

THE TIE that binds

December 2011



1241 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340
860-445-6126
www.pbbcgroton.org

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24th at 7:00 pm

Come and celebrate with us
as we welcome the birth of Christ
with adoration and praise!

Family and friends are all warmly invited.



Christmas Carols and Scripture Readings
Advent Candle Lighting and Special Music
A Story for the Children
A Message for Christmas Eve
The service will be followed
by refreshments and fellowship!

PASTORS NOTES:

Gift-Giving Opportunities

Underneath the Christmas tree in the sanctuary there are a few gift-giving opportunities. There are some gift suggestions for our adopted family, and you are welcome to make donations toward gift cards or other outreach efforts through Groton Social Services. Gifts must be in the week of December 12th. Please speak to Belle Jordan for more information. On December 11th we will also be receiving our Second Sunday Food Collection. These non-perishable items will help stock the shelves of our Groton Food Locker for assistance through the holidays.

Receiving New Members

On Sunday, December 11th we will joyfully receive three new members into our congregation. Please extend a warm loving welcome to Barbara Bellefleur, and to Carol and Dave Rowley. We extend to them the Right Hand of Fellowship, and we celebrate their decision to walk the faith journey with us. Welcome Barbara, Carol and Dave!

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

During the month of December we will have the opportunity once again to say "Thank You" to the retired American Baptist minister and missionaries who have served our denomination so faithfully over the years. Offering envelopes will be available in the pew racks. These gifts provide Thank You checks and financial assistance to over 3,000 retired pastors and spouses. Let us give generously to those who have served generously!

Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Claudine will be away on vacation from Tuesday, December 27th through Thursday, December 29th. If there are emergencies or pastoral needs during this time, please call Liz in the church office or our Moderator, Richard Tourjee, at 860-536-6989.



You are invited to
Christmas Dinner

on December 25th

From 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

at

Union Baptist Church

Mystic, Connecticut

ALL ARE WELCOME!

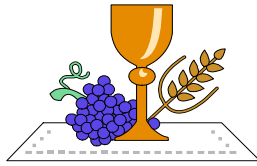


Reservations not necessary.

To arrange a ride or for home meal
delivery, call Gayle Oko at 860-536-1272
by December 21st.



FREE!



December Ministers:

Communion: Prepare: Bobbi Morton, Barbara Brant

Serve: Peggy Straub, Pete Wong

Barbara Brant, Darrell Tootell

Assist Pastor: Bobbi Morton

Lay Leaders:

04-Bobbi Morton

11-Holly Mulvihill

18-Rick Tourjee

25-Marvin Wong

January Ministers:

Communion: Prepare: Ron Land, Catherine Greenfield

Serve: Jane Imdahl, Ron Land

Catherine Greenfield, Wilfred Vars

Assist Pastor: Bob Nelson

Lay Leaders:

01-Barbara Brant

08-Anita Nelson

15-Dianne Dellarco

22-Jackie Dorobkowski

29-Irving Hiller

Candle Lighters:

Ackley, Mackenzie

Bassett, Nick

Butler, Noelle

Greene, Adam

Greene, Matthew

Lewis, Alex

Pasqualini, Kaitlyn

Birthdays!

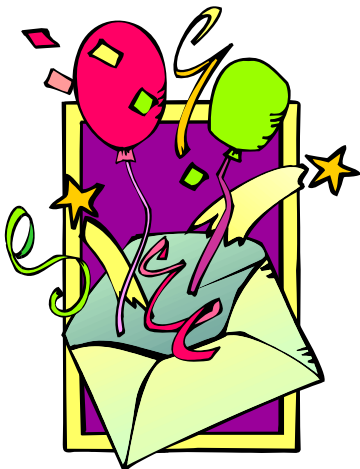
December

04-Sandy Wong
05-Joan Watkins
07-Robert Nelson
10-Ted Hespeler
11-Richard Spencer
17-Clyde Myers
21-Shelia Manchester
25-Catherine Hiller



January

01-Peter Deveau
02-Noelle Butler
02-William Deveau
04-Mackenzie Rose Ackley
05-Eric Bianchi
05-Ronald Land
07-Pete Wong
08-Phyllis Ross
09-Barbara Bellefleur
15-Patti Crooks
15-Adam Greene
15-Matthew Greene
16-Jackie Dorobkowski
17-Go Tuang
17-Jody Endrich
18-Richard Tourjee, Sr.
22-Libby Ribarich



Wishing everyone a safe and Haaaaappy Birthday!!

Thank You's!

Dear Claudine and Ladies of the Church,

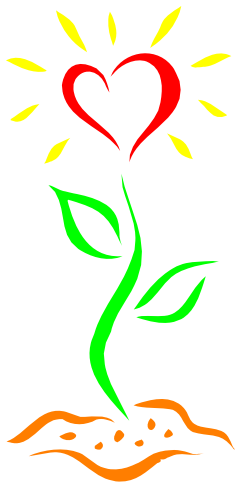
**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to share the story of Fanny Crosby, for your warm and wonderful fellowship (and good food!), and for your generosity.**

It was such a pleasure to be with you all!

Do keep in touch. Maybe you all could take a field trip to come see me - or better yet, get up a bus and we will all do a road trip!!

