

WCF Presents:

BRACE YOURSELF for the **Holidays!!!**

With all the hustle and bustle the Christmas season brings, treat yourself to an evening of FUN and FELLOWSHIP

Join us on **Friday December 9th** at starting at 7pm for an evening of Christmas games, refreshments and song!

PLEASE BRING:

A "finger food" to share...beverages will be provided

A wrapped grab bag gift (value of \$5)...we will be playing a fun grab bag game for those who wish to participate

Your singing voice...or just a "humming voice" for a little Christmas caroling

Your happiest holiday smile!

PS...there will be a prize given for the "Most Festively Dressed Person" so find those blinking earrings or light up tie and head on over!!!

Questions??? - Call Barbara DeBisschop

Military Euchre Card Game Night

Saturday January 21st

7:00 pm

Come play this easy to play and fun card game in teams of six! Choose a country to play for and then go out and win games to capture the Flags of other countries. The more teams, the more fun! Mark your calendar now and see sign-up sheets in Parish House! This is an easy to learn game - we'll have a few practice hands until you get the hang of it. Please - bring your friends and build a team! Prizes to the winning teams! This is a 'not to be missed' event!

All church
ADVENT EVENT

Sunday

December 4

11:30am – 2:00pm

POT-LUCK lunch

Immediately following worship

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish House

Kristen Graves

Holiday Mini-Concert

12:30pm

Creative activities

for your home

and for our home-bound members

1-2pm

GOD'S ADVENTURERS

for all those in 4th and 5th grade

December 4 - Advent Workshop

11:30-2pm

January 8 – lunch & a movie

**Pilgrim Fellowship
Senior High Youth Group**

December 3 – Saturday, 7pm to

December 4 – Sunday, 9am LOCK-IN !!!

December 4 – 11:30 -2pm – Advent Event no evening meeting

December 11 – 6pm meeting in the PF room

"NASTY" Santa – bring a grab bag \$5-\$10

December 17 – SATURDAY 6-9pm **ALUMNI Night**

December 18 – no evening meeting

December 25 – Merry Christmas – no meeting

January 1 - Happy New Year -- no meeting

January 8-15-22-29 --- specific activities still to be determined.

We will soon begin Fundraising for the UCC **National Youth Event 2012**

July 10-13 - Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN

Cost should be around \$600 per person including bus transportation.

Registration information is now available.

Questions? Contact Marji Hughes 203-729-3037 or marjih@congonaug.org

**Please note on your calendar for the future Church fairs, the
Council Committee has asked that no donations for the fair be
brought to the Parish House until the end of October.**

Thank You for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

FROM YOUR CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Linda J. Herman

If you have moved or changed your email address, or would prefer to receive the monthly Parish Scope by email, kindly advise me by calling the church office (203) 729-3037, Extension 10 or email me at lindah@congonaug.org.

We also have an email list entitled CCON (your address will not be put on it unless you notify us of your desire to be included) that notifies recipients of prayers and concerns along with current updates, changes, etc. as we are able to send them out.

This page is dedicated to CHURCH RECORDS which will include weddings, baptisms, and funerals/memorial services, confirmands and new members for the previous month.

Baptisms

November 20, 2011

Tess Patricia Gehrkens daughter of Peter & Jillian Gehrkens

Godparents are Tod Willie & Cassandra Pierce

Cohen William Gehrkens son of Peter & Jillian Gehrkens

Godparents are Richard Saren & Patricia Gehrkens

November 27, 2011

Peyton Joseph Proto son of Marc & Michelle Proto

Godparents are Michael Proto & Nicole Reilly

Gianni Joseph Reilly son of Nicole Reilly

Godparents are Joseph Reilly & Michelle Proto

Funerals

November 19, 2011

Arletta T. Subataitis

Graveside Service

November 15, 2011

Kenneth R. Butler, Jr.

