

THE TIE that binds  
February 2018



For God So Loved the world  
That He gave  
His only  
Begotten  
Son  
That whosoever  
Believeth in Him  
Should not perish  
But have everlasting life

*March 2018* John 3:16

## Pastor's Page



### A New Season for ABCCONN

Our church belongs to the denominational region known as the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut. We are honored to welcome the Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs II as our new Executive Minister. He will be officially installed in this role on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church in Hamden, CT. The service will take place at 4:00pm and everyone is invited to attend. I have been given the distinct privilege of delivering the sermon for that service.

Here at Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church we have the additional honor of welcoming Harry to our pulpit for worship that morning. As he prepares to embark on this new journey of ministry and leadership, we will be blessed to hear his message and to celebrate God's word together.

May God bless us all as we begin this new chapter!

### Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 14th at 6:30 pm

Members and friends are invited to gather in the sanctuary as we mark the beginning of the season of Lent. Please join us for this time of quiet reflection, prayer, Scripture and music. We come together to receive the blessing of ashes, a symbol of our honest confession and our commitment to the journey!

### Bread and Broth Series Returns

Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for our "Bread and Broth" Series. We will gather each week at 5:30pm from February 21<sup>st</sup> through March 21<sup>st</sup> to share simple meals of bread and soup, and enjoy informal conversations of faith at the tables. Sign-up sheets are in the Lounge; our donations will support the America for Christ Offering. All are welcome to come and share in this time-honored tradition!

# YOUTH NEWS

Note the new name for the group is

## Fusion Youth Ministry

### Spring Youth Group Meetings



February 25th—6– 8 at UBC

April 22nd—6-8 at NBC

May 20th 6-8 at UBC

### Nightwatch at St. John the Divine Cathedral

April 6-7, 2018

Please note the date change!

This is a popular program that fills up quickly. We will be supplementing the cost of this program and offering it at half price to our youth. The cost will be \$45, if you are planning to attend, please fill out the RSVP form on line. Registrations are due by Friday, February 23rd. Go to Courtney's website to find out the Schedule, what to bring, and permission forms.

### Service Time!

Our next volunteering activity will be to volunteer at the Cabin Fever Festival on behalf of Always Home (formerly MASH). Volunteers are needed to help serve chowder at the festival from 11:30 am—4:30 pm. We are hoping to have at least four volunteers for this event. Please let us know asap if you are able to attend.



Again, more info on the website.



### Mystic Irish Parade

Come march in the Annual Mystic Irish Parade March 25th! Union Baptist Church participates in the parade route and they have invited the youth to participate with them and promote the youth co-op program. If you are interested in marching go to the website and respond!

**YOUTHCOOPDIRECTOR@GMAIL.COM**



## FEBRUARY MINISTERS

**Communion:** Prepare: Dave and Carol Rowley

Serve: Dave and Carol Rowley  
Kathy Piscitello  
Cathy Greenfield

Assist Pastor: Catherine Hiller

**Lay Leader:**

04 – Jonathan Liu  
11– Bob Nelson  
18 – Barbara Brant  
25 - Holly Boyle

## MARCH MINISTERS

**Communion:** Prepare: Richard Tourjee  
Peg Straub

Serve: Richard Tourjee  
Clyde Myers  
Candy Zeppieri  
Barbara Brant

Assist Pastor: Rick Tourjee

**Lay Leader**

04 - Patti Toell  
11 - Catherine Hiller  
18 - Richard Tourjee  
25 - Holly Boyle





## FEBRUARY

- 01 – Gary Benson
- 14- Yvette Ackley
- 14 -Sandy Vocolina
- 18 - Celia Lew
- 20 – Ronald Tourjee
- 20 – Donna McLaughlin
- 23 – Kristin Greene
- 27 – Richard Bassett

