

# the Copper Hill Connection

October 2014

We plan to publish issues quarterly. Input from you for future issues is most welcome.

## Pastor's Postings

by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

### WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A survey once asked people why they did not attend church. The results were a shock. The number one answer given by a whopping 74% was, "There is no value in attending." That posed a great question: *what does Copper Hill offer that people hate to miss?*

What are people looking for when they come to church? The top answer, according to surveys from my previous churches, is friendship.

The church is a community of love that Jesus founded, an island of belonging in a sea of increasing isolation. People have surface relationships at work or online. But at church we find ready kinship with fellow believers that allows for developing friendships. It is a bond based on common beliefs and shared ethics derived from a common source of authority, the Bible. We seek to encourage one another, since the Bible tells us that mutual encouragement is one of the key reasons for gathering together (Heb. 10:24).

We feel togetherness in prayer and worship as we learn together to be Christ's followers. Our bond is deepened by the presence of God's Spirit. We feel a part of the action in serving others together in various projects, whether singing in choir, fixing a widow's sink, or raising funds for fighting malaria. When we go through personal crises, we find out we have many friends from the family of God. People from church will bring in food, send a card, or stop by the hospital, as well as pray for us. Jesus said it simply, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35).

Those who say they don't have a reason to come to church definitely don't know the fun family feeling they are missing. Their lives might be happier if they became part of a church family like ours.



"Give thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good. His love  
endures forever."

Psalm 136:1

## Kid's HAYRIDE & Costume Party

On Sunday, **October 26**, at 11:30 AM, the children of the community are invited to a Fall Hayride with games, costumes, and lunch provided. They may dress up as Bible or fairytale characters or animals, rather than scary Halloween characters. Prizes will go to the funniest and most creative costumes. Parents are welcome to join in.



Enjoy a delicious **Roast Turkey Dinner**, Saturday, **November 1**, at 5:00 PM. The menu will include roast turkey with gravy, bread stuffing, "real" mashed potatoes, turnips, green peas, cranberries, rolls and butter, hot and cold beverages, and pumpkin or apple pie with cheese. The cost is only \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12 years, and preschoolers eat for free. For reservations, please call Susan Madry at 860-668-1031.

Our **Holiday Bazaar**, Friday and Saturday, **November 21 & 22**, is a great opportunity to find Christmas gifts and holiday decor. The sale runs from 1 PM to 4 PM on Friday, and 10 AM to 3 PM on Saturday. There will be lots of hand-crafted items from which to choose, including holiday decorations, afghans, and kitchen towels, as well as a wide variety of baked goods (breads, cakes, cookies, pies, etc.). Casseroles and soups will also be added to the food table on Saturday, and we will serve a soup and sandwich **luncheon** from 11 AM until 2 PM.



# Ministries of Our Church



## Caregiver Support Group

Copper Hill Church sponsors a support group for caregivers. It meets every other Wednesday afternoon at Higley Village Clubhouse at 2 PM and plans to continue until Thanksgiving. Each week the group discusses one issue important to caregivers and concludes with a devotional and prayer time.

Last month, in lieu of their regular meeting, the group attended a seminar for caregivers sponsored by St. Francis Care, held at the Seniors' Center in Enfield.

Pastor Kelvin Jones, who has many years of experience in leading support groups for grief recovery, facilitates the group discussion and leads the devotional time. Several participants have said that the experience of being in the group is proving very helpful.



## Food Pantry

Don't forget the St. Pauly's **Clothing Collection** box at the rear of our parking lot. All money received from St. Pauly's benefits the food pantries in East Granby, Granby, and Suffield. We accept clothing in good condition, as well as sheets and blankets. Thanks for your help!

## "Goings On" at Our Church

### 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

*"The Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations"* (Psalm 100:5). The 200th Anniversary committee has chosen this verse for the key verse for the event. We are recommending a 200-day celebration, starting on the Sunday after Easter in 2016, April 3, and ending on October 19.

We are planning to develop a timeline of our church's history. If you have any old pictures and/or anecdotes to share for this timeline, please let our historian Carol Griffin know.

We have asked a prayer committee to surround the celebration with prayer, asking God to use this landmark event to strengthen His church and prepare it to serve Him better in the years to come. If you feel called to pray for our church, we would welcome your participation! Please contact prayer chairman Mary McCorison.



## Mission Trip Recap

Dakota Doney went on a missions trip to the Dominican Republic this summer. On Sunday, **October 12**, he and team members will give a presentation with pictures during our morning service at 9 AM, sharing what they did and how it impacted them. Following the service, please join us for Coffee Hour, when you will be able to speak individually with Dakota.

