

**North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC**

(860) 824-7232

Fax: (860) 824-5660

**Office Location:**

30 Granite Ave., North Canaan

**Church Location:**

172 Lower Rd., East Canaan

**Email:** ncconchurch@snet.net

**Website:**

northcanaancongregationalchurch.org

**Worship:** 10:00 AM

**Pastor:**

Rev. Savage Frieze

(860) 824-1555 (P House office)

(860) 542-5618 (Cell phone)

**Pastor's Email:**

pastorscfrieze@gmail.com

**Office Administrator:**

Michele Wolfe

Tues., & Thurs. 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Wednesday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Youth for Christ Coordinator:**

Gert Anderson

**Sunday School Coordinator:**

Sharon Milukas

**Organists:**

Marilyn Mullins

Mary Anne Carter

**Sextons:**

Sally Pollard – Church

**Boards and Committees:**

Moderator – Frank Ghi

Vice-Moderator – Ned Gow

Clerk – Christina Rogers

Treasurer - Wendy Kennedy

Asst. Treasurer – Ned Gow

**Deacons/CE:**

Chair: Tammy MacDonald

Gert Anderson

True Anderson

Sally Ford

Ned Gow

Sally Greco

Lynne Martin

**Trustees:**

Co-Chairs: Sharon Milukas

Frank Ghi

Barbara Austin

Glenn Rogers



The North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC

# THE SPIRE

**January 2014**

Well, as I write this, it is definitely Advent. Extra circulars in the mail, email box loaded with an extra-large number of unwanted promotions, and retailers seemingly raising prices only to lower them to a “bargain” price. People in foul moods driving, racing around parking lots, while store clerks get just a little more surly, and the customer is never right even when they are. Crowds everywhere you go, except in church.

Of course the world wouldn’t have needed Jesus if everything had been wonderful and nice two thousand years ago. The world wouldn’t have needed Jesus if the political leaders and industrial leaders and powers of this world operated with integrity and justice. God wouldn’t have had to send his son into the world if we practiced loving acceptance of those who are different from us, practiced including and welcoming everyone instead of finding ways to exclude the groups of people who don’t act like us, look like us, think like us or don’t come from where we come from.

The world is still the world, and it definitely needs Jesus now more than ever. Of course, we wouldn’t welcome him any more now than we did before. We’d probably lock him up because he was poor, long-haired, with brown skin and acting in crazy ways.

Christmas day is the first day of the twelve days of Christmas and the “Christmas Season”. This year, during the Christmas season, during Epiphany, and the seasons to come, let us invite the coming one, Jesus, into our hearts, practice living as if he had come again and we really want to follow his example. Let’s choose to practice “peace on earth”, let’s choose to practice “good will to men” and women, let’s practice living as if we are actually in the community of believers. What a wonderful difference we could make in our own families, our own town and our own world.

Practice makes perfect and the more we practice the more likely we are to notice the long-awaited one and heaven here, now, on earth. Immanuel, God with us: The more we practice the more we are likely to see him. Believing is seeing!

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Savage*

## **JANUARY 2014 CALENDAR**

**Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry** is open every Wednesday of the month 9:00am - 11:00am at Pilgrim House.

**The Children's Clothing Exchange** is open every Wednesday of the month 9am - 11:30am at Pilgrim House.

**The Baby Boutique** is open every Wednesday of the month 9am - 11:30am at Pilgrim House.

**Mid-Week Sacred Conversation & Worship:** Every Wednesday, 7pm at Pilgrim House.

**The Canaan Art Guild:** Wednesdays at noon at the church.

**Annual Report:** All articles written for the Annual Report should be submitted to the church office **by Thursday, January 2.**

**i Dance:** Friday, January 10, 7-9:30pm at Pilgrim House.

**Committee Night & Potluck Supper:** Monday, January 13, 6pm at the church.

**Spaghetti Dinner:** Friday, January 17, (the THIRD Friday of every month), 5pm at Pilgrim House.

**Deadline for Spire articles:** Thursday, January 23.

Bible Quiz Answer: B (See Revelation 3:7-13.)



## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS 2013**

- 2 Daniel Adam
- 6 James Spadaccini
- 12 Jeremy Stiewing  
Ken Swiderski
- 13 Cassidy Hammond
- 15 John Gilgar  
Glenn Rogers
- 21 Elihu Carlson  
Rebecca Ackerman
- 22 Julia Segalla

## **PILGRIM HOUSE USAGE FOR JANUARY**

Every Monday 5:30pm-9pm AND 7pm-8pm; Every Wednesday 9-11am Fishes & Loaves, Clothing Exchange and Baby Boutique, PH Use 5:30pm-9pm, Mid-Week Sacred Conversation & Worship, 7pm; Every Thursday, 5-7pm; PH Use January 3, 7pm-January 5, noon; i Dance, Friday, January 10, 7-9:30pm; Spaghetti Dinner, January 17, (THIRD Friday of every month), 5-7pm.

## **CHURCH USAGE FOR JANUARY**

Committee Night & Potluck Supper, Monday, January 13, 6pm; The Canaan Art Guild, (Painting for Fun), Wednesdays at noon.

## **FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY**

**Hours are Wednesdays, 9am-11am**

During the month of December we provided more than 5,000 meals and we distributed close to 100 Christmas meals on December 23!

We will be collecting donations for Fishes and Loaves on **the first Sunday of every month** at church. The Food Pantry is in need of canned fruit, cereal, peanut butter, jelly and juice.

Mailing address: Please submit all mail to Fishes & Loaves, PO Box 306, Canaan, CT 06018.

## **CHILDREN'S CLOTHING EXCHANGE**

The Children's Clothing Exchange has received many coats for its annual Coat Drive, including several new coats. We will accept all donations for men, women and children. All gently used items must be clean!

## **THE BABY BOUTIQUE**

The Baby Boutique has received many new donations of diapers! You may still feel free to donate a package of diapers any time.

If you would like to donate any baby items or diapers, or if you know of a family in need, please contact the church office at 860-824-7232. Thank you for your support!

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Treasurer's Report and the Fishes and Loaves reports were reviewed and approved as written.

Pilgrim House - Frank spoke about the fridge at the Pilgrim House that is kept unplugged. It is hard to move to plug in. Possibly a switch could be put in to help with the on and off of the fridge. The door to the furnace room is not working properly and needs to be looked at. Barbara said that the closet by the fountain needs to be cleaned and she would like to work on that. Frank spent a day at the Pilgrim House working with a volunteer and took care of many things that needed fixing. The lights on the outside of Pilgrim House need changing. Frank will look into what we need.

Budget - The budget was worked on.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting will be at Church at 11:30 on January 26, 2013 following worship and coffee hour.

All articles written for the Annual Report should be submitted to the church office **by Thursday, January 3.**

## **SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

There will be a spaghetti supper on the THIRD Friday of each month at Pilgrim house from 5-7pm. The next supper will be held on Friday, January 17. All are welcome!

## **BIBLE QUIZ**



The book of Revelation is addressed to seven churches. Which city in the United States shares the name of one of those churches?

- A. St. Paul
- B. Philadelphia
- C. Oconomowoc
- D. Orlando

Answer: Please see page 2 of this edition of *The Spire B* (See Revelation 3: 7-13.)

## **FROM THE NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER...**

### **FILL A JAR**



Need a new tradition to begin the new year? One way to reflect on your blessings as the days and months pass is to fill a Blessing Jar. Simply find a container (ideally with a lid) and place it in a prominent place in your home. Next to it, set slips of paper and writing utensils.

Encourage every family member to jot down one thing they're grateful for every day. If you have a large family, you may need one jar for each person. You can also use different-colored paper slips for each family member.

Every week, sit down together and review the many ways that God is present in your lives.

### **PRAYER FOR A NEW YEAR**



Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to thee, to be thine forever. Fill me and seal me with thy Holy Spirit. Use me as thou wilt. Send me where thou wilt, and work out thy whole will in my life at any cost, now and forever. Amen.

—Betty Scott Stam



***North Canaan Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
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**Deadline for Spire articles: Thursday, January 23, 2013.**