



The Beacon

August 2011

SUMMER TIME AND THE SPIRIT IS MOVING

While there are some schedule changes and shifts as we move into the summer season, we are trusting that God is not on vacation! Join us for worship and spiritual formation this summer . . .

Sunday Morning Worship

We gather @ 9:25 AM thru September 4

Spiritual Formation Groups meeting throughout the summer

Wednesday Early Morning Prayer 6:30 am

Wednesday PM Gospel of Mark, 6:30 pm

Thursday AM Gospel of Matthew, 10:45 am

For Emergency Pastoral care August 1-22, please call the church office at 860-653-2987 or The Rev. Dan Schroeder, 1st Church, Granby at 860-653-4537

The Reverend Sara Salomons will be leading us in worship July 31—September 4 (except August 21) with a *Sermon Series*, "The Rabble-Rousing Rabbi: Five Provocative Questions Jesus Asked."

July 31	John 5:1-9 Who Wants Wellness?
August 7	Matthew 26:36-41 Can You Stay Awake?
August 14	Luke 6:46-49 Why is it So Hard to Listen?
August 28	Mark 8:13-21 No Bread, Really?
September 4	Matthew 16:13-15 Who Do You Say That I Am?

The Spiritual Formation Ministry Summer Events

August 5 5:30 POTLUCK GAME NIGHT — Need a break from your frenetic summer activities? Come and join us for a cool summer potluck meal and hours of fun for all. Meet us in the Christian Education Center (CEC) for a relaxing fun evening for the whole family. Grab your grandma, your brothers, your children's friends (& your children of course!) and your neighbors. Everyone is welcome. What to bring?

- 1) The above people!
- 2) A cold dish to share, i.e. salad, sandwiches, chips, cookies, etc.
- 3) A favorite game if you have one.

We will provide beverages & tableware and we will have a movie for the young or young at heart. For info. Call Debbie Reimer @ 860-977-0247.

Looking ahead...

August 19 7-8:30 - PRAISE AND WORSHIP led by Randy Stuck. We will gather in the CEC for a time of music and worship. A time of fellowship will follow with dessert.

Sign up sheets are posted across from the church office. Watch the bulletin for further details.

Message From the Moderators

*We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.
Romans 8: 28*

Times of transition are a challenge, but also opportunities for growth, reflection and new beginnings. We are embarking on a new path, and will strive to discern God's ongoing vision and purpose for our Church as we go through this time of change. We will, with God's help, emerge stronger and clearer in our purpose.

I have been heartened by so many who have called or written to ask how they can serve. Also, many prayers for strength, guidance, courage and healing are lifted each day on our behalf not only within our own church, but in other churches, and from people we don't even know. For you, opportunities abound for serving on a ministry, teaching our children, making music, crocheting prayer blankets for the sick, leading a Bible Study or the Call to Worship, and helping in the food pantry. Take the challenge to discover what spiritual gift or talent is yours to share!

A search team is actively pursuing their quest for an Intentional Interim Pastor. Their first meeting took place on July 12, with a team of seven dedicated people. They are: Karen Pestana, (chair,) Lauren Stuck, vice-chair and publicity, Kate Boyer, recorder, Dave Hayden, Grace-Ann Kingsbury, Lisa Kallen, and Peter Goff. They are reading profiles of interim pastors, and will interview them as they seek to discern the one who will come to us. The team will then recommend a pastor to the Council. An Interim Pastor is not "called" to a congregation, but is hired by the Council. Therefore, in accordance with UCC guidelines, there will be no vote, or call of the interim pastor, by the Congregation.

The intentional interim pastor will carry us through the months ahead, leading the worship life of the church, providing pastoral care through visiting and counseling, officiating at weddings and funerals, attending meetings of official church bodies and providing leadership for church programs. The pastor is also trained to help people as well as the whole church body work through the many emotions and feelings that transitioning can evoke. The Council has been advised by the UCC Conference ministers to wait for our pastor's guidance in resolving these things.

On July 18, the Council met with our regional conference minister, Rev. Ineke Mitchell. She will be a resource to help guide us through our transition time as we search for our interim pastor, and then later, our senior pastor.

As many of you know, Lewis Vissia has submitted his resignation as Director of Discipleship for Children, Youth and Child Services. He has richly blessed us in his music ministry, his Time with the Children, his work with the Sunday School children, on the Spiritual Formation Team, and many other areas of service. We wish him much joy and God's blessings as he continues his journey in another place.

A warm welcome to Lauren Stuck as she becomes the ministry leader of Abundant Life Ministry and a member of the Council. Donna Clarke has been a dedicated and faithful leader of that team and member of the Council until Lauren was able to do so. Thank you, Donna, for your firm commitment and service.