## MARCH

- 02 – Burt Crooks
- 07 – Josh Chomicz
- 10 - Mela Magno
- 11 – Claudine Crooks
- 13 – Jennifer Kent
- 13 – Carla Berry
- 15 – Daniel Morton
- 15 – Peg Ackley
- 15 – Meghan Berry
- 15 – Gianni Pezzolesi
- 18 – Matthew Johnson
- 18 – Cassie Johnson
- 18 – Robert Johnson
- 21 – Cheryl Piscitello
- 25 – Heidi Butler
- 26 – Janice McDonald
- 29 – Portia Freeman
- 29 – Carol Case
- 31 – Aida Amuan



**161st ANNUAL MEEING OF  
POQUONNOCK BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH  
February 4, 2018**

Members of the church convened for its annual meeting following worship around the table where we enjoyed a wonderful potluck luncheon. As always, the food was abundant and delicious, and this year the variety was the best! So many choices. Thank you to all those who prepared and shared these treats for the taste buds!

Moderator Dianne Dellarco called the meeting to order at 12:17 pm. Pastor Claudine led us in devotions, one of her favorite readings entitled, "Prayer for Those in Ministry."

The minutes of the 160th annual meeting held on February 5, 2017 were read. There were no corrections or omissions, so they were accepted and filed as read.

## **REPORTS:**

Because the Annual Reports were passed out a week ago, people had an opportunity to peruse them at their leisure. Dianne gave us all a few minutes to review and asked if there were any questions.

Pastor Claudine spoke of her past year in ministry while also highlighting this upcoming year of transition.

- ◇ We have a new Executive Minister of ABCCONN, Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs. We will welcome him to our pulpit next week, February 11, 2018. We're also invited to attend his installation that afternoon in Hamden, CT where Claudine will be presenting the sermon/message. We all know she will do an outstanding job and are proud she is representing us!
- ◇ She also mentioned Camp Wightman and their transition. Tom and Tink Hall retired after six years of ministry at camp and are handing the reins to the new Camp Director, Holly Blacker. Claudine requested prayers for Holly's leadership and for Camp Wightman.
- ◇ Courtney Assad, our youth director, does not attend our church regularly as Kristen did because her home church is Union Baptist. We also do not currently have a huge contingent of youth attending as our youth are up and coming. She also mentioned that although we have a small monetary line item in the budget, we do not contribute at this time. The Youth Director salary is paid by Noank Baptist and Union Baptist. To reflect the joining of the three churches in this effort, the youth group will now be known as The Fusion Youth Ministry.
- ◇ The Old Mystic Baptist Church has been struggling for quite some time, and their final worship service will be February 11<sup>th</sup>. Their Interim Pastor, David Reed-Brown, has accepted a new calling as Interim Minister at the Central Baptist Church in Norwich. Claudine asked that we pray for the remaining members of OMBC as this transition takes place and welcome them if they choose to join our church family.
- ◇ Claudine noted Ash Wednesday will be February 14<sup>th</sup>. Our Lenten Bread and Broth Series will begin the following Wednesday, February 21. She then asked for any questions, and there were none.

Dianne said she would entertain a motion to approve all reports on pages 4-16.

Prior to making the motion, Catherine Hiller stood to say how much she enjoyed this Annual Report. It reflected how much we all love this church and how much we have accomplished this last year. She then motioned to accept the reports as printed. Yvette Ackley seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Dianne gave us a few minutes to review the Financial Reports on pages 18-24 and asked if there were any questions before entertaining a motion to accept.

- ◇ Pete Wong had a question on page 20 (2017 Mission Report) regarding a check for Interfaith Counseling. Rick Tourjee explained the check was not cashed in 2016, he stopped payment on it and noted it at the bottom of the report. Pete and the entire room was satisfied. There was a typo, a dollar sign instead of the number sign before 519 at the top of page 21. This will be corrected.
- ◇ Charlie Freeman had a question on page 18 (Benevolence Fund). The auditing committee was able to clarify his interpretation of the report. No issue found.
- ◇ Pete Wong also had a question concerning the \$20 difference in the totals of the Financial Secretary Report on page 22 with the Grand Total on page 24. They should match and they do not. Ron Land, our financial secretary will look into this and give his report to Council tomorrow night (February 5).

