

# THE TIE that binds

August/September 2021



1241 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340  
860-445-6126

## August

Lazy summer afternoons,  
Walks along the beach,  
Balmy evenings, cloudless skies,  
Stars just out of reach,  
Sailing on a quiet lake,  
Hammocks in the shade...  
These are the simple treasures  
Of which August days are made.



## To My Beloved PBBC Community

### Celebrations of Family, Church, and Denomination

#### *September 5th...*

With a grateful heart I thank our Church Council for being led to honor my parents, Burt and Patti Crooks.

As we gather for worship on the first Sunday of September, we will name them as Ministers Emeriti in recognition of their lifetime of faith and service within the American Baptist family. ABCUSA, ABCCONN, individual congregations and other church ministries have been beneficiaries of their insight and wisdom.

Committees and service organizations have thrived under their leadership. Individuals have felt the warmth of their friendship and trust. They have blessed this congregation with their presence, their grace, their servanthood, and their love.

We are truly grateful that they are members of our faith community.

Please join us as we say thank you!

#### *September 12<sup>th</sup>...*

With a joyful heart I thank our Church Council for granting my daughter, Heidi Butler, a Certificate of License.

This "license to preach the gospel" recognizes Heidi's gifts and call to ministry, and provides the support of her church family.

It represents an important step on the journey toward ordination.

As we gather for worship on the second Sunday of September, Heidi will deliver the sermon and we will offer our blessing.

It is our hope to welcome the Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of CT, to our service that day as he presents the license on our behalf. Please join us as we surround Heidi with our love and prayers!

*Pastor Claudine*



*Ladies! It is time to commit...  
Our Retreat Time is here!  
November 12-13*

***Due to our close proximity to each other, we are asking that everyone be vaccinated before attending and we will be following Camp Wightman's Guidelines and Mandates. Smaller cabin this year so plan on coming either overnight or just on the Saturday, November 13th.***

*We signed the contract so now is the time to sign up. Just call the church office at 860-445-6126 or email [PBBC@ppcgroton.org](mailto:PBBC@ppcgroton.org) or simply speak to Barbara Brant to make your reservation. Come and share in some good times, good food and good fellowship.*

*The cost this year will be \$75 for overnight stay and \$35 for just the Saturday—this includes a delicious breakfast and lunch.*

*Friday night there is no food provided so bring a snack to share.*

*Beverages are provided.  
Also bring a sleeping bag.*

*Reynolds (the cabin where we will be staying has been Remodeled.*

*Plan on arriving about 5 o'clock to enjoy a nice cup of mulled cider before the blazing fire!*



## **AUGUST MINISTERS**

### **Lay Leaders:**

**15 - Charley Freeman  
22 - Richard Tourjee  
29 - Cathy Greenfield**

## **SEPTEMBER MINISTERS**

### **Lay Leaders:**

**05 - Jonathan Liu  
12 - Carol Rowley  
19 - Carol Gatlin  
26 - Charley Freeman**

## **OCTOBER MINISTERS**

### **Lay Leaders:**

**03 - Portia Freeman  
10 - Pete Wong  
17 - Carol Gatlin  
24 - Li Ling Liu  
31 - Holly Boyle**

# Birthdays

## AUGUST

- 02-Dianne Dellarco
- 04- Marc Friedman
- 10- Beth Rumery
- 10- Catherine Hespeler
- 12- Jennifer Akesson
- 16- Marilyn Rodearmel
- 17- Dante Dellarco
- 20- Sharon Anderson
- 20- Amanda Tourjee
- 21- Drew Wesche
- 22- Larry Spalluto
- 23- Cathy Greenfield



## SEPTEMBER

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



## OCTOBER

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



ABCCONN  
Annual Gathering  
September 25, 2021

Virtual or In-Person  
Union Baptist Church,  
Hartford

\*\*\*\*\*

*Looking Ahead*

*Saturday, December 4th  
9am-1pm  
Our Annual Holiday Bazaar!*



*We will be featuring cookies, crafts, Gramma's Attic and a Basket Raffle. If you have any ideas and would like to create a basket please feel free to do so and drop it off at church. AND don't forget about baking those fabulous cookies!*

## Church Humor



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

newera.lds.org

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(See Matthew 14:14-21)

03-13-2009

YES I COULD MAKE FIVE THOUSAND OF THOSE,  
BUT A FEW FISH AND SOME BREAD MIGHT BE A  
BETTER OPTION

# RAFFLE TICKETS

There are packets (10 each) of raffle tickets available for you to sell (or buy) in the church office. The quilt this year is called "Seaside Cabin"

Please feel free to stop by the church office and pick up a packet. Last year we made over \$1,000 on this Raffle and hope to top that amount this year. Can you help?



