

Let me introduce you cont'd

Christmas she was given all types of pig presents!

Her daughters live in New Hampshire, Florida and Illinois. Dottie is very proud of her grandchildren – all 9 of them! She has a set of twins, Alex and Chris, Katie (a great basketball player in college), Danny, Zach, Emma, Laura, Ben and Jessie. She glows when she talks about them and loves seeing them any chance she can get. Her grandson, Ben, is getting married in April. The wedding will be in Chicago and Dottie is looking forward to a big family reunion then. She's hoping everyone from the family (cousins and all) will be able to make it!

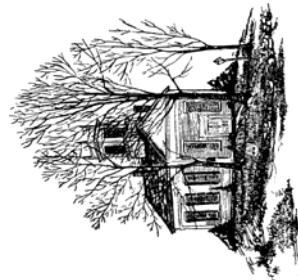
Dottie chairs the Missions Committee at our church. She has a strong belief in the Missions and is happy that it continues throughout the year. The Missions Fair was started 11 yrs ago and Dottie has been doing it every year. They begin planning in September. She is grateful that we keep Missions alive at other times of the year. She would like to see the youth of the church get involved in Missions.

You will also see Dottie during church singing in the choir. She has been singing for years and really enjoys it. Her favorite hymns are "O Love that Will Not Let Me Go" and "Lead Kindly Light".

For the last nine years, Dottie has volunteered at the Keeler Tavern's gift shop and also for Meals on Wheels. She takes a painting class at the Senior Center in town and paints when she has time. She is currently working on a painting of her house.

Her house is very cute and isn't far from town. She has lived there for 37 years and raised her daughters there. Her backyard is an oasis for a mother deer and her babies. She loves seeing the birds as well, especially when they are migrating.

Dottie also has a collection of clowns. There are some beautiful Lladro' pieces that she has collected over the years, as well as some clown ornaments she has received as gifts. Laughter and smiling makes a person feel so good, and Dottie does a lot of that.



Ridgebury Congregational Church, UCC
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The Cornerstone

The Newsletter of Ridgebury Congregational
Church, United Church of Christ

January 2008

From the Pastor

The Reverend John D. Heeckt

Ave Ridgeburians,



Well, once again we've come to the end of another holiday season! Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany: such a busy time for everyone—and in the life of the church as well. Let me open this month by extending my thanks to EVERYONE who played a role in making the holiday season here at Ridgebury the smashing success it was. In case you haven't heard, our 5:00 family service on Christmas Eve drew a congregation of nearly 100 people, most of whom were visitors and a lot of whom were kids! This is, I have it on reputable authority, the biggest non-wedding or funeral service we've had for a long time, so yay us! Of course, that success rubs off on a lot of people, since so many people from our congregation pitched in a some point during the season. From the members of our choir, who sang so well during the season (not only during our regular Sunday services but on Christmas Eve as well). To the Deacons, who as always, played such a valuable role in leading worship on both Saturday nights and Sunday morning. To our Sunday School teachers, volunteers, and students who all worked very hard on our Christmas, or Epiphany and pageant. To all the folks who helped with decorating the Meetinghouse and painting the Narthex,. To the folks who read lessons on Christmas Eve and the families who lit the Advent candles (particularly the Weltons, who came out in that gosh-awful slop we had to deal with on the third Sunday in Advent), a great, big ministerial "thank you" to the lot of you! We couldn't have done it without you.

Just because the holiday season has come and gone, that doesn't mean there won't be lots of things to do here at Ridgebury Church. We've recently started a new prayer circle that prays regularly for the needs of the church and its people.

Pastor's Pondering cont'd

If you want to be part of that, just talk to our Chair of Deacons, Sharon Straiton. The weekly lectionary Bible studies are starting up again after a brief holiday hiatus, with meetings on Tuesday afternoons at 12:30 and Saturday evening at 6:30. I will be speaking on the history of Ridgefield's earliest churches in February at the Ridgefield Historical Society. Towards the end of this month, we'll be holding new member classes. Easter is coming about as early on the calendar as it can this year. That means Ash Wednesday is fast approaching on February 6th. For those of you who like to plan these sorts of things out in advance, let me add as a public service that the first Sunday in Lent is February 10th, Palm/Passion Sunday is March 16th, and Easter Sunday is March 23rd.

