

The Herald

June 2015



A Message From Associate Pastor Alex Floyd Marshall

Dear Friends,

I was absent from our worship this weekend to join my wife Rebecca for a very special occasion. On Sunday, Rebecca was officially nominated and called to serve as the Pastor of the Congregational Church in Little Compton, Rhode Island! As a result, I will be resigning from my position as Associate Pastor at Saugatuck Church, effective September 1.

We are excited about what awaits us in Little Compton! We have met with this church a few times over the past couple of months, and in that short time we have felt a strong sense that this is where God is calling us to serve next.

As excited as we are, it will be very sad and hard to leave behind Westport and our two ministries here.

I have been profoundly touched by my time at Saugatuck and the connections I have made with so many in this congregation. This has been a community that has felt like home to me, and I will deeply miss you all. Our Pastor, Alison, has been a fantastic mentor and friend to me the past two years. I have learned a great deal about ministry, leadership, and working on a team from both Alison, Heather, and the many dedicated lay leaders of this church. I will be very sad to leave this team behind.

I want to tell the young people of this church in particular that it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your pastor the past two years. I love each of you and I look forward to seeing what God has in store for each of your lives, even if I will be seeing the exciting things you do from a little farther away.

I will be remaining as the Associate Pastor at Saugatuck through the end of August. In early September Rebecca and I will be relocating to Little Compton and settling in before she begins her ministry there. Over the summer I will be working with Alison, our Christian Education Board, and our Church School and Confirmation teachers to plan for the fall so that our ministry to children and youth will continue to thrive next year.

This community means a great deal to me. I am continually in awe of the commitment and creativity of our leadership in this congregation. And I have found here many friends with whom I hope to stay in touch for years to come. I am confident that there are many great things ahead for this church. Saugatuck will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers as I go. I hope that I will continue to be in yours.

Grace and Peace,

Alex



A Message From Alison Patton, Pastor and Priscilla Long, Moderator



Dear Members and Friends of Saugatuck Church,

It is with a mix of sadness and well wishes that we prepare to say goodbye to Alex Marshall, our Associate Pastor for Youth and Children. As he has described, he will conclude his ministry among us at the end of August, because his wife, the Rev. Rebecca Floyd Marshall, has been called to serve The Congregational Church in Little Compton, Rhode Island.

During his two years as our Associate Pastor, Alex has skillfully facilitated our ministries with young people, from the youngest children to high school seniors. He has supported and encouraged the involvement of our youth in the life of the church and created space for them to deepen their ties to each other. Alex's many adventures with youth at Saugatuck have included white water rafting, trips to Overlook Farm with middle schoolers and a week-long mission trip to the southwest. In collaboration with the Christian Education Board and teachers, he has nurtured the faith lives of our young people. We are so grateful for the many gifts he has shared with us!

There will be time to say good bye to Alex in person. He will remain at Saugatuck Church through the summer. Beginning immediately, Saugatuck leaders will also consider the best ways to sustain our youth and children's ministries after Alex' departure.

In the meantime, please join us in thanking Alex and wishing him God's blessings as he strikes out on the next leg of his journey. Our thoughts and prayers go with him.

Grace and Peace,

Priscilla Long, Moderator

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton, Pastor



Summer Stewardship

Stewardship as wisdom tells us is a year round discipline. As we head into the summer consider pre-paying your summer pledge. The church continues its mission throughout the summer and because of that experiences normal monthly operating expenses. Many of us are away much of the summer and don't think to pay down our pledge over the time we're gone. This places stress on the church's cash flow and sometimes critically so. Cash flow and a 2015 budget gap that needs to be filled make it all the more important for the faithful to assist in any way you can. Here are some great ways to help:

Pre-pay your summer months' pledge payments.

Sign up for auto-deduction from your bank. It is a convenient way for you to pay but it also creates a predictable and consistent cash flow. I personally use recurring payments which is very easy to set up. Alternatively if you give our bookkeeper your routing number and bank account each month 1/12 of your pledge is auto-deducted from your account.

If you pledge, think about increasing what you pledge. If you don't pledge there is no better time than now to join with the faithful in support this church's mission.

Always keep the church in mind when you prepare your will. We will soon be delving deeper into best practice for bequests.

Bruce Borner, Stewardship

COMING UP @ SAUGATUCK

Learn more at www.saugatuckchurch.org, on Facebook or at 203.227.1261

JUNE

Yoga @ Saugatuck: 6-week series of gentle yoga classes, in Saugatuck Chapel (4th floor). Mondays, through June 15 from 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm. Meredith Lederer merleederer@msn.com or 203 464-1114.

