



MAY NEWSLETTER

THE CORNERSTONE

Ridgebury Congregational Church
605 Ridgebury Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Ave, Ridgeburians!

Let's kick things off this time around with Joyce Kilmer's poem, "Trees":

I think that I shall never see/A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest/Against the sweet earth's flowing breast
A tree that looks at God all day/And lifts her leafy arms to pray
A tree that may in summer wear/A nest of robins in her hair
Upon whose bosom snow has lain/Who intimately lives with rain
Poems are made by fools like me/But only God can make a tree.

Now, to be honest, I've never been terribly fond of this particular poem. Its always struck me as terribly goopy and sentimental (I mean, really, "a nest of robins in her hair?" And "prest" isn't even a word, I don't think. Ick!) Still, sappy though his poem may be, Kilmer does have a point--trees are pretty swell. They provide shade, produce oxygen, offer a place for birds and animals to live, and they look nice, too. Which makes it all the more sad when a good tree goes down, and as many of you know, that happened to us just a few weeks ago. For, well, decades I suppose, there has been a big Norway Spruce that stood behind our Meetinghouse. Well, in those terrible storms we had last month, the poor old thing blew over. And while that is a sad thing, it was nonetheless in its way a three-fold lesson in God's grace. How so, do you ask? Well, I answer, consider the following: First, when the tree blew over, it fell to the west (which meant it landed in the vacant lot behind the Meetinghouse), as opposed to falling to the south (in which case it would have landed on the corner of the Meetinghouse, which would have been much worse). Second, since it fell during those terrible storms, there was no one out and about upon whom the tree might have fallen (which would, of course, have been even worse than having it fall on the Meetinghouse). Finally, a local person offered to donate his services to cut the old tree up, which saved the congregation a bundle of dough. So even in the loss of the tree, we can believe that God was at work to bring good out of a sad situation.

This is not, incidentally, something that God does only in the case of lost trees--God is always at work bringing good out of situations that would otherwise seem just awful. Take the example of Moses. Poor guy lost a position of prominence in Egypt--literally had to flee with the police hot on his trail--and ended up tending sheep in the middle of nowhere in some place no one had ever heard of called Midian. (Well, have *you* ever heard of Midian? No, I thought not--just proves my point.) Tragic turn of events if ever there was one--but, does God leave our hero out there in the middle of nowhere tending a bunch of dumb sheep? No sir, He does not. Rather, He appears to Moses in the burning bush and commissions Moses to lead the Israelites out of bondage and into freedom. It was God bringing good out of bad situation, something that He has done time and again in the past; something He did with the loss of our tree: And when you're facing something nasty in your life, it's something he can do for you as well.

Cheers

John



.....And the beat goes on!! It's been a busy month. The Saturday night Lenten series and services were a success. All our Sunday school students enjoyed the Easter egg hunt. The Anglican service was very meaningful and the reception outstanding. The Missions committee completed the hygiene kits with the assistance of Sally Miller's class. The April workday produced a mighty fine-looking parking lot and walkway across the street. It takes many dedicated people to accomplish so much. Remember to thank those folks on the Missions Committee, Board of Deacons, the 250th Committee, Trustees and the Sunday school. Thanks also to John for preparing for all the services and Bible study in April. "Many hands make light work", said my grandma Mirrielees.

May is just ahead and the beat continues. We hope to have plenty of help for the Elephant/Tag Sale, which is scheduled for May 1st. Please plan on joining us to spruce up our surroundings on the May 15 workday. The Nominating Committee is diligently at work forming a slate of officers and committee members for 2010/2011 to be presented at the May 23rd Annual Meeting.

We are so grateful for all our members and friends who make our Ridgebury Church such a caring and amazing place to be worshipping and sharing life. As a need arises, there always seems to be someone willing and able to accomplish it. All this combined support seems to keep that beat ever moving forward as Christ would have us do.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God."
Romans 8:28

Thanks for all you do,
Elizabeth Sganga



Another month comes to a close. It was a very busy month in the life of the "Little White Church on the corner." Our Easter services were the highlight of the month. They were well attended and the weather could not have been better. As I mentioned in last month's article, I was in San Antonio for Easter. We spent Easter morning at a Cowboy service with a backdrop of the Alamo. The sun was just rising and it was going to be a beautiful day. The cowboy who spoke during the service was very interesting and had a lot of experience with everyday cowboy life. I half expected to see him ride in on a horse to give his sermon. We were serenaded with music from a young lady who played the guitar and sang songs for us. It was a different kind of service and I'm glad to have attended it with my family and friends. We can all now say we have been to Cowboy Easter service.