Covenantal Coordinator's Report: From Dave Shaw
(Annual Conference Meeting Report by Rev. Eric Anderson)

Annual Meeting Explores Rhythms and Imagination

GUILFORD (10/26/2011) -- Over four hundred ministers, delegates, and visitors came to the First Congregational Church UCC in Guilford on October 22nd for the Fall Session of the 2011 Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting. Invited to Imagine What's Possible, they shared their wisdom with members of the Conference Minister Search Committee; voted to become a Global Mission Conference of the United Church of Christ; and worshiped with Korean songs and drums, with Holy Communion, and even with dance.

"O God, transitions are no fun. Change terrifies us. We want to cling to what we know rather than seek what you want," prayed the Rev. Sara Penn-Strah, a member of the worship team, to open the day. "When we do," responded the assembly, "let the scales fall from our eyes, so we may behold your vision."

Throughout the day, speakers offered testimony and opportunity to take those scales away. "Only 1% of the world's population possesses 40% of the world's [possessions], but 50% of the world's population has just 1% of [possessions]... What's possible?" asked the Rev. Lee Kyungrim, Moderator of the Kyung-Ki Presbytery in South Korea, with the Conference has long-standing ecumenical partnership.

A drumming ensemble from the Storrs Korean Church UCC, the Conference's newest congregation, gave a special beat both to open the afternoon's worship and accompanied a profoundly moving prayer of confession sung in Korean by their pastor, the Rev. Chang Ho Jun, with the assembly responding with a Korean melody. The Rev. Gwak Seonkeun, who hosted Rev. Wildman on his spring visit to Korea, joined him at the communion table to celebrate the eucharist with him.

"Great leaders..." said Conference Preacher the Rev. Edward Rawls, "listen for the voice of the spirit and the cries of the people. Then they're able to articulate that vision to others in such a way that we end up doing what we never thought we would and trying what we never thought we could. You see, that's my hope for this Conference. God has yet more light to shine from God's Holy Word, and God has yet more great things in store for us to do."

Interim Conference Minister the Rev. Charles Wildman ruefully noted the 30,000 miles he's driven in the fourteen months of his ministry, but emphasized the Conference primary reason for being. "The Conference exists to serve the 244 congregations comprising the Conference. Our mission is to empower the church, from the smallest to the largest, to fulfill its Christian mission." It's not necessary or healthy to act as disconnected churches or clergy, he said. "We are not alone. We are the servants of the Church, and we have a covenant ministry together."

"Challenging times are ahead," he observed. "Some say the old mainline church is dying. I do not agree. We are **changing**, that's for sure, but not dying. In fact, our United Church of Christ, as I've said before, is needed more than ever." The UCC's theology, justice commitments, and spirituality are highly relevant for the twenty-first century. Adaptation to the new requires risk. "New ways require risking time, talent, and material resources. It's time to retire the phrase 'We've never done it that way.'"

At the center of the day, attendees met with members of the Search Committee for listening sessions, telling of their hopes for the next Connecticut Conference Minister. Reporting in the afternoon, **Search Committee Chair the Rev. Gordon Rankin** offered some of the characteristics that had been shared. Many things are often said, but one comes up in every setting: "We're looking for somebody who is visionary, someone who can listen to others but also do the process of discernment." Other attributes desired include a strong theologian, someone willing to take risks, someone accessible, and someone with a pastoral heart.

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Delegates voted to declare Connecticut a Global Mission Conference, committing it to lifting up, celebrating, and encouraging support for ministries around the world. Conference leaders will be available to encourage local churches to consider adopting the Global Mission Church designation as well.

The Living Waters Award was presented to Marilyn Graham, Executive of H.O.P.E., Inc., which provides affordable housing in southeastern Connecticut. "I'm truly, truly honored and humbled to have been selected to receive this award," she said, "especially when I consider how many people are doing good works throughout our state." H.O.P.E. has expanded from its first project in 1989, a home rehabilitation in New London, to expanded ownership opportunities, home repair workshops, and creating a rental program.

