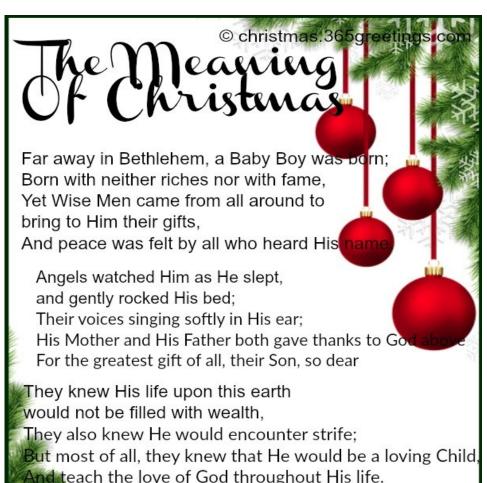
# THE TIE that binds December 2018





At Christmas, as we celebrate this Birth of Jesus Christ, Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day; For it's not the Christmas wrappings, nor the gifts that lie within, But our gift of love to others in every way...

#### Pastor's Page



#### A Joyful Pastoral Evaluation for 2018

On behalf of the Pastoral Relations Committee I thank you for taking time to fill out our Evaluation Forms. We received 29 completed evaluations, and I thank God for your overwhelmingly positive responses and feedback on the relationship we share as pastor and people, and on the ministry we seek to faithfully carry out. We have been challenged to look at issues of church growth, increased membership and outreach, ministry to children and youth, and equipping/empowering the laity. If you would like to see the compiled results, there are copies available in a folder on the table in the Lounge. We are blessed to serve together!

#### Opportunities for Giving

In December we will receive gifts for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering as we say "thank you" to those who have so faithfully served our churches and our American Baptist denomination. We gratefully receive your gifts for the Groton Food Locker and for the Christmas family we adopted through Groton Social Services. We will receive thanks from the Homeless Hospitality Center this month, as well as give prayer shawls to the Community Speaks Out program here in Groton.

#### Special Advent Study Series

Please join the Adult Class during the Advent season. We will be sharing a special DVD study called, "Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph." We will meet on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and January 6<sup>th</sup>!

Books We Have Recently Shared
"Hope is an Open Heart"
by Lauren Thompson

Nov. 28, 2018

Dear friends at Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church,

I want to take a few moments to thank you for your support.

It has been a busy year working with the different cohorts from Brazil, Mexicali, Mexico City and the United States. There has been plenty of travel and time spent teaching online. I also had the opportunity to visit supporting churches in New York State, CT, RI, MA, ME and



Rick and I at Hearst Castle, Cambria, CA

NH as well as Los Angeles and San Francisco.



Rick and I had a few days to ourselves in Cambria, CA. It was a beautiful location with gorgeous sunsets. The kids are grown up and living in different states. Aida is with her husband Isaac in Charlottesville, VA. Richie is finishing his master's degree at the University of Hawaji in Manoa (Oahu). Josh is studying his second year of college at Bard College in NY. He will be spending thanksgiving with Isaac's mom Marcy together with Aida and Isaac. We will be having a quiet thanksgiving meal on Thursday and on Friday we will celebrate with our colleague Tim Long and his

family. We are so grateful for all that God has provided.

When I sit down for a while to respond to give thanks to all of those who support the ministry and mission that God has placed in my hands, I really do feel thankful. I cannot do what I do without your support and your partnership. I rely on your prayers and hope to visit every one of you when I am in your area. I feel so welcomed in your churches and in your homes. At this moment, I am praying for all of you as you strive to be faithful in your own journeys.

Wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas Season!

Mercy

I so enjoyed my rist with all of you! @ men.



