



JUNE NEWSLETTER

THE CORNERSTONE

Ridgebury Congregational Church
605 Ridgebury Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877

From the Pastor

Ave Ridgeburians!

Summertime, as the Gershwin brothers remind us, is supposed to be a time when “the livin’ is easy,” although anyone who has lived through a modern summer might be inclined to think that the Gershwin boys were just nuts. I mean, it’s easier for me personally, as the adult discussion groups and the Saturday evening vespers service go on hiatus, so I have more time for reading and study and whatnot. As for the rest of you—particularly those of you with kids—summer may seem to be even busier than the rest of the year. With family vacations, the kids out of school, day trips all over the place and God only knows what else, summer isn’t quite as easy as it’s cracked up to be. It probably hasn’t been since you held your first part-time summer job. (Unless, as I mentioned before, you happen to be me, which none of the rest of you happen to be.)

I mention this because, if my first summer here in Ridgebury is a reliable guide, many of you are going to be in and out of town over the next few months. It’s probably going to be some time (like September maybe,) before we’re all back in the same place at the same time. So, before all of you run off to wherever it is you’re running off to, let me take a moment to thank all of you who gave so much to make the past program year a success here at Ridgebury. I’m thinking of folks like our diligent and hard-working Sunday school teachers, the Deacons, choir members who take an active part in leading worship and the members of the various boards and committees who do so much of the work behind the scenes. While I’m at it, I’m thinking of the people who read scripture during worship, who donate the flowers for the Communion Table and who help out with coffee hour, and do things like that as well. Finally, I’m thinking of all of you who show up regularly for worship and give faithfully to keep the bills paid and the lights turned on. Ultimately, it’s all of us working together (in whatever capacity we do it) that keeps Ridgebury Congregational Church going. So, whatever it was you did over the past year, thanks, because whatever it was you did, no matter how large or how small it may have seemed, we couldn’t have done it without you!

So, by all means have yourselves good summers. Travel safe wherever you’re going, enjoy your time with family and friends and don’t let the kids drive you too crazy. When they do, remember this—someday they’re going to have kids of their own, and then they’ll be sorry! Even as I write this, we’re at work coming up with all sorts of interesting new things for the coming fall. If you thought the program year that is coming to a close was good, the one that is coming up should be even better!

Cheers,

John



Every year as June begins, I have mixed feelings. Some things are ending and some things are beginning. Our Sunday school has ended for the year and we have recognized our teachers, the children and their parents for their commitments to Ridgebury Church. We appreciate all of them.

Our Saturday Vesper Service is going to take a break for the summer. But will begin again in the fall with a new vitality and hopefully many more participants.

There are still more celebrations before June is over. On June 15th we will honor the Father's and will celebrate with Fellowship Hour in the parsonage.

Finally, June 22nd, the choir and all the various musicians will be honored with a special recognition. We will also have a hymn sing. If you have a favorite hymn, let Rev. Heeckt or myself know so that song can be included.

We welcome Carole Bishop and Matt Orr to our Board of Deacons. I know that their dedication to Ridgebury Church will help us in every way.

The Board of Deacons have met and special assignments have been made: Marsha Albats will be our representative to Pastoral Relations. Carole Bishop and Matt Orr will be contacting you to read scriptures. Elizabeth Rowe and Marsha Albats will take care of flowers. Our representative to Choir is Chris Miller and Phyllis Locke to Christian Education.

Sharon Straiton was elected Chairman and Sally Yarrish Secretary.

The Deacon assignments for members and friends of Ridgebury Church are in this Cornerstone.

Please keep in touch and let any Deacon know if you have a concern or new ideas or programs that you would like to see implemented beginning in September. We will be meeting during the summer to make plans for our Church School, Adult Education and Worship services.

God Bless,

Sharon Straiton

Chairman of Deacons



"A new church year" brings with it its own set of beginnings. At our Annual Meeting, May 4, we elected committee members and Officers who will begin their terms of office on June 1. All Boards and Committees will meet in June to begin planning for upcoming events. Suggestions and ideas are always welcome.

This year is already a little different than others in that we have an activity planned for Saturday, July 5. Our second project in support of Ridgefield's 300-Anniversary is to have a booth at the town's Fair. We are planning to have a bean bag toss for all ages. If you would like to help the committee or participate the day of the fair, please contact Ryan Clark or me.

A most sincere thank you is due Reverend Heeckt, members of the 300-Committee and the Deacons for a memorable and moving Memorial Service on Sunday, May 25. Our thanks also, to Josette Williams for researching the names of the military people who lie in Ridgebury Cemetery. We were fortunate to have our Congressman, Christopher Shays, our State Representative, John Frey and Ridgefield's First Selectman, Rudy Marconi share the event with us.