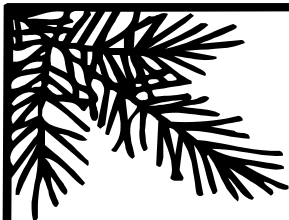
"Each step of the way, God has been speaking, showing us the needs in the community that we should respond to," she testified. "But I wanted you to know that the seed for all this work was planted back at our local United Church of Christ church in Mystic."

After thorough presentations on the Conference's fiscal situation, delegates approved a proposed budget which continues the existing staff and program commitments, which Conference Minister Wildman called an "investment" budget, making significant support available to local churches. The Conference has relied on "rainy day" funds designated by the Board of Directors to balance its budget for the last few years. Those sources, said Director of Finance and Budget Jane Fawcett, will probably be exhausted in 2012.

The 2012 budget projects that local churches will contribute just under \$1.6 million to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support, with **63%** of those gifts going to national ministries of the UCC, and asks each congregation for a per capita gift of **\$8.00 per member**, which will support Conference programs.

The Conference presented a check for \$15,000 to the **Rev. Shari Prestemon, Executive of Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi**. Delegates honored the work of the Public Education Advocacy Team, for their forty years of work striving to ensure a quality education for all children in Connecticut. The Rev. Bernard Wilson, who chaired the Unified Governance Task Force for the national setting of the UCC, described the constitutional changes passed by General Synod 28 in July and now awaiting ratification by the conferences.

And as the day closed, the Rev. Elizabeth Miller and Kelly Forbush blessed the assembly again with song and movement. "We will walk with God together," sang the gathered Church, clapping each others' hands and lifting their arms in the air. "We will go rejoicing 'till the work is done!"



**An Invitation
to a special
Christmas Worship Service
for the Longest Night**

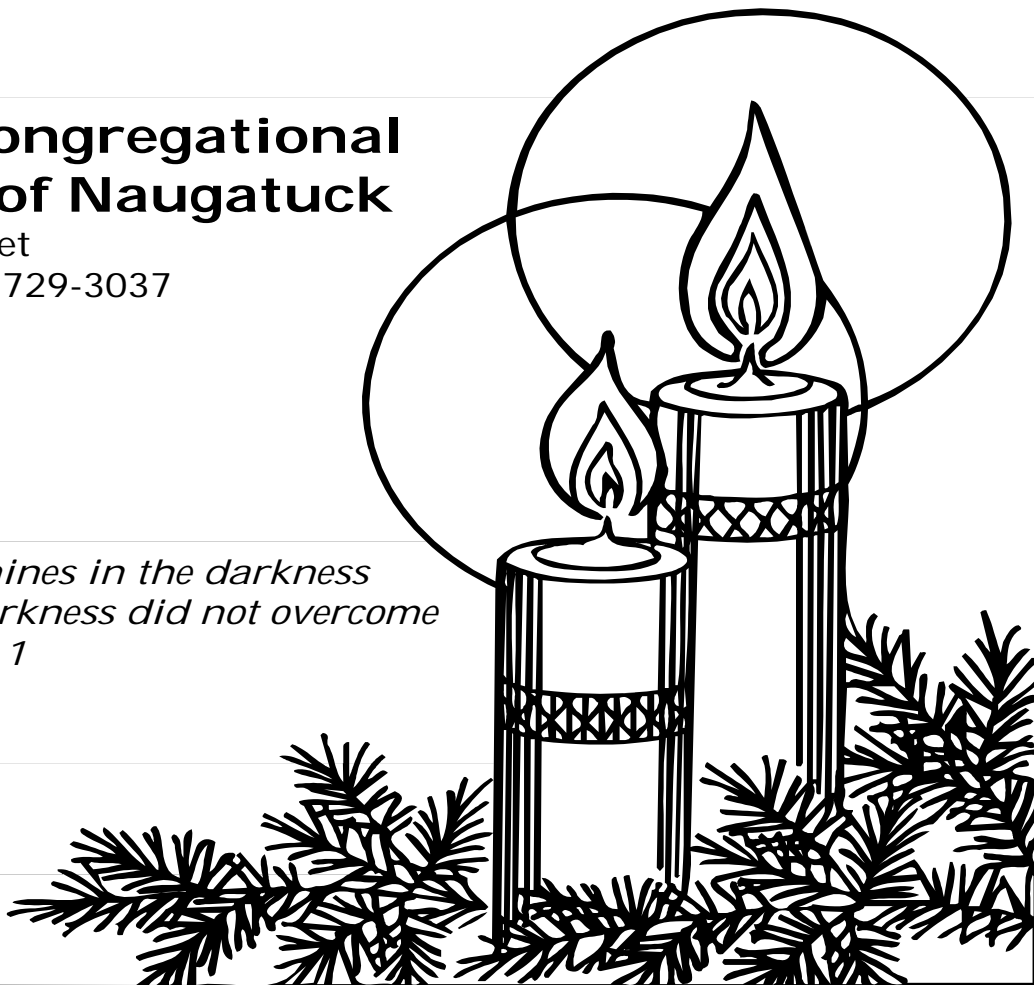
**A service of hope and comfort for those
who are grieving, lonely, hurting or
suffering.**

