

THE PRESTON PILGRIM

JUNE 2012

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” Mark 6:31

THESE ARE THE WORDS Jesus spoke to his disciples as they returned from their mission of preaching and teaching. As important as it is to do God’s work, Jesus recognized that to do it effectively we need periodic rest and renewal. Rev. Stan started his sabbatical (period of rest) after worship on May 20th. I hope in his travels and at home he will find quiet time alone with God. It’s been 14 years since he had a sabbatical and I was thinking about how much the church has changed and grown in this time. I was thinking of all the tasks we have as a congregation to keep the church strong and vibrant in his absence. I’ve been thinking about the trust he has put in all of us to do just that! Time will pass quickly and August 20th when he returns will be a time of rejoicing. Let us pray that, for now, the time that has been granted Rev. Stan is a time of spiritual renewal and re-energizing for him!!!

HOW FITTING that on the first Sunday that The Rev. Robert Wright was with us was *Pentecost Sunday* when the apostles were probably feeling quite lost without their leader as Christ had ascended into heaven. The *Holy Spirit* was sent to set them “on fire” and empower them to do Christ’s work. Thousands became believers that day and the church began. Here we are over two thousand years later, the church of today; may we, the church, be just as set “on fire” and empowered to do the will of our Lord.

A few words from Rev. Wright:

Thank you for such a nice friendly welcome to your church. I am honored to be serving you again as Pastor while Rev. Stan is on Sabbatical. If you have need for Pastoral care during the summer, please call the church office. I will be available for special occasions and, of course, since I visit Backus Hospital every day as Chaplain, I hope not to see any of you there. Let us all have a safe and healthy summer. As my friend, Rev. Cal, always says: “See you in church.” Rev. Bob

THINGS ARE RUNNING SMOOTHLY here thanks to all of you. God’s goodness is here...

May the **SON**shine through me,

Sandy Dudek

*From our organist and choir director, **Joyce Costner:***

To Reverend Stan and My Church Family,

It is with heavy heart and prayerful consideration that I submit this letter for my retirement.

I have been blessed to have been your organist and choir director for the past 30 years and what a fulfilling joy that has been for me. I will surely miss the people I have had the privilege of working with: the staff, the choirs and the congregation. But with certain health issues and other considerations, I feel it is time to step down. So I would like Sunday, September 2, 2012 to be my last day and for someone else to start anew for the fall season. Respectfully Submitted, *Joyce Costner*

This retirement letter was accepted, *WITH REGRET*, at the May Standing Committee meeting. Joyce will forever be a part of us! I've been fortunate to be on the "ministry team" with Joyce for 21 years. Our church has been blessed with her service.

WE WELCOMED into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

5.06 *Kylee Sue Janelle*, daughter of Crystal & James Janelle of Yantic.

We ask God's blessing upon this little one!

WE CONGRATULATED the following couple who was united in marriage:

5.19 *Melonie Cerrato* to *Andrew Kaleniaks* (The Mill On The River, South Windsor, CT)

WE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHY

to the family of *Donald Lee* who passed away on May 4th with his family by his side.

to the family of *Art Dawley* who passed away May 9th with his family by his side.

to the family of *Doris Benjamin* who passed away May 14th at the Norwichtown Rehabilitation Center.

CHILDREN'S DAY was a wonderful day that was well attended. Leading the students in that day were **Perfect Attendance** students *Emily Perry, Lindsay Bernier, Whitney Stanko, Brock Nowakowski, Jacob Bernier, Hunter Bustamante, and Hayden Bustamante*. They have set an example in commitment! **Thank** you so much for each of you who provided a Bible or two. What a meaningful gift and memorial. Thank you to the men from the Men's Group who were on hand to assist the High School teachers and students to prepare the picnic which was sponsored by the Board of Religious Education. Many thanks to Linda Kent-Farinha who lent me a hand that day so that things might run smoothly. The plant and gift presented to me by the Board of Religious Education was appreciated. They are a great Board...and what's more they have faith in me that I can keep an orchid alive...three ice cubes once a week...it's been two weeks...so far, so good! It's beautiful.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR Graduates...Alaina Brokaw, UCONN; Edward Lowe, Tina Brosnan, Eastern CT State University; Bill Coughlin, Norwich Tech. Are there others? Please call the church office so that we might send them a congratulatory letter.

On May 21st, Samantha Chinigo, Lauren Hodkinson, Alexandra Kobelski, and MiaLynne

Park were inducted into the Spanish Honor Society at NFA. *Congratulations!*

SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY is June 10th...we hope you will be on hand as the *Helen Benjamin Scholarships* are awarded to applicants working toward their first degree. The award given is based on active involvement in the church.

CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY is June 17th. Following worship, a coffee hour will be held in their honor. You may sign up to provide a baked good on the Information Center bulletin board. If you would like to coordinate the coffee hour that day, please call the church office. Our choir is so inspirational at the worship service; we thank God for their meaningful ministry

THE THEME DINNER on May 12th made a profit of \$952 which was given to the church budget. This year we had 8 tables instead of 12. The themes were Noah's Ark, Election, Take a trip, 4th of July, Halloween, Mother's & Father's Day, and the Celebration of Jesus' birth.

We would like to thank all of the hosts for making it a success: Loida Fessenden, Melissa Blondet, Cindy Perry, Bunny Perry, Lynn, Hunter and Hayden Bustamante, Holly Cyr, Casey Peek, Susan Strader, and Sandy Dudek. Special thanks to the Bustamante family for doing 2 tables.