Richard Tourjee Sr. motioned we approve the financial reports, with the exception of the difference of the \$20 – listed above. Holly Boyle seconded. It was so moved.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Proposed General Fund Budget - 2018

Holly Boyle motioned we approve the 2018 budget as printed. Anita Fernald seconded. A discussion followed.

- ◇ Betty Land questioned line item 2.02 Choir Music. It was reduced from \$200 to \$100, and she would like it to be put back to \$200 making the total budget increase by \$100. The Grand total now would read \$141,122.00 instead of \$141,022.00.
- ◇ She then motioned we accept the budget as amended. Richard Tourjee seconded. The motion was carried, and the budget approved as amended.

### Proposed Mission Budget – 2018

Holly Boyle motioned to accept the Mission Budget as Printed and Darrell Tootell seconded. Claudine spoke to how and why some changes had been made. The vote was taken, and it passed unanimously.

### Nominating Committee Report – 2018

Patti Tootell, our Vice Moderator and also head of the Nominating Committee came to the podium. She thanked everyone who had served in the past year. She also gave special recognition to those leaving council: Yvette Ackley, Treasurer; Anita Fernald, Pastoral Relations Committee, and Richard Tourjee, Pastoral Relations Committee Chair. She made special note that Richard has served on the council more years than she has been alive. A round of applause followed as a

special way of saying ‘thank you’ for all those years of tireless devotion to his church and his church family. Claudine also added her words of thanks to those departing council members and to Dianne Dellarco as Moderator. Dianne will not be leaving Council as she will simply change hats and move to Education and Discipleship.

Patti motioned the slate of new officers as proposed in the report be accepted. Holly Boyle seconded, and the motion was carried.

Richard Tourjee asked that we follow the recommendations of the Auditing Committee noted in the annual report. This topic will be part of the Agenda for the February 5 council meeting.

Dianne was thankful for the exceptional work done by so many in the past year and expressed how wonderful it is to witness/experience our growth and development as a church family.

Belle Jordan spoke of the upcoming Tag Sale to be held April 20-21. It is time to start cleaning out and bringing things to the church NOW. Please don't wait until the first of April. They need the time to tag, price and prepare. She also said they would be meeting every Monday and Friday morning from 9-12. She urged everyone to come and join in the good times and fellowship. A lot of help is needed to make this a success!

As the oldest ordained minister in attendance and father of our pastor, Burt Crooks spoke about what a pleasure it is to be part of this growing church family. In these challenging days when churches are fading, he and Patti are looking forward to being part of a church full of spirit, faith and excitement.

Portia Freeman said it was the only church she has ever attended where people come early to gather simply for fellowship.

We all agreed that we do have a special church family here!

Barbara Brant moved that we adjourn at 1:09 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Brant, Church Clerk.





# **TAG SALE**

**POQUONNOCK BRIDGE BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
1241 Poquonnock Road  
Groton, CT**

**Friday, April 20th 9AM – 2PM**

**Saturday, April 21st 9AM – 2 PM**

**COME AND CHECK IT OUT!!!  
BAKE SALE**

**CLOTHES - SHOES - POCKETBOOKS  
ANTIQUE BUTTONS – LINENS - COLLECTA-  
BLES  
DISHES – POTS & PANS - UTENSILS  
FURNITURE  
JEWELRY & ANTIQUES**

**BOOKS - TOYS – TOOLS - TREASURES**

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!!**

**GREAT BARGAINS!!!!**

**Save the date!!!  
Working now Mon & Fri  
9am-12 noon  
All are welcome to join us!**

# 194th ABCCONN Annual Gathering

The 194th Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of CT will take place on Saturday, April 28th with registration beginning at 8:30 am and the days program concluding at 3:00 pm. The Annual Gathering is a time for American Baptists in Connecticut to celebrate the ministry we do together, to renew our commitment to shared mission in the coming year, and to join together for fellowship, worship, and listening.