We also wish Michael, Martha, and Joshua a clear path as they move on to a new home, a new church, and a new beginning as they follow God's call to the church in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. May God bless them richly in their new home.

And may God bless and renew us all as we seek to serve the Master.

With Love,

Jeanne Daggett
Moderator

Cliff Gibson
Vice-Moderator

Coming this Fall

Tuesdays 12:30pm-1:30pm: Women's Bible Study Group starts Tues. September 20th sign up near church Office for "Women of the New Testament". A ten-week series looking at the women of the Bible to help deepen our understanding of what it means to be a disciple. Facilitated by Pastor Sara. Cost of book \$8.00 sign up deadline Sept. 7th.

Actors, Calling All Actors: Sr. High Youth Group in October to offer a "Dinner Theatre" as fundraiser for recovery efforts for Western Mass. But we need 3 men/3 women & 2 teenagers who will put on the two one act plays! See sign up if interested and speak to Pastor Sara about details, and script to see if it's for you! Play weekend Oct. 15th with rehearsals on Tues. evenings starting Sept. 6th for six weeks!

Sunday Night Alive

Join us Sunday evenings resuming September 11th at 6:30 pm in the CEC. Weekly meet for praise and prayer. Come just as you are for our contemporary worship service.

Men's Fellowship News

The EGCC men's ministry fellowship met on July 17th for a breakfast discussion and planning session. August projects include painting the hallway to the CEC, and trimming some shrubbery. We are planning a fall schedule that is busy and fun, and all men of the church are welcome to attend and participate in our meetings, Bible discussions, and projects. We meet next on August 21st at 8:00 AM in fellowship hall. Please join us for some fellowship and discussion. If you are interested, come to our next breakfast meeting, or give Dana Thompson a call at 860-627-6349, or email him at d-k@att.net.

Update from the Human Resources Ministry

Blessings to you all from the Human Resources Ministry. Well, it has certainly been an eventful time when it comes to personnel matters at EGCC. I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know what is happening and how the church is managing both Michael's and Lewis' resignation.

A search team has been formed to begin looking for an Intentional Interim Pastor. We are specifying an "Intentional" Interim Pastor, because that person will need to have the skills and desire to work with our Congregation and to help lead us through a process that will also bridge gaps, heal hearts, and remind us that we are a faith community who comes together to help each other find God: together.

The primary responsibility of this team is to look at potential candidates to help EGCC through the transition period of finding a permanent Senior Pastor. The expected time period to find an Interim Pastor is a matter of weeks, not months. It is important to note that we will be **hiring** an Interim Pastor, not calling one. This means that the search team will be selecting the best candidate and making the recommendation to the Council to hire this person. There will not be an all Congregation meeting to vote to call the Interim Pastor, as there would for a permanent, settled Senior Pastor. The search team is being led by Karen Pestana and the other members of the team are: Lauren Stuck, Dave Hayden, Grace Ann Kingsbury, Kate Boyer, and Lisa Kallen. This team will be meeting weekly until an Interim Pastor is selected.

The UCC representatives with whom we are working have told us that the process of hiring a permanent Senior Pastor generally takes from 18 to 36 months. The team that will search for the Senior Pastor will be formed in approximately 9 to 12 months.

In addition, we will soon be forming a team to search for a replacement for the role of Pastoral Assistant for Discipleship. More information about that team will be coming. If you are interested in participating on that search team, please contact Dave Hasenbalg at 860-796-1986 or at davidhasenbalg@gmail.com.

Nursery School News

Dear Church Members-

Our beloved East Granby Congregational Church Nursery School opened it's doors in 1970. It was a place for families to leave their children in safe and loving hands for their first educational experience. There was little or no other place like it in the area back then and it was a great mission to the community, its children and the families it served.

Fast forward to 2011 and we still offer a loving, up -to -date school that is trying hard to keep up with all the local competition. Locally we now have FREE magnet options and public (low cost) preschools for families to pick from each year. We are REALLY feeling the pinch and wanted to keep you all up to date on how things were going. Our enrollment continues to be very low regardless of new programming being offered and this year the board has reached out to past families to ask that they help donate funds.

Our school continues to employ highly educated, motivated and loving individuals who do their best to help families with the first few years of schooling for their children. They have attended funerals of parents/grandparents, made hospital visits, ran benefits for families in need, created a school website, tried their hand in marketing/advertising, sold mums, created field trips that were free or paid for them out of their pockets AND kept up with the ever changing educational expectations while giving tons of TLC daily. This year they added a summer camp because families asked. Families have also been joining the church due to this outreach by the handfuls and jumping in to help where needed. All in all--a wonderful thing! But recently we have seen another school very similar to ours close their doors and it is a realistic reminder of what could be for "us". (see website article below for info on Wilson Preschool closing)

We ask that you please add us to your prayers for the future and where we fit in the world in this day and age. We head into the school year with high hopes and excited to get our new batch of families to help through these next few years.

