



JUNE NEWSLETTER

THE CORNERSTONE

Ridgebury Congregational Church
605 Ridgebury Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Ave, Ridgeburians!

Even though we're now past Memorial Day and thus at the beginning of the Summer season, things do not appear to be slowing down a whole lot around here! Rather, as I've mentioned at the beginning of the past couple of services, this June is shaping up to be one of the busiest months we've seen around here since I became minister, with something special going on at every Sunday service.

The first special event will come this Sunday with our first ever "Invite a Friend to Church" Sunday. Numerous studies over the years have shown that the single biggest factor in someone's decision to attend a particular church is the simple fact that someone who already attends that church invited him/her to come, and since we have a great church here in Ridgebury, there's no reason for us not to share what we have with other people we know. The Sunday after that, the 13th, will be Youth Sunday, when we will recognize our Sunday School students and thank our dedicated and hard-working Sunday School teachers, Elizabeth Sganga and Sally Miller, who do so much to shape the religious understanding of our young people. Also on the 13th we will have another 250th Anniversary event when we all assemble in front of the Meetinghouse after worship for an all-congregation photograph. Then on the 20th, we will have Music Sunday, when we recognize and thank Jean Early, our Choir Director, and all of the people who so faithfully sing in our choir and add so much to our worship with their music. Then finally on the 27th we will celebrate another baptism, as we welcome young Maeve Pando into Christ's one, holy, apostolic, and catholic church.

You might notice that several of the things that will happen in church this month are about saying thanks-- to our Sunday School teachers for their dedication and to our Choir for their faithfulness--and as the program year comes to an end, it is only fitting that we do that. And if it's fitting for the congregation as a whole to do that, it is even more fitting that I do that as minister, because there may be no one in a better position than me to see how much is done around here on a regular basis by so many people to keep this place functioning. If you're only here occasionally on Sundays you might think that a smaller church like ours is pretty much a one-man show, but oh, how wrong you would be! Even a smaller church like ours cannot function without a dedicated group of volunteers to do a lot of the work, and our volunteers are simply the best! From those of you who have served this past year on one of our boards or committees to those of you who have pitched in on specific projects over the course of the year, everyone who has given of their time and their effort has made this church a better place for all of us, and all of you have my thanks as my fourth program year as minister come to its close!

Cheers,
John



Here I sit writing this article as your Moderator. As you sit reading this article, I am "history." There are many people to thank for the support I've received over the past two years. After 40 years, I'm still happy to call Ridgebury Church home. Disagreements may arise along the way but the baseline of caring for one another is always present.

I can honestly say that I never had to beg anyone to take on a task that needed to be accomplished. There were times when we had volunteers before we knew what was needed. I'm confident that Marty Ollinger will find the same support as he steps into the Moderator position.

Faith keeps us grounded, and Ridgebury Church keeps that faith strong through Bible study, Sunday worship and the sharing of our lives. We must be vigilant in our awareness of the needs outside of ourselves.

There are four people who need an extra dose of thanks at this time. Chris Miller has spent many years as our Stewardship Chairman and he's turning over the reins this year. Carole Bishop has been multi tasking this year as our Cornerstone editor, Chairman of Deacons, overseer of our email message system, as well as handling our Memorial Brick Walkway. For the first time in a long time, next year Alice Kenny Lucas has only one assignment; that of grant writer, after serving three years as our Moderator, and two years on Pastoral Relations. Vince Sganga has been our Treasurer for nine years, as well as general maintenance guy, buying our supplies, helping to keep our building in good shape and meeting contractors when needed. These four members deserve our sincerest thanks as they move into other positions, or none for the moment, at Ridgebury Church.

Thank you all again and many blessings to all,
Elizabeth Sganga

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The committee wants this to be a celebration that we will not forget, so in order that all will have a keepsake, put on your pretty smiles and get all dolled up for our all church photo. A professional photographer will be on hand on June 13th to take our picture. We want everyone to be a part of this historic event. We will make this photo available for each of you at a later date.

We will end our celebration on October 17th with a worship service and a luncheon at the Ethan Allen Inn. All former ministers who are able to attend have been invited to take part in the worship service and join us at the luncheon. This will be a great time to talk about old memories and to meet some new friends of Ridgebury Church. The cost of the luncheon will be fifty (\$50.00) dollars for adults; fifteen (\$15.00) for children between the ages of 4 - 11. Children aged 3 and under are free. We recognize that this may seem steep to some, but we will have a 'Luncheon Layaway' (like the old Christmas club) for those who would like to pay a little each month. More details will follow.

Also, the committee is putting together a commemorative booklet that will be a keepsake for all of you. This will be available at the luncheon.

