



JUNE NEWSLETTER

THE CORNERSTONE

Ridgebury Congregational Church
605 Ridgebury Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877

From the Pastor

Ave Ridgeburians!

Gosh, so here it is, June already, and with it, the end of another program year here at Ridgebury Congregational Church! A pretty successful one, if I do say so myself. (And I do say so myself—in fact, I just did!)

With the many of our church programs getting ready to take their summer break, I thought I would take the opportunity to thank the many people who make our Congregation work. There is simply no way even the most brilliant of ministers (let alone your humble servant,) can run even a smallish church like ours all by him or herself, it takes the efforts of lots of dedicated people to keep things going.

So in not particular order, here we go.

First, I want to thank everyone who has served our Congregation on its various boards and committees who have elected to take a well-deserved break for a little while. I can't mention everyone by name (and you know who you are anyway,) but there are three people I want to single out. I want to thank Sharon Straiton and Betty Miller for all the help they have been to me as chairs of the Deacons and the Pastoral Relations Committee respectively. As you are probably aware, the Deacons shoulder a lot of the burden around here, and Sharon has been absolutely invaluable to me in making the transition from newbie minister to reasonable seasoned veteran. The same goes for Betty, who has not only been a tremendous help to me personally, but also took the lead in putting together the Goals and Responsibilities Survey and chairing the hardest-working Pastoral Relations Committee in the U.C.C.! So thanks, ladies. Also, in addition to thanking Sharon, I should congratulate her as well, for as she is getting ready to turn over the Deacons to her successor (whomever that may be,) she is also getting ready to serve the Fairfield East Association as Assistant Moderator.

In addition to thanking the committee members who are electing to take some time off, I also want to thank both those committee members who have agreed to re-up for another term, and all of the people who have agreed to serve on our various boards and committees for the first time in the coming year. Not only have we been blessed by a bumper crop of new members over the past couple of years, but batches of them have demonstrated their commitment to their Congregation by agreeing to roll up their sleeves and pitch in. So thanks to all of you folks as well! Among those who will be continuing to serve our church on its various committees, I want to give special shoutout to Sue Bankes, who over the past few months has taken the lead in coordinating things between the church and our architects as we begin to move forward on restoring our Meetinghouse.

Also, I want to thank Elizabeth Sganga and Sally Miller, our extremely dedicated Sunday School teachers, and all of the people who have supported our church education program over the past year. That group includes those folks who have served as mentors for the young people in our Confirmation class. I also want to thank our Confirmands for their work over the past year, and their parents for shlepping them back and forth to church on Sunday evenings.

In addition, I want to thank Jean Early and Barbara Kapp for their leadership of our music program, as well as the dedicated singers who make up our choir and add so much every week to our worship.

Have I left anyone out? There are just so many people to thank for doing so much around here. If I did, sorry about that!

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has given so faithfully to the church over the past year. Not just for your financial giving (although I certainly do appreciate that!) but for the dedication so many of you have shown. By showing up for church work days, help set up and clean up after dinners and fellowship hours, and for all of the various ways, large and small, that so many of you help to make my job one of the very best jobs around.

That brings me to one final note. As Summer begins many of you are going to be away for extended periods on vacations. That's just swell; take care and enjoy yourselves, but remember: we're around even you're not. So if you could make sure you remain as faithful in your financial giving over the Summer as you are during the rest of the year, that would make me, Vince Sganga our Treasurer, the Trustees, and everybody else around here ever so grateful!

Cheers,

John



Our Ridgebury "bees" are now swarming with all the activity on the horizon. The Elephant Sale has happened and we are anxiously awaiting the results of everyone's efforts from the bakers to the folks who set up, cleaned up and helped during the day. We owe a mountain of thanks to the Chairmen, Sue Bankes, Linda Cochrane and Linda Hayward. Barbara Grose organized the Church sale items and Elizabeth and Vince Sganga organized the food. 90% of the drinks that were sold were complements of the Pepsi-Cola Company.

The coffee hour sponsored by the Green Team on April 19 was nothing short of spectacular. It ranged the entire gamut from informative to delicious. The Andromeda and Heleborous that were planted in the Memorial Garden was a great and long lasting addition to the Earth Day Celebration. We extend our thanks to Green Team members, Joy Manger, Jean Early, Linda Cochrane, Betty Miller, Sally Miller, Naomi Emmons, and Dotty Rogers.

The Deacons did a terrific job planning the Memorial Day service, Sunday, May 24th as well as the Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, May 31st. The Trustees are working diligently on the architectural study concerning the Meeting House. Committee members for the year 2009/2010 were elected at the Annual Meeting, May 31st. This list will be published shortly along with the bylaw changes that were accepted that day. The new boards and committees will be meeting in June to start planning for the fall. If you have any concerns or ideas you would like considered, just let us know.

