



THE CIRCLE CHURCH NEWS
June 2015

North Madison Congregational Church
1271 Durham Road
Madison, CT 06443

From Pastor Jim . . .

During my presentation at our Annual Meeting on May 17, I shared some church vitality “street” wisdom. Afterward a number of those present said it was very helpful and asked me to share it more broadly. It contrasts behaviors of congregations that are thriving with those that are declining. Here is it:

Declining Congregations	Thriving Congregations
Committed to the church	Committed to Christ
Managing committees	Deploying ministries
Holding offices	Doing hands-on ministry
Making decisions	Making disciples
Serving the church	Serving the world
Preoccupied with raising money	Preoccupied with rescuing people
Eager to know everyone	Eager for everyone to know God
Perpetuating a heritage	Visioning a future

What do you notice?

- What’s the difference in focus between the declining and thriving congregations?
- Where do you see more of an external focus? Internal focus?
- Is there a greater awareness of God’s presence in one or the other? If so, how?
- Which descriptions (from either side) seem to describe NMCC now?

Behavioral wisdom such as this can help our GFWP (Getting Focused with Purpose) initiative. GFWP isn’t just about picking a “mission” to focus on, but rather also to articulate how we build our capacity for serving God.

As I highlighted in my May 23 sermon message on Pentecost Sunday, the book of Acts in the Bible tells of how those first Christians were inspired by the Holy Spirit to bravely live God-centered lives (Philip, Lydia, Paul, Peter, etc.). It also relates how they equipped (engaged, built-up) others to also bravely lead God-centered lives.

During our next GFWP all-congregation event on Sunday, June 14, we’ll begin fleshing out the specifics of our new Purpose Statement. Your input is needed. Please plan to join us. It will be fun and rewarding!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim

Included in this Newsletter:

Getting Focused with Purpose

Christian Education

Children's Church - Teacher Appreciation Day - SYG Mission Trip

Missions

Collection for Nicaragua

Fund Raisers

Madison Antique Show - NMCC Virtual Tag Sale

Get Involved / Stay Connected

Yoga - Church Picnic - Graduates - Kent Siladi Preaching - Summer Hours -

Give us Your Thoughts about Sermons

In the News and Noteworthy

Fire in the Kitchen - Mike DiGiorgio - Ann and Bill Clemmons

- Getting Focused with Purpose (GFWP) -

Getting Focused With Purpose



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 enter the fifth month of GFWP, we are seeing signs of progress towards developing a new purpose statement at NMCC. The events to date have set the scene.

- On January 25th, we focused on what we do well as a congregation of Christians both inside and outside the NMCC community.
- On March 1st, the Engagement Team helped us understand the skills, talents, and behaviors that express our spiritual life at NMCC.
- 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 May 17th at the Annual Meeting, the Leadership Team summarized the GFWP progress to date.

On June 14th, after worship (with lunch and free child care), and using the results of the previous meetings, we will again gather as a community to start merging our gifts with community needs, be they local, and/or national and/or international. Specific model situations will be presented, including the five areas we discussed on April 19th and repeated below. We will look to answer how God's calling might be answered, both in terms of our talents and treasures and in how we affect those we encounter to live God-centered lives.

- INEQUALITIES
- VIOLENCE
- HEALTH
- DISCRIMINATION
- ENVIRONMENT

We will again be guided by members of the Discovery and Engagement Teams. Also, the summaries from the easel sheets will again be transcribed and available, as are similar transcriptions from the March 1st and April 19th GFWP events.

Please join us on June 14th. The Engagement and Discovery team efforts have led us to what we believe will give us a clear picture of how our purpose might look. We're eager to share our ideas with you - your engagement and insights are critical to an outcome we can all embrace. The events are times of joining and rejoicing together.

– Children and Youth Ministries –



Children's Church *preschool - 8th grade*

Our last Children's Church will be held on June 7th. Please join us during worship as we celebrate our Teachers.



Teacher Appreciation Day: Calling Teachers and teen Assistants! *Appreciation Sunday is on June 7th.* Please join us so that we may honor and thank you in person.

Whether you are a teen who helped in a Children's Church class once or many times, come worship with us on this thankful Sunday. As an adult, please join us should you have taught way back in the fall, or as most recently as April, or just once. Join us on this Sunday if you have served as substitute. Join us and let us bestow that NMCC gratitude upon you.



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).

- Missions -



Collection for Nicaragua: The collection for Nicaragua through CT Quest for Peace will continue through June 7th. Goods can be left by Gail Faithfull's red Prius, or in Fellowship Hall.

