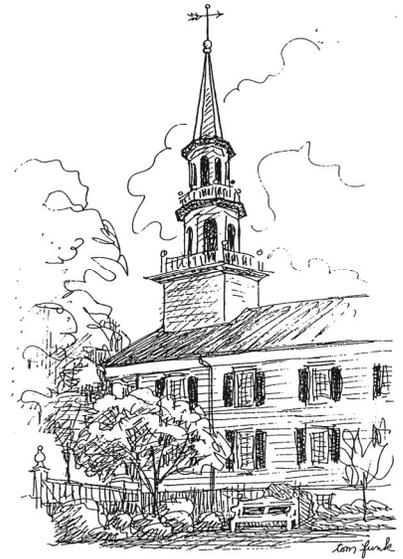
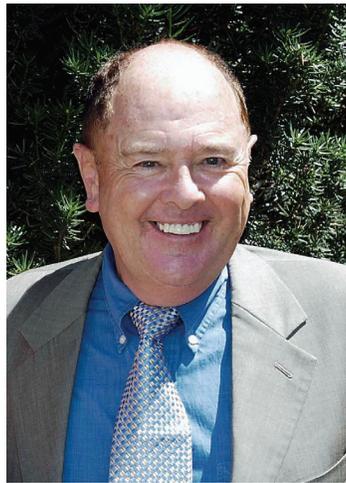


Summer at Saugatuck:



Linda Bruce & Willie Salmond are providing pastoral coverage and leading worship during July 3-August 27 while Pastor Alison is on Sabbatical leave until August 29th.

Summer Worship Services at Saugatuck Each Sunday 10AM

Beach Services at Compo Beach Each Sunday at 8:30

By the Cannons and Bring your own Beach Chair.

In the event of rain, beach services will be held in the sanctuary at the Saugatuck Congregational Church

Beach Services Schedule:

August 6, United Methodist Church of Westport & Weston UCC

August 13, Norfield Congregational Church UCC

August 20, Greens Farms Congregational Church UCC

August 27, Saugatuck Congregational Church UCC

September 3, Wilton Congregational Church UCC



Summer Greetings!

We have been focusing on the theme of blessings in our sermons these summer months. Blessings, how we are blessed as we receive blessings and how we are blessings to others. Unexpected blessings:

The unexpected blessing of weaving a lectionary reading together with real life examples and having folks say, yes, I get it!

Taking in the beauty of the shoreline, sunrises and sunsets;

Appreciating the unexpected blessing of a rainbow following a thunderstorm; the magical glow of fireflies;

The joys of going away to camp and being with friends and relatives.

The blessing of a supportive faith community. There are so many promises in the Bible for each of us. Deuteronomy 28. "You will be blessed in every art of your life," If. . . If you obey the Lord. Matthew 5. "You are blessed," when you are humble, pure in heart and work for peace. Be blessed in the sun's warmth and by God's constant concern for you.

The Saugatuck Summer News provides examples of the work of Saugatuck Church of practicing God's good news and God's blessing for God's people.

Linda Bruce and Rev. William Salmond

Summer Interim Co-Ministers

Sisters in Spirit

Sisters in Spirit (SIS) meets the third Wednesday of the month, our next month meeting is September 20th. During the summer months, we explored: *Everyday Simplicity—A Practical Guide to Spiritual Growth* by Robert Wicks. The book gave us an opportunity to reflect on and be aware of the presence of God in every moment. Joan Cavanaugh introduced us to the book and led the discussions. In addition to Joan, members Kay Osterhaus, Holly Wheeler, Betsy Gillespie and Anne Patterson introduced different chapters and offered reflections on the key ideas of each chapter. We had very lively discussions.



MUSIC NOTES!

Music Library- In June we were generously given the entire music library from United Congregational Church in Norwalk. As you may know, our library was destroyed in the fire of 2011. We have been using a variety of resources each week for the choir anthems. This new addition to our music department will further expand our repertoire. Thank you to all who contributed time, finances, and sweat moving the music to SCC!