I'd like to extend heartfelt thanks to all our outgoing Officers and Committee members for the hours and hours they have given on behalf of Ridgebury Church, its members and friends. Alice Kenny-Lucas served above and beyond the call of service with her three years as Moderator. We are growing because of all their efforts.

We are off to a busy start and I pray for your support and a most productive year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sganga

Moderator

RCC Shirts for All

The Ridgebury Church 300-Committee is planning to order blue collared shirts to wear at the Country Fair Saturday, July 5. The Fair will take place on the grounds of the Old High School in the center of Ridgefield. Stay tuned for more information if you would like to order a shirt along with us. It's a great way to let folks know who we are.

Help Wanted

Volunteer to transcribe Rev. Heeckt's sermons.

Transcriber to use a Panasonic Microcassette Transcription

unit. Please call Bill Lucas at 203-438-2124.

Let me introduce you to . . .

By Liz Rowe

RoseMary Going Frederick (fondly known as "Fred") has been a member of Ridgebury Church since 1973. Her mother-in-law, Esther, was the Superintendent of Sunday School years ago. RoseMary came to the church through her friend, Janet Keeler. She liked the church because it had an appeal with its small congregation. Over the years she has been involved in many aspects of the church and we have been fortunate to have her serve in so many ways. She laughs that she has served on every committee, "except Trustees". She has been our Clerk over the years, as well as a Deacon, and involved in the Sunday school. She has fond memories of planning church dinners with her friend, Larry Manger. She recently retired from her positions at Ridgebury but still plans on attending church services as often as she can.

RoseMary spent most of her time in Durham, Connecticut on the family farm where over time they raised Jersey and Black Angus cows, as well as continental veal. She actually lived in the nearby town, Cromwell, with her parents and two sisters. Her elderly father still lives there, and RoseMary has been visiting there often to help take care of him. She had 20 aunts and uncles who were always there to help them with the farm, and 28 first cousins who were around to hang out with. The farm still belongs to the entire family and they have annual reunions in the summer.

Her youngest sister has learning disabilities and when RoseMary was a teenager she helped her with her needs. This gave RoseMary the desire to major in special education after high school. After graduating from Cromwell High School, she attended Southern Connecticut University. She met her husband through her college roommate at a Halloween party in her junior year and they married after her senior year of college. He was in the military and they moved to Virginia for a year where he was stationed. They moved back to Danbury and she worked on her Masters Degrees at Westconn in Reading Remediation, Curriculum and Sixth Year in Consultation. At that time, she was a substitute teacher in Ridgefield. After eight years of marriage, she divorced in 1973 and bought her in-law's house, where she lives today with her dog "un poco", a Havanese.

She was hired in 1973 as a full time Special Education teacher at Ridgefield High School. She has worked there for 35 years and has had great relationships with the students she has taught over the years. She served for 15 years as the Union President, was on the Connecticut Teachers Rights Platform and lobbied on the state and federal level. This is her last year of teaching and she will miss the kids and the camaraderie of her peers. She hopes to sell her home and move up to Durham to be with her family. Upon retirement, she plans to work at Southern Connecticut as an adjunct with student teachers going into Special Education, as well as working on staff development there.

The Saturday Vesper Church Service is taking the summer off as of June 14th.
It will be back in the fall!!

Deacon's Call List

Marsha Albats

(432-8254)

Sue Blaisdell

Doug and Barbara Grose

Peter & Lynn Keeler

Jordan Marker

Sally Miller

Sean Rowe

Tom & Stefanie Shevlin

Hank & Josette Williams

David & Paula Wray

RoseMary Frederick

(748-1149)

Caitlin Keeler

Corrine LoValvo

Bill & Alice Lucas

Vince & Elizabeth Sganga

Rich & Sharon Straiton

Chris Miller

(744-5655)

Robert & Lessley Burke

Bob & Dottie Dever

Ingrid Gallaway

Mandy Gallaway

Jo Hampton

Larry & Susan Hibbard

Jom & Beth Shonk

Bruce & Bonnie Weber

Nellie Clapper

Carole Bishop

(775-4960)

Dorothy Crofut

Jean Early

Jim & Karen Edwards

RoseMary Frederick

John & Sheila Hislop

Chris & Mary Phelps

Mary Jane Scott

Irene Stebbins

Phyllis Locke

(438-5866)

Ginger Drews

Diane Earle

Jeremy & Kristen Heyel

Kelly Hislop

Tara Kenny

Pam Rittenhouse

Jean Stouter

John & LoriAnn Strolli

Michaela Trolle

Matt Orr

(748-1991)

Drew & Linda Cochrane

Wynd Harris

Linda Hayward

David & Dana Marker

Dorothy Rogers

Michael & Stephanie Trolle; Thomas Trolle

Ryan Clark

Deacon's Call List Cont'd

Liz Rowe

(438-8193)

