



The Parish Scope

Volume 57, Issue 3

March 1, 2010

The Congregational
Church of Naugatuck
Division Street
Naugatuck, CT
06770

Lenten Series 2010

“In Another’s Shoes”

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Special points of interest:

- * Lenten Series & Booklet
- * Youth Sunday
- * Remembering Frank Johnson
- * WCF Movie Night
- * Goods & Services
- * Holy Week

Wednesday, March 3rd – 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Inside Islam

Mongi S. Dhaouadi, Executive Director of the Connecticut Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, will provide us with some inside perspective on practicing Islam. This is not an intergenerational program; however, childcare can be arranged by contacting the church office at least a week in advance.

Wednesday, March 10 – 6:30-8:00 p.m. – A dramatic look at Judas.

Join us for a little bit of Lenten dinner theater. Our evening will start with a potluck. Then a dramatic presentation of Judas roll in Christ’s ministry and passion will help us consider his perspective. This is an intergenerational evening.

Wednesday, March 17 – 7:00-8:00 p.m. – When Religion Hurts

We will show a portion of the movie “The Crucible” about the Salem Witch Trials and consider what it must have been like to have been on the receiving end of religious persecution. This is not an intergenerational program; however, childcare can be arranged by contacting the church office at least a week in advance.

Wednesday, March 24th – 6:30-8:00p.m. – Global Awareness Meal

We will be serving you a special meal to help you look at what it is like to live in other cultures and other statuses. The meal will cost \$1.00 a person. This is an intergenerational program – all ages are invited.



FROM YOUR SENIOR PASTOR

CROSSING THE ROAD

I received a wonderful invitation the other day. I was asked if I could gather a few of our church members and have us present a workshop at the Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting this May. The topic assigned for our workshop was the ways in which mission and service nurture our faith. Using mission and service as a means for spiritual growth and development was seen as a real strength of our church. I quickly agreed. I was sure I could round up a few people to tell personal stories of how mission and service have been transformative. The most challenging part of accepting the invitation is I had to provide a title for our workshop. Finally I decided upon a phrase I used in the sermon I preached at the Church of Christ, Congregational, in Goshen just the week before.

My sermon that day was on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Here is a little of what I had to say:

“There was a man who was mugged, beaten and left for dead along the Jericho road. A priest came by but would not cross the road to see what was wrong with the man. A Levite came by but neither would he cross the road to help the man. Finally, a foreigner – a Samaritan – came by. He saw the man and had compassion. He bandaged him up, took him to a hotel and cared for him for the night, and the next day gave the innkeeper money to care for him until he could return.

So Jesus asks which of these was a neighbor?

Of course, it was the Samaritan – the foreigner – one whom the original hearers of this story would have really looked down upon. This isn't to say that priest and Levite were bad people. Most likely Jesus picked a priest and a Levite – a temple worker – because they would have been viewed as those who help people all the time. But they helped those closest to them, those of a certain status. But when it came time to cross the road, they stayed on their own side.

No it was only the Samaritan – the one who had all kinds of social pressures stacked against him – who crossed the road to help. It was the Samaritan who was willing to stretch himself outside his comfort zone. It was the Samaritan who was willing to drop whatever he had planned in order to give that day to helping another.

To me mission is about crossing the road. It is not just about helping. We can do that in the same manner as the priest or the Levite. But rather it's about stretching ourselves to help in ways we never thought we could. It is about seeing someone as a neighbor who we would have never even taken the time to see before.”

Yes, I chose the title “Crossing the Road”. And I think it is an important component of our call to discipleship for us all to remember. Jesus teaches that we need to do more than just help our neighbor. We need to cross the road. We need to be engaged in ministry in those places that are out of our way and out of our comfort zones. The miracle of “crossing the road” ministries is that they are transformative and healing not only for the one being served, but also for the one doing the serving.

Gordon

Confirmation Class

The confirmation class will be meeting on Sunday, March 7, from 4 to 6 pm for our trip to visit a funeral home. The class will meet on Sunday March 21 and 28 at it regular 4 to 5:30 pm time. March 28th will be our Holy Week Party and Bibles are due that day.