The Deacons are planning a "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday on June 6th. This is an opportunity for you to have friends come and see how we worship and also to see what it is all about at Ridgebury. Stay tuned for more information and John will be making announcements about it from the pulpit. Children's Sunday will be the next Sunday, June 13th.

As John mentioned in his Cornerstone article, the Norway spruce fell down behind the meetinghouse during the storm in March. There will be a special offering taken on May 30th to defray some of the cost of purchasing and planting a new tree. The deacons will be having special collection envelopes in the bulletin during that May 30th service. Please consider contributing something to the beautification of our church grounds.

As always, if you ever have a question for the Deacons, please don't hesitate to see any one of us.

Thought for the Day from The Upper Room:
God is always closer to us than we think.

In God's Love,
Carole Bishop



I want to begin by thanking everyone who helped with the Sunday afternoon service with St. Stephen's Church - Rev. Heeckt, Rev. Delcuze, Jean Early, the Deacons and finally, the 250th Committee. It was a wonderful and spiritual event. If you were unable to attend, perhaps we should think about having the service again next year.

The next celebration that is being planned is the "Annual Memorial Day Service with a walk to the nearby Ridgebury Cemetery" This will take place on Sunday, May 30th at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. We have invited the area clergy, the clergy from the area Congregational Churches, our elected officials, plus many friends.

This will be the traditional Memorial Day Service, honoring our servicemen and women and the eighteen families who "gathered" our church. As you arrive at the cemetery you will note that the members of the original eighteen who are buried in the cemetery will receive special recognition.

It is the hope of the committee that you will attend and invite your friends. A reception will follow the service.

Another date to put on your calendar is June 13th. This is Children's Sunday when all of our youth are recognized along with their Sunday school teachers. But there is more - it is also "All Church Photo Day". The committee has arranged for a photographer to come and take a picture of all of us. This picture will be put in our Commemorative Booklet that will be handed out at the luncheons in October. We don't want anyone to be left out.

If anyone has any old pictures, newspaper articles or other commemorative items, please let any member of the committee know. We want our booklet to be filled with a lot of good memories.

Thank you for your support,

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.



Keep in mind the Church Clean-up Day is on Saturday, May 15th beginning at 8:30.



Just a reminder, there is a sign-up sheet for Altar flowers. The sign-up sheet is located on the wall in Shields Hall.

If you would like to dedicate flowers, please send your dedication to Bulletin@RidgeburyChurch.org.



MISSION NEWS

We thought you might like to know that the March 28th *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering was in the amount of \$806.00. Thank you for that and for all the good support you have given to the mission projects this past year. Our church is blessed with many caring people!

MAY Birthdays				
	5	Corrine Localvo	15	Ginger Drews
	8	Taylor Wray	19	Michaela Trolle
	9	Barbara Kapp	19	Lindsay Steidl
	10	Lori-Ann Stroili	23	David Wray
	11	Joshua Heyel	27	Kelly Raymond

May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27 1:30p Adult Bible Study	28	29 7:15p AA Meets	30	1 9a Tag Sale 5p Adult Discussion Group
2 Family Sunday 10a Communion	3 7p Deacons Meet	4 1:30p Adult Bible Study	5	6 7:15p AA Meets	7	8 5p Adult Discussion Group
9 11:30a Missions Meeting Mother's Day [USA]	10 7p Trustees	11 1:30p Adult Bible Study	12	13 7:15p AA Meets Ascension Day [Christian]	14	15 8:30a Church Clean-Up Day 5p Adult Discussion Group
16	17 7p Council Meeting	18 1:30p Adult Bible Study	19	20 7:15p AA Meets	21	22 5p Adult Discussion Group
23 11:30a Annual Meeting Whitsunday [Christian]	24 5:30p Pastoral Relations meeting Whitmonday [Christian]	25 1:30p Adult Bible Study	26	27 7:15p AA Meets	28	29 5p Adult Discussion Group
30 4p Memorial Day Service Trinity Sunday [Christian]	31 Memorial Day [USA]	1 1:30p Adult Bible Study	2	3 7:15p AA Meets Corpus Christi Day [Christian]	4	5 5p Adult Discussion Group