



CHURCH NEWS

Vol. 64, No. 5

First Church News

First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ
830 Corbin Avenue
New Britain, CT 06052
860-229-3709
www.firstnewbritain.org

MAY 2016



OFFICE AND GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday 9 am - Noon

PROGRAM STAFF

The Rev. Kendrick Norris, Interim Minister
Sharon Chamberlain, Coordinator of Christian Education
James Gower, Director of Music Ministries
Sarah Flythe, Coordinator of Youth Programming

Please go to our website, www.firstnewbritain.org for staff contact information

Copies of sermons and additional newsletters are available in the information rack outside the church office.



THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 30th

First Church, once again, will participate in our annual mission project of helping our neighbors. This year's project will be at the home of Dolores Davis at 2456 Corbin Avenue. Dolores has asked us to install bathroom grab bars and towel racks, to check the sump pump, replace electrical outlets, repair kitchen chairs, inspect the appliances, repair a sidewalk section, do some general clean up and, of course, the world famous First Church yard transformation. We will be starting at 8 am. Please come for the day or any part of the day . . . many hands make light work! Thank you all for your continued support in this great project!

"ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE."

Ephesians 3:17

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR

MAY: A MONTH OF MANY CELEBRATIONS

Sunday worship in May will be diverse and meaningful. **May 8th is Mother's Day.** In the Bible, God is pictured as a mother who shelters, nurtures, loves and shares holy wisdom.

“As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you” (Isaiah 66:13)

Likewise, human mothers bless their children— modeling their care after God's warming embrace—and thus are blessed themselves. This Sunday we will celebrate maternal grace that is foundational, sustaining and unbounded.

May 15th is Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the church. Since Jesus' crucifixion and then the empty tomb, Jesus' followers had been waiting and watching in trepidation. Then out of nowhere they experienced God who moved them and used them to begin the church. In the second chapter of the Book of Act, Luke tells us: “When the day of Pentecost had come; the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound like a rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in others languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” The people of many nations gathered in Jerusalem were amazed for they heard the disciples preaching in their own language. Three thousand were converted that day. And thus, the church was born.

May 22nd is Trinity Sunday. We will sing “Holy, Holy, Holy,” that rousing, inspirational hymn by Reginald Heber (1783-1826). We will celebrate the great mystery of how three can be one. How Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one. How the Creator, the Savior, and the Sustainer are one. The Trinity is in some ways beyond understanding and yet we know in our hearts how true it is in meeting the deep needs of our soul. We will explore the mystery.

May 29th is Memorial Day Sunday, a day to remember that love often requires sacrifice of self. Jesus' sacrifice is the model of giving one's life for another, and he himself reminds of that this is the greatest gift of all (John 15:17). We remember and celebrate those who died to stop oppression and tyranny so that we might be free, especially to have the religious freedom that so many are still denied. We are reminded on this Sunday that all of us give up our life—our time, our energy, our riches—for something. May it be worthy of the gift of life God has bestowed upon us.

In Christ's love,
Kendrick

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

May Flowers!



Thank you, Glenn Anderson for doing an Earth Day message with our church school children! Flowers have been planted outside of the office windows. It will be great fun to watch the garden grow!



During Lent the church school students collected \$87.81 to benefit the CT Humane Society. Add to that, the \$105 that was collected in the free-will offering at the Coffee House and we will be donating almost \$200 to help animals in need. Great job!

Children's Sunday preparations have begun! Be sure and join us on Sundays from now thru June 12th if you wish to participate!



GRADUATION NEWS

It's time to gather this year's graduation news! If you have someone in your family who is celebrating a milestone event, please send me the name of the person, how they are related to our church family, name of the institution, earned degree and what lies ahead, by Sunday, May 22nd.



SAVE THE DATE . . . Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) at First Church will be Monday, July 18th – Friday, July 22nd! Mark your calendars and if your kids have friends they would like to invite just let me know! Registration forms should be available in the church office by mid-May. Looking forward to another fun filled week - **"Under The Big Top"!**



SUNDAY SCHOOL EGG HUNT THANKS

Thank you to the office volunteers that helped stuff 1000 Easter Eggs; the weather cooperated and we were able to hunt outside. Thank you to Jenny and Jilly Sticca for their help hiding all the eggs.