Lenten Devotional Booklet

Our 2010 Lenten Devotional Booklet with reflections written by our own church members are available. Print copies are available in the Parish House and in the Narthex. Digital copies are available on the homepage for our church website (www.congonaug.org). *A special word of thanks to the many authors who contributed.*

From Your Christian Educator

From your Christian Educator

During these weeks of Lent, your youth are exploring in two very big ways what it means and how it feels to be *LOST* – those times when God seems distant or even non-existent. Yet, how God's unending and abundant love, mercy and grace are *revealed* to us through Jesus Christ and the Old Testament prophets. And that each of us not only has the ability but the responsibility to be God's hands and reveal God's heart to others.

These are not simply Sunday School lessons learned, but lives as lived and modeled by you - our youth's church family - where faith is revealed and really takes shape. Youth Sunday, March 7 and the Homelessness Awareness Sleep out, March 13-14 are outward expressions of our teenagers' growing faith. Know that your continued love and support of them on these days are outward expressions of yours.

God, give us hearts to perceive You in all that we are and have. Our words and our actions are but the outward expression of Your life in us. We ask that day by day we would grow closer to all that You have designed us to be, and in doing so may our living begin to change our world. Through Jesus Christ our teacher and savior, Amen

In Christ's Service,
Marji Hughes

**Sr PF will hold a
HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS SLEEPOUT
Saturday, March 13 – Sunday, March 14
Noon – Noon
All day and all night - on the green
Donations support Brass City Harvest**

**Please drop by and support our Youth in their call to action.
Firewood, pallets, tarps, meals, adult assistance needed.
Please contact Douglas or Marji Hughes 203-729-3037**

LOST - REVELATION

Youth Sunday

March 7

Join our Sr High PF
at 8:30am or 10:15 am
worship

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. Mourning and crying and pain will be no more. See, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:4-5

Make it a Silver Lake summer!

Registration has begun for Silver lake summer conferences.

From 4th grade through high school and families as well – there's a week for you.



EVERYONE who attends from our church regardless of need, receives \$100 toward the cost.

Please speak with Marji Hughes or Gordon for extra help if needed.

Flyers are available in the church office and during coffee hour. OR just go online

<http://silverlake.ctucc.org> or www.ctucc.org and click on the Silver Lake link.

There will be a

CHURCH SCHOOL "TEACHER" BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 21, 8:30am in the Soper Room

In appreciation for their faithful efforts and to give our volunteer leaders an opportunity to discuss concerns and joys. All teachers, co-leaders and shepherds for 2009-2010 are invited.

If you can help with set-up, serving or clean-up, PLEASE contact Marji Hughes marjih@congonaug.org or 203-729-3037 ext 17.



*****POWER XPRESS*****

The Church School is looking for short-term helpers for 3 weeks during April. We will be learning the **What's, How's and Why's of Worship** while we plan for Children's Day. If you have ever asked the above questions on Sunday mornings, please join us. Speak with Marji Hughes if you are interested

Church School Calendar

March 7 – YOUTH SUNDAY – Family Sunday – no church school

Children 4 years and below may use the nursery.

March 14, 21 – Children begin in the auditorium at 10:15am and proceed to their Experience Stations following Jr. Worship.

March 28 – Holy Week Discovery Sunday – All children ages 4 through grade 6 will come together for a one day Holy week "extravaganza"

April 4 – EASTER – Family Sunday – no church school

Children 4 years and below may use the nursery

Put this on your calendar --- **Children's Day Worship is MAY 9** – Mother's Day

Our children will plan and lead worship for both the 8:30 and 10:15am services.

There WILL be one more month of Sunday School following Children's Day.



For more information or to volunteer for any Christian Education or Youth opportunity, please call/email Marji Hughes, 203-729-3037 or marjih@congonaug.org.

All 9th-12th graders are invited to

Pilgrim Fellowship

Senior High Youth Group

March 7 - Youth Sunday both services. Be at church 8am!!!!

March 7 - 6-8pm to prep for the Homeless Awareness Sleep out

March 13-14 Noon-Noon **HOMELESS AWARENESS SLEEPOUT** on the green

To support Brass City Harvest. Dress appropriately for the weather and the overnight outside.