The monies from this year's raffle will go to the remodel of the rental property.

They are making HUGE efforts to have it completed by September 1st.

Many thanks to those willing hearts and hands (and strong backs) that have made this project possible

Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Apple Festival

October 16, 2021 10 am – 1 pm



EAT HERE OR TAKE HOME!

APPLE PIES

APPLE SQUARES

APPLE TURNOVERS

OLD FASHIONED APPLE BUTTER

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

**We are seeing donations of King Arthur Flour; Sugars– both brown or white; Buttered Flavored Crisco; and/or monies to purchase Apples!**

# Minutes of Church Council Meeting August 2, 2021

**Call to Order:** Moderator Dave convened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

**Devotions:** Sarah led devotions with a reading from Sacred Places how God is good, every moment of every day, amid highs and lows, even in moments of anxiety.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

It had been omitted that, on the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Counsel Meeting, that Sue seconded the motion made by Richard "to accept the budget on the spreadsheet handout."

Richard asked for clarification of the June 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes as to whether council approval was needed to purchase items greater than five thousand dollars, and what approval was needed for purchases less than five thousand dollars. Subsequent to reexamination of the text and elaboration it was determined the Minutes satisfied answers to the questions posed and no secondary qualifiers to the original text were warranted.

**Communications:** Catherine Hiller, after thanking Dave for allowing her time to be present, read a proposal whereby the "church council votes to bestow upon the Reverend Burtis Crooks and Patti Crooks the designation of *Ministers Emeriti* of Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church. That an appropriate plaque be created and presented to them on Sunday, September 5, 2021 during the morning worship service." Catherine highlighted the accomplishments and service provided by Burt and Patti Crooks over the years. Catherine stated she identified an individual who would be able to produce such a plaque before the 18<sup>th</sup> of August for a cost of \$65. As Catherine envisioned the plaque being one the Patti and Burt could take with it was suggested that perhaps two plaques be made, one for the church to place on the wall alongside the other plaques of recognition. After brief discussion Catherine departed the meeting.

Rick asked if there was an amount one could spend without getting permission from the Council, apart from the present renovation. Patti stated those reimbursements would come from the Building & Grounds line-item budget.

**Financial Reports:**

**Treasurers Report** - Mei Ling, unable to attend the meeting, previously sent two attachments on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July in lieu of being able to attend:

**Financial Secretary** - Pete, unable to attend the meeting, wrote in a 30 July email:

**Benevolence:** Marilyn, unable to attend, wrote in 1 August email:

A correction to the minutes of the last meeting, the Benevolent Fund balance should have been \$216.78.

The report of this meeting is as follows:

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Beginning balance 6/1/2021: | \$216.78 |
| Deposits 6/23/2021          | 3.15     |
| 7/8/2021                    | 13.00    |

Balance 7/31/2021                      \$232.93"

**Pastor's Report:** Claudine recapped Catherine's request to make Patti and Burt Crooks Ministers Emeriti, saying Catherine would make a presentation of thanks in advance of the bestowing of the plaque.

Claudine discussed voting requirements for Heidi to receive a license to preach the gospel, Heidi accomplishing her third year at Yale for her Master of Divinity degree. September 12<sup>th</sup> will be the day her license certificate for preaching the gospel is presented at church, when Heidi will also be the guest preacher. Ordination is a different process, a lengthier one, pending: evidence of the gift of Ministry is abundantly clear upon Heidi.

Claudine will not be present on the service of 22 August, on vacation.

A backlog of funerals and memorial services, held back by Covid restrictions, await presentation in the near future. Of particular attention are remembrances for Matthew Brant, Jeff Lew and Gayle Donahue. Additionally, Claudine asked prayers for Camp Wightman and the campers going next week.

**Pastoral Relations:** Sue had nothing to report.

**Hospitality:** Cathy and Sarah had nothing to report.

**Nominating:** Richard had nothing to report.

**Education & Discipleship:** Carol had nothing to report.

**Mission & Outreach:** Dianne highlighted Tools of Hope, a dedication for which will be September 5<sup>th</sup>. Dedication of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be this forthcoming Sunday (August 8<sup>th</sup>). A newspaper write-up is forthcoming as the shawls are not exclusively for church members. Contact information to receive one will be provided as well as recognition of the significance of the shawls, and the people who make them.

Also, food pantry deliveries have gone well.

**Building & Grounds:** Rick has spent time on the grounds accomplishing much: trimming brush around the parking lot fence and parsonage and seeing that the lawn is mowed in all locations, including at the former garage.

