



APRIL NEWSLETTER

THE CORNERSTONE

Ridgebury Congregational Church
605 Ridgebury Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Ave, Ridgeburians!

In this month's piece, let me extend a little invitation to all of you. In just a few weeks (on April 18th, at 4:00 pm) we will be having another special worship service as part of our ongoing 250th anniversary celebration. This time we will join forces with the folks at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church for an evening prayer service that will follow the 1742 Anglican Book of Common Prayer.

Why a special service with our Episcopalian brothers and sisters? To commemorate an important part of Ridgebury religious history. You see, during the colonial period, we weren't the only church in Ridgebury. In fact, we weren't even the oldest church in Ridgebury. The fact is, the Anglicans were here before we were. Yes, its true! Congregationalists up in this part of town first got permission for a separate worship service during the winter months in 1732, but by that time, Anglicans had been meeting in these parts for seven years. (Which, for those of you handy with math, tells us that the Anglicans got here in 1725.) The Anglican church up here was served by an extremely hard-working priest who not only served the Ridgebury group, but also (at one time or another.), St. Stephen's here in town and the Anglican communities in South Salem and North Salem as well. Ridgebury's Anglicans had a tough time of it during the Revolutionary War. Their church membership collapsed in the late 1700s and their church building (which was probably located near the present intersection of Ridgebury and Neds Mountain Roads.), was torn down around 1810. All of this being the case, the Deacons and I thought it would be appropriate to reach out to the folks at St. Stephen's and put together a service that reflects how Ridgebury's Anglicans worshipped before the Revolution. So, on the 18th we will get together and pray for good King George (that's King George the Second, not George the Third, who was king at the time of the Revolution) and the members of the royal family, for Parliament, and for all of the other things folks prayed for in the mid 1700s. It should be a great service and a chance to experience a bit of "living history," if you will.

The service will also give us chance to reflect on how some of the changes that have occurred over the past 250 years have been changes for the better, for our colonial Congregational ancestors simply wouldn't have been caught dead worshipping with their Anglican brothers and sisters. Relations between Congregationalists and Anglicans had been difficult since the beginning of the English Reformation in the late 1500s, and the intervening couple of centuries had done nothing to bring the two sides closer together. Both groups disliked and distrusted one another, thought the members of "other" church were doomed to spend eternity in perpetual hellfire, and so on. In fact, relationships between the two groups didn't really begin to warm up until the 20th century, and to the best of my knowledge, this Evening Prayer service will mark perhaps the first time the members of our church and their church have ever gathered together to celebrate a common service!

So, why not get out the calendar now and see what your schedule looks like for the afternoon of April 18th at 4:00 pm, and join me in welcoming our Anglican brothers and sisters back to Ridgebury!

Cheers --- John



SPRING: the time to think about planting and, here at Ridgebury Church, it's the time for planning. The Nominating Committee members, Chris Miller, Bill Lucas, Nancy Boersma, Bob Burke, and chair, Marty Ollinger are in the process of forming the 2010/2011 slate of officers, boards and committees to be presented at the May Annual meeting. Information explaining the tasks of some of the positions has been distributed during the past few weeks, along with the ability to nominate someone or yourself. Members and friends working together keep our church community functioning productively. We offer our thanks to this committee for their dedicated work. Sincerest thanks are also in order to each and every one of you who agrees to serve.

The May 1st White Elephant sale is fast approaching. Please see Sue Bankes if you can help the committee with their plans and assist them on the day of the event.

Spring brings with it an extra amount of activity. We're sprucing up at work days, celebrating our 250th anniversary, involved in fundraising and mission projects, and worshipping together during this most blessed Easter season. Hats off to all of you who care about our Ridgebury Church community. Your help and dedication is definitely felt and appreciated by all of us.

God bless,
Elizabeth Sganga



I can't believe it is April already. It seems like just yesterday we were welcoming in March. Well you know what they say, "April showers bring May flowers." With all the rain we have had over the past 2-3 weeks, we should be inundated with May flowers this year!! Lilies, tulips and hyacinths are symbols of the new life in Easter's promise. On Easter Sunday, our church will be adorned with these lovely flowers.

By the time you get this Cornerstone, Easter will be just a few days away. On Good Friday, the church will be open for prayer and reflection during the afternoon.

Just a reminder, there will be two (9AM and 11am) services celebrating the resurrection. There will be a Fellowship Hour between the two services.

This year, I will be in San Antonio over Easter with my parents and friends. We are planning on attending Easter services "Texas Style" and will report the experience in next's month's Cornerstone.



Remember that Spring and Easter are a time of renewal, rebirth and the Resurrection.

Loving God, we are grateful that even death cannot extinguish the hope that is ours in Christ.

In God's Love,
Carole Bishop



250th Celebration

Wow! It seems like only yesterday I was at the January brunch telling you about our 250th Celebration of Ridgebury Church. At that time you were given a calendar telling of some of the exciting things the committee was planning. Now it is April and time for one of those ideas to come to fruition.