Concert Series - We will be partnering with the Westport Public Library by hosting a concert series here in our Sanctuary. The opening concert will feature an awesome band...stay tuned. First concert will be Sunday, Oct. 15th from 2 to 3PM. All of the concerts will be multi-generational for everyone to enjoy! This is a wonderful opportunity to bring the greater community into our beautiful and acoustically stellar space.

Stay tuned for future concert announcements!

Pipe Organ Update- Klais is in town this summer. The workers are installing an organ in Scarsdale and will be stopping by our church to do some final measurements. See photo above of Dimitri and Stephan from Klais! Things that are happening on our organ in Germany are

- 1) all preparations of materials have been completed, all metal sheets have been casted, all timber pieces have been pre-cut. They are now waiting to be built and cut into their final measurements.
- 2) building of metal pipes and timber pipes is on its way and completed by 40%. This is all very exciting. If you are interested in donating to the pipe organ project please talk to Heather. All donations are welcome.

Music Worship this summer is being led by Heather, Craig Gillespie, Susie Benton and Victoria Hervieux. We also have our very own Nicole Mathias singing as well as the Grandma's and Grandpa's Barbershop Quartet, Anne Fasanella on harmonica, and the Pivot Choir on the beach! We are truly blessed to have so many talented people in our midst! Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals after Labor Day!

Dr. Heather A. Hamilton
Director of Music
Saugatuck Congregational Church, UCC
245 Post Road East
Westport, CT 06880
203-227-1261

From Our Moderator John Walsh

It's nearly six years since the November, 2011 fire roared through our church causing extensive fire, smoke, and water damage throughout the building. Although we have been back in our church for over two years, we are still trying to finish up loose ends. One open piece we'd like to close is the capital campaign. Many in our congregation made very generous contributions that helped rebuild our beautiful, historic church. Our church welcomes hundreds of members,



visitors, guests weekly, and almost all remark on the beauty of our space. We are so grateful to all whose gifts during the capital campaign made this possible. We do still have some outstanding pledges, and ask if you have an open pledge that you complete it so we can repay our outstanding liabilities including the loan from our endowment.

Summertime

Summer is a time for watermelon, swimming, baseball, and barbecues. It is a time to enjoy the extra hours of sunshine from longer days, to vary our regular routine (whatever that may be), and to reconnect with what is really important in our lives.

It is also a time when the normal rhythm of our lives shifts some. We may go on vacation, go to camp, visit family or friends to vary our routine. Or, we may pass on some of our regular activities to just enjoy the more leisurely pace and relaxation of summer.

One of the activities we might forego is church when we are away or opt for a day off. Sometimes when we miss church, people notice and wonder if everything is okay, and we likewise wonder how someone else is doing. This is what caring communities do. They think of others and want to stay connected so they can support their friends as they experience challenges and celebrations.

It is always nice to enjoy a respite from our normal routine, but simultaneously taking small steps to stay connected to our church community is very important. A simple phone call or e-mail to someone you haven't seen or talked to in a while can be wonderfully therapeutic for you and the recipient. I know that when I do this, it certainly lifts my spirits. Try it!

Youth and Children

Welcome Sunday on September 10th! Look for a mailing in early September with a calendar of activities for youth of all ages. Contact Dana Johnson, dana@saugatuckchurch.org to be added to the list!



Youth Group leading worship in Denver.

Childcare for preschool aged children is available in the crib room during the month of July.

Activity packets for older children are available at the back of the sanctuary all summer.



