

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM

*The newsletter of*  
**The Preston City  
Congregational Church**  
*Gathered 1698*

## **OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2012**

### **CHURCH ADDRESS**

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Preston, CT 06365-8108

### **TELEPHONE**

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### **FAX**

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### **WORSHIP**

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

8:45 A.M.

High School class: 10:30 A.M.

**EMAIL:** [PCCC@SNET.NET](mailto:PCCC@SNET.NET)

**WEBSITE:** [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

Follow us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the December newsletter is due in the church office by **November 18**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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### **FROM THE MINISTER...**

#### **SCARECROW FESTIVAL REVIEW**

The day could not have been nicer! After a damp, misty, and gray start to the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Scarecrow Festival, the sun appeared, dried the wet ground, and the event was *off and running* for another year – and the crowds kept on coming! It was an event enjoyed by everyone who attended.

The Festival isn't just the church's largest fundraising event of the year; it's our greatest opportunity to welcome people to our church. As I walked around during the day, I met a lot of nice people who not only commented favorably on the event, but also about the church, and the many people it takes to make an event like this happen. "*There's a good spirit among the people of this church*" was the comment I heard numerous times. Yes, people were working together, with a joyful spirit, to insure everyone had a great time; Boy Scouts, volunteers who are NOT members of the church (but good friends and supporters), as well as the Fire Company personnel all jumped in to aid us in our efforts that beautiful, first day of fall. There *was* a joyful spirit on the grounds that day and people noticed! Some even wanted to know more about the church; service times, and what the church had to offer (programs and activities).

You may see the Festival only as a fundraiser, but I see it as a "witness." It's the one day when people from many surrounding communities walk our grounds, and see what is possible when people work together for a common cause – the church. In a world filled with so much negativity, it's nice to offer something positive, good and wholesome to others. At the same time, people see that our church is a welcoming place for people and families.

To the Scarecrow Festival Committee, and the countless volunteers who made the day so enjoyable for others, I say thank you for another great Festival. Not all of the bills have come in as of this writing, so we don't know the amount raised, but as soon as we do, so will you!

If you were not able to get involved this year, think about doing so next year. It's a long and tiring day, but when it's over, you leave knowing it was worth ALL the effort and hard work!

Well done, church!

Rev. Stan

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**DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER...  
WE WELCOMED** into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

9-9 **Carter Thomas Toland**, son of Hope & Shawn Toland of Preston.

## FINANCE REPORT

We are in the last quarter of the year; is your pledge of financial support to the church up-to-date? If you're not sure, please contact Financial secretary Mary Ann Coughlin at 860.376.0568. The church counts on its members and friends to keep her financially healthy all year long. Thanks for your faithful support.

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## TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

*How can I ever thank you enough for all you did to make my retirement party so spectacular. I was truly overwhelmed by the amount of planning and the outpouring of love that I felt and shall never forget. Everything was just wonderful – from the great buffet to the beautiful cake (Thank you, Margie LePage); to the beautiful corsage and flowers (Thank you, Gail Hull); to the great slide show (Thank you, Scott Van Alst and Whitney); to the Children's Choir (Thank you, Lee Ann Fessenden and Katie Gates); to the Youth Choir (Thank you, Naomi Bushnell and Dee Sjostrand); to the Adult Choir (Thank you, Robin Lyon). Many thanks also for the beautiful new photo album with such kind words from Rev. Stan and Sandy Dudek, and the most generous gift from my church family. I feel that I have been truly blessed and honored to have been your organist & choir director for these 30 years, and to have seen our church grow in so many ways. I thank God for all of you and for His guidance in helping me to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.*

*Sincerely, Joyce Costner*

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## COMING UP IN OCTOBER

**Fall Yard Sale** – October 13 (rain date: October 27). The sale will run in the lower parking lot from 8 – 2 P.M. Help with set-up (6:30 A.M.) and clean-up (1:30 P.M.) is still needed. A sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board. Please lend a hand if possible. Stella Dawley is the chair of this event; please call her with any questions (860.887.6452). As the yard sale approaches, we ask that no donations be left outside the annex basement. Thanks.

**Turkey Supper** – October 20, from 4 - 6:30 P.M. Tickets are now on sale for the very popular community supper. You can purchase tickets during the coffee hour on Sunday morning, or by stopping by the office; Adults \$10, Children \$5. Your help is needed for this event; a sign-up sheet is posted on the mid-level bulletin board. Don't wait 'til the last minute to get your tickets, they sell very fast!

**Teen Challenge** – October 21. Plan to be present for this powerful and very moving worship service as young men from this life-changing organization share their music and life stories during both worship services.

**CT Fellowship** – October 21. The "Fall Gathering" of the "Fellowship of Northeast Congregational Christian Churches" (the Fellowship's new name) will meet at Third

Church in Middletown, CT on Sunday afternoon, starting at 3 P.M. If you'd like to attend the meeting, please contact the church office. We will car-pool from our parking lot at 2 P.M. and return to the church around 7 P.M. Come and meet fellow Congregationalists and learn what's going on in our sister churches throughout New England!

## LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

**Daylight Savings ends** on November 4. Be sure to turn your clock BACK one hour on Saturday night. You don't want to be *too early* for church services!!

**Christmas Bazaar** – November 10. This popular event begins at 9:30 and ends at 1:30. There are lots of great buys, homemade items, delicious foods and baked goods to enjoy during the day. Save the date and get here early for the best deals!! Judy Ladegard (860.537.3349) and Traci Rosiene (860.889.0238) are co-chairing this year's bazaar. Please contact them with any questions you have.