March 21 - Coat Rack Volleyball vs. Gordon and Fredd's team 6-8pm

March 28 - 6-8pm

April 4 - Easter Sunday no PF meeting

April 9-11 - PF/Scrooby Retreat at Silver Lake \$100 per person

You MUST register and pay \$25 by March 21 to attend.

Final payment due before we leave on Friday.

Meet at church 5:30pm Friday, return during coffee hour Sunday.

Please speak with Marji if you need help with the cost.

Your PF leaders for '09-'10:

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

Barbara DeBisschop

Dixie Lafo

Douglas Hughes

Mary Pelletier

"FRIDAYS"

once a month

Adult supper and discussion

March 26

6:15pm - supper

7:00pm - coffee and discussion

Child care available if requested in advance. Contact Marji Hughes

203-729-3037 if you have any questions

WELCOME HOME

Congregational Church of Naugatuck, UCC

Women's Retreat

May 21-23, 2010

Edward's House, Framingham, Mass.

Cost: \$90

Space limited to 28

\$25 deposit requested to hold your place.

Optional lunch at Chinese Buffet on the way home approx. \$16.00

Speak with Marji Hughes to register or with questions.

THE NEXT CELEBRATION OF CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF NAUGATUCK will be World Day of Prayer held Friday, March 5th at Hillside Covenant Church, 100 Hillside Avenue, Naugatuck. There will be a potluck luncheon at 12 noon which will be followed by a special program "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God" which was written by the women in Cameroon. There will be a slide presentation about Cameroon. Everyone is asked to bring items for the Women's Emergency Shelter and pennies for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Please try to attend. Men, as well as women, are invited to this interesting program.

Dear Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to thank my church friends for their acts of kindness they showed me after my recent surgery. I appreciated the greeting cards, telephone calls, visits and flowers that came my way. I just want you to know I sincerely thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Peace, Mary Esther Mallory



Covenantal Coordinator's Report: From Dave Shaw

We're in the late winter time as Lent approaches. We're ready to burst forth into Spring as we notice the lengthening of days.

Silver Lake Registrations are being accepted. NEON served a wonderful meal again. Our Oaxaca Fund-raiser Coffeehouse went well, giving us a time of fellowship, entertainment, and learning about Simply Smiles. Watch the next report for information on the Spring Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference in Madison at the First Congregational Church on May 8th. (Or keep an eye on the www.ctucc.org website.)

Gordon will lead one of the workshops entitled: **Nurturing Faith Through Mission and Service**. This one day meeting of the Conference has worship, workshops, and more!

So, come join your delegates at the Annual Conference Meeting or any of the following meetings or events.

April 25- Naugatuck Valley Association Meeting, Waterbury First Congregational Church

May 8- Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting and Gathering: Spring Session, First Congregational Church of Madison

See www.ctucc.org for the Connecticut Conference and Silver Lake sites.

See www.ucc.org for the General Synod site, which has many resources.

See www.stillspeaking.com for the UCC Identity Campaign and the cool TV ads.

See <http://www.amistadamerica.org/> for the news about ship Amistad.

Inclement Weather

In cases of inclement winter weather on Sundays, please turn to WTNH (Channel 8) or WFSB (Channel 3) for closure information. You may also check their web sites wtnh.com or wfsb.com. (Please understand both sites only allow limited options to report closure.) We also try to change the "worship service times" message on the church answering machine to reflect any cancellation of worship services or church school.

Remembering Frank Johnson



It's known that the group of people who regularly attend the 8:30 a.m. chapel service is a rather tight group. We look out for each other - if someone is absent from our little service on any particular Sunday, someone else from the group either inquires or makes sure that missing person is okay. It's been like this for years.

So it is with a deep sorrow that we recently said good-bye to one of our special members of the 8:30 clan, Frank Johnson.

Now, many things have been written and many more have been said about Frank since his passing. Perhaps all of those comments were best summed up by his son, Franklin, Jr., who said of Frank in his eulogy, "When you met my father one time, you were his friend. By the time you met him again, you began to love him." And with Frank, that was a lot of love.

Everyone in this church knows of Frank and his commitment to his family, his community, his church, and his nation. That much has always been known and never questioned. I don't know about anyone else, but my wife Laurie and I have attended every Memorial Day Parade since moving to Naugatuck in the 1980's and not a year went by when seeing Frank in that parade, the parade he organized for his fellow hero veterans, didn't bring a tearful moment of pride and love.

