

The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, United Church of Christ
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August 2011

Thank you, members and friends of Mt. Sinai Church, for seeing that your children got to Vacation Bible Camp last month. You gave them some magnificent gifts: the chance to socialize and make new friends; to learn from loving, conscientious adult teachers and youth leaders in training; and to sing and dance about how beautiful God has made them and how much Jesus loves them. What great blessings to give your children!

Children and youth in our community are a high priority at Mt. Sinai UCC, and VBC is just one of the ways we keep our commitment to the spiritual education and faith development of the younger members of our church family. VBC and youth mission trips are annual events; but church school and youth group meetings are held weekly during the school year. Fourth Grade Bible and Confirmation are half-year adventures.

All these offerings are inspired and sustained by creative, dedicated volunteers and professional staff. Parents, relatives and family friends help children show up; and all of you, who are Mt. Sinai Congregational UCC, have shown that you value these programs by supporting them with your frequent prayers and financial contributions. Thank you.

Since you have already invested yourselves, we now have something to offer *you* that we hope you can't refuse! If you appreciate being moved and inspired, if you want to deepen your own spiritual roots *and* further expand our church's mission in the wider community, then take a role in nurturing a music and arts ministry to youth and children in and beyond our own four walls. *You* will be blessed; and so will those young people.

As if an answer to prayer, we recently received some donations designated for such a ministry and found eager, highly qualified graduate music students to begin this work. Those of you who were at worship on July 17 were introduced to Brittney Puglissi and Emma Apsel. Both Emma and Brittney are excellent musicians, fine teachers, mature young professionals and stellar human beings eager to give and refine their gifts. In consultation with the staff, the Deacons' Music Team and those fleshing out a three-year plan, Emma and Brittney will work with interested youth and the children in the church school. You will see one or both of them on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings.

To support this ministry we will do what the youth mission team did for their recent trip: we will have periodic fund raisers. The first one is a musical extravaganza to be held on **Saturday, September 10 at 7:00 pm** in our church. Some of our own youth will perform, Brittney and Emma and a few of their friends, the Chancel Choir and soloists and Harbor Bells. It will be quite an evening. Please put in on your calendars now and plan to bring your whole family and your friends. Tickets will be on sale in a few weeks.

In the meanwhile, pray. Pray for yourselves, for our church, for Emma and Brittney, for our children and youth, for our volunteer and professional staff. Pray for God's blessings and guidance for this new ministry and other missions and ministries of our church and our denomination, the United Church of Christ. Pray for flexibility and fervor, for hope and for the soul of this country and our world. And remember to sing and dance whenever the Spirit moves you. You will be made new; God has promised you that!

In thanksgiving for all you are and do, Rev. Elaine

From our Records...**Baptism**

On July 17th, Chase Christopher Millen was baptized into the church; his loving parents are Jennifer Young & Christopher Millen. His devoted Godparents are Amanda Stanton and Michael Millen.

Wedding

On July 8th, Lauren Bogenschutz and Ryan Hogan were married by Rev. Dr. Diane C. Samuels in our church.

Funeral

We held a memorial service for our long time member Else W. Forster on July 23rd. She passed on July 20th.

Our Generosity Corner- August News... What spiritual "sprouts" are you tending?

Here in the height of summer, abundant growth is everywhere. One sign of this is the congregation's generous response to budget needs that seem to grow like everything else. Reverend Diane was humbled and delighted by the swift, positive response to her direct requests for funds to meet specific shortfalls in May and June.

Even households that have adjusted their giving downward due to income shortfalls may discover, after simple calculations, that the new, smaller amount they can bring back to God is a comparable or even greater percentage of income than they were giving before—which means they are still on track to increased joyful generosity. Still *growing*, to put it another way.

And for anyone whose circumstances truly put you in a period of suspended growth, trust that God understands your needs, and your church family offers our prayers and support, confident that the sunshine and sustenance of God's love will soon have you putting forth new leaves, metaphorically speaking.

Kathy Robinson, Generosity Chair

A Message from the Dream Fund

The theme of the recent General Synod of the United Church of Christ was, "Imagine What's possible. God is still speaking." The Dream Fund (endowment) asks you to "Imagine What's possible" when you give a memorial gift, bequest or cash gift to the Dream Fund. Include the Dream Fund in you giving and watch Dreams comes true!