What the Nicaraguans desperately need include the following:

- Summer clothing
- Shoes, (especially black shoes for school uniforms), sneakers, flip flops, sandals
- Backpacks for school
- Sports equipment :soccer, baseball, basketball
- Linens: towels, sheets, pillow cases, light blankets
- Sewing materials: fabric, thread, needles, sewing machines,scissors
- Candles and candle holders
- Kitchenware: plastic items (glasses, plates, etc.), china , knives, forks, spoons, pots, pans, serving dishes, and insulated coolers
- Musical instruments
- Tools: garden, mechanical, carpentry, electrical
- Office supplies
- Medical supplies: vitamins, moisturizing lotions, peroxide, rubbing alcohol, over-the -counter medicines
- Hygiene supplies: toothbrushes, toothpaste, large bars of soap, shampoo, combs, bandaids, antiseptic cream, small morrors
- Computers (Pentium 4 or better), flat screen monitors, computer accessories
- School supplies

- 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!!



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. Current 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.



Yoga: End of school year stress getting you down? Have the deer eaten all of your hostas? Do you crave a few minutes of peace? Well, join us for our final session of "Yoga at the Circle" until September. We will be meeting all 5 weeks in June (6/1-6/29) from 6:30-7:30 in Fellowship Hall. Session price is \$35.00. Drop in remains at \$9.00/class. Our practice is open to all ages and all levels- just bring a yoga mat. Questions? Contact Karen Chapman at krchapman@comcast.net.



Church Picnic: Please join us Sunday, June 7 following worship and our Teacher Appreciation Day celebration, for our Church Picnic. Please bring the following: Last Names A-G - Side Dish/Salad; H-P - Dessert; Q-Z - Drinks. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact the office to confirm how many will be attending.



Graduates: If you or someone in your family is graduating from High School or college, please let the church office know at office@northmadisoncc.org or 203-421-3241.



Kent Siladi Preaching on June 14: We have a special opportunity coming up! Our Conference Minister Rev. Kent Siladi will be preaching on June 14 and staying after worship to participate in our next Getting Focused with Purpose Event. Please welcome him!



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!

Give Us Your Thoughts

In an effort to make our Sunday worship and sermon messages as relevant as possible, the Worship Planning Team would appreciate your direct input. For example:

1. What topics would you like to learn more about?

2. Where are you hurting?

3. What questions do you have about the Bible? What would you like to learn about, etc.?

4. What topics would you invite your friends to come hear?

Please jot your thoughts on this sheet and put it into the offering plate. You may also email them to Pastor Jim: Jim@JimLatimer.org

Thank you,
The Worship Planning Team

Your Name: _____

- 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!

Our last **Fire in the Kitchen** concert, Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas was promoted in *The Source* and *Shoreline Times*.

Mike DiGiorgio was highlighted in the April 20, 2015 edition of *The Source* for the birding hike he led on May 2 for the Madison Land Trust.

Ann and Bill Clemmons were featured in an article in Zip06 published May 20, 2015 and *The Source* on May 21. It's about their retirement from the Shoreline Youth Symphony (SYSP) and their last concert. You can read the article here <http://www.zip06.com/profile/20150520/madisonx2019s-ann-clemmons-celebrates-a-life-of-music> or see it on our bulletin board.

Office, Board and Committee Contacts:

Rev. Jim Latimer, Pastor	203-421-3241	Office Managers, Cathy Meier & Jackie Fix	203-421-3241
Christian Education	203-421-3241	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 Niejadlik	203-421-0997

OFFICERS

Executive Committee Chair, Tom Lauher	203-530-7467
Executive Committee Vice Chair, John Nassif	203-421-5374
Members of the Board of Deacons*:	See Below
Clerk, Eileen McCann	203-318-0068
Assistant Clerk, Eric Piekarz	203-421-8569
Treasurer, John Gallops	860-460-8573
Assistant Treasurer, Calvin Price	203-245-8566
Financial Secretary – Disbursements, Cathy Meier	203-421-8377
Financial Secy. of Receipts, Susan O’Connor	203-457-1559
Asst. Financial Secretary – Receipts, Mike Effenecy	203-457-6901

* Roberta Hanlon 203-421-4891; Karen Chapman 203-421-4834; Peter Haff 203-203-421-0295; Bruce Whittaker 860-669-5208; 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

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, John Nassif	203-421-5374
Communications Chair, Roberta Hanlon	203-421-4891
Deacon’s Service Chair, Melissa Blundon	203-996-0671
Fellowship Chair, Orlene Gallops	860-339-5844
Human Resources Chair, Holly Francis	203-245-7331
Missions Chair, Kate Summerlin	203-453-0700
Music Chair, Eileen McCann	203-318-0068
Nominating Committee Chair, Peter Haff	203-421-0295
Pastoral Relations, Chair, Peter Meier	203-421-8377
Property & Planning Chair, Jeff Chin	203-421-3498
Quiet Ministry Chair, Linda Young	203-457-0723
Stewardship Chair, Jim Farrales	203-421-9323



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 →