#### **DECEMBER MINISTERS**

Communion: Prepare: Peg Straub and Li Ling

Serve: Peg Straub and Li Ling

Ron Land and Richard Tourjee

**Assist Pastor: Dave Rowley** 

#### Lay Leader

02- Becky Freeman

09 - Richard Tourjee

16 - Catherine Hiller

23 - Holly Boyle

31 - Pete Wong

#### **JANUARY MINISTERS**

**Communion:** Prepare: Gail Neff & Peg Straub

Serve: : Peg Straub

Gail Neff Carol Gatlin Bob Land

**Assist Pastor: Barbara Brant** 

#### Lay Leader:

06 – Anita Fernald

13- Marilyn Rodearmel

20- Dave Rowley

27 - Alex Lew





#### **DECEMBER**

- 04 Sandy Wong
- 05 Joan Watkins
- 06 Robert Nelson
- 10 Ted Hespeler
- 16 John Rodearmel
- 17 Clyde Myers
- 21 Sheila Manchester
- 25 Catherine Hiller

#### **JANUARY**

- 02 William Deveau
- 02 Noelle Butler
- 04 Mackenzie Ackley
- 05 Eric Bianchi
- 05 Ronald Land
- 06 Sarah Adams
- 07 Pete Wong
- 08 Pete Deveau
- 09 Barbara Bellefleur
- 13 Emma Martel
- 15 Patti Crooks
- 15 Adam Greene
- 15 Matthew Greene
- 16 Jackie Dorobkowski
- 17 Go Tuang
- 18 Richard Tourjee, Sr.
- 22 Libby Ribarich
- 25 Pebbles Quibble
- 31 Candy Zeppieri



# Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church Council Meeting Minutes Monday, December 3, 2018

Meeting was brought to order at 6:30pm. **Devotions:** Dave Rowley led us in devotion s

Review October Minutes: Filed as emailed and printed

<u>Communications</u>: Catherine sent a letter to our tenants reminding them that in this season of possible snow, according to their lease they are responsible for shoveling the sidewalk in front of the house.

#### Treasurer

Cash Flow Detail handout filed with minutes.

#### Pastor's Report—

- Wanted to express her gratitude for the hard work for all ministries of the month of November; it was
  a full and busy month with Stewardship Sunday, receiving Rev. Tim Chesser in her absence, Thanksgiving, etc. She also expressed her thanks for the tremendous work at the Holiday Bazaar and support
  in the Parsonage Open House. This past weekend was a wonderful beginning to the Advent celebration!
- We will be beginning a new Advent series in the adult Sunday School class, "Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph." This will be done for the next 3 weeks, we will take a break for the Sunday after Christmas, and then finish up on Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>).
- Prayer concern: special request from Bob and Carolyn, as it appears that Connie is in the final days
  of her long and difficult journey. She is suffering, Hospice is trying to keep her pain-free, but it's a
  moment by moment thing, and we ask that God's love be present with them across the miles.
- Will talk about Pastoral Evaluations during the PRC Report
- Received a call from Ledyard Gales Ferry Baptist Church, and they would like to join us for our
  Christmas Eve service; it may only be a few members, and Claudine will invite Bill Aldrich to lead
  with her but he's not sure he can be here due to a conflict with another job. The church's members
  have been invited to take part in leading the service if interested.
- This Sunday, for those who have been a part of collecting shampoo/toiletries for Homelss Hospitality Center in New London, Tambria Moore will be coming to do a mission moment and thank the congregation; Carol will also finish with the family gifts donation ministry.
- This past month, PBBC and Claudine hosted an MAEC meeting and received a request for the group Community Speaks Out. The group, which deals with the opiod/drug problem in our community, has requested prayer shawls from churches that do that ministry. With the council's blessing, Claudine would like to share some, possibly 5, to give to Barbara Dixon to present on behalf of the MAEC with that group.
  - Catherine brought up the question of whether the Prayer Shawl room is being properly cared for with those whose duty that is being out temporarily; Peggy and Claudine will follow up.
- New members' class will be January 13<sup>th</sup> once we get through the Advent/holiday season, and we
  will put some invitations out in the bulletins.
- Just to get it on the calendar, the sanctuary will be used on January 19<sup>th</sup> for the wedding of Pat's
  niece Emily. Because it is a member of the church family there is no fee and the decision of a donation to the church is left up to them, with the exception of paying custodial staff and the organist if
  need be.
- Rev. Tim Chesser will be preaching again on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Deacon and Committee Reports:**