Pivot Ministries Work Day, Saturday, June 13, 9 am – We'll gather in the SCC parking lot at 8:30 to carpool to Pivot's campus at 485 Jane St., Bridgeport. We'll be painting or working on wall board in their new building, will then have lunch with the men and return to SCC after. **Sign up during fellowship hour.** You'll find being with Pivot's 'students' very inspiring!

Christian Education (CE) retreat – Saturday, June 13th,

9 a.m. – 12 noon in Hoskins Hall: Join us for our first annual retreat and help us grow our Youth Program! The CE Board invites teachers, staff and parents for a morning of brainstorming, feedback and planning. Together we can make the 2015/2016 year fun and meaningful for all ages!

Ice Cream Social, Sunday, June 14th in Hoskins Hall following worship. **The Christian Education Board** invites children of all ages to an old-fashioned ice cream social. Celebrate our last day of Church School and thank our wonderful teachers and staff! Hot dogs, popcorn, ice cream, cake, yard games and more! Hope to see you there!

Annual Wiffle Ball Tournament

Sunday, June 28 @ 4:00 PM Great Lawn, Saugatuck Church. Join in a little competitive fun and fellowship under the summer sun! \$10 to field a team of 8. Any profits will be donated to the Missions Board.

Congregational Meeting – June 21, 2015 after worship. Hear an update from the Trustees on the 2015 budget.

Approve a short-term loan of up to \$100,000 from the Endowment Fund to meet the current shortfall.

First Beach Worship /Summer Worship begins: Sunday, June 28

8:30 am Beach Worship at Compo Beach, by the canons (no beach sticker needed). Bring your own beach chair!

10:30 am Worship in the Saugatuck Church Sanctuary – come as you are.

2015 Summer Beach Schedule – Each week during the summer, one of five participating churches leads the beach worship, as follows:

June 28: United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston

July 5: Wilton Congregational Church

July 12: Green's Farms Congregational Church

July 19 Norfield Congregational Church

July 26: Saugatuck Congregational Church

Aug 9: United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston

Aug 16: Norfield Congregational Church (UCC)

Aug 23: Saugatuck Congregational Church (UCC)

Dear Members and Friends of Saugatuck Church:

During the last few days of the month, June 26-July 1, I will be traveling to Cleveland, OH for the bi-annual national gathering of the United Church of Christ (UCC). *You can join me!* Tune in for inspiring worship and keynote addresses streamed live throughout the week! For agenda and live stream info just go to: <http://synod.uccpages.org/>



Here's how General Synod is described on the Synod website:

"Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for formal church witness, inspirational worship, and fellowship with friends (new and old).

In June 2015, thousands from across the country (and abroad) will gather for General Synod 30 in Cleveland, Ohio — the birthplace of the United Church of Christ. Together, we will discern resolutions of witness, church structure, and function. We will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness. And we will join together in worship each day to lift up the Stillspeaking God.

At General Synod 30, we will explore some of the 'Unexpected Places' where we hear God's voice, encounter the Spirit, and find the United Church of Christ lifting up its witness in the world."

The business of the meeting will include consideration of sixteen 'resolutions' that address a wide range of topics including immigration, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, renewable energies, socially responsible investing, and mass incarceration.

You can read the resolutions in full at <http://synod.uccpages.org/resolutions/index.html>

Resolutions passed at General Synod inform and guide the work of our national church (public advocacy positions our General Minister might take or educational materials the national office might develop, for example). They do not impose a position on local churches. As a denomination, we affirm both local autonomy and covenant. That means that a local church can discern its own direction, but we do so in conversation with, and informed by our relationships with the other churches and settings of the UCC. I'll let you know what resolutions are passed at General Synod. *If there's a topic you'd like us to explore further as a congregation or in a small group, let me know!*

While I'm in Cleveland, I am also looking forward to spirit-filled worship, dynamic preaching, time to connect with colleagues and my seminary (Chicago Theological Seminary), and the chance to participate in a service project to support literacy. We will be stuffing backpacks with school supplies to be distributed to children within the Cleveland Municipal School District by the UCC's community partner, University Settlement.

Want to know more about this literacy initiative, *Reading Changes Lives*? Check it out here: <http://events.uccpages.org/reading-changes-lives.html> Maybe we could even organize a local school supplies drive! (see #1 on the list of three ways to engage). Drop me a line if you'd like to help organize such an effort!