See you in church,
Sharon Chamberlain, Coordinator of Christian Education



INVITATION TO OUR CHAPEL

Our Chapel is open for a private moment before Sunday's service or during the week. You are invited to come early and take a moment to thank God for a good week or for help with a challenge.



TRAVELS OF THE SEXTON

This item was found, in the sanctuary, by eagle eyed deacon Don Robertson. We would like to reunite this, whatever it may be, to the rightful owner. More important, we would like to know what it is. Thanks for your help, Glenn Anderson.



We will be receiving new members into the church during worship on Sunday, May 15, 2016. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a member, please see Kendrick after worship or contact the church office during the day.



FIRST CHURCH T-SHIRTS

In the next few weeks, First Church T-shirts will be available for church members to wear as they attend upcoming events, such Rebuilding Together, Race in the Park and Sneaker Sunday, to name a few.

We hope you will proudly wear your "First Church ... On a Mission" shirt and show that we are an active and caring church in our community. Suggested donation to purchase a shirt is \$5.

~Missions & Congregational Life



BREAD BAKING THANKS AND EXTRA LOAVES NEEDED

Thank you to Lois MacFarlane, Mabel Yeterian, Joyce Furman and Amanda Costa for baking during the month of April. Don DelCegno will be baking for Sunday, May 1st, AnneMarie Duncan will be baking for Sunday, May 8th, Lynne Furman will be baking for Sunday, May 15th, Carolyn McElravy will be baking for Sunday, May 22nd, Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, May 29th, Lois MacFarlane will be baking for Sunday, June 5th, Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, June 12th, Margo Hunt will be baking for Sunday, June 19th, Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, June 26th Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, July 3rd and Lois MacFarlane will be baking for Sunday, July 10th.

Bakers are needed for Sunday, July 17th and all Sundays after. Please sign up, in the Narthex before church or during coffee hour, to bake two welcome breads to be given out to visitors, returning members or those having difficulty in their lives. Any kind of homemade bread is appreciated, from yeast breads to sweet breads to bread from mixes.

We are also asking for some bakers to make some extra loaves to keep in the freezer to have when someone forgets it's their day, a baker is unable to come to church or extra loaves are needed. Just bring in the loaves and place in the marked box in the kitchen freezer. Thank you!



NEWS FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has finalized our church profile - the first step of the Search Process. We will be sending the profile to the UCC within the next week, which in turn the UCC will post on their website for prospective candidates to view. We hope to begin to receive information about candidates within the month.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact a member of the Search Committee.

As a reminder, the following are members of the Search Committee: Michael Chamberlain, Mike Duncan, John Gemmell, Mike Gorzoch, Margo Hunt, Sylvia Lucas, June McCarthy, Arlyd Munoz-Snyder, Deborah Ortega, Don Robertson and Beth Sticca



PHOTOS IN GALLERY

Please stop by the First Church Gallery, located in the Parlor. We've hung some interesting, historic photos Glenn found in the basement. We hope to have David Culton, Janet's son, who does photography, as our May / June Artist. If not, we will have him at a later date. In September / October, a group of quilters will exhibit their work in the Gallery.



IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Lynne and Bill Furman, as they deal with some health issues and look for a place to live without stairs.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Edith Miller's son, John, who grew up in First Church, as he makes a full recovery from a serious stroke.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane Sittambalam, who has finished chemotherapy, is completing radiation treatment and is beginning the healing process. She writes that "we could not have got through this without the love and support of family and friends, the knowledge and experience of my doctors and staff, and the many prayers being uplifted to God . . . I never realized how powerful a card in the mail can be. When you are having an awful day, and feel so ill, to get an email, card, text message or a phone call can boost your spirits so much . . . I am very happy to say that the worst is definitely behind us and now my job is to take it day by day and recover my strength." Well wishes can be sent to 1903 South Ocean Blvd, #1002, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Adeline Ruth, as she recovers from some recent health issues. Her address is Jerome Home, room 301, 975 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06052.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Kirsty Naples' mom, who is having some health issues.
- Our thoughts, prayers and congratulations are with Our Carillonneur, Tanya Lukyanova, who, with her husband Chris Walton, welcomed her new daughter on Thursday morning, March 31, 2016, at 1:29 am. Hanne Joyce weighed in at ten pounds, two ounces. Cards can be sent to 310 Drain Street, Hampton, CT 06247.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the Furman family, as Bill and Lynne's sixteen-year-old great nephew, Ben Guckel, continues to await a heart transplant.