**Sunday, December 18
at 7:00 pm**

**at the Congregational
Church of Naugatuck**

Division Street
Naugatuck – 729-3037

*“The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness did not overcome
it.” - John 1*



The Naugatuck Ecumenical Outreach Network (N.E.O.N.) invites you to a

Free Community Dinner

Roast Pork

Sweet Potato Puree, Green Beans

And Dessert

Join N.E.O.N. for our Free Community Dinner

Saturday, December 17, 2011

(Due to increased need: eat in only)

5-7 pm

Saint Michael's Church, on Naugatuck Town Green

For more information, contact:

Judy a

The Naugatuck Ecumenical Outreach Network (N.E.O.N) is an Ecumenical Group of Caring Churches who have joined together to combat the growing problem of hunger in our community. Churches participating include St. Michael's, Salem Lutheran, Immanuel Lutheran, Hillside Covenant Church, Congregational Church, all in Naugatuck; and Christ Church in Bethany and Calvary Life Center in Waterbury.

Christmas Day Dinner Program

REGAN KELLY MORGAN KELLY

CO-CHAIRMAN

ST. MICHAEL'S HALL ON THE GREEN

ON DECEMBER 25TH THE CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER COMMITTEE WILL AGAIN SPONSOR A COMMUNITY **CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**. FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO SHARE THEIR CHRISTMAS WITH OTHERS. WE ARE ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THIS HAPPY OCCASION. THE DINNER WILL BE PREPARED ON DECEMBER 24TH AND SERVED ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

WE NEED HELP ON THE 24TH FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. IN THE CHURCH HALL TO CLEAN AND CHOP VEGGIES. DECORATE THE HALL AND SET UP THE TABLES & CHAIRS. IN ADDITION, WE NEED HELP CARVING THE TURKEYS AND HAMS; HOWEVER WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CARVING KNIFE.

ON DECEMBER 25TH WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP DELIVER MEALS TO THE HOMEBOUND (AROUND 11:00 A.M.). SERVERS FOR THE HALL (AROUND 11:45 A.M.) AND A REALLY DEDICATED CLEAN-UP CREW (AROUND 1:30 P.M. TO ABOUT 3:00 P.M.). IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED IF YOU COULD DONATE DESSERTS SUCH AS CAKE COOKIES, PIES, ETC. (PLEASE HOWEVER NO CREAM DESSERTS). IF YOU COULD HELP WITH THE DESSERTS WE PLEASE ASK IF YOU CAN BRING THEM BY THE HALL ON DECEMBER 24TH BETWEEN 9:00 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE A DINNER OR NEEDS A MEAL DELIVERED TO THEIR HOME, PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COST FOR THIS DINNER

MIKE KELLY

HOME: 203-723-1640

CELL: 203-509-3087

OFFICE: 203-729-2000