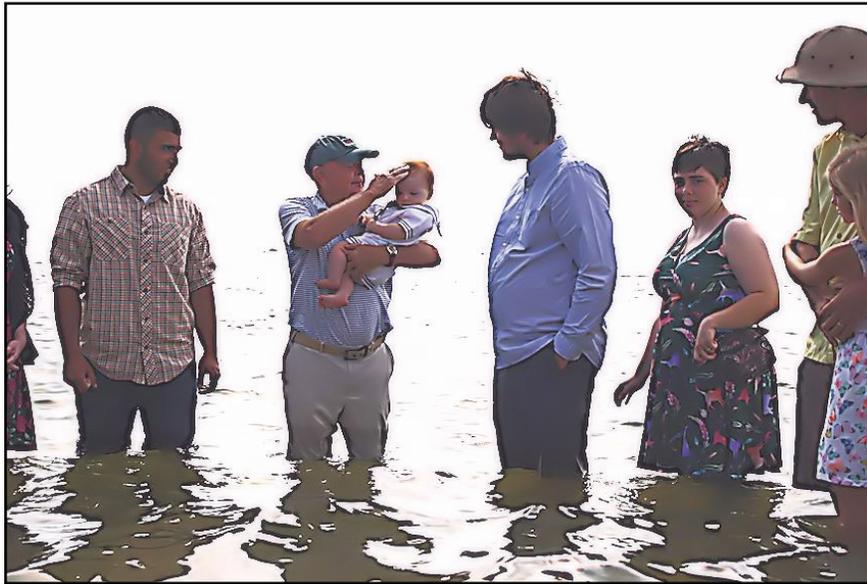
YG leading "chair Zumba" at Ronald McDonald House in Denver

Mission Trip News- We can't wait to share our adventures with you at the youth led service on September 17th.

High School Youth Group, Middle School Youth Group and Church School will resume after September 10th. Watch your email for notices about special youth gathering opportunities in the summer.



Team 5 moving 5 tons of gravel and 5 tons of sand at Earthlinks



Baptism at the Beach: Benjamin Van Breems, son of Susan and Lars Van Breems, grandson of Martin Van Breems, and a beautiful little boy, was baptized at Compo Beach on July 23rd.



Lunchtime for the girls during their Youth Mission Trip to Denver. The Youth will share their adventures at the youth led service on September 17th.

PARSONAGE AND GROUNDS

*The Trustees
are pleased to
announce
that the Jesup
House
Maintenance
Project is
almost
complete.*



The Trustees are pleased to announce that the Jesup House Maintenance Project is almost complete. You may have noticed all the work going on at the Parsonage over the past month. The Jesup House is an important landmark home in Westport and CT as it is one of the last toll houses left till standing from the 1800's; a graceful home that deserves to be maintained and enjoyed for many years to come.

After the rebuilding of the Church it became quite apparent that the Parsonage needed some sprucing up. The paint had soot marks left over from the fire that raged across the garden at the church in 2011. The gracious front pillars had rotted bases and some damage themselves from the landscaping that kept the moisture too close to the building. Overgrown and dead trees hid this lovely home and now that they have been trimmed back, so that the new mahogany steps, repaired pillars and spectacular paint job can be showcased.

