

Keeping In Touch

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STAFFORD

PASTOR: REV. DR. ROBERT R. LAROCHELLE

EMAIL: RPBKSL@COX.NET TELEPHONE: 860 670 6461

IN THIS ISSUE

- A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR
- TREASURER'S REPORT
- CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT
- IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH
- A LIGHTER MOMENT ...
- BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARIES
- LIGHTING OF THE CROSS
- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- FALL FLEA MARKET
- MISSIONS
- INSTALLATION OF PASTOR BOB
- OUR FAVORITE HYMNS
- HOLLY BAZAAR
- CALENDAR

Dear members and friends of Second Congregational Church,

As you read this, we are all very close to the coming of the month of September. For many families, school is just around the corner! I don't know about you but, from my perspective, I have felt summer flying by really quickly!

As we enter what we as a church see as our calendar year filled with the many events that constitute the days from September to June, I want to pause here for a moment and express my thanks to you for your commitment to our church and your kindness toward me and Tricia! This is truly a wonderful community of faith! This commitment of yours has been expressed so significantly through the large numbers of people who have been attending our services, including a good number of individuals who have chosen to come and experience worship and fellowship with us!

As I have said before, I sense a very strong vitality in this church community! I see it and I feel it whenever and wherever we gather together on Sunday mornings, be it for indoor worship, worshiping outside on our property on a summer day or enjoying our annual service at Sun Valley on a wonderfully beautiful summer Sunday just a few weeks ago.

As we approach the month of September, we enter into a new year of sorts for our church community! Technically, of course, a church's New Year begins in Advent come early December. However, the movement from summer into September which takes us into the very special transitional season we call Fall, brings with it opportunities for children to attend our wonderful Sunday School and for all of us to engage in Sunday worship, special educational programs as you will see described below this article, and many of the meaningful events that provide opportunities for us to gather together both to be together and to explore what it means to be part of this Christian community of faith.

As I conclude this message, I encourage you to read through this newsletter and get a sense for what we will be doing in this church come the days and the months ahead. I encourage you as well to consider sharing with others you may know what your experience of being part of our congregational is like. In the brief time I have served here, I have witnessed a wonderful growth and can't help but think that much of it has come from the way that so many have found something very special in this wonderful community that goes by the name of "church."

Here is wishing all of us a very special and blessed calendar year beginning this Fall and making a special spiritual significance in our lives in the months that lie ahead!

In Jesus always,
Pastor Bob

Rev. Dr. Robert R. LaRochelle, Pastor

TREASURER'S REPORT

Category	Year-To-Date	Budget-To-Date	Percentage
R21—Freewill	\$ 2,473.00	\$ 875.00	283%
R22—Pledges	\$ 11,179.00	\$ 11,083.33	101%
R23—Contributions	\$ 2,629.00	\$ 3,062.50	86%
R24—Fund Raising	\$ 5,566.73	\$ 6,066.67	92%
Capital Campaign	\$ 1,513.00	\$ 1,750.00	86%

Thru July 31:

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Church council has not had a meeting during the months of July and August due in part to people on vacation and being away. Council will resume our monthly meetings on Tuesday September 17th at 6:30pm in the library. We will discuss and finalize the upcoming installation of Pastor Bob on September 22 among other outstanding issues.

Thank you
Bruce Ladr
Moderator

TRUSTEES

Our neighbor Paul successfully dug out the lilac area with his backhoe to about 18 inches deep and got rid of all debris. We donated \$100.00 for doing this job. That area is now covered with a black landscape fabric to keep the sun off of the area and to keep all of the bittersweet controlled until we plant low growing perennials in the Spring. We have completed edging around one of our signs, and planted some marigolds. We are leaving the other sign as is until we know what will happen in front of the church as we discuss planting phlox in the Spring.