God bless,

Melodye Whatley



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

December 5, 2011

Minutes of Nov.13 Special Church Business Meeting were amended to add the phrase “rake and soffits” after “windows” in the motion to accept the bid from Rick Maddox for wrapping the parsonage windows.

Correspondence: A letter from the town of Groton indicated that the taxes on 15 South Road will decrease significantly in 2012.

Financial Reports for November:

Financial Secretary: General Fund deposit: \$10,170

Mission Fund deposit: \$ 655

Memorial Fund gift: \$75

Stewardship update: 39 pledges have been received for \$73,564 toward the 2012 budget. There are still some pledges that have not been received from families who pledged last year.

Treasurer: Disburse: \$12,063.88 Monthly. Bal: \$-1,893.33

Benevolence Treasurer: Offerings: Dec. \$52 Disbursements: \$200 Bal. \$333.92

Pastor's Report:

- **Upcoming dates:**
 - 12/11-** Right Hand of Fellowship will be extended to new members Barbara Bellefleur and Carol and David Rowley.
 - 1218-** Carol Sing and pot luck luncheon following worship.
- Pastor Claudine presented a request from the **Care and Share** program of MAEC in which they ask to base their voucher program at PBBC. This arm of the ecumenical council of churches has been based at St. Mark's church in Mystic for many years. It seems timely to move it to another site. It will require the use of our facility for one afternoon a month when food and gas vouchers are dispensed, and the services of our secretary to field telephone calls from clients requesting services.

Deacon and Committee Reports:

Worship/Membership: Plans have been completed for the reception of new members.

Education/Discipleship: No report

Mission/Outreach:

- Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering will be held in December.

- Adopt-a-Family: Our family consists of Mother and three children. Gift cards will be most appropriate as the gifts have to be turned in to Groton Human Services by Monday 12/12.

Buildings/ Grounds:

- Shipman Co. examined the fire extinguishers recently. Pete will call to determine if the inspector took two away for servicing or if they are missing for another reason.
- The invasive vines have been removed from the rental property, however, the roots will have to be dealt with in the spring.

Stewardship/Finance:

- Finance Committee will have the budget in presentable form and emailed to all council members this week. It will be on the January council agenda for approval. It was requested that headings for each division of the proposed budget be placed in the printed budget to make it easier for reference.
- It was noted that the \$5000 gift designated for ceiling renovation has not yet been transferred to the Ameriprise account. Yvette and Bob will coordinate the transfer this week.

Pastoral Relations. No report

Hospitality: The committee will have a cake for the New Member's Reception on 12/11. Marilyn will also plan the fellowship following the Christmas Eve Service.

Nominating Committee:

- There are still one deacon's position and several appointed positions to be filled for the 2012 slate.
- Clarification was made concerning the council positions of "Deacons of Stewardship and Finance". This is the one council ministry that has clearly defined separate duties as explained in our bylaws. When one of the two deacons is replaced on the board the new deacon takes on the duties of the deacon going off the board. In the present case, the deacon elected to this ministry will be the Deacon of Finance who serves as an assistant to the Treasurer and Financial Secretary and oversees our financial investments. The person serving as Deacon of Stewardship and who also maintains the Benevolence Fund has another term to serve on the council and is not being replaced at this time.

Old Business:

- It being determined that the General Fund treasury has an overall balance of over \$12,000, it was moved, seconded and voted to transfer the \$5000 that was borrowed from the Memorial Fund to pay current bills eight months ago back into the Memorial Fund.
- Consideration of the “inactive” list compiled by the Membership Committee will take place at the January meeting. Upon approval of the council it will be presented at the Annual Meeting for adoption.

New Business:

- It was moved, seconded and approved to allow the CARE & SHARE use our building for their meetings with clients to disburse gas and food vouchers. Bob Land and Neil Kleupfeld will oversee this program. Mr. Kleupfeld will require a key.
- It has been determined that there is a leak in the water line to the rental property. Groton Utilities has pinpointed the area of the break but we are responsible for the repair. Dick will do the job on Friday, 12/9. Ron Land will assist him.
- It was suggested that there should be an assistant treasurer/ assistant financial secretary who would be capable of taking on the duties of the financial officers for an extended length of time should it become necessary. The question of bonding also came up. No action taken.
- It was requested that the names of those serving on the Pastoral Relations Committee be printed in the Annual Reports.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 2 (?) at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Catherine Hiller, Clerk

*Mystic Congregational Church
Monday evening, December 19th, 2011
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary*

SERVICE OF LIGHT



The holiday season, despite all its merriment and joy, can be a time of struggle for many. We find ourselves sadly separated from those we love for a variety of reasons including distance, estrangement, or death - losses occurring both as recently as this year or as long ago as decades. Some find that the expectations put upon us by our consumer culture make tight financial constraints even more difficult, adding yet another layer of fear and anxiety. Instead of feeling hope and joy when the holiday season arrives, we feel sad, lonely, pressured and sometimes even bitter.

A Service of Light or, as it is sometimes referred to, a "Blue Christmas Service" gives us an opportunity to gather in community to recognize our losses and to move from despair to the hope provided to us by the light of Christ coming into the world. All are invited to attend, pray, listen to song and scripture, reflect in silence and remember that we are never separated from God's love.

**Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church
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Groton, CT 06340**