These are opportunities to use our Sunshine Post Office, to send good cheer, see later article. Cards, pens, an address book and a mailbox are set up in the Fireside Room . . . just write one out during Coffee Hour. They are a nice and easy way to send caring thoughts to our church family and are greatly appreciated by, and comforting to, those who receive them.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PROVIDE RIDES TO CHURCH

There are a number of folks in our congregation who periodically need assistance getting to the church on Sundays and I am in the process of assembling a list of names of people willing to provide rides.

If you are willing to help out, please provide your name, email address and phone number to Mike Duncan by email at mdunc58@gmail.com or by leaving this information with the church office.



OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

For the month of May we will be collecting Cereal and Cereal Bars, which can be part of a quick, easy and healthy breakfast, lunch or dinner. As always, any and all donations may be brought in on Sunday or during office hours.

Thank you to all who brought in donations of snacks and other items during April. The shopping cart is full and Judy is delivering about seven very full bags of groceries to the food pantry. Your gifts have helped many during this winter and this is yet another way that you can help make a difference!



SOCK BASKET

Our sock basket was filled to over-flowing! Judy will be delivering them to local service organizations, like the Prudence Crandall Center. We will stop collecting now, through the summer, and begin again in the fall. Thank you to all who have so generously supported this mission. ~Missions & Congregational Life



USHERS AND READERS NEEDED

Would you like to be an Usher and/or Reader? There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex before church and during Coffee hour, in the Fireside Room, after worship. Both Ushers and Readers are needed for May and June. The training for ushering is easy and can be done before the service. Please pick a date or a whole month to help. We'd love to have you join us! Karen Canora



SIGN UP SHEETS

Clip-boards will be in the Narthex before church or in the Fireside Room during coffee hour, with sign-up sheets for the following . . .

- Bread Baking . . . please sign up on any available date, to bake two welcome breads to be given out to visitors or returning members. Any kind of homemade bread is appreciated.
- Ushers and Readers . . . please sign up to read or to usher on select dates or for a whole month.
- Race in the Park . . . please sign up if you would like to sponsor Sharon and our team on Saturday, May 7th.
- Social and Service Picnic . . . please sign up if you are planning to attend on Wednesday, June 8th.



PLEASE USE OUR SUNSHINE POST OFFICE

We have had lots happening in our First Church Family lately. Following the Apostle Paul's call to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep," (Romans 12:15), we have greeting cards for you to write to someone who has been mentioned during our "Prayers of the People" or in "Our First Church Family" or anyone you would like to reach out to. Cards, pens, and an address book are available during Coffee Hour, on a card table in the Fireside Room. Just place your cards in the Sunshine Post Office box and they will be stamped and mailed out on Monday. This is an easy way to show you care. Please challenge yourself to write at least one card a month. As Jesus made it abundantly clear, as we do it for another so we do it for him. ~ Kendrick



PRAYER SHAWLS

We had a lovely blessing of our prayer shawls during worship two Sundays ago. We prayed for the shawls, those who make them, those who receive them and ask that God's grace and blessings be upon them.

Sylvia Lucas was able to visit Jane and Earl Sittambalam and deliver prayer shawls to them both, which have provided them with comfort. They are wearing them in the photo above. Please read on for more thanks from Jane.

Please remember that our prayer shawl ministry is an outreach ministry. Yes, prayer shawls are for those in our congregation who are ill or grieving. And, they are also for people outside our membership. So if you have a family member, a friend, or a co-worker who you think might appreciate a soft, warm symbol of God's love please let me know and I will get you one of our beautiful prayer shawls.

We are in the process of restocking our shawls, so we have some in reserve. If you have time to knit, packages of yarn are available any time in my office. ~ Kendrick



FIRST CHURCH GARDEN

Spring is almost here and we will soon be planting in our First Church garden again. We will be adding new fencing to deter our resident woodchuck this year. Anyone who is interested in having a plot this year should contact either Judy Robertson or Lois MacFarlane. The cost will be \$25 per plot.



MEN'S BREAKFAST, MAY 22ND

Calling all men to join us for breakfast at 8:30 am, on (usually) the third Sunday of each month. We take turns cooking and cleaning up and put our wonderful church kitchen to good use. A hearty breakfast and good conversation is the perfect way to get ready for church. If you missed this morning's breakfast, the next date is Sunday, May 22nd.



