



The Messenger

King Street United Church of Christ

July/August 2009

Issue 7 of 11

**King Street
United Church of Christ**
201 South King Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06811
Worship on Sundays at 9:30 AM

Tel: (203) 748-0719
FAX: (203) 748-0719 (call first)

Church E-mail:
office@kingstchurch.org

Church website:
www.kingstchurch.org

Pastor

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Other hours by appointment
(203) 748-0719
(203) 791-1862 Home
(203) 300-1736 Cell

Confidential E-mail:
Pastor@kingstchurch.org

Secretary

Tish McCarthy

Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
E-mail: office@kingstchurch.org

Music Director
Paul Malyszka

Director of Senior Bells
(Vacant)

Director of Junior Bells
Barbara Nobles

Sexton
Bob Cotton

I recently started a sermon with a quote from preacher and writer Barbara Brown Taylor. In a 1998 article for *Christianity Today*, she wrote that going to church “is one of the most peculiar things twentieth-century human beings can do – to come together week after week with no intention of being useful or productive, but only of facing an ornate wall to declare things they cannot prove about a God they cannot see.”

Although the article was about the ascension of Christ into heaven, the thought has stayed with me, prompting an important question. “If going to church is such a peculiar thing, why do we do it?” Why do we drag ourselves out of bed on one of the few mornings we don’t have to get up early? Why do we make church attendance a priority for our children and youth? Why do we gather each Sunday morning with people who are like us and people who aren’t, in order to worship a God we barely understand and only hope to know fully after we are dead?

It’s not very practical. Or logical. And yet we come. Because we enjoy one another. Because we enjoy being in God’s presence with one another. Because it helps us start the week off right. Because it helps us be better people. Because we need each other. Because we long for community. Because Sunday morning may be the only time all week when we slow down and listen for the voice of God.

What are your reasons for coming to church? I’m guessing those reasons don’t change just because it’s July and August. So take a “staycation” at church. We need you. You need us. We all need God. And we all need God together.

See you Sunday. And the Sunday after that. And the Sunday after that. . . .

Peace,

Cindy



Carolyn Ruffles Ruth Tibbetts
Blanche Masi Harriett Mangels
Scott Merrell Roger Nelson, Jr.
John Jennings



Congratulations to the Helen Humphrey Scholarship recipients this year: Chelsea Edgar (attending Middlebury College in the fall) and Sarah Loschiavo (attending University of New Hampshire in the fall). Best Wishes for future success!!

did you know?



Jim Loschiavo, recently diagnosed with brain tumors;
Linda Spione, in the death of her mother;
The family of *Mary Ellen Sanzeni* who recently passed away;
Michelle Chuisano, in the recent death of her father;
Val Fuller, whose mother, Marjorie Mascolo, recently passed away;
Sue Mills, in the death of her father;
Doreen Cotton, whose mother passed away on December 2nd;
Ann Salamone, Christine's mother-in-law;
Marcelle Corsi, Shari Lynn Niland's mother.

The families of the victims affected by recent tragedies, violence and natural disasters;
those who are serving in the armed forces and their families and all who are victims of war.

Did you know that the church gets an electric bill every month? Just like you do at home. We get a phone bill every month, too, plus quarterly bills for insurance, trash pickup, office supplies, music, religious education materials, etc. Those bills just keep coming, regardless of our vacation schedules. So if you miss church this summer, please 1) Read the pastor's article on the first page!; 2) Remember to send in your pledge money when you're going to be away; and 3) Consider signing up for automatic withdrawals so that your tithes and offerings to the church are sent each month without worry.

Thank you for your continued generous support of King Street Church.





We are hoping to schedule a fun social event this summer for the whole church. If you have any ideas, or if you are willing to organize the project, please talk to Pastor Cindy.



Tag Sale Fundraiser

We will be having a church tag sale the last weekend in August. As you are doing your summer cleaning, please keep in mind any items that could be donated for the tag sale. If you have a lot to sell think about renting a table of your own. More details will be coming soon. If you are interested in helping you can contact Rebecca Manfredonia.



Women's Society

Thanks to all who helped with the Strawberry Shortcake booth at the fair. It was all YUMMY!!!!!!

There will be NO regular July or August meetings during the summer but please mark August 31st on your calendar for our annual Potluck Dinner for all Women of the church and community. Bring a dish to share.

We are planning on great fellowship and some entertainment surprises.



The Thrift Shop will be closed during August. Be prepared to do your school and fall shopping when we re-open in September. Hours are Thursday and Saturday mornings 9 to noon. Donations also welcome at those times only.

Anniversary Sunday is

August 16. Please bring flowers to place on the graves of loved ones in our cemetery.



A History of Faith

Our church has a valuable heritage. You have probably read the history on our website, but learning our history makes us realize how fortunate we are to be members of the King Street United Church of Christ.

Let's go back and try to imagine life as it was in 1830. Danbury was a quiet rural area. People lived on farms, often far apart. Religion was at a low ebb, and those wishing to gather to study the Gospel did so in homes or schools. In the winter of 1822 two missionaries came to the area, Abigail Roberts and Levi Hathaway. They were to kindle the spark that was to alter our course in history.

By the summer of 1830, eight people decided to "unite together, to watch over each other for good, and to maintain the ordinances of the Gospel." Thus The First Christian Church of Southeast, Patterson and Danbury was formed. During the next few years membership grew. We were sometimes blessed with a pastor, but more often not. In December, 1845, a meeting was held for the purpose of selecting land and building a house of public worship. As most lived in this area they chose the corner of King and South King Streets. The money was raised by subscription, the land purchased, and in 1846 our lovely little church was built. Between 1850 and 1900 the church was renovated and the square pews removed. It was the custom for men to sit on one side and women on the other.

