



the Copper Hill Connection

June 2015

Pastor's Postings Strengthening Our Church

by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

Our church is in a time of renewal! We are striving to grow spiritually and to grow in membership and attendance. We are working to update our historic building for our church's 200th birthday next year. But in our hearts, we desire even more growth. How does this happen? I found some great ideas at a seminar led by the new church renewal expert for our Annual Conference, Rev. Derrick-Lewis Noble, who has a passion for church growth. Rev. Noble pastored three tiny churches, which, in just a few years, grew from a handful to hundreds in attendance. So he knows what it takes.

"If you don't want to change, you don't want to grow," Rev. Noble challenged us. "If you're not willing to do things differently, you're never going to grow the church."

Rev. Noble proposed that the church council print reports ahead and spend time instead asking three strategic questions:

1. **"What can we do this month to grow this church?"**
2. **"What can we do outside this building this month?"**

Because many from the poorer classes of John Wesley's England never came near the church, he took the church to them by preaching in the open fields. In our day, it is again true that many people—the majority here in Connecticut—never go near a church. So the church must find ways to take the family feeling of the church, the serving spirit of the church, and the message of the gospel to them.

3. **"What does this neighborhood need that our church could help with?"**

Rev. Noble suggested that it might be revealing to ask the community this. Robert Schuler said, "Find a need and fill it."

Another idea for church renewal: **"Make sure that younger people are part of the decision-making process,"** Rev. Noble said. "Younger people know how to reach their peers."

One of his churches had only a single teen attending: the son of the church pianist who dragged her teenager to church each week. Rev. Noble asked him how to get his peers to come. Realizing that the pastor was serious, he suggested starting an open mic night. As a result, dozens of teens became part of the extended congregation.

I was happy that, here at Copper Hill Church, we have recently made adjustments in meeting times to help parents of younger children be able to attend meetings more.

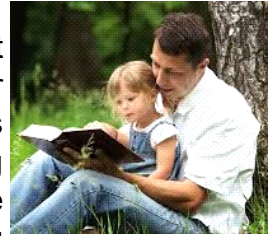
"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Prov. 22:6).



A Godly Father

by JoAnne D. Jones

One of the best things my dad ever gave me was his example of loving God's Word. He spent hours reading and studying in preparation for his sermons. His worn-out Bibles were full of notes and underlines. He also memorized verses and encouraged us to do so, both in Sunday school and at home. He would never let us put anything on top of a Bible, because it was God's Holy Word; he had great respect for it. I still have some of his Bibles.



A good father understands the responsibility of being a godly example and spiritual mentor for his children. They learn so much from examples, especially in their formative years. It's also important to take children to church and Sunday School, to read the Bible or Bible stories to them, to pray with them, and to talk to them about God's character and love.

The most powerful thing a father can do is to pray for his children. Evangelist Billy Graham had this to say about his father and mother: "I am sure one reason that the Lord directed and safeguarded me was the prayers of my own father and mother... Pray constantly for your family. God knows their needs far better than you do. God is able to do what we cannot do, especially within our families."

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY, DADS!



Ministries of Our Church

Food Pantry Support

Over the past year, our church has donated more than *628 pounds* of goods to the food banks we support in the towns of East Granby, Granby, and Suf-field. The collection box is currently in the vestibule. Please remember those less fortunate as you do your regular grocery shopping. The need does not go away in the summer months.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women would like to invite the women of our church and their friends to join us for **Dinner Out** at J & G's Restaurant in East Granby on Tuesday, June 9 at 6 PM. Please let Ruth Oltsch know that you are coming. This is UMW's last get-together until fall. So invite a friend to share in a great meal and an enjoyable time together.

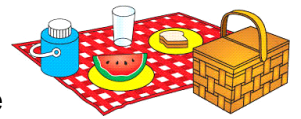
"Goings On" at Our Church



"One Nation, Under GOD" Special Patriotic Service

As citizens of the U.S. we have many things for which to be thankful. On the weekend of July 4th, our church will hold a special patriotic celebration. The service on **Sunday, July 5** will include special music, prayers for our country, and a message of encouragement on what we can do to help keep our country strong.

Family Picnic



Here's an event the whole family will enjoy: our Family Picnic, **Sunday, July 19**, 2 PM at Granbrook Park in East Granby. Activities are planned for children and adults as well. We have the pavilion reserved for the afternoon and evening. We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, and condiments. Please bring a salad/side and a dessert to share for the meal at 5 PM. Afterwards, Pastor Kelvin will lead us in a Vesper Service with singing and a devotional. Come and join us!