Pastor Alex Marshall will lead the 10:30 am worship on Sunday, June 28, while I am away. When I return, energized and inspired, I look forward to sharing stories from our wider church!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Alison



Musings from the Moderator – June 2015



Peter 5:14

Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

The Passing of the Peace during each week's worship service is truly one of the highlights of the morning. Folks joyfully hug, shake hands, kiss each other and truly share the love and peace of Christ that is well known in our church. During the last couple of months during this time, you may have noticed that there are new people to greet and welcome – for it is really happening – **we are welcoming new people to our worship every week!**

The Welcoming and Membership Committee has whipped into action and has sponsored two information sessions for Saugatuck visitors to learn more about our church community. I had the opportunity to attend the most recent meeting this past Sunday to learn more about some of the folks who have been visiting. Each of the people who attended the information meeting mentioned how friendly everyone is at our church! I felt such joy to hear that – because “greeting one another with the kiss of love” is what we are meant to do! Thank you for sharing your love with the strangers who come through our doors as our hope is that they won't be strangers for long.

Don't feel discouraged, however, if you don't see the same visitors return immediately the next week – church attendance patterns have changed dramatically over the last decade. Folks who used to attend church four times a month are down to three, and those who attended two times are down to one. So it may take a couple of weeks to see a visitor return. Keep your eye out for those who do return and continue to greet them with peace and love!

Kudos go to the Welcoming and Membership team of Mary Jean Koster, David Cross, Tina Crosby, Holly and Paul Betts, and Gigi Gaudet, for taking the lead on greeting and welcoming new people to our church, and for sponsoring information sessions for them. This is such a vital part of our ministry at Saugatuck and they are doing a great job!

Peace to all of you who are in Christ,

Priscilla Long, Moderator

Notice of Congregational Meeting, June 21, 2015:

Notice is hereby given of a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, June 21, 2015 following the 10:00AM service to:

- Hear an update from the Trustees on the 2015 budget
- Approve a short-term loan of up to \$100,000 from the Endowment Fund to meet the current shortfall\

Priscilla Long
Moderator

Janet Canning
Clerk

Saugatuck Congregational Church, UCC Celebrates 183 years of ministry!

So what was going on in the world, in 1832? Well:

The first curling club was founded.

Lewis Carol, author of Alice in Wonderland, was born.

New England Anti-Slavery Society was organized in Boston

The 1st streetcar railway in America started operating, in NYC

The 1st Democratic National Convention was held, in Baltimore

The Source of Mississippi River was discovered by Henry R. Schoolcraft

Andrew Jackson re-elected President of US

Charles Carroll, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence dies at his home in Maryland at age 95...

AND... Saugatuck Congregational Church was dedicated to the glory of God!

During worship on Sunday morning, June 7th, the children helped us celebrate this milestone by blowing up balloons with Rev. Alison Patton. The children named the things that they love about Saugatuck Church, and Rev. Patton wrote them on the balloons. Their list included ice cream (our Ice Cream Social is June 14th!), singing, the people, Story Tent, Communion, coffee hour, and the fact that members are willing to bop the balloons around the sanctuary! Adult members added: fun, prayer, and the fact that we are Open and Affirming.

What's missing? What would YOU add?

Happy anniversary, Saugatuck Church!



P.S. Bonus sermon: to read the anniversary sermon that Rev. Patton preached just after arriving at Saugatuck Church in 2012, go to saugatuckchurch.org, click on "Worship with Us" and go to "Sermons Online."

Please note address change: The mailing address for Saugatuck Congregational Church is 245 Post Road East, Westport, CT 06880 as we are no longer using the P.O. Box. Please make the necessary changes. Thanks!

The Sixteenth Presentation of the Story Tent by Wild Life Productions
The Gift of the Rabbi's Daughter



Photos by MaryEllen Hendricks, Lisa Tantillo and Martin Van Breems



More Photos of the "Gift of the Rabbi's Daughter"



Photographs by :
MaryEllen Hendricks
Kathy Ross
Lisa Tantillo
Martin Van Breems
Video by Mark Mathias

Troop 36 Set to Honor Three New Eagle Scouts

Three Troop 36 Scouts, Peter Campbell, Steven Bean, and Ben Waller, will receive their Eagle Rank awards at a Court of Honor on Saturday, June 6, 1 pm at the Saugatuck Congregational Church.

The rank of Eagle signifies leadership, service, outdoor skills, good citizenship and ethical behavior of the highest order.