Thank you for your support,

Sharon Straiton
250th Anniversary Committee



I get very excited when June 1st rolls around. It means summer vacations are on the horizon, softball games will be starting and there will be time to picnic with family and friends. When I turned the calendar this year, I saw all the activities that are going on at church. June is turning out to be a very busy month!

It all starts this Sunday, June 6th with "Bring a Friend to Church". This is an opportunity for friends to visit our church and worship with us. There will be an informational brochure for friends to keep that has the history of Ridgebury, Reverend Heeckt's biography and other pertinent information that applies to our church. We will also be taking the special tree offering again. This is to defray the cost of purchasing and planting the Norway spruce that came down in the storm in March. Car, don't you mean replacement of the spruce?

On June 13th, we will celebrate and honor the Sunday school classes and their teachers. We will be recognizing Liz Sganga, Sally Miller and Barbara Grose on the great job they do with our young people and for another great Christmas Play. Also, as Sharon Straiton mentioned in her article, the "All Members" photograph will be taken as part of our 250th celebration. So you don't want to miss this service! Also, at 4pm, all pets with their families are invited to attend our 7th Annual Blessing of the Animals. It will be held on the lawn of Shields Hall.

The following Sunday, June 20th is Music Appreciation Sunday. This is the day we recognize and show our appreciation to our Choir Director and the choir. This is our chance to thank them all for the wonderful music they provide all throughout the year.

To close out the month, we will celebrate Maeve Pando's baptism on June 27th. Please come and welcome little Maeve into our church family.

This is my last Cornerstone as Chairman of Deacons. I would like to thank all the Deacons for their support. This year wouldn't have gone as smoothly without all of your help and willingness to pitch in. Ridgebury Church is lucky to have such a dedicated committee that works so well together. Kudos to all of you!!

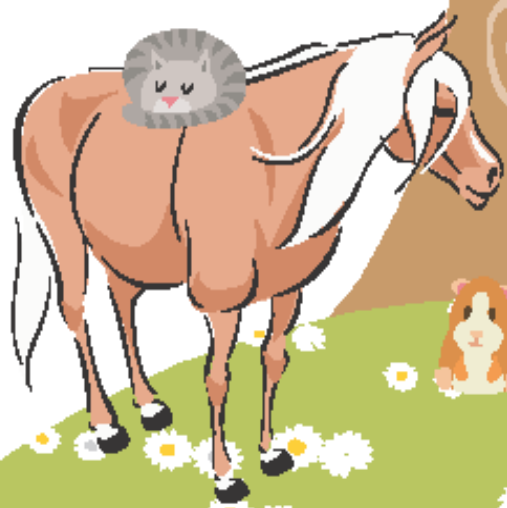
In God's Love,
Carole Bishop



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.

The Blessing of the Animals



All Pets with their Families
are invited to attend the
**7th Annual
Blessing of the Animals**
on
Sunday, June 13th
at 4 pm
Outdoors
Ridgebury Congregational Church
Ridgebury Road
at Geo Washington Highway
Ridgefield, CT
PETS SHOULD BE ON A LEASH,
IN CAGE OR IN A CARRIER.
Following the ceremony, pets will receive
Blessing Certificates. There will be Treats
for the pets and cookies for their families.



JUNE Birthdays



3	Alice Kenny Lucas	26	Sydney Wray
11	J. O'Brien Locke	26	Jeremy Heyel
14	Doug Grose	27	Barbara Ollinger
15	Jean Stouter	27	Debbie Amarosa
23	Sally Miller	29	Rob Calame

June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 4p Memorial Day Service <i>Trinity Sunday (Christian)</i>	31 <i>Memorial Day (USA)</i>	1 1:30p Adult Bible Study	2	3 7:15p AA Meets <i>Corpus Christi Day (Christian)</i>	4	5 5p Adult Discussion Group
6 10a Communion 10a Bring a Friend to Church Day	7 6:30p Deacons Meet	8 1:30p Adult Bible Study	9	10 7:15p AA Meets	11	12 5p Adult Discussion Group
13 10a Children's Sunday 11:30a Missions Meeting	14 6:30p Trustees <i>Flag Day (USA)</i>	15 1:30p Adult Bible Study	16	17 7:15p AA Meets	18	19 5p Adult Discussion Group
20 10a Music Sunday <i>Father's Day (USA)</i>	21 6:30p Council Meeting	22 1:30p Adult Bible Study	23	24 7:15p AA Meets	25	26 5p Adult Discussion Group
27 10a Pando baptism	28	29 1:30p Adult Bible Study <i>St. Peter & St. Paul (Christian)</i>	30	1 7:15p AA Meets	2	3 5p Adult Discussion Group