

# THE TIE that binds

September 2019



"Smoke hangs like haze over harvested  
fields,  
The gold of stubble, the brown of turned  
earth  
And you walk under the red light of fall  
The scent of fallen apples, the dust of  
threshed grain  
The sharp, gentle chill of fall.  
Here as we move into the shadows of  
autumn  
The night that brings the morning of  
spring  
Come to us, Lord of Harvest  
Teach us to be thankful for the gifts you  
bring us ..."

- [Autumn Equinox Ritual](#)

Poquonock Bridge Baptist Church  
1241 Poquonock Road  
Groton, CT 06340



## Pastor's Page



### **Prayers for the World**

In light of recent storms, especially Hurricane Dorian, many people are in desperate need of help. If you would like to give gifts for emergency relief efforts here in this country, in the Bahamas and throughout the world, you can contribute to our Tools of Hope offering or One Great Hour of Sharing.

Both of these special offerings will send much needed funds to Church World Service for the hard work that lies ahead.

May God be present to all who are suffering.

### **Adult Sunday School Class**

Join us on Sunday mornings this fall as we begin a new DVD series published by Living the Questions. This series is entitled, "Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith."

You are welcome to join us whenever you are able; we will meet downstairs in the Purple Room at 11:10am.

### **New Members Gathering**

On Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a gathering following the morning worship service for anyone considering joining the church. If you are interested in becoming a member of Poquonock Bridge Baptist Church in the coming months, please join Pastor Claudine for this informal information session.

All are welcome!

### **Books We Have Recently Shared**

*"All Are Welcome"*

*by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman*

*"Does God Hear My Prayer?"*

*by August Gold and Diane Hardy Waller*

*"Because I Had a Teacher" by Kobi Yamada and Natalie Russell*

Council cont.

Each congregant should know that these folks are always open to questions you may have regarding the pastoral position of this church. In being an advocate for the pastor the committee will encourage her in professional development, conduct an annual performance appraisal of all aspects of her ministry and recommend the yearly compensation package to the Finance Committee. Council deacon Sue Shontell chairs this committee and is joined by Dave Rowley, Candy Zeppieri, Darrell Tootell and Pastor Claudine.

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE is chaired by the council's vice moderator, Dave Rowley, and the primary function of this committee is to see that all positions on the council are filled with qualified church members. It is the duty of this committee to clearly interpret the duties of each position to candidates, and to prepare a slate for election at the annual meeting. It also will recommend to the council candidates to fill mid-term vacancies. Dave is being assisted by Sandy Vocalina.

### **HOW YOU MAY HELP**

Consider where you could possibly contribute to the growth and welfare of our faith community and talk with someone who can provide you with more information.

Assist the Hospitality Committee by signing up to provide refreshment at Fellowship Hour. You need not go solo, team up with someone else.

Pray for the ministries of this church and the individuals who keep them active.



# Church Committees



*Fusion Youth Ministry  
Proposed Schedule of Events*

**KNOW YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL AND WHAT IT DOES**

In addition to the four ministries that have been discussed in previous issues of THE TIE, there are three standing committees represented on the church council, namely: HOSPITALITY, PASTORAL RELATIONS, and NOMINATING COMMITTEES.

Under the leadership of Deacons Cathy Greenfield and Sarah Adams the HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE is charged with providing occasions for the church family gathers to enjoy fellowship with one another, and making sure that all visitors are made to feel welcome and at home in our faith community. Hospitality often works in conjunction with any of the council ministries when special events call for having a meal or refreshment as part of a program, such as the Church Picnic and the Lenten Bread and Broth series, but Cathy, Sarah, and their able assistant Gail Neff, are most visible on Sunday mornings tending the coffee pot and seeing that the table is laden with a tasty repast for the Fellowship Hour. Making sure that this happens each and every week takes a fair amount of planning and organization and we are all happy beneficiaries of their efforts. The second part of its charge is that of making Sunday morning guests feel welcome and comfortable in our service. This committee signs up the Greeters that are at our door to welcome newcomers, answer questions, welcome children with special bulletins and crayons and direct folks to a pew if necessary. It is also this committee that provides the "Welcome" cards that tells new folks a bit about us and by which they can introduce themselves and provide us with contact information.

The primary goal of the PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE is to foster constructive communication between pastor and congregation. The very nature of our pastor makes this a pretty easy ride for the PRC, however even in the most desirable situations there may be times when a third party may be helpful in smoothing out wrinkles.