Also, thanks to Lisa Lee-Walker, Sandy Dudek, Deb Harrison, Sally Exley, Lillian Fessenden, Linda Kent-Farinha, Barbara Lowden, Carol Beckwith & Robin Lyons for donating baskets, to Lisa Converse for the beautiful plant, and to All Friends Animal Hospital for donating a gift certificate.

Thanks to all of the kitchen help/ticket sellers: Carolyn Shea, Sally Exley, Katie Gates, Linda Hopkins, Jeannie, Alli, & Kendall Kobelski, Jordan Rank, Carol Onderdonk, Kaye Schlough, and Nicholas Fessenden . *Coordinators, Lisa Fessenden and Lee Ann Fessenden.*

THE YARD SALE also held on May 12th successfully raised \$758 which benefitted the church budget. Thank you to Stella Dawley, Coordinator and all those who brought items, who set up &/or cleaned up that day or helped in any way.

ART DAWLEY who entered into eternal rest May 9th certainly made his mark in the church he loved and served. Deacon. Trustee, choir member, and moderator were some of the positions he held. He taught all of us the importance of a warm greeting and handshake on a Sunday morning. He was *always* there at the door even in the latter days of his life and how the children loved him! It is seldom that someone 90 becomes so well known and endeared to a child of four. A humble man, he just always did what he could and *all those little things in life* we soon realize are *the big things in life*. We thank God for *Art Dawley*; he will never be forgotten.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL registrations are being taken; please send yours in or bring them to church to help in the planning. VBS is open to the community for children who have turned 4 by August 1, 2012 through 7th grade. (Exception: those who have attended our Nursery 3 Sunday School program may also sign up to attend. July 16-20th from 9-11:30 a.m. the church will be buzzing with activity as we explore "Adventures On Promise Island" *where kids discover God's lifesaving love*" put out by Standard Publishing. **There is a planning meeting Tuesday, June 5th at 6:30 p.m. in Halls' Fellowship Hall** for adults and teens who would like to get involved. The time you spend with the children will be time well spent! Call the church office to find what is still needed or just come Tuesday night. The Crafts Coordinator, Fonda Bell, has given us a list of needed items; it is posted on the bulletin board in the Information Center. Any item(s) you might supply us would be greatly appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE that our website is now: prestoncitycongregational.org

Thank you, Barbara Perry, for all your endeavors keeping our website up and CURRENT!

A FRIENDLY REMINDER... During the summer months when vacations and a more relaxed atmosphere prevails, often churches fall behind on their budget. Please make an effort to keep pledges current. Help us to keep going *strong* in 2012.

THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP has one opening for a youth entering 9th grade through those who graduate from high school this year and is registered and active in the Sunday School to take part in the summer mission trip to the Adirondack Mountains July 22-27. Please call the Giulianos (860.376.8901) or the church office (860.887.4647) if you might have an interest in going.

LOOKING AHEAD...

July 14th ... a delicious ham and bean supper is being planned by the Supper Committee. Tickets will be \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under.

August 9th ... 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. an AARP Driver Safety's 2012 Educator Appreciation Promotion will take place in Halls' Fellowship Hall. **All current and retired educators and school personnel are eligible to take the AARP Driver Safety classroom course for just \$5.00.** Further information will be forthcoming or is available by calling the church office.

September 22nd ... The popular Scarecrow Festival will take place from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. followed by a delicious chicken barbecue from 4:30-6:30 p.m. With the festival ending at 3:00 p.m. there should be no parking issues for barbecue patrons. Linda Kent-Farinha, Festival Chairperson and Carolyn Shea who assists her as well as committees have been working very hard to ensure the success of this year's festival. We always can use your help in one area or another prior to or the day of the festival. Call Linda (860.892.5215) or Carolyn Shea (860.887.8592) to find out how you can help.

College students reunion... Though an actual date has not yet been set, plans are being made to organize a time (with food!) where those who have been students here and are now college aged may get together. **Diane Schrage** (860.376.6360) is coordinating this event.

AGAPE... This is an LGBTQ support & advocacy group that is for teens 12-18 years old and is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 4-6:00 p.m. Friends and parents are welcome. For further information you may contact Deb Miller via email agapeadvocate@gmail.com

A CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP is being established and will be held every 1st Tuesday of the month from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Griswold Senior Center on Soule Street in Jewett City. This group is for both the novice as well as the seasoned caregiver. A Caregiver Support Group is a time for those who are caring for an elderly or ill family member, a friend or a neighbor to gather information, gain perspective and support and be rejuvenated. Marion Donato from Senior Resources – Agency on Aging will be facilitating the group meeting. The first meeting will be on June 4th. Please call 860.376.2604 for more information.

NEWSLETTER ADDENDUM

From the Organist/Choir Director:

Mother's Day went well with the "end of year" music by both Children and Youth choirs. They always add so much joy to our worship services. Many thanks to Lee Ann Fessenden and Katie Gates and Naomi Bushnell and Dee Sjostrand for directing them.

The adult choir's last Sunday for the summer will be on June 17th, our 18th annual Choir Recognition Sunday. After that there will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for soloists, duets, etc. or speak to me for special music.

And, once again, we are asking for the "Summer Choir" to come together on the last Sunday of the month (three Sundays). We'll gather in the Meeting Room at 8:30 for a quick rehearsal of a familiar hymn. There is no pressure and all ages are welcome.

Joyce Costner