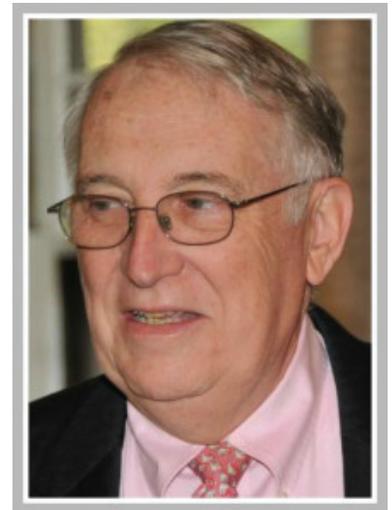
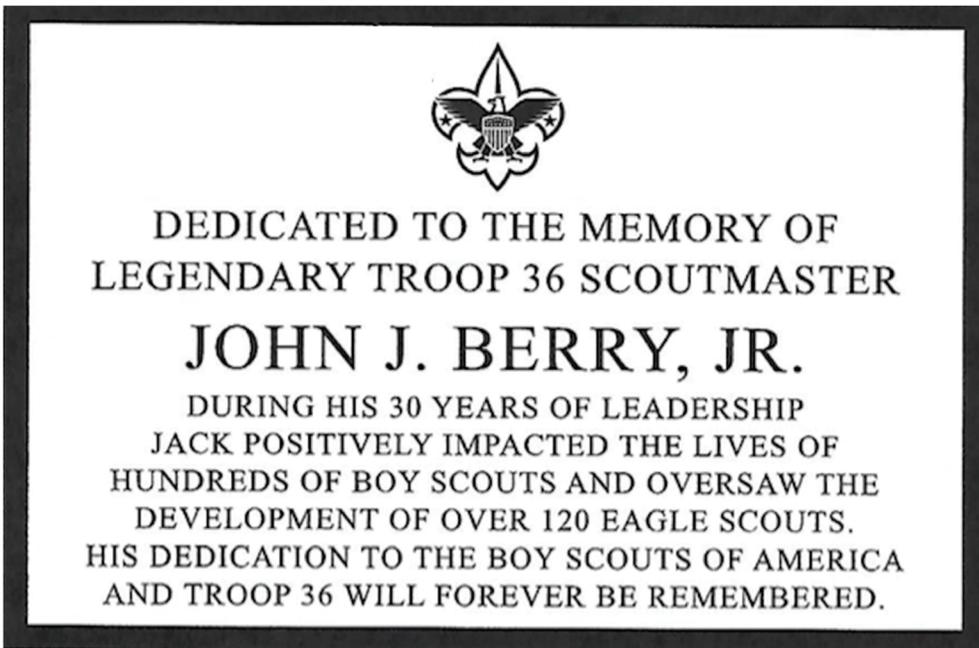
Look for new landscaping touches that will be coming in the next weeks that will complete this project.

We are so grateful to Andrea and David Cross who donated the funds to restore the Jesup House. This project could not have been undertaken without a good bit of team work. A special thank you goes out to Linda Bruce, Betsy Gillespie and Sara Walsh who provided the ideas and brawn to make sure that this project came in looking beautiful and on budget.



We are very close to our goal. Please help put us over the top!

Troop 36 of Westport is reaching out to all former scouts and scout families who had the privilege of knowing Jack Berry. We are commemorating Jack with a permanent brass plaque on a granite plinth at the Saugatuck Congregational Church and we'd appreciate your help.



We are asking for donations to cover the cost of the plinth and plaque, approximately \$2100. If you can spare even \$20, please click on our [PayPal Link](#). Any funds over the amount needed for the plaque will be donated to Troop 36 in Jack's name.

Please pass this on to anyone else you know who would like to recognize Jack's legacy.

Carolyn W. Meyer died June 6. after a long illness. She was 75. Carolyn and her husband Bill Meyer were “pillars of Saugatuck CC.” Carolyn was a member of the Saugatuck Choir. Whenever help was needed, Carolyn and Bill were there. Carolyn with helpful suggestions ready to contribute and Bill with lots of energy and comments. We will miss Carolyn just as we have missed Bill.



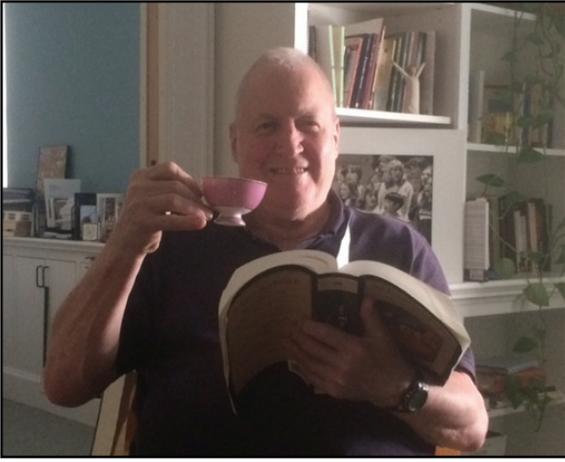
She was known to her many friends and family as joyful, gentle, and kind with a beautiful smile. Of the many gifts Carolyn shared, her greatest was friendship which she offered to everyone and anyone she met.