The featured speaker for the day is the Rev. Sharon Koh, Executive Director of International Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA



*She will bring news of our missionaries and her vision for how American Baptists will engage in mission in the coming years.*

**The meeting will be hosted by Grace Baptist Church in Waterbury. Lunch will be provided.**

**A registration form and more information will be available within next few months.**

**Please set aside April 28th and plan to attend. It will be a great day of celebration, worship and community.**

**“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching” Hebrews 10: 24-25**

# MAEC GOOD FRIDAY WALK 2018

To: Mystic Area Churches

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual MAEC Good Friday Walk will take place on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

YOU are encouraged to publicize this event and secure walkers and sponsors.

The purpose of the Walk is to support local food agencies and assist rural communities in Alabama and Mississippi. The southern areas have been personally identified and monitored by the Kay Doherty, Director of *Sharing, Inc.* of Braintree, MA and founder of this Walk. Our contributions have helped improve life in these communities.

The scenic 7-mile route travels from Mystic Congregational Church to Old Mystic Methodist Church and back. Stations of the Cross along the way are easily seen by walkers to emphasize the theme *We Are Walking with Jesus*.

Directions:

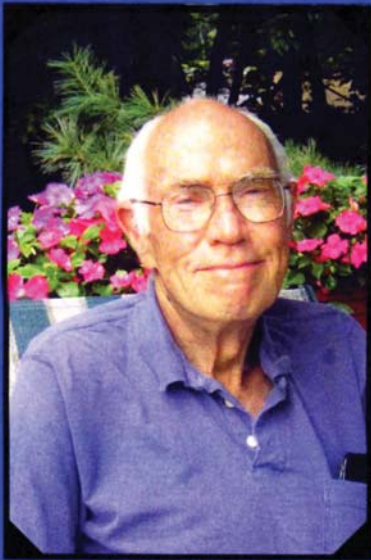
- Register between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall of the Mystic Congregational Church.
- Walk along Main Street, cross the bridge, turn to Gravel Street, Eldridge, Pearl, Starr, River Road, Route 27 to Old Mystic Methodist Church. Arrow signs will guide walkers.
- Walkers must return to the Parish Hall to account for all participants.
- Sponsor sheets and donations should be turned in at the start of the Walk.
- Checks are to be made out to MAEC.

Your packet will contain a poster and a sponsor sheet. Please plan to make more copies as needed.

The success of the Walk is in the number and spirit of the walkers and the pledges they obtain. Please do whatever you can to make this a good year. Please use this information for your own church publication.

THANK YOU for your participation, support and prayers.

Sue Barker  
Chairperson  
860-536-3100, [suebarker212@gmail.com](mailto:suebarker212@gmail.com)