As we form new committees over the next month, please take some time to thank the retiring committee chairs and members. Their time and commitment to our Ridgebury community is beyond comprehension. Many hours are put into making all the aspects of our worship life and everyday organization run smoothly.

With all this "swarming" of activity taking place, I think we'll produce some "mighty fine honey!"

Christ's love be with you,
Elizabeth Sganga



"Suddenly it is no longer just another long night, their chaplain and your 'God Pops' have made the difference". Well, you certainly did make a difference. Ridgebury Church collected more than 1500 Tootsie Pops and Charm Pops. I know because I counted them. I can't begin to thank all of you. When I brought this idea to Deacons, I never dreamed there would be such a response. They will be mailed this week to Iraq. Thank you and God Bless each of you.

June is going to be a very busy month. On June 7th, we will welcome four new members to our church family.

On June 14th, we will celebrate and honor the Sunday school classes and their teachers. We will also welcome our Confirmation class as new members of Ridgebury Church. In case you do not already know, our Confirmation class consists of Connor Rowe, Taylor-Ann Stroili, Amanda Grose, Tyler Welton and Kurt Steidl. They have worked hard to prepare for this day. A special thank you to their mentors: Bill Lucas, Barbara Kapp, Sally Yarrish, Liz Sganga and Sharon Station.

Music Appreciation is always something I look forward to. This is the day we recognize and show our appreciation to our Choir Director and the choir. This will be celebrated on June 21st.

On June 28th, our minister will be on vacation. It has been busy the last few months and Rev. Heeckt deserves a rest. A minister from the area will be in the pulpit.

This is my last Cornerstone as Chairman of Deacon's. There are so many people I would like to thank for this opportunity. I have learned so much from John (I was chairman of Deacons when he arrived here at Ridgebury) and I hope I have helped him over the past three years. All the Deacons that have served with me have been extraordinary. We have been busy and tried many new things that had never been done before. I think we can all be proud of what we have done.

I want to wish the new Deacons good luck. I know you will do a terrific job. Your dedication to Ridgebury Church speaks for itself.

God Bless,,

Sharon Straiton
Chairman of Deacons

STEWARDSHIP

Remember that pledge card you signed back in November for 2009!! This is a timely reminder from your friendly Stewardship Committee to keep your pledge current. As we head in to the summer months when attendance usually dips, we need to keep in mind that Ridgebury Church has expenses and obligations. With vacations coming it's a good idea to keep your commitment up to date before you go away. Keep in mind: **The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot!**

Chris Miller
Stewardship

From the Board of Trustees

The Church has a new policy concerning the use of Church property. for personal use. Before you consider borrowing any Church material, please check this new policy. The policy is posted in Shields Hall or contact any one of the Trustees.

Thank You

The Saturday Vesper Church Service is taking the summer off as of May 30th. It will be back in the fall!!

Do you like to communicate...SO DO WE!!

The Communications Committee is looking for people interested in joining our committee


Please call Bill Lucas at 438-2124.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sharon Straiton was installed as Vice Moderator of the Fairfield East Association, Connecticut Conference UCC at their Spring Meeting on May 27th hosted by the First Congregational Church of Bethel.

Congratulations, Sharon. We know you will bring the same dedication that you have shown as Chair of Deacons and every other committee and Board you have served upon at Ridgebury Church.

We look forward to hearing news of the Fairfield East Association

JUNE Birthdays	
	3 Alice Kenny Lucas 11 J. O'Brien Locke 14 Doug Grose 15 Jean Stouter 23 Sally Miller 25 Lauren Marker 26 Sydney Wray 27 Jeremy Heyel 27 Barbara Ollinger

June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 4p Blessing of the Animals <i>Whitsunday [Christian]</i>	1 7p Deacons Meet <i>Whitmonday [Christian]</i>	2	3 7:30p Choir Practice	4 7:15p AA Meets	5	6
7 Family Sunday Welcome New Members to church 10a Service with Communion <i>Trinity Sunday [Christian]</i>	8 7p Trustees	9	10 7:30p Choir Practice	11 7:15p AA Meets <i>Corpus Christi Day [Christian]</i>	12	13
14 Honor Sunday school classes and teachers Welcome Confirmands as New Members <i>Flag Day [USA]</i>	15 6:30p Council	16	17 7:30p Choir Practice	18 7:15p AA Meets	19	20
21 10a Music Appreciation Sunday <i>Father's Day [USA]</i>	22 7p Council Meeting	23	24 7:30p Choir Practice	25 7:15p AA Meets	26	27
28 10a Guest Minister 11a Missions	29 5:30p Pastoral Relations Meeting <i>St. Peter & St. Paul [Christian]</i>	30	1 7:30p Choir Practice	2 7:15p AA Meets	3	4 <i>Independence Day [USA]</i>