



# the Copper Hill Connection

September 2016—Special History Edition

## Pastor's Postings

### For the Next Generation

by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones



*"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done" (Psalm 78:4 NIV 2011).*

Our church is blessed to have a good percentage of children and teens attending, making up a quarter of our church constituency. That's a very healthy percentage for a small country church. On Sunday mornings, the Children's Moment is a favorite part of the service for many. A popular event at Christmastime is the annual "Hanging of the Greens," when the children take over the service in sharing the Nativity story. Our small-church atmosphere is especially suitable for intergenerational modeling of faith.

*"One generation commends Your works to another; they tell of Your mighty acts" (Ps. 145:4).*

It is important to remember that the Church of Jesus Christ is always only one generation from extinction. If faith is not passed down to the next generation, the church body becomes only a footnote of history. And church buildings become decaying museums of a bygone age.

So in every generation, the church leadership, parents, and grandparents must ask a key question: are we practicing our faith in such a way that the next generation is catching on? Does the next generation feel at home participating in our worship time? Are the younger generations learning biblical truths? Are we mentoring younger persons in key responsibilities in the church? If we answer these questions well, we'll have a vital church for the next generation!

The Psalmists were especially attuned to helping the next generation understand the faith and enter into the life of the congregation.

*"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare Your power to the next generation" (Ps. 71:18).*

I pray that we will be motivated to create a church for the future. Our focus for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary service series in October will be "Vision for the Next Generation." In the April series we looked back in history. For this series, we will also look forward. We'll be asking God to give us vision for a vital church for the next generation.



### 200th Anniversary

#### Theme Verse

"For the Lord is good  
and His love endures forever;  
His faithfulness continues  
through all generations."

## SPECIAL EVENTS



### A Musical Celebration

Here's an event you'll want to invite friends to!

Music has historically been a part of worship and celebration. So, in honor of our 200th anniversary, we are planning a special concert on **Sun. September 25**, at 2 PM: "Sacred American Music, 1816—2016." Members from the community and area churches will be presenting a variety of instrumental and vocal pieces.

The 1848 Shaker melody, "Simple Gifts," will be played as a flute/harp arrangement. Also on the program is a brass rendition of "God of Our Fathers," (a hymn written for the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence), and one of "Battle Hymn of the Republic." We will hear some good old gospel songs, and also Andrae Crouch's "My Tribute (To God Be the Glory)," as sung by our choir.

Join us, after the concert, for homemade cookies and treats with neighbors and friends.

### Kids' Harvest Party

Neighborhood children will love our fall Hayride and Costume Party on **Sun. Oct. 30, 3:00—5:15 PM!** The fun begins with costume judging for the most creative, funniest, best animal, and Bible costumes (rather than scary disguises), with prizes for all. Then parents can join in the hayride to a nearby farm, followed by a short song/story time and supper, all at no charge.



## Copper Hill Church — Celebrating 200 Years



The celebration of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary will come to a joyous peak with two special Sunday services in October. If you've ever attended Copper Hill Church, you'll want to come back for these.

October 16 will be our **"Friend Sunday"** with special guests: our District Superintendent Rev. Kenneth Keiffer will bring congratulations from the denomination, and Representative Tami Zawistowski of the Connecticut General Assembly will present official recognition from our government for the occasion.

Historic pictures and mementos will be on display for browsing. Some of the members are planning to wear old-fashioned costumes. We'd love to have you join us after the service for a potluck dinner, complete with the good home cooking Copper Hill Church is known for!

We're in for a treat on October 23 when "John Wesley," the **Founder of Methodism**, will

pay us a visit. He will be portrayed by Rev. James Moore, a retired district superintendent (Catskill/Hudson District), dressed in 18<sup>th</sup> century clothing. We will also bury a **Time Capsule** that day, if you'd like to contribute meaningful mementos representing our times.

In October, Pastor Kelvin Jones will be guiding the church in a series of worship services based on our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme. The service will again include special history moments and testimonies from members about their own faith and why they love our church.

We encourage you to invite friends, family, and co-workers to join us and help your local church celebrate. The church has been a vital and contributing part of the fabric of the Copper Hill community for 200 years. With the support of the community, it will continue to be vital and will serve the community into future generations.

## "Goings On" at Our Church

### Tag & Bake Sale

Saturday, **September 17, 9AM—2 PM**



Come and find many 'treasures' as well as a plentiful number of home-baked goods for purchase.

### Roast Pork Dinner

Saturday, **October 15, 5 PM** The menu will be: roast pork loin with gravy, mashed potato, green beans, carrots, applesauce, rolls & butter, hot & cold beverages and apple pie with cheese for dessert. The cost will be: adults - \$12; children under 12 - \$6; preschoolers - free. For reservations, please call Judy at 860-668-7953.

### Turkey Dinner

Saturday, **November 5, 5 PM**

Plans for the menu include: roast turkey, gravy, mashed potato, bread stuffing, green peas, turnips, cranberry sauce, rolls and butter, hot and cold beverages, and for dessert, pumpkin or apple pie with cheese. The cost is only \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12, and preschoolers will be free.



### Holiday Bazaar

You'll find many excellent gift ideas at this annual event on **November 18 & 19—Friday, 1 to 4 PM; Saturday, 10 AM—3 PM**. A soup & sandwich luncheon will be served from 11 AM—2 PM on Saturday.

Choose from many hand-crafted items: afghans, quilts, kitchen towels, and decorations, as well as a bountiful supply of baked goods (cakes, cookies, pies, breads, etc.) On Saturday, there will be soups and casseroles for sale at the baked goods table.