We love and honor

**Irving Hiller**

and will join together to celebrate  
him on the occasion

**of his 90th birthday!**

Please join us

at **Camp Wightman**

**Saturday March 17, 2018**

12 o'clock noon  
for luncheon and fellowship



Directions Follow - Please turn over

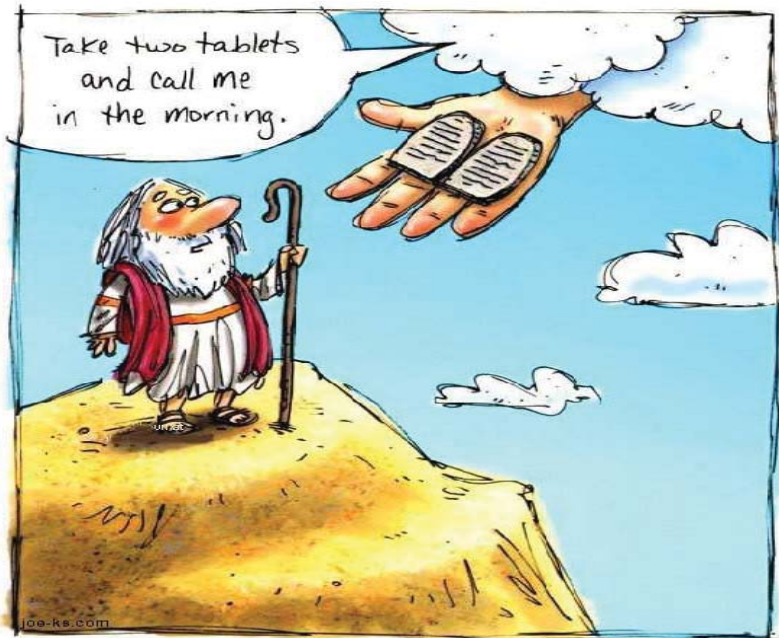
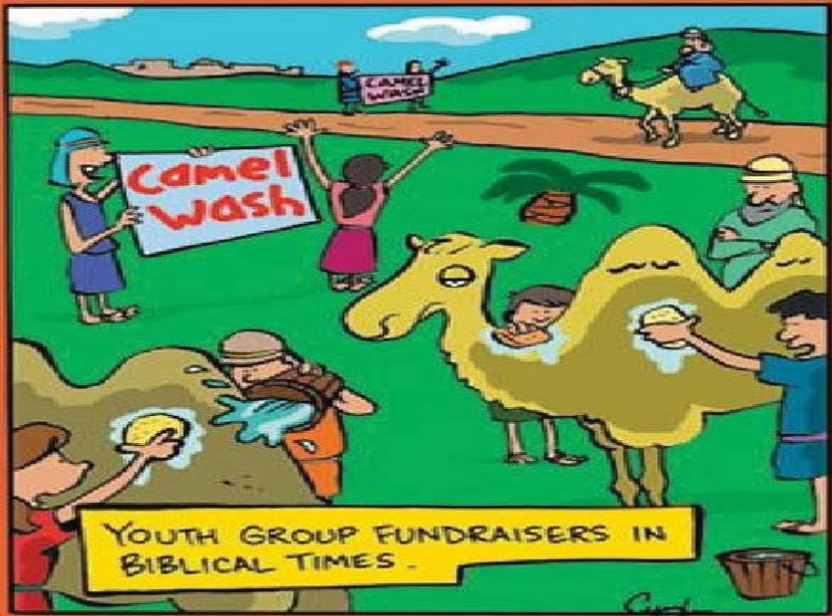
**Camp Wightman**  
207 Coal Pit Road Griswold, CT 06351



RSVP to Amy Hiller-White at  
[amyhillerwhite@gmail.com](mailto:amyhillerwhite@gmail.com) or 860-315-7816

Please, only bring the gift of your presence.

# A Little Church Humor





To Reverend Claudine Crooks  
& the Congregation of the  
Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church

I wish to extend to all of you, my sincere and deepest gratitude,  
for the prayers of support you have given my family  
and I throughout the recent weeks of my illness.  
Kindness, understanding and compassion are essential for good healing  
and I am on the mend well.

Prayers do work.

Please know that your expressions of care  
have been especially moving and special to me.

Thank You!

All The Best  
Bruce.

*(Bruce Edwards, friend and neighbor to Sue Shontell and Beth Rumery.)*



*Ash Wednesday Service*

*February 14, 2018*

*6:30 pm*

*All are welcome to attend this special worship  
service as we mark the beginning of the Lenten  
season*

*Followed by our weekly  
Bread and Broth Series*

*Starting February 21st*

*Through March 21st*

*5:30 pm*



*If you are willing to make a soup or bring bread  
the sign-up sheets are in the Lounge*

Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church  
1241 Poquonnock Road  
Groton, CT 06340