#### **Building/Grounds**

- The Miner Building roof has been taken care of as of November 24<sup>th</sup>, and it is all dry upstairs!
- The tree over the parsonage has also been taken care of thanks to everyone who put in such amazing
  work to assist with that removal.
- Had both septic tanks pumped (parsonage and rental) on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. Alex's research suggests that this should be done at 3-5 year intervals so we should be set for a few years now.
- Incident with the dryer at the parsonage; there was a service call to Coogan Guildersleeve, and the
  dryer is once again functioning. For the next year's budgeting, Alex has included funds in anticipation of getting a new dryer in the next year, because although it is working now, it was purchased at
  the same time as the old washer and may need to be replaced soon.
- Alex spoke to Dave about doing a walk-around soon to clarify some parts that needed addressing from the Safe Church Committee's report.

- A couple of chips are missing from the front steps; Brian thinks that it can be fixed fairly easily but is not sure it can be done in the cold weather. He will check up on that and report back.
- Last thing on their radar is the tree removal by road, and the need to deal with the garage at the rental
  property. These will be dealt with in the upcoming weeks/months as the committee is ready to do so.
- Claudine raised a question about the parking lot light, as it does not seem to be consistent when it is
  on. Groton Utilities administers it, and Ron thinks we get billed for it. Alex & Brian will follow up on
  it with them.

#### Education/Discipleship—Li Ling and Dianne Dellarco

Both deacons were absent, but reported to Catherine that they have begun the new story/music time
program with the preschool children and it seems to be going along well. The present topic is
"Animals of the Bible," and the children seem to be enjoying it!

#### Hospitality—Sandy Vocolina and Marilyn Benson

• Both deacons absent; no repor Mission/Outreach—Holly Boyle, Carol Gatlin

#### Worship/Membership—Peg Straub, Barbara Brant

• Still thinking about what to do for the choir director position. They asked about the possibility of Heidi taking over these duties; she provided an update about her employment with Central Baptist Church and stated that, while she will be unavailable indefinitely but likely at least until February, she would be open to helping out in rehearsing the choir. The Committee may decide to get the choir together at some point to have a conversation about how to proceed, and to see if potentially there are any members who would be interested in stepping into a leadership position. The idea was also discussed of contacting local colleges to see if any music students would be interested.

#### Pastoral Relations—Darrell Tootell

- Will be passing financial information to the Finance Committee and as soon as that gets squared away, he will give a report at a later date.
- Darrell asked Claudine to speak about the evaluation forms. She reported that 29 people filled out the evaluations and returned them. The PRC has compiled a spreadsheet with all the numerical gradings and every written response to the questions, and will be printing a few copies to leave on the table in the lounge for those who are interested in looking through it. They are overjoyed that overall, the responses were quite positive and they celebrate the relationship we share and the strength of who we are as pastor and people. Most challenges or areas of growth listed are natural, good themes, such as outreach, membership, growth, empowerment, and involving young people. If, after reading the results, the council would like to discuss any of the suggestions/areas for growth listed, that can be done at a later meeting.
- Catherine asked if we believe the 29 responses constitute a representative number for our congregation; Claudine responded that she thinks so, because some people seem to have filled them out together on behalf of a whole family.

#### **Nominating Committee: Patti Tootell**

She is talking to a number of people to fill positions, as there are lots of important ones to fill this
year. Pete Wong has agreed to come on as Financial Secretary, and Dave Rowley will step into the
role of Vice Moderator. She is still looking to fill the roles of Worship & Membership, Chair of Finance, and Benevolence.