But what I want to tell you about is the Frank Johnson we at the 8:30 service knew. Granted, it was pretty much the same Frank Johnson everyone else knew. With Frank, you learned right away that what you saw is what you got. There was no pretense about Frank Johnson. But in our little service every week, we got to spend time with a true gentleman and Christian. We looked forward to the Sunday service on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day weekends every year because Frank would take a moment during service to remind us where we'd be if not for the heroic sacrifices of the men and women in our armed services. And early on in his career as pastor, Gordon too learned to remember to turn the floor over to Frank on those special days.

Frank was a bit of an enigma. He was a hero, serving our country in its greatest hours, and yet he refused to be cast as a heroic person, shedding that light on those who were not as lucky as he. Frank would do anything and everything to help out in community and nation and for our veterans and yet never sought any recognitions for those efforts. And I know that although he would have bristled at all the attention he received at his military funeral, he would be greatly honored by the tributes shown him, from the pack of cub scouts and ordinary citizens lining the Naugatuck parade route as his body made its last ride, to the rows and rows of American flags that flew on that cold winter morning in his honor.

We at the 8:30 service have lost a good friend, one of our own. This congregation has long a great man, and this community as well. But as long as we continue to serve as Christians, as neighbors, and as Americans, we honor the man who honored so many.

God bless you, Frank Johnson.

Easter Flowers are available for purchase as Dedications or Memorials for
Easter Sunday.

Both Pink and White Easter Lilies are available at \$13.00 each.

Special order flowers are also available!

If you would like to supply your own flowers, please arrange to have them at the church by Saturday
morning, April 3, 2010

If you would like to place a special order for flowers other than Lilies,
please call Peggy Dufresne

Please fill out the form below and send to the attention of
Peggy Dufresne

by March 22nd with your payment (Cong Church of Naugatuck). Thanks.

Please order the following: (\$13 each)

Number of Pink Lilies: _____ **Number of White Lilies:** _____

Number of Tulips: _____ **Number of Daffodils:** _____

Other: _____

Dedication Name:

By:

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, confirmations and new members. Deadline for CHURCH RECORDS will be the 15th of the month to be included in the following month Parish Scope.

FUNERALS

January 30, 2010

Franklin E. Johnson, Sr.

BAPTISMS

January 31, 2010

Cloe Amelia & Gabe Peter Jurgaitis, daughter & son of Peter & Charlene Jurgaitis

Godparents are Kristine & Mark Chabot

Aidan Russell Cole, son of Stacy Cole

Godparents are Victoria Wold, Elizabeth Cole and Eric Wold

February 21, 2010

Colby Michael Pronovost son of Michael & Melissa Pronovost

Godparents are Theodore & Kristin Ragozinski

Hayden Kirk Thomas Negron son of Edwin & Leticia Negron

Godparents are Cory Battaglia & Cheryl Lillis

Alivia Grace Bogert daughter of Brian & Lauren Bogert

Godparents are James Rea & Abbey Uszakiewicz

Deacon's Corner Reflection

by Barbara DeBisschop

Go For the Gold!

Isaiah 40:29-31 (NIV) ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

One of the best parts of the start of this New Year has been the 2010 Winter Olympics. I have loved watching these remarkably talented athletes compete for the prize they have been working towards for most of their young lives. I've settled in many nights to see speed skating, ice dancing, luge, downhill skiing, snowboarding and even the captivatingly odd sport of "curling" (which looks like sweeping to my novice eyes!). The ability of these athletes thrills me and as I sat wrapped in a blanket eating a cookie, I watched history being made. I cheered when the top three winners donned their respective medals, got choked up hearing the national anthem of any country and from my comfy perch on my leather couch, I was exhilarated by the pinnacle moments of glory these winners had achieved.

In stark contrast however, were the moments of grandiose failure. If there are winners, then there has to be those that lose. Holding my breath, I saw hopeful contenders, who have exhibited amazing ability prior to arriving in Vancouver, step up to their performance and within moments watch their dreams be dashed. Each 1 or 2 minute performance is backed up by years of practice, self-discipline and regimented living. High hopes carry these people to these games and while it's incredible to simply contend in a competition of this magnitude, the heartbreak of not reaching your dreams must be staggering. Certainly all hope is not lost for these Olympic hopefuls, but tell that to the kid who ranked fourth place because of a one-one hundredth second delay in his routine.