From our Board of Christian Outreach

You may have noticed a Christmas tree in Voorhees Hall – On the Christmas tree are hanging tags that have school supply requests for "Brighter Tomorrows", our local shelter for victims of domestic abuse and their families.

The children will need backpacks, pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons etc. for the new school year.



School Drive

The shelter has also requested Staples or CVS/Rite Aid gift cards to assist with special supply requests. Please consider taking a tag (or two) and bringing the supplies to the church by the last Sunday in August.

Brighter Tomorrows' mission is to assist victims of domestic violence and their children by providing shelter and supportive services along with information and referrals to ensure the clients' safety. It is their belief that by empowering victims to join with other survivors of abuse, domestic violence can be eradicated from our communities. Brighter Tomorrows strives to empower victims through safety planning, shelter, transitional housing, court advocacy, counseling and an easily accessible 24-hour hotline.

From our Sunday School Coordinator- Ms. Caroline LaVopa...

August 7th through September 11th we will be revisiting our bible stories from Shake it up Cafe. September 18th is Rally Day. On Rally Day we return to two services (9am and 11am) and kick off our Sunday School at the 9am service. There will be childcare available at both services.

Watch for more details regarding registration for the fall.

Youth Group News

By the time you read this newsletter, 14 of our youth and leaders will have returned from their mission trip to serve in the Inner City of Philadelphia.

I received a message from the Coordinator of the mission, "Day one – Mt. Sinai Congregational, UCC youth are being very productive.

And that was just the first day. When they return, we will be posting pictures of their trip so you can see what they accomplished. If you are a fan on our facebook page, you are invited to take a look at the pictures as they are posted.

Thank you to everyone for being such a great support of the group as they prepared to go on this year's mission trip.

Youth Group resumes on September 22nd; watch for more information and registration forms.

From the Parish Resource Center

And a little child shall lead us..... hopefully right to the doors of the Parish Resource Center! My "grands" – 6 year old twins, Jack and Olivia, periodically pop into the Center on a Saturday afternoon with their mom. The twins immediately head to the basement to the puppets and for the next 10 minutes or so, my daughter, Karin, and I are treated to a variety of conversations with characters from the twins imaginations. It is absolutely wonderful! In the words of Olivia – "this place is way cool!" -- Jack is intrigued with the finger labyrinth.....he carries it to a spot in the Center where he can "be quiet".....and he walks the labyrinth with his fingers.....it offers him time with his "quiet self." With so many books and videos here at the Center, why not bring in your own children or "grands" and explore the Parish Resource Center from a child's perspective.....it's a blessing waiting to happen!

From Grandma

ADULT FELLOWSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS ----- All are Welcome to Join Us!

The first Adult Fellowship function was held on July 16, and there was great fun had by all 42 that attended. The food was great, the pool was the perfect temperature, and the Bocce Ball tournament "guys against girls" was very close, and most importantly, the fellowship was stupendous! Great memories were made...and there are more opportunities to come...

The next pre-planned event is coming up in August and if you are an adult... you are welcome to attend. The Beach/Sunset Party, being hosted by Nancy and Charlie West at their Harbor Beach Rd. home (next to Cedar Beach) is on Saturday, August 20, 3-7 (rain date is August 21st). Those attending are asked to meet at the east side of Cedar Beach near the playground, due to limited parking. Carpools will be arranged for those unable to walk the distance to their beach. Attendees should bring their beach blankets or chairs, and your picnic dinner for the evening. Promises of spectacular sunsets and memory making awaits you.

A list of suggested events is posted in the Voorhees Hall. Some of the events have been scheduled through September; however, we are still looking for "helpers" for some of the fall and winter events. If you are interested in assisting with any of these events, please leave a message for Patti Texeira at 473-1582, or sign your name on the list in Voorhees Hall. Thank you!

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DAY/DATES/TIMES</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ORGANIZERS</u>
AUG.	Sat., Aug. 20	Beach Sunset Party; 3 - 7	Nancy/Charlie West, EJ Lopez, Ellen Benedetto
AUG.	TBA	Golf Get Together	Dal/Steve Kittredge, Lisa Lally & Elaine Kirkland
SEPT.	Sun, Sept. 18	Wine/Garden Party	Patrice & Jim Perreca
OCT.	TBA	Note/Scavenger Hunt by car	
NOV.	TBA	Vanderbilt Museum	Linda Marzano
DEC.	TBA	Progressive Dinner	
JAN.	TBA	Square Dance	



Audio/Visual Needs at the Church

To everyone ages 15 and up- If you are interested in volunteering to be on our media team please contact Mary Larson layministymcsc@optonline.net or 631-473-1582. The time commitment can vary from one hour a month to around 4 hours. The work would entail either assisting during service (operating our audio visual equipment) or in designing slides, you can also volunteer to assist on our website.

