



The First Congregational Church of Lyme

FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Letter:

Lyme survived Hurricane Irene (although everyone went without power for a week or so). But that's behind us and the leaves are changing-- fall is here.

This summer was a first in several ways.

First, I got to take the minister's 4th year sabbatical of 2 months. In higher education a professor gets a full year after six years of working, but we pastors have to fight for 2 months after 4 years. This was my first in 32 years as a pastor, and I'm very grateful the congregation worked it out for me to be away from desk and pulpit. (I covered emergencies and made a few meetings.) What I accomplished was a first draft of a new book.

Second, the Lyme Church came up with a creative way to handle the empty pulpit during July and August. Other churches might seek a 2-month retired pastor or a series of supply preachers to fill in. But Lyme voted at Annual Meeting in February to not hold services and to encourage attendees to join with the summer church, Grassy Hill, for worship (or another church of your choice, or take the time off). People did both of those things and seemed to be fine with the solution. We saved quite a lot on supply preachers, organist salary (and she appreciated the summer Sundays off), much of the secretary's salary, and the cleaning service costs—all totaled close to \$4,000. Our regulars were good about making sure their pledge and

support checks continued through the summer. This was a first for Lyme Church, and it was a practical and (mostly, I think) guilt-free answer. (Last year in those weeks we saw 12-18 people in church, counting kids. We don't know how many came out of interest, how many out of habit, how many from guilt.) We'd love to hear your feedback and opinion when it comes to no worship at Lyme in July and August.

Thanks to everyone who kept up their support this summer and to those who will support the Lyme Church this fall and winter.

Sincerely,

Rev Dr Steve Burt, pastor (year 5 now)

CROP WALK 2011, Oc- tober 23rd @ 2PM:

Our Church will host the Annual CROP Walk for hunger again this year. This is the 4th consecutive year the walk has been held at our church in Lyme. We'll gather at 2 PM on the front lawn and begin our family friendly (three mile) walk out Sterling City Road shortly thereafter. The walk can be shortened for those who can't walk 3 full miles. Please tell friends & family to come and pick up a sponsorship form at the church office. If you can't come yourself, please call the office to sponsor a church member who is doing the walk. This is a wonderful opportunity to help those less fortunate all over the world!

November All Saint's Service & Candlelight Communion

Please join us for our annual candlelight and communion service in honor of All Saint's Day on Sunday, November 6th. We will also celebrate an all church brunch and plan to honor our own "saints" that make our church special with their year-round volunteerism.

Christmas Schedule-

The *tentative* schedule for this year will be:

Pageant – Sun, Dec. 18th

Candlelight Service – Sat. Dec. 24

No service on Christmas Day – Sun. Dec. 25th

No service on New Year's Day – Sun. Jan. 1st.

October Mission of the Month:

"Hungry Bags"

The congregation showed strong support for this ministry on Sunday, October 2nd, by donating 22 bags of groceries. These bags were taken to the Old Lyme Food Pantry. We will continue this popular tradition with another "Hungry Bag" campaign in the spring. We sincerely thank everyone who participated.

Parking Fund-raiser

Many thanks to Charlotte Beers for coordinating the Hamburg Fair parking fund-raiser and to all those who volunteered their time parking cars. The church make over \$3500 during the weekend. Thanks again for a job well done!

Prayer List.....

Please keep the following people in your prayers.....Francis Rand; Family & friends of George Sherinian; Cindy Fogle (minor surgery); Paul D'Arcy; Francis Rand (fall) and Bill McCaffrey.

Send cards to:

Dr. Bill Irving

Crescent Point

414 Main Street

Niantic, CT 06357

&

Julia Smith

The Village at South Farms

645 Saybrook Road

Middletown, CT 06457

Church Picnic

We kicked off the fall with a September 11th All-Church picnic that drew 45 people for hamburgers and hot dogs. At worship, we had summer "Show & Tell."

Member Deaths

Sadly, we report the deaths of two former active members:

Alta Bauer, 8/18/11

Virginia Sankow, 9/8/11

Fall Rummage Sale

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the Fall Rummage Sale that took place on Sat. Sept. 24th. There are so many dedicated volunteers who faithfully donate their time each season that it is impossible to thank everyone individually. But we sincerely appreciate everyone's effort. The Rummage Sales are important campaigns for the church this sale totaled approximately \$5000. Thanks again!

Adult Ed. Classes

Expect something in mid-January. As in the past, fall schedules have not worked out for people.

Stewardship

It's that time of year to consider your pledge to the church for 2012. Please make your pledge of support for 2012 to the Lyme Church. Costs continue to rise and we have not had staff salary increases in many years. We need your support to continue Lyme Church's good work.

There's no need to wait for a stewardship letter, you can write in or call your pledge without waiting for an appeal. If you'd like weekly envelopes, please call Connie in the office at 434-0220 or email.

Church School

Come Join us!

We will be meeting twice a month. Children will come to Church at 10:00 AM and remain in Church until after the children's sermon. The children will then go to the Sunday School room for the remainder of the time. Each week the children will read a bible story and create a craft. Snacks and juice will be provided.

Hope to see you there!

Church School schedule :

October 23rd

November 6th & 13th

December 4th- Parts and Script for Christmas Pageant

December 11th -Christmas Pageant

January 8th & 22nd

More dates will be added for Feb to May

Budget Building

Budget requests are due to Chip Dahlke by Jan. 15. Sooner if possible. Send them to lymechurch@sbcglobal.net

Annual Meeting

Our next Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 5th, 2012. We will celebrate communion on that date. Please mark your calendars.