SYG event for the school year was June 14 and what better way to celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer but with a cook-out.

Mission Trip



SYG Mission Trip 2015: Christmas in July? Giving gifts to help the Senior Youth Group Mission trip.

The Senior Youth Group is in the midst of planning their Mission trip to Blue Knob, PA from July 26 to Aug 1 and they would like your help. Twenty SYG youth along with Pastor Jim, Karen Murphy, Roberta Hanlon and Jeff Chin will be working with TeamEffort (Teameffort.org) and families in need, for their 2015 Mission Trip. The cost for one SYG member to participate in the Mission trip is \$700 while the chaperones volunteer their time. Donations to support the SYG and their Mission trip are appreciated. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Jeff Chin. A donation of any amount would be a present to all of our SYG.

The Senior Youth Group is a part of the NMCC family and is open to all high school students that are willing to have some fun, volunteer helping others, and are open to spiritual based belief discussions. SYG meets twice a month at the church and during the summer goes on a week-long Mission trip. If you are interested in being a part of the SYG or have any questions please contact: Jeff Chin (jrchin5@comcast.net, cell: 203.901.3498).

- Fund Raisers -

Madison Antiques Show

On the Green, Boston Post Road, Madison, CT

Saturday, July 18, 2015

9 AM to 4 PM, Rain or Shine

Coming soon – Mark your calendar

We need you!!

There is a **SIGNUP SHEET** on the easel in Fellowship Hall. Please fill in a spot where you can help!

Baked Goods – we cannot stress enough the need for pies, breads, bars, cookies. The more you bake, the more we can sell and it is all profit. Pies are always a wonderful money-maker for us and sellout quickly. You can always leave baked goods in the freezer in the church kitchen.

Food Tent – will need baked beans, pasta salads (without mayo), ice and coffee

Marking the Green on Friday morning – takes about 2 hours and we could really use your help.

Set-up and Take-down is a huge task – please sign up to lend a hand.

Parking, Gate and Bakery Booth Attendants – the day of the show

If you are planning to be away July 18th, please look over our “needs list” and see what you can do ahead of time.

If you have any questions about certain jobs, please see Jeff Chin or call him at 203-421-3498, or call the office at 203-421-3241 to sign you up. Thanks so much to those of you who will give your time to help us make this show a huge success.



NMCC Virtual Tag Sale: Have an item you'd like to donate for resale or consignment? Here's how you can participate:

- **Donate items** – To make this worth the time involved, our goal is to sell each item (or collection) for at least \$25 profit to NMCC.
- **Consign items through NMCC** – if you donate a portion of the sale to NMCC, contact Roberta Hanlon.
- **Buy NMCC items** posted on Craig's list. Currently available today:
Wood Mobile Pet Pen - \$50: <http://newhaven.craigslist.org/for/4909679588.html>

- Get Involved / Stay Connected -



There are so many ways to get involved in making NMCC a vibrant community not only through the work of the Missions Committee but helping out, sharing your skills, learning new ones enjoying the fellowship that naturally follows through working on projects together. Visit our "[Get Involved](#)" web page for ongoing news at northmadisoncc.org.



Summer Worship Hours: In July and August Sunday worship will be on "summer hours" beginning at 9:30am followed by Fellowship Hour. This will give you all more time to enjoy those warm summer days! We will resume our regular 10am start time on September 6.



Homecoming Sunday - September 13: We will celebrate homecoming Sunday on September 13. Children's Church will resume and we will install our Deacons and Jr. Deacons.



Church Picnic - September 27 - Save the Date! Mark your calendars now, to join in the fun at our church picnic at the Blundon's house from 1-4pm on September 27. More details to follow closer to the event.



Our Whole Lives Sexuality Classes: As a result of conversations that began at NMCC in 2009, we will, for the third time, this fall, offer the OWL (Our Whole Lives) value-based sexuality-education program for youth in grades 7-9. Pastor Jim, the CE Board and the Executive Committee each wholeheartedly endorse the OWL Program.

OWL was co-developed by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Several of our members have been trained as facilitators (teachers). OWL programs exist for youth in grades K-1, for adults, and all age groups in between. The websites of both the UCC and the UUA may be consulted for a deeper understanding of the OWL program. Parents are key partners in the program.

(Incidentally, should you be interested, the OWL class for grades 4-6 will be taught this fall at the Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Society in Madison)

In the fall of 2011, thirteen NMCC youth participated in the grades 7-9 class, and, in the fall of 2013, eight NMCC youth joined with six from the Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Society (SUUS) for a second offering of the same class.

The youth who already participated and their parents/guardians are the best endorsements we have for the importance of and the value of the OWL program.

We are again cooperating with our friends at SUUS to offer the 2015-2016 classes. The First Church in Madison is currently studying their potential involvement with us, possibly enrolling some of their youth and helping with facilitation.

Information sessions on OWL classes are being held following worship. Please consult a Sunday-morning bulletin for the next scheduled session or call/write Peter Meier.

If we are not educating our children and youth in the areas of human sexuality, self-esteem, mutual respect, and the formation of personal values in this media-based, complex, and multi-opinioned world, who then is forming their foundation for life?

Pastor Jim summed it up pretty well, saying, "Since our sexuality is given by God, I can think of no better place than a loving community of faith to guide us in understanding it in a way that is spiritually and emotionally healthy."