#### **Old Business:**

- Dave has signed up a new committee member: Drew Wesche expressed his interest in joining. He is interested in security cameras so he will touch base with Ron about our setup.
- The committee is now working on the walk-around information about security and safety concerns around the building.
- The committee now has 5 members: Dave Rowley, Holly Boyle, Peg Ackley, Darrell Tootell, and Drew Wesche.

#### Parking

- Catherine was looking into parking on Sundays, specifically checking to see if neighbors are parking
  in the church lot. She checked with Sarah who arrives early, and she said that there are usually no cars
  here, so the neighbors seem to be abiding by our agreement.
- The new parking sign from John Rodearmel is up and it looks beautiful! Thank you John!
   Catherine will check in with John about any cost incurred.
   Snow plowing
- Last month we had a snowstorm, and there was no plowing contract. Richard Tourjee contacted our
  former company and was asked to send our old contract in. We haven't heard back yet. Catherine
  requested that if we don't hear back by the end of this week that we attempt to get in touch again. She
  will talk to Richard about doing that.

#### **New Business:**

It's budget time! Every ministry was asked to submit a budget to the Finance Committee. Dave has received one from Barbara, Belle, PRC, Buildings & Grounds, and Peggy. Hospitality has also expressed their needs. Any other ministries that have not yet turned in budget requests should do so as soon as possible. Dave would like to have a meeting with the Finance Committee this upcoming Sunday after church in the Vestry. He will ask that same committee to meet again the following Sunday to finalize things. He is also working on his financial report.

In preparation for the Annual Meeting, Heidi is requesting that all deacons submit reports to her by the end of December so that they can be compiled for the Annual Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting is January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., and Dianne will be doing devotions.

Submitted by: Heidi Butler, clerk



Join us here at PBBC at 7:00 pm December 24th for our inspiring Christmas Eve Service

Bring a friend!!!

# Dear Claudine & Women of PBBC,



Somehow, just saying "thank you" doesn't seem like enough.

But I hope you know

how much your kindness

has meant to me.

To was a blessings and a great joy
to be part of "Women's Retreat."

I am grateful for the opportunity
to meet the wonderful, compassionate
and thoughtful women and share
the journey. Thank you! The prayer
shoul and "You raise me up" moment
will always be treasured in my heart.

May God's blessings be with you and your loved ones always! Hoson



HOME is at the heart of all we do. For the past 20 years, Always Home has pursued one mission—Preventing Family Homelessness. We work in countless ways to keep families housed and to help parents create lasting stability for their children.



Formerly Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality Inc.

To learn more about Always Home, visit our website www.alwayshome.org



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter



#### Youth News

#### Youth Meetings

This year our regular youth group meeting will take place the third Sunday of every month from 4-6pm. We will rotate churches each month. Here is our rotation schedule:

December 16th - Union Baptist Church January 13th - Noank Baptist Church February 17th - Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church March 17th - Union Baptist Church April 21st - Noank Baptist Church May 19th - Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church

Go to Courtney's email to respond to these invitations:

youthcoopdirector@gmail.com



Christmas Caroling at Nursing Homes

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday, December 14th. Meet at Union Baptist at

5:30 pm parents pick up at 8 pm.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

Annual Christmas Party

Sunday, December 16, 4-6 pm



We had great time last year decorating cookies, building gingerbread houses and having a Yankee swap while watching Elf.



What fun will we get into this year?

Bring a bizarre gift for the swap and be prepared for holiday fun!



#### A Little Church Humor





THE BABY JESUS STARTS TEETHING.

### MYSTIC CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Wednesday evening, December 19, 2018 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

## **SERVICE OF LIGHT**



Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

~ Matthew 11:28

The holiday season, despite all its merriment and joy, can be a time of struggle for many. We may 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.

## Community



Christmas dinner
Tuesday, December 25, 2018
1:00 pm
1:00 pm
Union Baptist Church
Mystic

All are Welcome

For Reservations or

To arrange a ride, schedule a meal

delivery, or donate food

Call 860-572-7158

Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church 1241 Poquonnock Road Groton, CT 06340