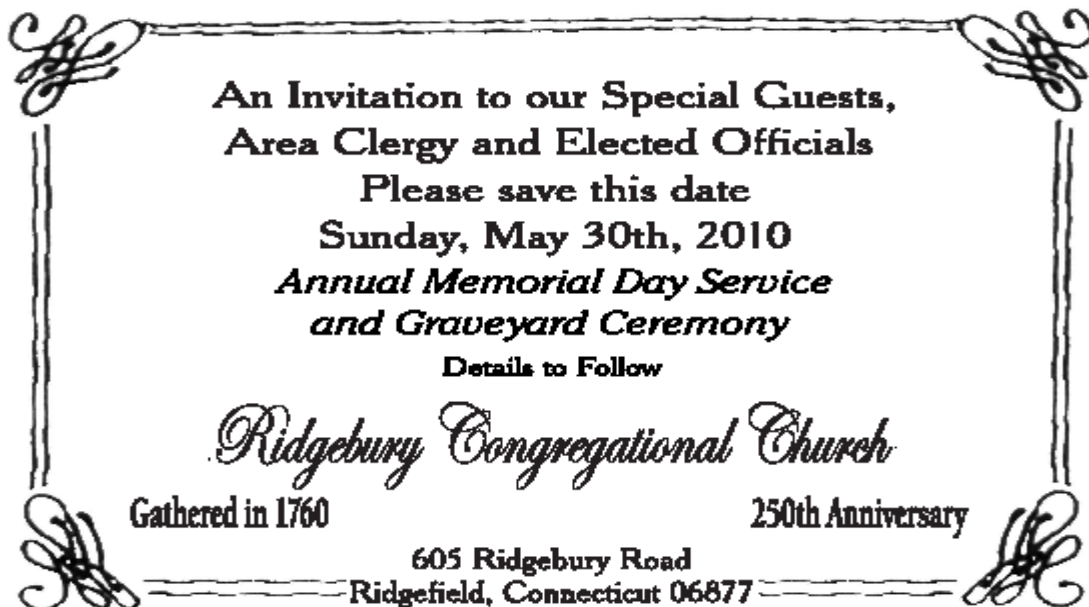
On April 18th we will be fortunate to join our brothers and sisters from St Stephens Church for an afternoon of worship and fellowship. Our minister and the Deacons have worked hard to make this service very meaningful for all of us. I urge you (invite some friends) to spend the afternoon with all of us.

Mark your calendar for May 30th - again plan to attend our Annual Memorial Day service and the journey down the road for our Graveyard Ceremony. Not only will we honor our servicemen and women, but the original members who formed our church who are buried there. Some exciting guests have also been invited.

A special thank you to Nancy Boersma for her continued efforts to keep us informed about the history of our church. As she has said, "study and remember these facts; there will be a test".

We look forward to all of you sharing these events with us and thank you for your enthusiasm and support. The committee can't do these events without you. If anyone has any old pictures or articles that you would like to share, please contact me.

Sharon Straiton, Chair
250th Anniversary Committee





The SECOND ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT SALE will be held on Saturday, May 1st on the Church grounds.

The cost is \$30.00 per space and you keep the profits!!

The committee is looking for a volunteer to man the church and food sales table during this sale.

Please share the information to see if a friend would like to buy a space.

If you have any questions, please call the church at 203-748-2806 or send an e-mail wes@ridgeburychurch.org.



Parking Lot Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 10th. Start time is 8:30AM. Bring rake; lunch will be served.



Church Clean-up Day on Saturday, May 15th. More information to follow

APRIL Birthdays



- 2 Guy Welton
- 2 Tyler Welton
- 21 Thomas Shevlin

MISSION FAIR NEWS

The Mission Board has been looking for a “hands on” project for our Church members and this year we will be teaming up with First Congregational Church for AMERICARES HOMEFRONT. This is a community-based, volunteer driven home repair program that provides free repairs to low-income homeowners. Through the work of thousands of volunteers and the generous support of dozens of product and professional service donors, the program has helped thousands of citizens living on fixed incomes that cannot afford home maintenance.

The year’s Homefront project will be on Saturday, May 1st (yes, the same day as the tag sale) and we are looking for volunteers to help with this effort. You do not need to be a craftsperson to participate as much of the work (painting, general clean-up and landscaping, etc) does not require specific skills. For those who have participated before, you know what a rewarding day this can be! This is our chance to give back to the *local community* and we hope you will all consider joining us. A sign-up sheet is posted in Shields Hall.

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Palm Sunday [Christian]	29 7p Deacons Meeting	30	31	1 7p Maundy Thursday service 7:15p AA Meets April Fool's Day [USA] Maundy Thursday [Christian]	2 Church open for prayer and reflection during the afternoon Good Friday [Christian]	3
4 9a Easter Sunday 11a Easter Sunday Easter [Christian]	5 Easter Monday [Christian]	8 1:30p Adult Bible Study	7	8 7:15p AA Meets	9	10 8:30a Parking Lot Clean-up Day 5p Adult Discussion Group
11 11:30a Missions Meeting	12 7p Trustees	13 1:30p Adult Bible Study	14	15 7:15p AA Meets Tax Day [USA]	16	17 5p Adult Discussion Group
18 4p Anglican Church Service	19 7p Council Meeting	20 1:30p Adult Bible Study	21	22 7:15p AA Meets	23	24 5p Adult Discussion Group
25	26	27 1:30p Adult Bible Study	28	29 7:15p AA Meets	30	1 5p Adult Discussion Group