She was a dedicated member of the Saugatuck Congregational Church, the Y’s Women, and PEO. She enjoyed singing in the choir and was devoted to her family and friends.

Carolyn gave the world two children, John and Allison Kelsey, and two grandchildren, Scott and CJ. She is survived by her two sisters, Jean Haley and her partner Joel Clemmer of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Joan Bernardino and her husband Mike of Atlanta, Georgia, and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband Bill, her parents Louise and John Walstrom and stepmother Elbra Walstrom.

There was a celebration of her life on Thursday, July 27 at Saugatuck Congregational Church. The service and the following reception with many friends made the day very memorable.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations in Carolyn’s honor to The Hospital for Special Care-ALS Center (<http://www.hfsc.org>), The ALS Association CT Chapter (<http://www.alsact.org>) or Saugatuck Congregational Church Organ Fund.



Larry Robinson enjoying a spot of tea during Bible Talk. A small but enthusiastic group, including Jane and David Mangold, participated during the July discussions of The Song of Songs. This wisdom book, also known as the Song of Solomon, is filled with rich imagery and is a collection of love poems. We had some lively reflections on this rather atypical bible study topic.

This is Jean Wells, long time friend of Betty Jennings. Willie and Marcia visited her for her 100th birthday and brought her a prayer shawl made by Pat Harris.



With deep gratitude to our Editor and Publisher, Jane Mangold for her work on completing this newsletter. Without her efforts, Willie and I would not be able to stay connected to the greater Saugatuck community. As you may know Jane worked 25 years on producing *The Herald* for which we are grateful. We were able to drag her out of retirement for the Summer News. Thank you Jane!

**SAUGATUCK ON THE GO!
ROAD TRIP!
ALL ARE WELCOME**

CHIHULY NIGHT AT THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10TH

**MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 6:00 PM - RAIN OR SHINE
WE WILL CARPOOL
OPTION TO EAT FIRST AT ARTHUR AVENUE ITALIAN RESTAURANT OR ON
SITE.**



We had hands-only CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training after church on Sunday, July 16th. While not a certified course, we learned enough to assess, give help, and get help. Linda Bruce arranged with EMS Volunteer and American Heart Association instructor Jay Paretzky to teach the class. Saugatuck members Isabel and Russ Blair strongly supported the initiative and generously funded the cost of an AED which will be installed at the church in August. With gratitude to the Blairs for their vision and commitment to the health and safety of our Saugatuck Church Community. Thank you!

Stay tuned for another class offering in the fall when you will have the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the device and the life saving hands-only CPR protocol.

Saugatuck CC is well known as a community church caring for many community organizations



**VOLUNTEERS:
VERY VALUABLE!**

Saugatuck's Mission Board



Saugatuck's Campership program are enabling many youth from Bridgeport's most impoverished areas to enjoy summer fun while simultaneously working on skill development in math and reading.

In addition, our food donations are regularly being delivered to our Missions Partners including the Gillespie Center, Pivot Ministries, Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport and Open Door Shelter. And we continue to provide a nutritionally well-balanced, delicious meal to 35 people at the Gillespie Center the fourth Wednesday of every month.

We are very grateful for all your support and have lots of opportunities where you can help with hands-on activities. Your generous contributions allow Saugatuck to make a difference in the community.

Sara Walsh and the Board of Missions



The Westport Historical Society honored Barbara Van Orden for her many years of volunteering and helping the Westport Historical Society. The photo was taken at the luncheon with many of her friends and co-workers expressing their appreciation and thanks to her.