If you feel compelled to donate to the school please leave it in the treasurers box in the church office or mail to P. O. Box 390, EG. Thank you for all your support and love over the years.

Check out www.egccns.com to see everything going on at our school.

<http://windsor.patch.com/articles/wilson-nursery-school-to-shut-doors-early>

Jenny Waller, Nursery School Director

AUTUMN FESTIVAL - 2011

NOW THAT WE HAVE OUR NEW KITCHEN, THE AUTUMN FESTIVAL HAS RETURNED!

October 22nd from 11:00 - 3:00 many of us will be at church enjoying the fellowship of this fun and fund raising activity. We hope you will join us or at least contribute your talents to our effort. There will be a delicious luncheon served beginning at 11:30 and continuing until we run out of food or people. We will also be selling homemade goodies such as cakes, cookies, breads, candy, jams and anything else delicious that YOU can make. Our wonderful EGCC crafters are invited to make anything you think someone else will buy. Everything should be brought to church on Friday October 21st by 7:00pm.

Many people are needed on Friday and Saturday to contribute their time. (Talent is not necessarily a requirement.) Please contact the person listed to volunteer.

Kitchen: Judy Saxton (688-7419)
Friday 3:00pm - Food preparation
Saturday 11:00am - Food service

Dining Room: Polly Storm (623-1023)
Friday 7:00pm - Set up
(need some muscle help)
Saturday 11:00am -
Cashiers, servers and bussers
Saturday 3:00pm - Clean up
(again need some strong people)

There are many opportunities here for teenagers to be involved. We would love to have you join us.

Food Products: Linda Harrold (653-2677)
Betsy Mack (653-3794)

Crafts: Judy Goff (653-7747)
We need lots of goodies to sell. Please contact the above people and share your talents.

The most important ingredient is customers. Please spread the word and bring all Your friends to the AUTUMN FESTIVAL.

Judy Saxton, chairperson

Church Family Notes

Boy Scout Eagle Project

For my Boy Scout Eagle Project I planned and constructed a garden on the front lawn of the church. The garden will be used to grow produce to supplement the East Granby Friend to Friend Food Pantry; hopefully for many years to come.

I would like to thank the EGCC Mission and Outreach Ministry for sponsoring this project. Many thanks go out to Kristen Hardendorf and Jeanne Daggett for their support and assistance throughout the project, as well as Michelle Marin for gardening suggestions and advice.

I would also like to thank Chuck Hoadley for all the support he provided throughout the construction weekend; the use of Mr. Hoadley's rototiller was fundamental to the success of my project.

It is my hope that this garden will benefit the community long into the future and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of this community outreach ministry.

If you get a chance please take the opportunity to look at the garden - as I write this there are already tomatoes, beans and peppers beginning to grow.

Matt Turner, EG Boy Scout Troop 70

This was the first year I was in charge of our church CROP walk and want to thank each of you who walked, prayed and donated. We had a couple families walk from the community, a couple teens but most were the EGCC "regulars" that hold this event together. I really wasn't sure how it would all come together being new to it but God answered prayers because it really did just run itself. BUT I couldn't do it without all of your support. So, thank you! We ended up raising..\$2,442.85 (this is both EGCC and Copper Hill Church together). This money helps the food pantry in town as well as building wells for people worldwide for healthy drinking water...etc. Please check out (www.churchworldservice.org) for more information and hope you can join us next year!

-Jenny Waller (Missions Ministry)

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- 2 Josh Derry
3 Jesse Galloway, William Pitney
4 Edna Herzig, Lennie Turner, Diane Forney
5 Ben Daggett, Lori Rapuano
8 Marge Viets
9 David Wilmot
10 Diane Chase, Brad Wolfe
13 Anna Andryzeck
14 Lillian Chase, Raith Jeffery Cook
16 Brianna Raymes, Nancy Bunnell, Rob Derry, Chris Czarnecki, Kristin Hines
18 Sandra Vick
19 Tim Daves
20 Makenzie Vick
21 Bryant Waller
23 Troy Marin
24 Noah Pestana, Donna Perkins
25 Rachel Fisk
26 Bill Howard
27 Katie Connelly, Jessica Smith
30 Katelyn Daleb



Happy Anniversary to:

- 1 Charles & Helene Stoldt
4 David & Stacy Chambers
5 Donna and Jerry Blair, Ben and Karen Fisk
11 Cliff & Janice Gibson
12 Jiggs and Beverly Cecchini
15 Lois and Mike Viets
17 Bill and Barbara Skinner, Michael and Martha Bush
21 Linda and Dave Harrold
24 Bob & Lynne Stanley
27 Lori and Joe Rapuano

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed here, please call Sharon @ 860-653-2987.