INDOOR COMMUNITY HERB GARDEN

Calling all Gardeners, Home Cooks, Children of all Ages and Renegades! If you have any interest helping to start and maintain an indoor herb garden here at First Church, please see the signup sheet in the Fireside Room. The herbs grown will be made available to all members of First Church; take what you need for your meal and leave the rest for others. You can also contact Don Del Cegno at (860)-989-7441 or donnybagbeans@yahoo.com.



CLIPPED COUPONS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

The Missions & Congregational Life Working Group will continue to collect coupons for military families to help them provide for their families. We ask that they be already cut out. Please remember to bring in your coupons, drop them off in the basket in the church office and help us continue with this worthwhile venture!



EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

The Missions & Congregational Life Working group had designated *Road to Recovery* as the recipient of our special offering that was taken on Easter Sunday, March 27th. This program helps the over two hundred homeless children in New Britain with clothes (uniforms in New Britain), school supplies (binders and book bags), hygiene products (toothpaste and deodorant) and other resources. Seven hundred and seventy-five dollars was collected for this project. Thank you to all who were able to contribute.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

Our next Special UCC Offering is “Strengthen the Church” on Sunday, May 15th. Through this offering, . . . “your gifts will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults”.

Each year, we receive four UCC special mission offerings; one of those helps the church's love to grow and thrive. Called "Strengthen the Church," this offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. And it sends our church's message of extravagant welcome and radical hospitality and inclusivity out into the world. We will receive this offering on Sunday, May 15th. Watch for the special offering envelopes in our worship bulletins on Sundays, May 8th and 15th. Please give generously today to ensure a vibrant church tomorrow.



SNEAKER SUNDAY ~ THIS SUNDAY, MAY 1ST

First Church adults, families and youth will have an opportunity to walk against hunger here in New Britain on SNEAKER SUNDAY, May 1st. Following the worship service that day, participants are invited to walk from our church to the 1+ mile Walnut Hill Park walking loop to increase awareness of hunger in our community. A light luncheon will then be served back at First Church. Please see Joan Cromwell or Judy Robertson for more information or with any questions.



FIRST CHURCH TEAM FOR RACE IN THE PARK

First Church will have a team running and walking for CT Race in the Park, which will take place on Saturday, May 7th. A sponsor sheet and collection jar has been placed in the Narthex if you'd like to support Sharon and the team.

The race takes place annually, each May, on the Saturday before Mother's Day, in New Britain's historic Walnut Hill Park. Each year, thousands gather to participate in race day festivities and events while honoring survivors, remembering loved ones, celebrating life and most importantly, raising much needed funds to advance the fight against breast cancer. One hundred percent of the money raised by this event stays in Connecticut. Please see Sharon Chamberlain if you are interested in sponsoring or joining them in this event.



SOCIAL AND SERVICE PICNIC AND PROJECT

On Wednesday, June 8th at noon, Social and Service will have their annual picnic. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided. If you would like to bring a salad or dessert, it would be greatly appreciated. For our service project, we will be assembling “Blessing Bags” with food, toiletries, drinks and other miscellaneous items needed by New Britain's homeless community.

All church members are welcome to attend. There will be a sign-up sheet in the office – we hope you can join us!

Judy Robertson & June McCarthy, Chairs Social & Service

BLESSING BAG PROJECT

Please consider picking up any of the following items or travel size products to donate to our Blessing Bag project, which will help our New Britain homeless community. Gallon size Ziplock-style bags are also needed and coupons will be available during Coffee Hour. There will be a marked collection box for donations.

- Toiletries: Deodorant, toothbrush and paste, floss, soap, wet wipes, shampoo, conditioner, comb, chapstick / lipbalm, lotion and razors (no mouthwash, please)
- Drinks: Juice, water, instant drinks (crystal light, powdered drinks)
- General: Hand warmers, band-aids, socks, gloves, travel tissues and spoons
- Food / Treats (individually wrapped and easy open): Canned food (pull top open), tuna pack, gum, hard candy, mints, granola bars, trail mix, raisins, peanuts and crackers



Fellowship

WOMEN'S GATHERING – SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday morning, June 11th, there will be a half day women's gathering for physical, spiritual and social renewal.