Tod & Shannon Dickson

Barbara Earle

Poh Kerr

Leslie Marker

Robert Mirrielees

Michael Prange

Anne Judge

Guy & Kim Welton

Pat & Bryn Welton

Sharon Straiton

(748-1608)

Paul & Marsha Albats

Bob & Carole Bishop

John Heeckt

J. O'Brien & Phyllis Locke

Chris & Betty Miller

Matt Orr

Chris & Liz Rowe

Lou & Sally Yarrish

Sally Yarrish

(438-7145)

Sue Bankes

Naomi Emmons

Bruce & Ann Gallaway

Barbara Kapp

Joy Manger

Lauren Marker

Martin & Barbara Ollinger

Jessica Parrott

JUNE Birthdays



- 3 Alice Kenny Lucas
- 11 J. Obrien Locke
- 14 Doug Grose
- 15 Jean Stouter
- 18 Jack Phelps
- 23 Sally Miller
- 25 Lauren Marker
- 26 Sydney Wray
Jeremy Heyel
- 30 Hank Williams

June 2008

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 10a Service with Communion 10a Sunday School Sunday | 2 7p Deacons Meet | 3 12:30p Adult Discussion Group | 4 7:30p Choir Practice | 5 7:15p AA Meets | 8 | 7 5p Church Service 6:30p Adult Discussion Group |
| 8 | 9 | 10 6p Trustees - Walk Through | 11 7:30p Choir Practice | 12 7:15p AA Meets | 13 | 14 5p Church Service Flag Day [USA] |
| 15 Father's Day [USA] | 16 | 17 | 18 7:30p Choir Practice | 19 7:15p AA Meets | 20 | 21 5p Church Service |
| 22 10a Music Sunday | 23 7p Council Meeting | 24 | 25 7:30p Choir Practice | 26 7:15p AA Meets | 27 | 28 5p Church Service |
| 29 St. Peter & St. Paul [Christian] | 30 5p Pastoral Relations Meeting | 1 | 2 7:30p Choir Practice | 3 7:15p AA Meets | 4 Independence Day [USA] | 5 5p Church Service |

Office Telephone: 203-748-2806
 Visit our Web Site: www.ridgeburychurch.org
 E-mail Us: Office@Ridgeburychurch.org

Officers, Board and Committee Member Nominations – May, 2008
I Year Term ends May 31, 2009: 2 Year Term ends May 31, 2010
***(Chair) sits on Church Council (Bylaws Article VII)**

OFFICERS (Article IV: 1 year term)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Moderator* | Elizabeth Sganga | |
| Vice Moderator* | Brien Locke | |
| Clerk* | Barbara Kapp | |
| Treasurer* | Vincent Sganga | |
| Assistant Treasurers | Betty Miller | Sally Yarrish |

OFFICIAL DELEGATES* (Article V: 2 votes at Assoc./CT Conf. Meetings: 1 year term)
Sally Miller **Joy Manger**

BOARD OF DEACONS* (article VIII: up to 12 members; 2 year term)

| | |
|--|---|
| May 2009 | May 2010 |
| *Sharon Straiton Marsha Albats | Sally Yarrish Carole Bishop |
| Liz Rowe Chris Miller Phyllis Locke | Matt Orr |
| | RoseMary Frederick (honorary) |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES* (Article X: 6 members + Treasurer: 2 year term)

| | |
|---|---|
| May 2009 | May 2010 |
| Sue Bankes Brien Locke Larry Hibbard | Bill Lucas Rich Straiton (advisory) |
| Drew Cochrane (advisory) | Lou Yarrish |
| Vincent L. Sganga | |

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE* (Article XI 3 minimum; 1 year term)
Chris Miller

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE* (Article XIII: 3 minimum, 1 year term)
William Lucas **Carole Bishop** **Joy Manger** **Liz Rowe** **Wynd Harris**

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE* (Article XVI: 3 minimum; 1 yr term)
Linda Hayward **Susan Blaisdell** **Dottie Rogers** **Matt Orr**
Jean Early **Linda Cochrane (advisory)**

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE* (Article XVII; 2+1 Deacon: 1 year term)
Moderator or Vice Moderator: Elizabeth Sganga **Deacon rep: Marsha Albats**
Minister choice: Alice Kenny Lucas , Elected by Congregation: Betty Miller*

Following positions do not vote on Council

HISTORIAN (Article XV: 1 year term) **Josette Williams**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Article XII: 5 minimum, 2 year term,
Reports to Deacons)
May 2009: Barbara Grose (advisory)

ECCLESIASTICAL FINE ARTS COMMITTEE (article XIV: 2 members; 2 year term)
May 2009: Karen Edwards, Naomi Emmons **May 2010: Jim Edwards**