Early records state that the social event of our church centered around the Donation tendered the minister in the late autumn or early winter. It was held during the full moon, making the drive by horse and buggy easier and safer. Excellent food was provided by the ladies and as each table finished, a basket was passed for a free will offering. The Donation could vary from \$40.00 to \$90.00, depending on weather conditions.

The home of Asa Hoyt was purchased in 1889 to be used as a parsonage. Previously the preacher and his family lived wherever rooms were available.

The church had a very pretty spire that added much to its appearance, but around 1900 a terrific hurricane tore it off and it landed point down in the cemetery. Many years were to pass before it was replaced. There was no musical instrument and singing was conducted by a leader who pitched the tune with a tuning fork. Later a melodeon was added and in the late 1870's a little pump organ was purchased.

The early 1900's were difficult times. In 1920 our pastor was dismissed because of finances, even though he was only getting \$15.00 a week and his home. For many years the church was closed during the winter months from January 1 through April 30 because of bad weather and traveling conditions. The building needed repair and the congregation dwindled to a handful, but the faithful held on and services were held when possible with the pulpit being filled by supply ministers or students.

As the farms disappeared, clusters of homes were being built. In 1946, 100 years after the little meeting house was built, the parishioners felt the need for a parish house. Cinder blocks were sold for 50 cents a piece, and the basement of the parish house started. For seven years it

was used for a Sunday school and all social events. Finally in 1955, for the first time in history we went into debt and borrowed the money to complete the upper level. It was named after Rev. Harry S. Martin, whose dream it was to complete the addition.

In 1960 the old parsonage on King Street was sold and the lovely parsonage on South King Street was built. Rev. Charles Kennedy and family were its first occupants.

In 1963, with the help of the Missionary Society of the United Church of Christ, we received a grant to help pay the salary of a resident minister. Our pastor at that time was Rev. Stoddard Williams. After a few years we were able to dispense with this grant.

The area continued to grow and in 1967 our educational building became a reality. In 1969 Calvin Hansen became our pastor followed by Rev Denis T, Noonan in 1971, who stayed with us 5 years. We were then blessed to receive Rev. Kenneth Landall. Attendance grew dramatically and the small size of the sanctuary became a concern. We tried having two services, but we liked being together, so after much deliberation the decision was made to enlarge the sanctuary, using part of the Martin Room.

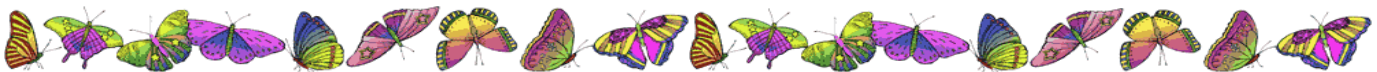
I love to remember that experience. After the two services on Easter Sunday, the sanctuary was stripped of its fixtures, pews, carpeting, furniture and banners. The following Sunday we gazed about in amazement. Folding chairs had been brought in. A cross, made from two boards, stood on the altar. Each week services were held as usual and we watched each event as it took place—a window moved, walls painted blue, (surprisingly, the color of many years before), a beautiful new organ (the gift of the Rogers family) was installed, as were new pews and many gifts from our church family. On August 21, 1980, our 150th Anniversary, we were able to show with pride what had been accomplished.

Another notable event occurred in 1989, when through the efforts of four of our church members, a steeple, an exact duplicate of the original which had landed in the cemetery, was built and raised to the tower. We had a gala parade down South King Street where a celebration was held as it was put in place.

After 13 years of service, Rev. Landall took a pastorship in Duxbury, MA. We had several pastors and interim pastors during the coming years, and then in 2005 we were blessed to learn that the search committee had found just the kind of person we were looking for. With joy welcomed Rev. Cindy Maddox as our pastor on Pentecost Sunday.

We do have a remarkable heritage, as proven by our devoted members, holding down the covenant in the early days of the church – “united to watch over each other for good, and to maintain the ordinances of the Gospel.”

Barbara Westby
Historian





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
JULY 2009			1	2 9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open	3	4 Independence Day
5 9:30 Worship/ Communion	6	7	8	9 9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open	10	11 9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open
12 9:30 Worship	13	14	15	16 9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open	17	18 9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open
19 9:30 Worship	20 7 pm Ministry Council	21	22	23 9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open	24	25 9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open 1- 5 pm Dorothy Day
26 9:30 Worship	27	28	29	30 9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open	31	





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
AUGUST 2009						1
2 9:30am Worship/Communion	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:30am Worship	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30am Worship – Anniversary Sunday	17	18	19	20	21	22 1– 5 pm Dorothy Day
23 9:30am Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:30am Worship	31 6 pm Women’s Society Potluck Dinner					





YOU!

I will always remember June 20, 2009. I thought I was going to lunch with my fiancé, and instead I was treated to a surprise bridal shower. When I saw more than thirty women gathered there in celebration, something rare happened to me: I was speechless! Barb Westby and Joy Schultz did a wonderful job planning the event, and you all were so very generous in your gifts and in your time. I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support I felt. I still can't seem to find the words to tell you how very much it means to me—how very much *you* mean to me. All I can say is: you are sheer gift and boundless blessing. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

--Pastor Cindy



**SEPTEMBER Messenger articles due
Wednesday, AUGUST 19th**

E-mail articles to Knisleys127@sbcglobal.net



THE MESSENGER

**King Street
United Church of Christ**
201 South King Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06811

**Reverend Cindy Maddox
Pastor**