As much as I was energized by the achievements, I was equally caught up in the disappointment. For most of us, we can relate to dashed dreams in one form or another. Whether we suffer with broken relationships, financial hardship, loss of a loved one, physical illness...we as humans can identify with disappointments. Even the most seemingly "together" people would confess disappointment and the resulting weariness it can bring into our lives. As in all things, it's not *what* we face that is the focus so much as *how* we face it; so finding a way to cope with dashed dreams is essential.

So where can we turn when we are faced with serious disappointment and all hope feels lost? Where can we turn when we are weary from the storms of life and our strength to rally wanes? Martin Luther King Jr. is quoted as saying "*We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope*". Renewal, reparation and restoration are available through the source of all infinite hope and it is the promise of the Living God to renew our strength and help us soar.

Whether we are leaving Vancouver without a medal or looking at the fractures in our own lives, the God of hope knows and understands us. Our dreams and disappointments, hopes and heartbreaks are God's business and he cares for us beyond our comprehension. Trust your life to his care, all of your life...give him the laughter and the pain, the disappointments and the hopes and watch in wonder as our God paves a path peppered with serendipitous blessings and showers you with peace for the journey.

Prayer:

In all times, God, I turn to you...maker of heaven and earth, creator of mankind. Thank you for your promises of renewal and restoration meant specifically for me. I surrender my hopes and my hurts to you, trusting in your plan for my life. Help me to live within the shelter of your loving embrace accepting the life of victory you offer through the gift of your son, Jesus. Amen.

WCF presents:



MOVIE NIGHT!!!

Friday March 12th at 7pm

Defending Your Life

After Daniel Miller (Albert Brooks) crashes his BMW convertible into a bus, he's transported to "Judgment City," where he meets the love of his life, Julia (Meryl Streep). Unfortunately, Daniel needs to defend his life on Earth before he can ascend to heaven with Julia. He frantically attempts to explain the positive things he's accomplished, but soon realizes that Julia may be too good for him.....rated PG

Bring a snack to share – beverages provided

Childcare will be available and a Disney Movie will be shown in the PF room

***Bring a donation to the Sock or Towel Ministries

Save the Date! Sunday April 11th - right after church

Walking Tour & Museums in New Haven...

hosted by Dave Shaw!!!

Goods & Services Auction

As is our tradition, we will be holding a Goods & Service Auction on **Saturday, March 20th** to raise fund for this year's Oaxaca Mission Trip. The doors will be open for preview at 6:30 p.m. and the auction will go live at 7:00 p.m. Auction items range from Red Sox Tickets to an hour of massage to a hand-made croqueted afghan. There will something for everyone to bid on. Mexican snacks will be served throughout the evening.

If anyone has goods (brand new, please) or services they would like to donate, please speak with Gordon or a member of the Oaxaca Mission Team by Tuesday, March 16th.

HOLY WEEK

A look ahead at the events of Holy Week (a more detailed listing will be included in the April Parish Scope):

Sunday, March 28th – Worship for Palm Sunday, 8:30 and 10:15 a.m.

Thursday, April 1st – Seder Dinner, 5:30 p.m.; Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 2nd – Good Friday Service of Prayer and Reflection, 7:30 p.m.; *there will be no ecumenical service this year.*

Sunday, April 4th – Easter Sunrise Service , 6:30 a.m.; Festival Services of Easter Worship, 8:30 & 10:15 a.m.

Join PF Sunday,

March 7 at 7pm

in the Soper Room

**for a presentation and question/answer session
with the coordinators of**

Brass City Harvest

**who will speak on the realities of homelessness in our community
and how Brass City Harvest is working with those in need.**

Do you want to be kept up to date on church activities, events and prayer concerns? We are constantly trying to keep our email distribution list up to date. If you'd like to be added or if your email address has changed contact the church office (729-3037) or email Linda at lindah@congonaug.org.

We also offer the Parish Scope by email instead of bulk rate mail. If you wish to be added to this list, kindly contact Linda.