Richard reattached the railings on the front steps, quickly appreciated by parishioners.

### **Old Business**

*Rental Property Update:* The rental property is making good progress, the goal to be finished the end of August. Two closets were installed, in the living room and a bedroom. Electrical work was done on Saturday. Richard noted the hardest work he has seen being done is by the sexton, day after day painting, sometimes starting at 630 AM, without compensation.

The large dead tree next to the driveway needs to come down as it could cause damage to the rental property in a storm. Estimates for removal ranged from \$1,500 to \$2,900. Rick made a motion to allocate \$1,500 to take the tree down, such money not coming from the renovation budget. Carol seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Richard asked what the payment of \$244.45 to Sterling Superior Services on June 12<sup>th</sup> was for, considering a payment of \$992.85 preceded on May 4<sup>th</sup> which was considered a comprehensive last payment for their removal services. Mei Ling will investigate.

Discounting merchandise for the renovation was discussed, as purchases for the church should be exempt from Connecticut's 6.35% sales tax. Richard stated purchases for the renovation have been given a 10% discount, though it is not allowed to receive a sales tax exemption additional to a 10% discount.

Carol, as fundraiser for the renovation, stated several church members, unable to paint, wanted to reimburse Janet for all the time and effort in painting she has done. Richard stated Janet will not consider compensation, her work being her gift to the church. It was suggested Janet receive a formal certificate of recognition for her work.

*Vote on "License to Preach" for Heidi Butler:* Prerequisite for ordination in the American Baptist Churches U.S.A. is for a candidate to be licensed by the church in which their membership is held, to preach the Gospel. Claudine made a motion to grant Heidi license to preach the Gospel, initial sermon the 12<sup>th</sup> of September. Richard seconded the motion; the motion was approved unanimously.

*Minister of Music Update:* Ellen Gilbert looks forward to being Minister of Music providing music services starting the first Sunday in October. Her contract will be reviewed at the end of August.

*Mask & Vaccination guidelines:* The church will continue to abide by State of Connecticut guidelines and mandates. Fellowship will continue out of doors after the service. We have been blessed with good weather. As ushers wear masks it may be considered they pass collection plates instead of leaving them stationary at the entrance. "Close contact", per CDC, is a function of time, 10 to 15 minutes, as well as space, so passing a collection plate would not violate "close contact" Covid restrictions. The collection plate would assuredly be cleaned between services.

Droplets in the air being a significant transmission vehicle for Covid, attention to hand out masks to those without, during church services, is essential.

*Emeriti recognition:* Richard made a motion to give Burt and Patti Crooks a plaque of recognition as Ministers Emeriti (per previous discussion in the meeting). Dianne seconded the motion. Sue made an amendment to the motion, that \$150 be allocated for two plaques (per previous discussion in the meeting). Dianne seconded Sue's amendment to the original motion. All were in favor, the motion with amendment passing unanimously.

*Small gathering:* Patti asked for permission to use church space for a small social gathering. Holly made a motion to accept Patti's request, Richard seconded it. Before voting it was asked whose responsibility it was should someone attending subsequently test positive for Covid. Patti stated those attending would be responsible. It was emphasized the church would not incur responsibility. The motion to accept Patti's request was passed unanimously.

*Lease considerations:* Language for a new lease was discussed. How many pets allowed, species, and restrictions on size of pets elicited many perspectives. Frequency of inspections, perhaps quarterly, was brought up as a point to consider. Length of contract, monthly vs. annually, was reviewed as an issue of pros and cons for the church. Alterations of property, to address tenant needs as they evolve, was broached as an issue to be written into the contract so to be under review by the Church Council. Examples of alterations were request for a garden or tool shed. Rent amount was discussed, \$1,400 noted to be the average amount for an equivalent rental in Groton. Sue undertook designation to generate a new contract, Richard to assist as need be.

*Parking lot:* Dave was approached by Brian Edwards, a local businessman who hopes to open a new store nearby, for possibly using the church's gravel parking lot as ancillary overflow parking for his business on weekends, 4-8 P.M. Brian requested to speak to the Council for about 5 minutes to gain permission. After opinions from nearly all Council members were rendered, it was determined the Council did not wish to allow such additional parking.

*Email:* Holly suggested bylaws might be able to be updated allowing online voting via email for Church Council issues. Dave said the Roberts Rules of Order publication used to determine Council rules did not allow for online voting. Covid restrictions leading to many changes in business practices it was asked if more recently Roberts Rules of Order may have adjusted their protocols to allow online voting in particular instances. Dave said the committee would look into it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe Greene, Clerk, Clerk

**Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church  
1241 Poquonnock Road  
Groton, CT 06340**