We were ready for Christmas when it came, and, thanks to all of the people who I know are going to be ready to pitch in during the upcoming Lent and Easter seasons, I know will be ready for them as well. With God's help, we'll be able to capitalize on all the things we accomplished together during the past holiday season to help keep our congregation growing and moving forward. I've said it before, and I'll say it again, Ridgebury Church's best days are still ahead of us and after this past holiday season I'm more sure of that now than ever!

Cheers, Joh

Calling All Members!!

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27th at 11:30 in Shields Hall.

This is an important point in our governance cycle. We will vote on the 2008 budget and discuss issues of congregational interests. A call will be distributed at mid-month giving you the agenda and details. Your vote is important. This church operates per your guidance and there is no better place to share your thinking than through your vote.

SAVE THE DATES! SAVE THE DATES!

Reverend Heckt will be presenting at the Ridgefield Historical Society on "The History of Ridgefield up to 1800".

Call Bill Lucas at 438-2124 for more details.

January 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 New Year's Eve [USA]	1 New Year's Day [USA] Mary - Mother of God [Christian]	2 7:30p Choir Practice	3 7:15p AA Meets	4	5 5p Saturday Church Service 6:30p Adult Discussion Group
8 10a Service with Communion 4:30p Christmas Pageant with Pot-Luck dinner to follow Epiphany [Christian]	7 7p Deacons Meet	8	9 7:30p Choir Practice	10 7:15p AA Meets	11	12 5p Saturday Church Service 6:30p Adult Discussion Group
13	14 7p Trustee Meeting	15	16 7:30p Choir Practice	17 7:15p AA Meets	18	19 5p Saturday Church Service 6:30p Adult Discussion Group
20	21 7p Council Meeting Martin Luther King Day [USA]	22	23 7:30p Choir Practice	24 7:15p AA Meets	25	26 5p Saturday Church Service 6:30p Adult Discussion Group
27	28	29	30 7:30p Choir Practice	31 7:15p AA Meets	1	2 5p Saturday Church Service 6:30p Adult Discussion Group Groundhog Day [USA]



JANUARY

1	Sally Yarrish	28	Lessley Burke
8	Tim Sganga	29	Karen Edwards
14	Dana Marker		
16	Dorothy Crofut		
16	Sue Bankes		
18	Beth Shonk		
19	Thomas Trolle		

Let me introduce you to...

By Liz Rowe

Dottie Rogers has been a familiar face at Ridgebury Congregational Church since 1976, when she first joined (Bill Eilers was the minister at that time). She has a very outgoing and determined spirit and has been through a lot in her 82 years. Yes, believe it or not Dottie just celebrated her 82nd birthday on December 12th!

Dottie was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1925. Her father was a carpenter and was a "big Union man". He helped form the Carpenters Union in Illinois and Missouri. Her mom was ill for quite a while and died when Dottie was 13 years old. Dottie is the second of four children and is the only daughter. Over the years, Dottie moved several times as a girl. Oklahoma (where her family was based), Indiana, back to Oklahoma, then to California (where her dad moved to), Nebraska and in the 9th grade back to California. She was active in a church youth group all during high school and loved being involved. Here she met her mentor, "Silky", who was the youth minister at the church. He offered her a job in his office and encouraged her to go to college. She enrolled at Redlands University for one year. The following year, she took a year off of college to decide what she wanted to do. She enrolled in courses at the Berkley Baptist Divinity School for a year and then went to the University of California for a year and after that she enrolled in San Francisco State where she graduated with a Teaching Degree.

While in California, she was married to a minister in 1952. Her twin daughters, Christina and Polly, were born in 1954. They moved to Vashon, Washington and their third daughter, Kelly, was born in 1958. They moved back to California, and Dottie taught grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 in several California towns for ten years. Her husband was offered a minister's position in Ridgefield and they moved out to the East Coast in 1970. Dottie worked at Barlow Mountain School and Scotland School for 26 years and taught the 2nd, 3rd and 5th grade. She loved teaching the third grade and really enjoyed the kids. Each year she would do a different unit with them. One year she did a unit on pigs and for