**Fall Events!**

More details to come but save the dates for all of our events through Christmas.

September 15 - Middle School Youth Group @ UBC - 4-6PM

September 24 - Fields of Fire - All Ages - 4-7PM

September 29 - High School Youth Group @ UBC - 4-6PM

October 6 - Middle School Youth Group @ NBC - 4-6PM

October 20 - CROP Walk - 1-4PM

October 26 - Six Flags Fright Fest - All day

November 1 - High School Overnight Retreat at UBC

November 3 - Middle School Youth Group @ PBBC - 4-6PM

November 16 - Volunteer at UBC Holiday Bazaar - 9AM-2PM

November 17 - High School Youth Group @ PBBC - 4-6PM

November 26 - Supercharged - 4-6PM

December 13 - Christmas Caroling - 6-8PM

December 15 - Christmas Party - 6-8PM - All Ages

**Director of Youth Events**

*Fusion Youth Ministry*  
119 High Street  
Mystic, CT 06355  
(860) 389-3904

## *The Fifteen Funniest Church Bulletin Bloopers!*



### SEPTEMBER MINISTERS

**Communion: Prepare: Mei Ling Liu & Pete Wong**

**Serve: : Li Ling Liu & Pete Wong  
Dianne Dellarco & Rick Tourjee**

**Assist Pastor: Cathy Piscitello**

**Lay Leader:**

**01 – Dave Rowley  
08– Barbara Brant  
15 - Alex Lew  
22 - Jonathan Liu  
29 - Dennis Pistitello**

### OCTOBER MINISTERS

**Communion: Prepare: Barbara Brant and Peg Straub**

**Serve: Barbara Brant and Peg Straub  
Bob and Jane Startz**

**Assist Pastor: Pete Wong**

**Lay Leader**

**06– Marilyn Rodearmel  
13 - Pete Wong  
20 - Carol Gatlin  
27 - Li Ling**



1. The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00. Please use the back door.
2. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
3. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
4. Ushers will eat latecomers.
5. Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.
6. Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
7. The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
8. Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to the church secretary.
9. Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow.
10. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
11. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
12. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
13. The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.
14. Announcement in a church bulletin for a National Prayer & Fasting Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer conference includes meals."
15. Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM . All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

## *A Note from Jonathan and Li Ling Liu*

Council members,

It is a great honour and privilege to take part in 2019 Summer Special Music at PBBC.

We enjoy a variety of musical talents, voices and sing praise to the Lord. This would not have happened without people contributing their time and talents, therefore we would like to thank the following: Drew, Darrell, Anita, Joe, Charley, Holly, Pastor Claudine, Richard, Wynonna, Liu & Tuang Family, Bob and Betty.

Also during this special music, we also get to see a glimpse of what conducting and being a church choir leader looks like. "Boy it ain't easy!" I would like to express to the council what an amazing job Betty has done in the past years for a long time.

With God's grace, we will do it again next summer and this time Becky and Catherine will not be exempted. Booked for the next summer!

With Love in Christ

Li Ling & Jonathan Liu



### **SEPTEMBER**

01– Bob Startz  
08 – Dawn Bassett  
13 – Shirley Lamb  
17 – Parker Friedman  
19 – Cheryl Mundell  
20 – Betty Land  
21– Jane Startz  
21 - Richard Tourjee, Jr.  
21 – June Nunes

### **OCTOBER**

02 – Nathan White  
07 – Marvin Wong  
11 - James Lew  
17 – Sallie Land  
20 - Sophia (Shiou Ling) Liu  
21 – Joe Greene  
23 – Carol Rowley  
23 – Pat Tootell  
23 – Li Ling Liu  
24 – Dale Rehberg  
24 – Nick Bassett  
25 – Rey Amuan  
25 – Kristen Negaard O'Brien  
28 – Alex Lewis  
30 – Maddison Harasyn



Vice- Moderator Dave called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Pat led devotions. All present agreed to dispense with the reading of July and August minutes.

**Communications:**

Vice-Moderator Dave deferred commentary until financial report rendered.

**Pastor's Report:**

Dave read a letter to the Church Council from Pastor Claudine as she was unable to attend. The Letter of Claudine to Poquonnock Bridge follows:

*I extend my apologies for missing tonight's meeting. When we changed the September meeting date, I had already planned a trip to visit a colleague in her new place of ministry.*

*Some changes in pulpit supply. Rev. Tim Chesser has accepted a call to serve as Interim Pastor of the United Church in Stonington so he is unable to fulfill his last remaining three Sundays as guest preacher. The following arrangements have been made in his absence.*

Rev Jonathan Scott will be here Sunday, Oct 27<sup>th</sup>.