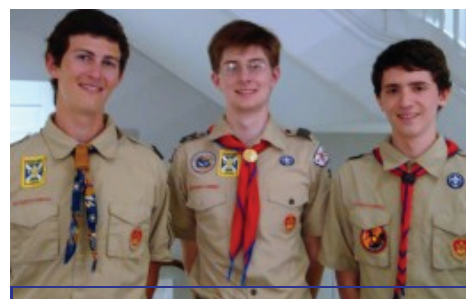
It also represents years of commitment to a goal, which has been supported by families, Scout leaders and the community. Twenty-one merit badges are required for the Eagle rank in addition to a leadership service project.

Ben Waller is the most recent scout to pass his Eagle Board of Review on April 30. Ben's achievement of Boy Scouts of America's highest rank caps his 12 years involvement in scouting, beginning in first grade with Cub Scouts. Ben currently serves as Troop 36's Senior Patrol Leader, the highest youth leadership position in a troop. Ben's Eagle Scout Project involved building refuse receptacles for the Town of Westport which are currently being used at Wakeman Field. Ben is a senior at Staples High School, where he is involved in SLOBs (Service League of Boys), Student Ambassadors, and Saferides, as well as being a member of the Westport Youth Commission. Ben is also very passionate about his religion and has continued to study Judaism throughout high school. He has been a competitive rower for the Saugatuck Rowing Club since the freshman year of high school. Next year Ben plans on attending the University of Wisconsin where he plans to continue to row at the college level.

Peter Campbell joined Troop 36 in 2010. His Eagle project was done to benefit Sherwood Island State Park. It entailed constructing interpretive panels to display the information and findings of a recent archaeological dig of a colonial homestead at Sherwood Island, as well as to provide the history and context of these findings. Peter is first violin in the Principal Orchestra of the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestras and has performed with his group at Carnegie Hall. He volunteers at the Westport Center for Senior Activities and Bridgeport Hospital. Peter graduated summa cum laude from Fairfield Prep and will attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall where he plans to major in pre-med.

Steven Bean joined Troop 36 in 2007. His Eagle project was done to benefit Green's Farms Congregational Church where he worships. The project involved cleaning 300 gravestones at the Lower Cemetery and repositioning 40 of those that had moved out of place. Besides his scout troop, Steven had volunteers from school and church. Steven is a senior at Staples High School. He is gifted with a baritone voice which he uses to lead the troop in song. Recently, he sang the Star Spangled Banner before a Bridgeport Bluefish game. Steven plans to attend Fairfield University in the fall where he will focus his studies on business or communications.

Members of the community are welcome to attend Troop 36's Eagle Court of Honor at Saugatuck Congregational Church, which charts Troop 36. Craig Patton serves as Scoutmaster.



New Eagle Scouts: (l-r) Ben Waller, Steven Bean and Peter Campbell.

Westport News, 6/2/2015, Contributed Photo



Westport Memorial Day parade picture today by WestportNow contributing photographer Lynn U. Miller showing Little Leaguer Grant Mandel, 7, greeting Westport veteran Larry Aasen was the opening image tonight on the "ABC World News Tonight With David Muir" story on Memorial Day celebrations around the country. 9

Saugatuck Happenings

May 9th Castles in the Sand



Group shot of some of the Saugatuck Church team at Compo Beach with our newest Golden Shovel earned at the Homes with Hope Castles in the Sand event. We won for "Most Ambitious Project." Our theme was community development. The judges were impressed with the number of people we had involved as well as the roads, structures, landscaping... Posted at each major entrance was a mini banner that read, "Community Development: All Are Welcome Here." Loads of fun was had by all. *Westport Now*, May 10



Saugatuck Happenings



Middle School Heifer Trip: May 1-3



They walked the walk. All night long.

Fairfield Relay for Life, held on the grounds of Fairfield Ludlowe High School, saw thousands take to the school's track from Saturday evening into Sunday morning, stepping up in support of the fight against cancer.

The largest fundraiser in the area benefiting the American Cancer Society, this year's event drew 173 fundraising teams, with roughly 1,800 participants. Organizers noted that, as of Friday morning, \$216,000 had been pledged, and in Fairfield over the 16 years there has been a Relay for Life fundraiser, \$3 million has been raised for the cancer society.

In recent years, the event has taken on a festival-like atmosphere, with music, food sales, speakers and more.

A traditional, more somber feature was the lighting of luminaria dedicated to the memory of loved ones who had lost their battle with cancer.



Left to right, standing: Hannah Rose, Nick Mathias, Carolyn Van Arsdale, Sophie Call, Daniel Call, Kate Koster, Charlie Wright, Alex Martenson; and Left to right, kneeling: team captains Jessy Nelson and Nicole Mathias. Parents there were David Call, Kim and Mark Mathias.