The Trustees replaced two boards on the stairs going down to the Parish House from the upper lot. We predict 4 more should be replaced and the rest will have new woodscrews put into spots that are missing them. After this is done the stairs will be power washed and stained using the clear stain purchased last year that was not used on the deck since it was painted white instead.

A new spigot was installed outside the Parish House by Joe, our plumber. There has been no issue since. He supplied us with a new key to turn it on. If anyone ever needs to water or turn that on, please ask the Trustees on how to be trained on that.

A tree came down in the corner of the upper parking lot. Tom Hoefle was able to move quickly and cut that up and remove all debris before we had our church service a couple days later. Tom also replaced our leaking faucet in the Kitchen and trimmed the door leading to Fellowship Hall, so it doesn't drag. Thank you, Tom!

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew, The Board of Trustees Chair

IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH ...

Our Hearts and Prayers reach out to our Brothers and Sisters who have various needs and struggles: prayers for Janeson and Alecia... prayers for the Dignazio, Krar and Raynock families ... prayers for Mark, Al, Melissa, Liam and Austin ... prayers for Flo and Joe Demars ... prayers for those suffering from cancer and disease ... prayers for Carmen on her 16th birthday ... wishing Stephanie and Nathan safe travels for their return to Florida ... prayers for Hunter Thibideau facing heart surgery ... prayers of health for Ken, Polly and Lloyd ... prayers for continued healing and happiness for my family ... prayers for Cindy and Robbie for health concerns ... prayers for my friend Losene ... prayers for Carrie Crawford ... prayers for family traveling this week ... a prayer for my friend Don struggling with depression ... prayers for our leaders that they make decisions with us in mind ... prayers for peace ... prayers for the loved ones of Benoit ... prayers for family ... prayers for Gabe's back and continued health ... prayers for Uncle Bent ... prayers for Geri and Shirley ... prayers for Josh and Kelsi ... prayers for Alicia ... prayers for Aidab as he returns to Pittsburgh ... prayers for continued growth of our church family ... prayers for Carmen as she has her wisdom teeth extracted ... prayers for Beth Williams and family on the passing of her mother ... prayers for Shirley and Dee in Florida ... prayers for better health for Ann and Yvonna ...

Celebrations: we are grateful that Al is free of cancer ... joy that Jamieson went home after 139 days in the NICU ... Will celebrated his 19th birthday ... Peg and Bruce enjoying the family reunion ...

A LIGHTER MOMENT. . .

What do you call a pig who plays basketball? — A ball hog.

What do you call bees that are best friends? — Two bees in a pod.

Why did the scientist remove his doorbell? — He wanted to win the no-bell prize.

What is a feline's favorite class in school? — Catculus.

What is a dog's least favorite shirt? — A collared shirt.

Why don't basketball players vacation well? — They hate travelling.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

With several new families attending and participating in our church family, we would like to include them in our Birthdays and Anniversaries listing. Please put this information on a piece of paper and give to Ken May and he will add them to the database.

September Birthdays

- 1 Katelyn Hatch
- 2 Walker Starvish
- 7 Alexander Ladr
- 12 Wayne Bourque
- 18 Ed Parker
- 27 Jason Hatch
- 30 Mitchell Starvish

September Anniversaries

- 11 Sheila and Tom Hoefle
- 15 Ruthanne and Michael Talamini

LIGHTING OF THE CROSS

For September:

In loving memory of **Don Lingley** by Cindy Lingley

In loving memory of **Mary and Al Kazokas Sr.** and **Claire and Jack Richens** by their family

In loving memory of **Barbara Kellem** by Roy Kellem and her family

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rally Day, our first day of Sunday School will be Sunday, September 8th. Tom put a banner up on our front lawn to let the public know. I will be available a half hour before the service and one hour after the service if any families have questions about the Sunday School year, or if any new families come in to tour our facility. Last school year was an absolute blessing with the growth we experienced in our Sunday School. The parents/guardians and our young people have been amazing in and out of the classroom. We look forward to another fun year. If anyone wants to teach, be a teachers aide, or join our nursery volunteers as we continue to grow please let us know! Also if anyone knows anyone who may be interested in Sunday School, or need a nursery, bring them on the 8th! Thank you!