To get started, there will be a session of gentle chair yoga. This will be followed by a "mini" contemplative retreat, led by the Rev. Linda Fernandes-Bailey.

"In a world full of noise and spinning all too fast, this retreat nurtures the deepest place within you, where God resides. You will learn how to connect to this place and incorporate contemplative practices in your ordinary life."

A lunch will be provided, where we will enjoy and nurture our connections to one another. We hope you will put this on your calendar and join us. More details will follow.

~Missions & Congregational Life



"B-I-B-L-E" WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Our Lenten Events this year were varied and very well attended. All dinners were delicious and offered a variety of foods. Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Worship Services were very well thought out and meaningful.

"B-I-B-L-E Wheel of Fortune" was played during our two Lenten Programs, February 24th and March 9th, where our participants attempted to solve puzzles of quoted scripture, places and events from the bible. It was great fun, multi-generational, educational and entertaining. Thanks to all who helped make these events possible.



CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

Congratulations to church member, Travis Lavigne, who is part of the VEX IQ Robotics "Wheels Don't Roll" team, from the Middle School of Plainville. Along with 30 additional teams from across the state, they competed in the CT VEX IQ State Championship held at the CREC Aerospace Magnet School in Windsor, Connecticut on March 12th. In these competitions, teams of students are tasked with designing and building a robot to play against other teams in a game-based engineering challenge. The Middle School of Plainville's teams once again earned big wins at the competition and his team was one of two who won the opportunity to compete in the VEX Robotics World Championships, this past weekend, April 20th – 23rd, in Louisville, Kentucky. They will compete against teams from around the world including China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Puerto Rico and many additional destinations from across the globe.

His team also won the "Excellence Award", presented to the best overall team, and awards in Driving Skills, Programming Skills, STEM Research Project, and Design. In an April 1, 2016 article from the Hartford Courant, Travis said, "The work was hard, but the experience was a once in a lifetime opportunity, and that was the best part."



MAY 2016 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- May 1 Carillon Prelude, Sneaker Sunday, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and Sneaker Sunday Walk and Lunch
- May 3 Tai Chi, meets Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm
- May 5 Adult Choir meets Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm (through 5/19)
- May 8 Happy Mother's Day, Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School
- May 15 Pentecost Sunday, Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering, Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and Council meeting
- May 16 Aston Fund meeting, 9:30
- May 22 Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and CONCORA Concert
- May 23 Newsletter Deadline
- May 29 Memorial Day Sunday, Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School
- May 30 Memorial Day, Building Closed



THANK YOU

In a thank you note addressed to Kendrick, Mary and the Congregation, Bea Crumb wrote . . .

“I can’t thank you enough for all your support – food, flowers, cards and prayers. Also for a very beautiful prayer shawl.

It was a very difficult 2015 and into 2016, but we are making it. I know all your thoughts and prayers helped get us through all this. We are so grateful.

Mom (Millie) came home April 1st and will have a 24 / 7 caregiver. It will be an adjustment for her, but we don’t have a choice.

I am hoping I can get her to church once she is settled in. I know she will like to visit. God Bless all of you.”

Also, in a thank you note from Claire Collins, she writes . . .

“Dear Church Family,

The Easter lily is beautiful and thank you for sending it to me. I loved the new yellow greeting on it – great idea.

My angel, Lois Zink always brings me flowers and the Sunday program. Makes me feel like I have been there.

The service must have been so rewarding for those attending. Thinking back to my choir days, I realize how much loving preparation went into the service. I thought of you from my living room. Not the same, but my heart was with you.

God is with you. With love – Claire”



FUNDRAISING HELP

Kirsty Naples currently runs an annual fundraiser at Holmes Elementary school, New Britain, to help provide families with funding to attend city youth sport programs. "Go Tri" is made of 3 parents/teachers, who train to compete in a Half Ironman relay triathlon each June. Anyone interested in donating to this great cause can send a donation check directly to Holmes School PTA or talk to Kirsty for more information. Thanks!



Jane Sittambalam, ringing the bell to end her treatment . . .

One minor surgery . . . Six rounds of chemo . . .
One hospitalization . . . 30 radiation treatments . . .
Too many doctor appointments to count

The last five months have given Earle and I some of the hardest things to deal with. I am very happy to say that the worst is definitely behind us and now my job is to take it day by day and recover my strength.