Rev Bonita Grubbs will be here Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> Rev. Burt Crooks will offer a Christmas meditation and Catherine Hiller may lead a Christmas Carol sing as part of morning worship. Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> is the ABCCONN Mission and Stewardship Day (details can be found on the website)

Pat Tootell is arranging speakers for Last But Not Least Stewardship Sundays (Sept and Oct).

There will be a New Members class being planned for early October.

Adult Class will begin Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

World Communion Sunday will be Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>; scripture read in various languages, looking for volunteers!

Wedding Reminders:

Marvin Wong and Rachel Dellarco, Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm  
(wedding rehearsal Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm)  
Pastor Claudine officiating, Betty Land organist

Tom Umrysz (Hespeler's grandson) and Pantea, Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm  
(wedding rehearsal Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm)

Harry Watson (JP, former mayor of Groton, member of Union Baptist Church) will be officiating on  
the 26<sup>th</sup>, Janice Kimball will be organist.

Janice Kimball will also be our guest organist for two Sundays, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Women's Retreat will be at Camp Wightman, Friday-Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Kathryn Palen will be our retreat leader (she's on the executive staff of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island). We included in this year's budget the amount of \$300 for her honorarium, under Youth Group/Retreats/Conferences.

*Thank you to all for a full and rich summer season of worship, music, and ongoing ministry!*

**Pastoral Relations:**

Sue discussed the PRC determinations arising from their committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. A survey will be generated for the congregation as to what they want, what directions to head towards, preferences for what Pastor Claudine might speak about. This undertaking will be in three phases, will take some time, release of the survey probably not until the second year.



## LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL PERSON!

We are on a search for someone who would enjoy taking on a task that involves a degree of search and rescue. PBBC has a "Memorial Book" in which all non-monetary memorial gifts to the church should be recorded with information regarding names of honoree and donor(s), dates, possible photo, etc .

Sadly, the first gift is yet to be recorded in this book. We have been blessed with many significant and wonderful memorials throughout our 163 years and there should be a place where anyone could find them documented. We did have such a book at one time but sadly was destroyed in a household accident. The process will not require a super memory or extensive years in membership, but rather a sense of inquiry and knowing where to search. No meetings and no public speaking! You may work at your own pace, and I am willing to mentor and assist anyone who would be up for this job.

~ Catherine Hiller





**SAVE THE DATE - Annual PBBC Holiday Bazaar -**

**Saturday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Heard of the legendary PBBC Annual Spring Tag Sales or Holiday Bazaars? Ever wondered how you could have a great time while also contribute to our congregation's biggest fundraiser? The Holiday Bazaar Committee is seeking your help. We need donations: jewelry (costume or the good stuff), Christmas items/decorations, quality collectibles, antiques, linens, tools, furniture, silent auction items (know a professional who'd like to donate a service, perhaps a restaurant or store who would donate a gift certificate?), as well as those handcrafted items we all look forward to purchasing every year.

We'd appreciate your help in ensuring all donations are in good condition. Money raised by the Holiday Bazaar goes directly to the General Fund, and we'd prefer to not incur disposal costs for those not so good items. Starting in September those donations can be left in the church kitchen.

It takes more than donations of goods to make this happen. Success requires the time and talents of the congregation. As we get closer to the date we will need event workers, bakers, set up and/or take down help to name a few. Got a great idea for a bazaar table? Let us know. We can always use new ideas. We'll be making our lists and checking them twice...will your name be on them?

See any one of the "Elves" and add your name to the list

Holiday Bazaar Committee Elves (Belle, Pat & Dianne D.)



Discussion at large also led to the subject of the rental of church property controlled by Section 8 restrictions. The State of Connecticut needs to be consulted about increasing the rent, groundwork for meeting with state representatives has been established.

**Hospitality:** Sarah said everything was running well. Cathy said the pot-luck luncheon was a great success with many people and great food.