- In the News & Noteworthy -



NMCC and Members in the News: We often spot an article in the local paper, *Patch* or in other news outlets, and have been posting them on our bulletin and our Facebook page. We'd like to expand the coverage and add a feature about this type of news in the monthly newsletter. Please send or drop off the news articles you find to the office at office@northmadisoncc.org and we'll be sure to include them!

Morgan Werth was pictured in the June 11, 2015 edition of *the Source* with the Hand Girls' Golf Team, who had a 16-0 Season and won the Southern Connecticut Girls' Golf League crown!

Andrew Murphy was pictured in the June 18, 2015 edition of *the Source* in an article about his hitting helping the Hand Tigers Baseball Team. His .368 batting average with 16 runs scored and 12 RBI helped Hand march to the Class L State Tournament quarterfinal round.

Ann and Bill Clemmons were pictured in the June 25 edition of *the Souce* as the 2015 Grand Marshals for the Exchange Club's annual Fourth of July Parade! Following their lead performance at the parade on Saturday, July 4, they will play the annual Fourth of July Concert on the Madison Town Green at 5pm. All are invited to the parade that starts at 11am in the Super Stop & Shop parking lot, winds through the center of Madison, and concludes at the Surf Club.

- NMCC Milestones -

New Members 5/3/15: Steve Biasi; Charmelle Casella; Sarah (Sally) Lottick; Edward Lottick; Amy Reen; Brian Reen

Confirmed 5/31/15: Elizabeth (Ellie) Rees Shea; Anna Dickson; Emma Catherine Green; Catherine (Kitty) Burke Shortt; Lucas (Luke) Noble Brown; Jacob (Jake) Kenneth Brown

- Our Prayers of Comfort and Deepest Sympathy -

**Edward Antrim Lottick M.D.
(November 12, 1935 - June 18, 2015)**



*Our love and condolences to Ed's family --
especially his wife, Sally and children, Adam and Karen.
Ed died peacefully in his sleep on Thursday, June 18.*

Ed's funeral was held in Pennsylvania on Tuesday, June 23.

*In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to "King's College - For Academic Development,"
Office of Institutional Advancement, Attention: Rose Gryskevicz,
133 N. River St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711.*

*For more information, or to send the family an online condolence, please visit the funeral home
website at www.hughbhughes.com. - See more at:
[http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=175119711#sthash.
FJZaAEbo.dpuf](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizensvoice/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=175119711#sthash.FJZaAEbo.dpuf)*

**Expressions of sympathy
can be sent to his wife:**

*Sally Teller Lottick
238 Legend Hill Road
Madison, CT 06443*

Office, Board and Committee Contacts:

| | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Rev. Jim Latimer, Pastor | 203-421-3241 | Office Managers, Cathy Meier & Jackie Fix | 203-421-3241 |
| Christian Education, Rene Chin | 203-421-3498 | Minister of Music, Linda Juliani | 860-399-0210 |
| Senior Youth Group Leader, Jeff Chin | 203-421-3498 | Choir Director, Bill Clemmons | 203-421-3484 |
| Junior Youth Group Leaders, Rene Chin or Karen Murphy | 203-421-3498 203-481-7597 | Circle Nursery School Co-Directors: Donna Perry, Kathy Nijadlik | 203-421-0997 |

OFFICERS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Executive Committee Chair, Tom Lauher | 203-530-7467 |
| Executive Committee Vice Chair, Jim Farrales | 203-421-9323 |
| Members of the Board of Deacons*: | See Below |
| Clerk, Eileen McCann | 203-318-0068 |
| Assistant Clerk, Calvin Price | 203-245-8566 |
| Treasurer, Holly Francis | 203-245-7331 |
| Assistant Treasurer, John Gallops | 860-460-8573 |
| Financial Secretary – Disbursements, Cathy Meier | 203-421-8377 |
| Financial Secy. of Receipts, Susan O’Connor | 203-457-1559 |
| Asst. Financial Secretary – Disbursements - Open | |
| Asst. Financial Secretary – Receipts - Open | |

* Roberta Hanlon 203-421-4891; Jim Connolly 203-421-1184; Kate Davis 203-421-5848; Dawn Barber 203-457-1868; Sandy Dickson 203-421-1178; Beth Berestecky 203-421-3210; Kristin Polisky 203-421-1175; Carol Anne Bachhuber 203-747-4840; Ann Damarjian 860-669-5639; Miles Dunn 203-988-1993

BOARDS/COMMITTEES

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Board of Christian Ed Chair, Rene Chin | 203-421-3498 |
| Board of Deacons Chair, Roberta Hanlon | 203-421-4891 |
| Board of Finance Chair, Jim Farrales | 203-421-9323 |
| Communications Chair, Roberta Hanlon | 203-421-4891 |
| Deacon’s Service Chair, Melissa Blundon | 203-996-0671 |
| Fellowship Chair, TBD | |
| Human Resources Chair, Holly Francis | 203-245-7331 |
| Missions Chair, Kate Summerlin | 203-453-0700 |
| Music Chair, TBD | |
| Nominating Committee Chair, Peter Haff | 203-421-0295 |
| Pastoral Relations, Chair, Peter Meier | 203-421-8377 |
| Property & Planning Chair, TBD | |
| Quiet Ministry Chair, Linda Young | 203-457-0723 |
| Stewardship Chair, TBD | |



Online Giving Available on our Website: Visit the church website at www.NorthMadisonCC.org, click on “Online Giving” in the headers at the top of the page and follow the instructions. Or scan to pay or give →