### Upcoming Church Meetings

**Church Council, Sunday, September 18, 4 PM.**

Once a quarter, we hold an afternoon meeting to allow those who are unable to meet in the evening to keep up with Council activities.

**UMW** (United Methodist Women) welcomes all women of the church to our meetings, held at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of the month.

Our **Annual Charge Conference** will be held on Wednesday, **November 30, 7:30 PM**, at the church, with our District Superintendent presiding. We will vote on nominations for various positions as well as on the budget for the coming calendar year.



## Memories of Copper Hill

with Shirley Seymour Young



Shirley Seymour began attending Copper Hill Church when she was a baby, in the 1930s. Her mother, Maida Seymour, brought her and Shirley's brother Kenneth every Sunday.

On a typical Sunday, the Seymour family would be seated in the white wooden pews (minus today's red cushions), with Aunt Ruth, her mother's sister, (a school teacher) in the pew in front of them. The sanctuary looked much the same as it does today: large white pulpit, altar rail, and wooden floor (minus the carpet). The church had two wood stoves in the back of the sanctuary – one in each corner. Stove pipes ran overhead the length of the sanctuary to the front wall on each side. During the winter, most people choose seats close to one of the stoves where it was warmer.

In the summer the church stayed cool because doors and windows had been kept closed. There might be a flower arrangement up front if Myra Phelps was singing a solo, usually a hymn. She was "the choir," and would always bring flowers for the sanctuary when she sang. Mildred Holcomb would play the organ (and later head over to the East Granby Congregational Church to play for their service). The piano was out in the fellowship hall, along with a working pump organ that had been used in years past.

Attendance averaged about 20-30 people. Shirley and Kenny were among a small handful of children who attended during those years, not really enough for a Sunday school. Their mother Maida served as church treasurer, a position she would hold for 40 years.

After the service, there was no coffee hour. Folks would chat a bit and then go home. Shirley and Maida would sometimes go over to the East Granby Congregational Church to sing in their choir.

The pastor would head out for West Granby to preach at the UM Church there, which was just down the road from the parsonage where he lived. At that time Copper Hill rented their parsonage to tenants.

When Shirley was in the seventh grade, her family moved out of a small house to a larger house across from the old Newgate prison. Her Dad, Kenneth Sr., was manager of the prison/museum, which was open every day. So he only came to church occasionally.

As an older teenager, Shirley helped out as a counselor at the United Methodist summer camp at Shelter Island on Long Island. She also played organ at Copper Hill from 1958-60, benefitting from years of piano lessons up through high school.

Shirley remembers Copper Hill Church being involved in the community. One event was the Firemen's

Supper, for which Maida, an excellent cook, always made Seafood Newburg. The women would cook the food for their fundraiser dinners on the church's wood stove. They also sold crafts and handiwork items at these events. When there was a funeral, the church often hosted a dinner for the family and friends.

Most of the church members were from farm families, but still involved in various community positions. Maida was on the Board of Education.

The church would hold parties for the community in the fellowship hall, especially at Christmastime. All wedding receptions were in the church fellowship hall. One of those parties was a "Jack and Jill" wedding shower in 1954 for Shirley and her fiancé, Roger Young.

By this time, Shirley had a 4-year degree in Elementary Education from the Teacher's College of Connecticut. Kenny had studied agriculture at the University of Connecticut, served in the military, and was now a farmer.

Pastor Paul Blanton married Shirley and Roger. During the wedding, one of the guests, who was wearing a taffeta dress, got too close to the wood stove. The heat from the stove shriveled the fabric of her dress!

Shirley enjoyed teaching elementary school at Wethersfield School, in Japan (when Roger was in military service), and back in Granby at Wells Road. She also taught elementary physical education. Shirley was a carrier and clerk for the Granby Post Office, and later became Postmaster of West Granby from 1988-92.

Shirley commented, "I've always tried to live by the Golden Rule: 'Do to others what you would have them do to you' (Matt. 7:12).



## Disaster Relief Contributions

Considering the terrible flooding in Texas and Louisiana recently, \$300 of this quarter's missions contribution was sent to help in disaster relief in the United States. Our church sent it through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), disaster response project # 901670.

Pastor Kelvin encourages such gifts, believing that Christians should have a giving relationship with an organization such as UMCOR, helping in times of disaster, both here and around the world. This is a major way in which we are our brother's keeper, showing God's love to others in their time of need.

Copper Hill United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 422  
East Granby, CT 06026



## Copper Hill Connexion

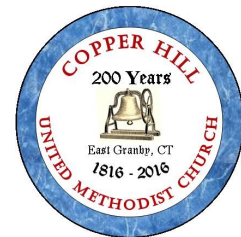
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Editor: Judy Holcomb      Assistant Editor: JoAnne D. Jones

### **SPECIAL 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

Sun. Sept. 25, 2 PM — **A Musical Celebration**  
Brass Quartet, Flute, Harp, Choirs

Sun. Oct. 16, 9:30 AM — **“Friend Sunday”**  
Special Guests, Potluck Dinner, History Displays

Sun. Oct. 23, 9:30 AM — **“John Wesley” Comes to Visit**



### **Regular Meetings/Activities**

Worship Service: 9:30 AM Sunday mornings

Communion: first Sunday of each month

Coffee Hour: second Sunday of each month, after morning service.

Find us on the **web**: [www.CopperHillChurch.us](http://www.CopperHillChurch.us)

**Pastor's Blog**: at [www.learntobewise.com](http://www.learntobewise.com)

**Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/copperhillchurch](http://www.facebook.com/copperhillchurch)

**Phone**: Pastor Kelvin S. Jones: 860-653-2891