Kids' Summer Sendoff Party

Calling all kids! The date for this end-of-summer party is set for **Sunday, Aug. 23**, from 11 AM to 1:30 PM. The children will enjoy games on the church lawn, crafts, singing, lunch, and a Bible story. Make a

note on your calendar to bring your kids, grandkids, or the neighbor's kids to this kid-friendly fun event!

SAVE the DATE

Our annual **Fall Tag & Bake Sale** will be held on **Saturday, September 26**, from 9 AM until 2 PM. You can drop off your donations on the previous Saturday, September 19, also from 9 AM until 2 PM. To arrange for item pick-up, call Susan at (860) 668-1031.

Please bring food items, *wrapped and priced*, prior to start on the morning of the sale. Thank you in advance for your help!

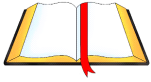
Activities

You May Have Missed

The **Spring Tag & Bake Sale** was a rousing success! We had beautiful weather and lots of customers. Where do all the items come from? Thanks to all who made donations.

On Saturday, May 9, the UMW held a **Spring Tea** from 11 AM until 2 PM. Small sandwiches, fruit, and desserts were served, along with various kinds of tea, coffee and punch. Jo-Anne Jones played a variety of selections on harp and piano, to the enjoyment of all attending.

New Bible Study Coming



One of the most influential Bible books in history has been the book of Romans. Martin Luther, catalyst of the Protestant Reformation, took his inspiration from the book. His key verse was, "The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17 KJV). John Wesley, the father of Methodism, felt his heart "strangely warmed" while his group was studying Luther's writings on Romans.

Paul's letter to the Romans is the biggest and the best of his letters to New Testament churches. Since he had not yet visited the Roman church, he wrote more about theology than circumstances. This emphasis is a great gift to us. Because of it, Romans is a treasure of basic Christian theology.

Beginning in late August, Pastor Kelvin Jones plans to start weekly small group studies in this book. He would like to hold one study at Higley Village on Tuesday mornings, and, if enough people sign up, a second at another time and location. Watch the website and church bulletin for further details.

"No More Malaria" Campaign

If you have ever traveled to the Caribbean or to Southern Africa, you know that malaria, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, becomes one of your chief health concerns. The disease is preventable, and treatment for the disease is not expensive. Yet, up to now, in many tropical and sub-tropical countries, many people, especially children, die of malaria. One of the key factors in preventing the disease is distributing to families inexpensive treated nets, which offer protection to those sleeping under them.

Copper Hill Church wanted to help do something about malaria. So we organized a walk for the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign. This year we had 21 participants who walked on the local rail trail on Sunday afternoon, April 22. Each had recruited sponsors to contribute to the cause. Overall, the walkers raised \$1,117.23. In addition, our missions budget donated \$225, which was matched from the Seymour gift. So our total contribution as a church to the campaign this year was \$1,567.23.

As a whole denomination, the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign of the United Methodist Church hopes to contribute up to \$28 million toward the prevention of this disease.

Summer Events at a Glance

- June 9 UMW Dinner Out, 6 PM
- June 21 Recognizing Fathers, 9:30 AM
- June 24 Prayer Service, 7 PM
- July 5 Patriotic Service, 9:30 AM
- July 19 Family Picnic, 2 PM
- Aug. 23 Kids' Summer Send-Off Party, 11 AM



Quarterly Prayer Service

"God does nothing but in answer to prayer."

John Wesley

We would all like to see our church grow, to reach people in need in our community, and to experience a closer walk with Christ. These things will not happen, however, without prayer.

God has chosen to involve us in His work. When we seek His heart, He begins to show us how we can be a part of what He is doing in the world and in our own area. In Jer. 33:3-4 He promises, *"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."*

Pastor Kelvin is planning to have a quarterly Wednesday evening prayer service. We will offer praise and thanksgiving to God for all His many blessings to us, and bring to Him the needs of our church, community, our nation, and the world. This setting provides more time to pray on a deeper level and to connect with God.

Our next Prayer Service will be on **Wednesday, June 24, at 7 PM**. Thank you for being a part of the prayer team!

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

Summer Giving

As you enjoy your summer vacation, don't forget that Copper Hill Church is still depending on you for your regular giving to help us meet our monthly budget. We appreciate your generous offerings, even when you're away.

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



Copper Hill Connection

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Copper Hill United Methodist Church, 27 Copper Hill Road, East Granby, CT 06026

Editor: Judy Holcomb Assistant Editor: JoAnne D. Jones

If you would prefer to receive your copy by email, please let us know.

Regular Meetings/Activities

Worship Service: 9:30 AM Sunday morning

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

Communion: first Sunday of each month

Find us on the **web:** www.CopperHillChurch.us

Pastor's Blog: at www.learntobewise.com

Facebook at www.facebook.com/

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



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