**Veteran's Day** – Be with us on November 11 as we honor all our Veterans during both services of worship.

**Senior Luncheon** – November 13, starting at Noon. Seniors from our church are welcome to attend this free meal prepared by members of the congregation. Please sign-up on the mid-level bulletin board. These monthly meals will be offered through March 2013. Why? Because we think our seniors are some pretty special people. Come and enjoy a nice meal, conversation with others, and who knows... a surprise, or two! Call the office if you have questions.

**New Members** – November 18, We will welcome new members into the church during both services of worship. If you've been attending the church for a while and wish to become a member, we'd love to have you! Sign the sheet posted on the mid-level bulletin board. We'll send you all the information. New members must meet with the Deacons on November 11.

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## THE NUTS ARE COMING!!

Our shipment of nuts and candy are due to arrive the latter part of October. All items come in 1 pound bags – they are exceptional quality. The walnuts and pecans can be frozen, so now is the time to get your year's supply. Prices are: Pecans, Mixed Nuts, Cashews, Harvest Medley - \$9; Walnuts, Pistachios - \$8; Trail Mix, Fruit & Nut Mix - \$6; Honey Roasted Peanuts, Gummi Bears, Malted Milk Balls, Chocolate Covered Raisins, Chocolate Covered Peanuts - \$5. You may place your order in advance by calling Phyllis Crary at 860.887.8412.

## CAN YOU HELP?

From time-to-time, people/families in our congregation are in need of a home-cooked meal. Maybe it's following a hospital stay, or when a baby is born, or upon the passing of a loved one, etc. Many people have generously volunteered to take on this act of compassion in years past, and now we are in need of more volunteers when the need arises. If you would be willing to be a part of this important ministry, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128.

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## TRIPS & TRAVELS...

*New for 2013 and beyond...*

**Hawaii** in April, 2013. Brochures are now available for this trip at the Information Center.

**South Africa** in April, 2014. Brochures for this trip just arrived. Pick one up at the Information Center.

Both of these destinations are open to the community. We can also arrange these trips for people throughout the country. Spread the word!

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## YOUTH MISSION TRIP

**A DEPOSIT OF \$60.00** is due at this time to reserve your spot on the Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia **July 28-August 3, 2013**. The check should be made out to PCCC Youth Missions and given to **Cheryl Giuliano**.

Those eligible for the mission trip are those students who will enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall as well as those who have finished high school in the spring (2013). Youth Mission Trip participants from the prior year will be given the opportunity to give a deposit when the trip is announced by letter, newsletter, or church bulletin. After two weeks, spots will be available for others who are eligible.

**October 28<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for prior year attendees to give their deposit.** Following that date **all** open spots will be available to those eligible.

As per our Youth Mission Trip Guidelines set by the Board of Religious Education, **all youth participants must** be registered in and active participants of the Sunday School for at least one year.

**THE CONFIRMATION CLASS 2013** has begun classes on Monday evenings with Rev. Stan and Sandy. We are happy to announce there are **10** young people undertaking this class. They are: R. J. Files, Kylyn Grenon, Christian Lombardi, Amanda Migliaccio, Ryan Miller, Tristan Malone, Sarah McLaughlin, Ciera Senuta, Seth Strader, and Joshua Wisniewski. Many different topics will be explored from the meaning of confirmation, the reformers, church history and much more. They each need to do 3 service projects in the church and attend a church meeting.

**ENVELOPES** similar to those the adults use for worship are available to the children. Please ask me if you'd like a box for your child. The Sunday School is self-supporting so even if your child attends church in the summertime, when the offering is placed in a Sunday School envelope, it is given to the Board of Religious Education treasurer.

**THE SR. PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School students) will meet in the Sunday School Hall and then carpool to Maple Lane Farm for apple picking October 7<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$1.50 for the hayride and \$1.35 per pound for apples. Sr. P. F. leaders are Cheryl & Jerry Giuliano.

**THE JR. PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School students) met on September 30<sup>th</sup> for a pizza party, games, and to plan activities for the coming year. **15** kids were present! They are off to a great start! Jr. P. F. leaders are Diane Schrage and Rev. Stan.

**PLEASE CHECK** the church bulletin for dates and times of youth groups activities.

**THE STORYTELLING ROOM** is being prepared for our first interactive session on **October 28<sup>th</sup>** during Sunday School time. Classes (grade 1 – High School) will visit Storyteller **Judy Ladegard** who will interact with them the story of **Creation**. Either before the time they go to the room or following it they will have reinforcement activities in the classroom. **December 16<sup>th</sup>** will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> session and will feature the **Nativity**.

I have long wanted to see this program begin in our Sunday School because I think the children remember so well what they become active participants in. As time goes on, I hope others will catch the vision and want to be a storyteller!

There is great reward in working with the children. We may not always see it the same day, but **Judy** is fondly remembered from Vacation Bible School 2012 for her effective storytelling involving many of our young people. She gives 100% and we thank her for being willing to juggle a busy schedule for our kids.

## MEN'S GROUP TO MEET

Join us for the first meeting of the Men's Group on Saturday morning, October 20, from 8:30 – 9:30 in the Meeting Room. We'll have coffee, donuts and fellowship. We'll also review future plans for the group. A brief sharing will be on "What is Faith?" Call Jack Smiley 860.889.7820 with any questions.

## AGAPE

This support/advocacy group for LGBTQ youth meets in Fellowship Hall on the first and third Sunday afternoons from 4 – 6 P.M. Supportive friends, parents and guardians are welcome to attend. For information about AGAPE (Greek for God's unconditional love for ALL) please contact Deb Miller at [agapeadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:agapeadvocate@gmail.com)