Island Heart Food Pantry- We have volunteer opportunities to fit just about everyone's interest and time. They vary from volunteering 2-3 times a year, subbing and doing pickups at Traders Joes and Island Harvest Pick up sites. You can leave message at the office (631) 473-1582.

Caring Ministry

Our Pastoral Care Support is made up of staff and volunteers, which make up our Caring Ministry Team. We have also started a new group, which assists in providing food for those in need. If you would like to join our new group please contact Mary Larson at the office 631-473-1582.

If you would like a visit from one of our Caring Ministers, please contact Mary Larson or speak to one of the caring ministers (they wear red and white name badges). We are here for you.

From Island Heart Food Pantry...



Whew!!! Thank you Dr. Dave for those donations of the air conditioners...they are a blessing!

The number of clients utilizing the pantry has increased greatly...over 1100 people in June. One can just imagine how much food moves out the doors each day. Keeping the shelves stocked has been a challenge and a lot of work and I need the help of everyone.

When shopping for your families, keep the hungry on your mind. Beverages are in great demand, as well as peanut butter and jelly, and if each person donated one item it would be a huge help.

We had a very nice luncheon at my house for all of the volunteers last Sunday. It was so nice to just mingle with one another, swim and eat and a lot of laughs.

I have recently made connections with the Ladies Auxiliary from the Middle Island Fire Department and the Lions Club of Coram/Middle Island. They will both be helping with food drives and other forms of donations. Harvest Food Connection has contacted me and they have paired the pantry up with Starbucks in Miller Place, to receive overstock of various pastries and coffees. This should end up being a nice treat for the clients to receive.

I hope everyone has a very nice and safe summer. Just please remember the "hungry".
With Blessings, Margaret

Red Barn Yard Sale

Every Saturday from 9am to 2pm, we will be having a Yard Sale out of our Red Barn. All proceeds from this weekly sale will go directly to the church's general fund. Donations can be dropped off on Saturday's during the sale.

PLEASE DO NOT leave ANY items in front of the church doors or the red barn doors. If you have any questions or need any more information, please call the church office.

PRC Workshop

Where are the Children?

Introducing Children to Worship

Saturday August 20 from 10am to 1pm at the Caroline Church of Brookhaven, 1 Dyke Road, Setauket - Children's presence in a congregation is often seen as a sign of congregational growth and vitality. Yet children who grow up attending Sunday School during the worship hour are unfamiliar with congregational worship and all too often leave the church once they are confirmed rather than participating in the "adult" life of the church. The workshop will discuss preaching practices, children's worship bulletins, Sabbath toys, and other pew activities. Participants will learn how to navigate safety policies as a multigenerational church. We will also explore worship and other aspects of church life as educational opportunities for children and adults alike. Call the office for details.

August

Join us for our 10am Sunday Worship!

10am Church Service and Sunday School

Children stay in church through the children's sermon. During the summer we continue our Sunday School with what we call Summer Sundays.

Communion Services

Held on the first Sunday of every month. Sensitive to people with food allergies, we offer gluten free wafers in addition to bread. Out of respect for those who cannot drink alcohol, we use grape juice for the blessed cup of Communion. Everyone is welcome to the communion table.

July 31-August 6

31	Sunday	Worship Christmas in July- Rev. Diane Preaching	10:00am
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August 7-13

7	Sunday	Worship- Communion & New Members Received	10:00am
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9	Tuesday	Trustees- Conference Room	7:00pm
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August 14-20

14	Sunday	Worship	10:00am
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15	Monday	Board of Christian Education- Conference Room	7:00pm
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16	Tuesday	Deacons- Conference Room	7:00pm
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20	Saturday	Adult Fellowship Beach Party- Call office for details	1:00pm-5:00pm
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August 21-2

21	Sunday	Worship	
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Rain-date for Adult Beach Party

23	Tuesday	Executive Council- Conference Room	7:00pm
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August 28-September 3rd

28	Sunday	Worship	
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