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August 2011

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Throughout the summer, the Church Office will be open Tuesday-Friday 8:30 am—12:00 noon.	1	2	3 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 6:30 Gospel of Mark Bible Study 7:00 Knitting Group	4	5 9:30-11:00 Food Pantry 5:30 Family Game Night	6
7 9:25 Worship	8 7:15 All Ministries Gathering Followed by Individual Ministry Meetings	9	10 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 6:30 Gospel of Mark Bible Study	11 10:45 Matthew Bible Study	12 9:30-11:00 Food Pantry	13
14 9:25 Worship	15 7:15 Church Council	16	17 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 6:30 Gospel of Mark Bible Study	18 10:45 Matthew Bible Study	19 9:30-11:00 Food Pantry 7:00-8:30 Contemporary Praise & Worship Service, CEC	20
21 8:00 Men's Group, F.H. 9:25 Worship	22	23	24 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 6:30 Gospel of Mark Bible Study	25 10:45 Matthew Bible Study	26 9:30-11:00 Food Pantry 6:00-10:30 Emmaus, CEC	27
28 9:25 Worship	29	30 1:30 Prayer Group	31 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 6:30 Gospel of Mark Bible Study			

The Beacon

Serving EGCC

Ministers - All our members
Pastor for Caring Ministries - Sara Worcester
Coordinator of Youth Ministries—Sara Worcester
Email: SWorcester@egchurch.necoxmail.com
Dir. of Discipleship for Children, Youth & Families-Lewis Vissia
Email: LVissia@egchurch.necoxmail.com
Moderator - Jeanne Daggett
Vice Moderator - Cliff Gibson
Church Secretary - Sharon Morey
Email: Office@egchurch.necoxmail.com
Music Director - Randy Stuck
Organist - Dick Daggett
Sexton - Ann Caye
Nursery Attendant - Jodi French
Abundant Life Ministry Leader: Lauren Stuck
Human Resources Ministry Leader: David Hasenbalg
Mission and Outreach Ministry Leader: Kristen Hardendorf
Spiritual Formation Ministry Leader: Ruthie Holton
Physical Resources Ministry Leader: Kevin McCloskey
Worship and Caring Ministry Leader: Karen Pestana

The Beacon is published monthly by
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Church Website: www.egchurch.org

Bulletin Information is due by Wednesday.

All Beacon articles are due on the 18th of each month .
All articles are subject to editing.

If you would like to schedule meetings, events or make any changes to the church calendars, please call Sharon, or leave a note on the desk in the church office.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY SEPTEMBER 1, 2012

We are going to **FRANCE**. The trip is called "French Waterways: Highlights of Burgundy and Provence". It is a fifteen day trip that includes a 12 day cruise on the Saone and Rhone Rivers aboard an 80 passenger boat. A 4 day pre-trip to Paris can be added on as well as a post-trip to southern France. Check it out at vantagetravel.com or see Judy Saxton. We would love to have you join us!

Communion Table Flowers

Sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby to offer to grace the Communion Table with flowers.

August 7	Len & Ruth Bates
August 14	Peter & Judy Goff
August 21	Cindy Nemeth
August 28	Becky Brown

August Greeters

Greeters are needed. Sign up on bulletin board in lobby.

August 7	Available
August 14	Chris Czarnecki
August 21	Available
August 28	Available

Fellowship / Coffee Hour



August 7	Available
August 14	Wednesday AM Bible Study
August 21	Men's Ministry
August 28	Available

Audio Tech crew for worship services in the month of August is as follows:

August 7	Keith Forney
August 14	Kevin Bach
August 21	Bill Bowers
August 28	Marge Korhonen

East Granby Congregational Church
P. O. Box 390
East Granby, CT 06026

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The Beacon
August 2011 Newsletter of the
East Granby Congregational Church



PURPOSE STATEMENT:

East Granby Congregational Church, U.C.C.,
is called to receive the abundant Life and Love of God,
to love the LORD our God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and
strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

With the power of the Holy Spirit, we will do this by:

- Seeking first the Kingdom of God
- Following Jesus Christ and being formed as disciples
- Serving our neighbors and equipping one another for ministry.