**Nominating Committee:** Dave had nothing to report.

**Worship & Membership:** Barbara said the choir is still searching for a new choir director, regionally other organizations are seeking the same, and there is competition. In the interim Betty will continue to direct. The new choir schedule calls for a rehearsal on the first Wednesday of the month with supplemental time before each service, providing choir presentations the first three Sundays of the month. The fourth Sunday will be covered by Special Music presentations, Pastor Claudine and Betty coordinating. Compensation for choir directing and organist was discussed. Barbara made the motion that funding for both positions be given to Betty. The motion was seconded by Mei Ling. The vote was unanimously approved. Barbara discussed issues of the new wicks, there are many sizes and materials to trial, as well as considerations of different oils, before optimal results.

Subsequent to the Church Council meeting it was noted a letter meant to be read at the meeting had been overlooked. The letter is as follows:

*Council Members,*

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*With God's Grace, we will do it again next summer and this time Becky and Catherine will not be exempted. Booked for the next summer!*

*With Love in Christ*

*Li Ling & Jonathan Liu*

**Finance & Stewardship:** Pat reported the most recent quarterly holdings, in dollars.

Pat asked if there should be discussion to move money from one account to another with the prospect of earning more money, as in moving money from the Chelsea account to the Ameriprise account. Discussion followed with input from many. Pat said she would look into options for a financial advisor, perhaps finding an advisor rendering services pro bono or at reduced rates secondary to monies under church auspices. Stewardship speakers have been secured through November.

The Apple Festival will be October 26<sup>th</sup> and this year a few parishioners will be allowed to have a table to sell their crafts, artwork etc. This will provide the costumers more items for purchase.

**Education & Discipleship:** Li Ling discussed class structure, including time for regular music.

Minutes cont.

**Mission & Outreach:** Carol and Holly said 22 bags of food were donated in August, though with new curtailment of plastic bag usage statewide there were issues to consider in accepting, storing and delivering food goods. It was noted Groton Social Services may have their own preferences as to how to receive food items. Determinations will be ongoing.

**Building & Grounds:** Alex brought to attention the many accomplishments of the cleanup/workday crew the preceding Saturday. In the process it was noted links between two sections of the fence were bent and most likely will need to be fixed/repaired. Jeff Kent's role in cutting the grass was brought up: the committee needs verification that Jeff has truly returned to his previous role in Church landscaping. Cathy pointed out that the lawnmower should not be stored in the church property on account of the gasoline, and that John Rodearmel took the mower for safekeeping.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The garage still has items in it and cannot be demolished until they are removed. In particular is a wheelchair. It was noted that organizations to accept wheelchairs would be one solution for disposal.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Dennis Stern of 40 South Rd. sent a very polite letter to the church requesting use of the back parking lot on 12 October, 2019. He is in need of supplemental parking for a family gathering. He hopes to accommodate an additional 10-12 cars for relatives and friends. Discussion ensued. Holly requested that a donation be asked for and that liability issues be covered, in written format. Barbara said these two points of interest would be addressed. Barbara made a motion to allow Mr. Stern use of the parking lot on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, Alex seconded the motion, and the following vote was unanimous in approval.

Cathy noted the lounge has 4 to 6 ceiling panels that have been damaged by recent rains. Discussion ensued. Many church members have engaged in addressing previous instances of ceiling repair. Dave volunteered to ask Richard, in conjunction with Alex, to get Richard's input on fixing the panels.

Dave entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting, Pete Wong complied with Alex seconding the motion, all were in favor, the meeting ended at 7:25 pm.

The next meeting will be Monday, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm

Submitted by Joseph Greene

A "To-Do" List located in the Lounge

**If you have a minute and would like to complete any of the following Sign your name and cross it off! Thank you in advance, The Buildings and Grounds Committee**

### **Tasks that need to be done**

#### **Parsonage:**

*Must Do:*

- Check gutters on parsonage.
- Shrubs on the rear of the parsonage should be inspected, and trimmed as needed.
- Reset the chain link fence.
- Rebuild vents in roof ends of the attic of parsonage.

#### **Outside of Church:**

*Must Do:*

- We also need to trim the brush alongside the overflow parking lot, on the side near the road, particularly near the tree at the end of the overflow parking lot furthest away from the entrance.
  - Remove hornet's nests on the church itself.
  - Siding of the church could also use power washing
- Side of foundation near handicapped access ramp needs to be repainted.

#### **Church Inside Building:**

*Must Do:*

- Vestry floor needs to be cleaned
- The fellowship hall carpet (as well as the adjacent areas) needs to be shampooed.
- It may also be worth it to shampoo the sanctuary carpet as well at the same time.