We could not have got through this without the love and support of family and friends, the knowledge and experience of my doctors and staff, and the many prayers being uplifted to God. I have always been a big believer that things happen to people for a reason and although I am not sure what direction I am being guided to, at some point it will all make sense.

Having a devastating illness changes so many things. It makes you look at the world differently and certainly appreciate the smaller things in life. I never realized how powerful a card in the mail can be. When you are having an awful day, and feel so ill, to get an email, card, text message or a phone call can boost your spirits so much.

One of the hardest things to deal with, was that I consider myself young and healthy. I would see my regular doctors more on social occasions than in the office. I didn't take any medicine routinely. It was very hard to sit each day in a waiting room. I even had a pill box to keep track of all the pills I was taking.

But..... it is behind me, time to move on. I still have the feeding tube and will keep it until my weight goes up a bit (not all of it I hope). I will need to go for blood tests and checkups frequently.

THANK YOU TO YOU ALL. Your support to both of us was fantastic. The emotional support Earle received was amazing. I think he suffered more than me in many ways.



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING

- 1 TRISHA LYNN COPELAND
DANIELLE GEMMELL
- 2 WALTER MACFARLANE
SYLVIA LUCAS
- 4 MORGAN CHANDLER
- 5 CHRISTINE CLARKE
- 6 JESSICA McELRAVY
- 9 GABRIELLA ORTEGA
- 10 CAROL CALVERT
- 15 ZACHARY LYNES
- 17 BARBARA HELBERG
DANIEL NEIMAN
KRISTEN PASKEWICH
- 18 LOIS ZINK
EDITH MILLER
MARY ANN MORNEAU
BETH STICCA
TOM STICCA
- 20 MARILYN HARRIS
- 21 MIKE DUNCAN
- 23 JEAN YOUNG
- 24 JUDITH PREVITI
DOUGLAS ANDERSON
SAMUEL NAJARIAN
MARIETTA GUIDONE
- 25 NORMA POWELL
EDWARD KEREKIAN
JOHN CANORA
- 27 CHELSEA GEMMELL
- 29 ANNEMARIE DUNCAN



We just learned that our Student Minister, Chris Solimene, will celebrate his birthday on Friday, April 29th. Wishes for a very happy day!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO . . .

Sylvia and Ian Lucas, May 15TH
Don and Lynn DelCegno, May 21ST



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED FOR SENIOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC.

Senior Transportation Services, Inc. is a nonprofit transportation service for senior citizens, age 55 and older. Their offices are here at First Church and they are in need of volunteer drivers willing to commit to two hours a week to meet the needs of their community in aiding seniors to “age in place”. Mileage for volunteer drivers is reimbursed. Anyone interested in applying to become a volunteer driver can call them at 860-224-7117 or contact them at seniortransportationservices@yahoo.com. Without volunteers, they are unable to serve the community and help senior citizens who are in need of this very valuable service.

The following article was taken from the New Britain Herald, on-line. It mentions First Church about half way through and it might be of interest to our members and / or history buffs.

**Tales from the Toolbox: Tin gave the Hardware City its mettle
By Erv Dworkin, Tuesday, April 11, 2016**

Seth North is credited with being the "Father of New Britain," having been so lionized by no less an authority than Frederick T. Stanley, first mayor of the city and founder of the hardware empire that bears his name.

North and his brother James surely ushered in the industrial and manufacturing age that would transform New Britain into the "Hardware City" as the 19th century progressed. But just as all things evolve, there was a spark of creation antecedent to the advances and innovations they wrought.

Sometime in the decade of the 1730s, sibilings of the Scots-Irish Patterson (sometimes spelled Pattison and with one "t" or two) clan migrated to America. The eldest, Edward, arriving at Boston — it is said with 18 pence to his name — somehow found his way to the "Great Swamp" area of Farmington, which would later be divided into the societies of Berlin, New Britain and Kensington.

Edward, with his brother William, managed to import a small amount of tin plate — considered a luxury item — and commenced the manufacture of tinware, believed to be the first such enterprise in America. Edward took up residence on West Street in Kensington, while William lived on East Street in New Britain, ostensibly to make doubly sure they were headed in the right direction.