## Prayer Shawls

Need a little extra comfort or know someone who does? Feel free to take one of our prayer shawls, which are made with prayers for recipients in mind. We usually give them in times of sorrow, like a death or a serious illness, and also in times of joy (a wedding, a birth of a baby). This is an ongoing ministry for any knitters and crocheters who would like to participate.

### Activities you may have missed

The *all-church Family Picnic* at Sunrise Park on a beautiful day, July 13, was a great success. Hamburgers and hot dogs were provided and accompanied by many salads and desserts. Several members went swimming, and JoAnne Jones swam the length of the lake and back! After the delicious meal, we held a vesper service.

The *Take-Out Chicken Dinner* on Aug. 16 went well.

The *"Skeeter Walk"*, August 17, raised \$700 for the United Methodist Church's "No More Malaria" campaign. This will buy treated nets for 70 people in Africa!

The children of the church had a great time at the *Kids' Summer Send-off* on August 24. There were games, songs, a skit, craft activity, and a sandwich lunch.

## Trustee Work Makes Progress

Our trustees have been busy making decisions for the repair and upgrading of our historic sanctuary. At the top of their list has been our desire to improve the heating situation.

### Insulation of the Sanctuary

New blown-in insulation has been installed in the ceiling of the sanctuary, greatly increasing the R-factor. The contractor found sufficient insulation already in the walls.

### Heating Units Replaced

The west side electric heating units that had been non-functional have now been replaced with new-style units. These contain oil that retains heat when the heater cycles. If these units prove more effective than the existing ones, we will consider replacing the middle and east-side units with the same type.

We are hopeful that the new insulation, along with a new heater on the west wall, will allow us to continue to worship in the sanctuary through the winter.

### Ceiling Repair

A needed repair of the sanctuary ceiling, discovered in June, has been completed. The separated joists, as well as all other joists which could be accessed, were fastened to the cross beams. The work was inspected, and we have been back in the sanctuary for weekly worship since early in August.

Our **Annual Charge Conference** will be held on Wednesday, **October 15** at 7:00 PM, led by Rev. Kenneth Kiefer, our District Superintendent. We will elect church officers for the coming calendar year at this meeting.



### Special Holiday Dates

- Nov. 26:** Thanksgiving Eve Service at Washington Hill UMC
- Nov. 27:** Happy Thanksgiving!
- Nov. 30:** Sanctuary Decorating & Potluck
- Dec. 9:** Family Potluck
- Dec. 13:** Caroling at Meadowbrook
- Dec. 14:** Children's Christmas Program
- Dec. 21:** Adult Choir presentations
- Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Service, 5 PM

## Church Booth at Suffield and Granby Fairs

For the first time, Copper Hill UMC made its presence known at two local community fairs: "Suffield on the Green" in September and "Celebrate Granby" on October 4. We handed out bracelets for children and greeted adults, sharing info about our church. The bookmarks that Council chair Judy Holcomb prepared, with all our church info, were a big hit. We gave out literally hundreds of them, along with the brightly colored bracelets with sayings like "God is love" on them. The children loved them.



Judy also obtained two new large banners with our name and website info to identify our booth. Pastor Kelvin and JoAnne prepared posters with pictures of church activities and a new church brochure for those who wanted additional info. Large-print Bibles were available as well.

We greatly appreciate all the volunteers who helped to set up and greet people. Pastor and JoAnne helped man the booths most of the time so people could actually meet the pastoral family.

Our promotional booth is one more way to make new contacts and to create more interaction with people already connected to our church.

## Reminders:

### "Fifth Sunday" Collections

**Special envelope collections on fifth Sundays** were started a few years ago to help defray our cost for electricity. The intention was that, on those four Sundays a year, people could perhaps put a little extra in the separate special offering envelope for electricity. This would be *in addition* to their regular weekly amount. We appreciate those who are able to share with the church in this way. God has blessed each of us in so many ways, and it is in gratitude for His blessings that we give to see His church prosper.

### Returnable Bottle Collection

Do you have returnable/deposit bottles that you don't want to bother with? We can help with that. Please bring them to church and place them in the barrel marked "Returnables" in the kitchen. Deposits collected will help with our general operating expenses. Thanks!

**Copper Hill United Methodist Church  
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**Copper Hill Connexion**, the newsletter for members and friends of  
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 AM Sunday morning

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

**Communion:** first Sunday of each month

**Church Council:** first Tuesday of each month, 7 PM at the church, open to all interested

**United Methodist Women (UMW):** second Tuesday of the month at the church at 7 PM

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)

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