5th Annual Westport Mini Maker Faire: Introduced to Westport by Mark Mathias (Back Row, 1st on Left)

Christine Allen Dies:

Christine Allen passed away at age 95 on May 15th at Wilton Meadows.

Chris was a long time active member of the Saugatuck Congregational Church where she served as a deacon and as the head of the altar flower committee.

She also volunteered in Westport School libraries. Her hobbies were gardening, bird watching, sewing and watching old movies.

Chris was married to the late Malcolm C. Allen, Sr. Surviving Chris is her son Malcolm C. Allen Jr. of Westport. Malcolm is a member of our Saugatuck Church family. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Saugatuck Congregational Church on Saturday, July 11th at 1pm,

Happy Birthday from Saugatuck Congregational Church!

June Birthdays



- 3 Mary Jean Koster
- 4 Linda Yingling
- 5 Saugatuck Church
Cynthia Wallace
- 6 George Wargo
Kate Bulkeley
- 7 Kathy Ross
- 9 Mary Ann West
- 15 John Walsh

Celebrate the birthdays within the Saugatuck family! Email the information (month/day for adults and month/day/year for children) to Alison Rivard mofish@optonline.net



Come and join the Women's Spirituality Group: 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings 5-6:30pm, in the Fellowship Room.



Annual Plant Sale on the Church Lawn by the Westport Garden Club.

Refreshed at Clergy Camp

by Eric Anderson



SHARON (05/15/2015) -- The second annual Clergy Camp retreat brought sixteen UCC ministers from around the state to Silver Lake Conference Center for two days of laughter, song, silence, challenges, worship, games, and inspiration. They paddled canoes, played under the rainbow panels of a parachute, scaled tall trees, and reveled in the scents of a Connecticut spring.

Led by co-Deans the Rev. Liz Miller (Congregational Church of South Glastonbury UCC) and the Rev. Kent Siladi (Connecticut Conference Minister), each day's activities were clearly set out — and quickly adapted to the inclinations of the group. The assembled clergy were clearly attracted by bright colors, whether it was the small group hovering over the table where the puzzle came together, or the tie-dye T-shirt prepared by the Rev. Jocelyn Gardner Spencer (First Congregational Church UCC, Woodstock).

Some of the participants have served the United Church of Christ for decades, and one will begin his first call in June. They came from different settings of ministry, including senior pastors, solo pastors, associate pastors, and conference staff. Each brought a distinct sense of joy and wonder, which they applied to varieties of tea (a group left the camp for an hour to explore a tea shop in nearby Millerton) and to climbing the trees of Silver Lake's High Ropes Challenge Course.

In addition to finding refreshment, these church leaders gained a deeper appreciation for the each other. Shawn Fisher (Groton Congregational Church UCC) sang two of his original compositions during communion worship, and the Rev. Erick Olsen (Norfolk Church of Christ UCC) got everybody around the parachute. Worship included a bowl to receive stones emblazoned with cares to be left behind, and water which floated flowers of new commitments. Conference Minister the Rev. Kent Siladi and the Rev. Sandy Koenig (North Congregational Church UCC, Woodbury) presided over the taste of grace in the service of communion.

This experience of wonder, refreshment, and grace is renewed each week during the summer at Silver Lake Conference Center for the young people who come to run, sing, shout, climb, explore, learn, worship, and renew. The assembled ministers returned home with the summer calendar and a new determination to share the blessings of God's Back Yard with those whom they serve.

The Rev. Eric S. Anderson is Associate Conference Minister for Proclamation, Identity, and Communication for the Conference UCC. Connecticut

Is your Organization on this List of those that Saugatuck Members Serve?

During the April Missions Fair many of you listed organizations which you serve either as a volunteer, board member, or supporter. It's an impressive list!

If your organization is missing, write frank.basler@gmail.com and he'll add it to this. Eventually we may post this on our website.

American Cancer Society	V
American Heart Association Advisory Committee	Adv. B
Amnesty International	
CT Special Olympics Sailing	V
CT Swimming	V, B
Darien Book Aid	V
First Congregational Church, Norwalk	V
Food Access Coalition	B
League of Women's Voters	V,B, S
Norwalk Swimming	V,B
Norwalk Thrift Shop	V
Project Return	Adv. B
Rotary	V
School Volunteer Association	V
Senior Center home delivered meals	V
USA Swimming	V, C
Westport Library	V
Westport Women's Club	V, B



During the Children's Time, the flowers used to decorate the Easter Cross were distributed to members of the congregation. The cranes that formerly hung in our ministry center were given to the congregation as a souvenir of the rebuilding of the church.