Andrew, Kathy, and Judy

FALL FLEA MARKET

It's that time again! Plans are well under way for the flea market scheduled for Friday September 6th and Saturday September 7th. A sign-up sheet is available on the kitchen counter as you make your way from the upstairs down to fellowship hall. If you haven't had a chance to sign up, please take a moment to do so. We need help to set up tables and bring boxes outside from the barn on Thursday. On Friday and Saturday, we will need people to watch over the tables and merchandise in order to make the sales to the public. Saturday afternoon from 3 o'clock on, we will need help to return the unsold items to the barn and dismantle the tables. If you are a baker, we would love to offer your home baked treats for sale. If you have any questions, please call me. Linda 860-684-5689

MISSIONS

Seventeen pounds of food were delivered to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry this month. Again, thank you for your generous donations. In addition, thirty-nine pounds of school supplies were delivered to the SafeNet Ministries on your behalf. The backpacks, notebooks, crayons, pencils and assorted other school supplies were gratefully received by the school supply coordinator in anticipation of their distribution to the deserving students of Stafford. I'm proud to be a member of the Second Congregational Church family, a loving group of people who are always willing to pitch in and share what we have in order to help our friends and neighbors. Thank you all for your kindness and consideration.

Linda Sprague

Missions Committee Chairperson

PASTOR BOB'S INSTALLATION

At 3:00 pm on Sunday September 22, we will celebrate the Installation of our Pastor. This is a service to which members of churches in the Tolland Association to which we belong are invited. Rev. Jeff Gallagher, the pastor of the Tolland Congregational Church, will lead the service and Pastor Bob will be delivering a message as well. Other pastors in the area are also invited to attend. We will be most fortunate to have some special in person music led by Eric Hutchinson, a highly recognized musician and someone who has served in some churches in which Pastor Bob has served as well. The service should be no more than an hour in length.

There will also be our usual 9:30 am Sunday service that day as well which Pastor Bob will also lead.

OUR FAVORITE HYMNS

Pastor Bob and Ken May have chosen thirty-six addition hymns that are not included in the Pilgrim Hymnal or the New Century Hymnal for which we have found organ accompaniment. Ken has assembled them into a booklet that he has entitled "Our Favorite Hymns". These have been placed in the pews and inserts for the signboard showing "OFH" provided.

We hope that you enjoy this addition to our worship service.

HOLLY BAZAAR

Our Annual Holly Bazaar will be held Saturday November 16th from 9 am until 2 pm. We hope to have the Parish House filled with vendors on which we already have a good start. We will have our cookie table (always a hit—so start baking), White Elephant table (full of our best tag sale items), autumn soup lunch (more about this later) and raffle baskets (start thinking of themes and picking up goodies to fill the baskets).

Questions? Please call or text me at 413/374-3247 or we can chat at coffee hour. As always, volunteers make this work. Sign up for different stations will be downstairs on the table. If you cannot do a full day, that is fine—sign-up for times that work for you and we will build from there! I am always open to new ideas to make this a fun fall event for those that stop by and for our vendors who put their talents out there. Sign-up sheets and further information will be posted on Sunday, September 1, 2024!

Thank you,
Kim Dickson, Event Coordinator

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service 9:30 AM Deacons after Church	2	3	4	5	6	7 Little Shop - 10 - 2
8 Rally Day - 9:15 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM	9	10	11	12	13 Fall Flea Market	14 Little Shop - 10 - 2
15 Worship Service 9:30 AM Food Bank Sunday	16	17 Church Council 6:30 PM	18	19	20	21 Little Shop - 10 - 2
22 Worship Service 9:30 AM	23	24	25	26	27	28 Little Shop - 10 - 2
29 Worship Service 9:30 AM	30					