They were; leading the way to the industrialization of Berlin and New Britain. From modest beginnings, peddling their wares door to door, first from hand baskets and later by horse cart, they gradually expanded their reach far and wide, becoming wildly successful. The sought after items of their production — valued more highly than silver for durability and much lighter than cast iron — were dining utensils, cookware, plates, kettles and the like. With success came expansion and the need to take on apprentices who eventually went into business for themselves, creating a competitive market throughout the area with enough demand for all to flourish.

In his book "Travels Through the Northern Parts of the United States," Edward Kendall wrote, "Berlin has become a place of some notoriety partly on account of a tin manufactory ... here ... [founded by] one Patterson". But their manufacturing prowess was only half the equation of their success.

In "Dwight's Travels," the author glowingly acknowledged their marketing acumen: "They went with their wares to every part of the [country]. I have seen them in 1797 on the peninsula of Cape Cod and the neighborhood of Lake Erie. They make their way to Detroit ... to Canada, Kentucky ... New Orleans and St. Louis" in truly an early American model of successful mercantilism.

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What the Patterson brothers began set the sails (and sales) for people like the Norths, Judds, Corbins, Erwins, Stanleys and others, who would add more and more building blocks to the "Hardware City" foundation.

William's East Street home became a hub of community activity and the first substantial neighborhood and mercantile center in New Britain. During the formation of First Church and, hence, the New Britain Society, meetings were held there concerning the disposition of funds and other matters pertaining to creation of the church and schools. He sat on numerous committees including that which selected the Rev. John Smalley to lead the newly founded parish in 1758. A year later, Patterson sold the homestead and 26 acres of farmland to Smalley.

In my research, I discovered a curious coincidence of metallurgical etymology. When Col. Isaac Lee, in 1754 suggested "christening" the upstart parish in the name of New Britain, it was in homage to the motherland. Then I stumbled upon a reference to "Britannia metal," a white alloy composed of 92 percent tin with smaller parts copper, zinc and other metallic elements, resembling pewter, used to produce the very same articles of household utility made by the Pattersons. Could this have been something other than coincidental, as Lee, a neighbor and fellow founder of the Society, surely appreciated the mercantile contributions of his friend? Although Britannia alloy was not developed until 1769 or 70, further excavation revealed the antiquated root of the word "britain" indeed alluded to "bright, shining tin or pewter; "hence ... Great Britain was called so from the abundance of tin found in the adjacent islands," according to Alfred Andrews.

Undoubtedly, James and Seth North were influenced by the Pattersons in their work with alloy metals, specifically brass, a yellow alloy of copper and zinc, the manufacture of which set the Norths on their way to grasping the brass ring of industrial immortality. Whether Lee was aware of the ancient etymology, or had prescience to envision the future possibilities, we cannot know. But the evolution of the Great Swamp of lower Farmington into Berlin and New Britain clearly traces a geological and genealogical lineage from the Pattersons to the Norths, to the "Hardware City."

Nuts and bolts: *The East Street enclave where William Patterson settled was also home to Major John Patterson and his son, General John Patterson but I could find no evidence that they were related.*

Erv Dworkin is a freelance writer living in Plainville.

MAY 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 ~ Communion Sunday and Sneaker Sunday 9:45 Carillon Prelude 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 11:30 am. Sneaker Sunday Walk, followed by Lunch 7:00 pm. Alanon | 2 6 pm. Central Association Spring Meeting | 3 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7 pm. NEWBAIC Meeting 7:30 pm. AA (men only) | 4 | 5 7:30 pm. Adult Choir | 6 | 7 |
| 8 ~ Happy Mother's Day 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 7:00 pm. Alanon | 9 | 10 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only) | 11 | 12 7:30 pm. Adult Choir | 13 | 14 2-5 pm. CONCORA Rehearsal |
| 15 ~ Pentecost Sunday and Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering 8:30 am. Men's Breakfast 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 11:15 Council meeting 7:00 pm. Alanon | 16 9:30 am. Aston Fund Meeting | 17 10:00 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only) | 18 | 19 7:30 pm. Adult Choir | 20 6-10 pm. CONCORA Rehearsal | 21 |
| 22 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 4 pm. CONCORA Concert 7:00 pm. Alanon | 23 10 am. Newsletter Deadline | 24 10:00 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only) | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 ~ Memorial Sunday 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 7:00 pm. Alanon | 30 ~ Memorial Day, Building Closed | 31 10:00 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only) | | | | |