

Bristoletter

Newsletter of United Church of Bristol, a member of the United Church of Christ

TO:

United Church of Bristol
7177 County Road Two
Bloomfield, NY 14469
churchofbristol@gmail.com

September 2012

“God is still speaking,”



Rev. Thomas (Tim) Hamlin, Pastor Phone: 585-657-7030
Sunday worship – 10:00 am Fellowship Hour – 11:00 am

Meetings/Events



- September 9** **Special Kick-off worship service**
- September 10** **Cabinet Meeting**
- September 16** **Christian Education Breakfast at 8:30am**
- September 21** **Deadline for October/November Bristoletter**
- October 7** **Potluck following fellowship – all invited**
- Choir practice and committee meetings to be held as announced.**

Happy Birthday in **September** to:

Elaine B.	9/4
Mackenzie S.	9/4
Sue F.	9/7
Greg C.	9/7
Richard G.	9/9
William B.	9/9
Christopher K.	9/10
Jenna R.	9/10
Betty G.	9/11
Bill H.	9/12
Lucinda P.	9/12
Linda St.	9/14
Effie R.	9/14
Art C.	9/14
Deb F.	9/15
Ed P.	9/17
Pat P.	9/21
Jeannine G.	9/23
Annette F.	9/24
Bill W.	9/24
Neil B.	9/27
Alex G.	9/28
Mary Lynne C.	9/29

Liturgist, Greeters & Fellowship Hour

Please make arrangements for a substitute if you are unable to serve.

Date	Liturgist	Greeters	Fellowship Hour
Sept. 2	Jan Schrader	Bob & Dianne Marcellus	Bill & Joan Hall
Sept. 9	CC Bodnar	Richard & Norma Lyons	Faye Brocklebank & Mary Lynne Parmelee
Sept. 16	Catherine Joseph	John Faulkner & Rena VanScott	** Greg & Dianne Case **
Sept. 23	Bib Drayn	Gloria Miles & Ann Ward	Babcock Family
Sept. 30	Sally Ess	Faye Brocklebank & Mary Lynne Parmelee	Don & Pat Sanford
October 7	Bob Marcellus	CC Bodnar & Sheila Hudson	Lance & Diane Bassage

- **Where to pick up the birthday cake has changed at Wegmans.** “Customer Service” desk area opposite the check-out area. It is the new catering desk location.
- Please note the new heading to the “greeters”. It was decided in the out-reach committee to have the greeters be “farewellers” at the end of the service by the door to those people who may not be staying with us for the fellowship hour. Thank you for adding this new task and making everyone feel welcome all the time at UCB! Your other duties still are to be at the door by 9:20, remember to wear your name tag, have any guests sign our guestbook, hand out the Sunday bulletins and any other hand-outs, count all the attendees and enter the total in the book, headsets are on the table or in the drawer if needed by anyone, take up the collection when called by the Pastor.
- Fellowship hour duties: remember you need to provide light snacks as well as juice for the children and non-coffee drinkers. If you have the Birthday Cake Sunday (**) and are unsure of what to do, check with Pat or Sally. We think everyone has done it by now.
- Please find your own substitute when necessary. Thank you.

**If anyone would like to be added to this list, please let Pat or Sally know.
Thanks.**

Christian Education News

Christian Ed Committee will host a special time for our youngsters and their families to enjoy breakfast on Sunday morning, September 16th at 8:30 am.

This will be our first gathering of the new year to hear of summer adventures, enjoy food and fellowship, and make plans for the seasons ahead.

Newsy Notes from "The Church on the Hill"

Sharing His Creations...

One Saturday evening around 8pm as I stood at our kitchen sink washing up some dishes, something caught my eye through the window. I looked up and right there landing on our lawn, less than 20ft from our house was a marvelous blue heron! I called my husband over to the window (in a really loud whisper) and we got to see the end of his landing, as he flapped and fixed his wings, completing his final touchdown. Just as gracefully as any member of our U.S. gymnastics team! Then he stood there so grand and commanding. He looked around a little and then began his walk (which I had never really seen before) legs all gangly and his neck moving in response to every stride. He'd walk some, stop look around, walk some more, stop look around. He wasn't even standing next to our pond, so we were unsure what was taking his interest right there in the middle of our lawn (for sure he didn't have his eye on any fish), but we felt so blessed that we were privy to his "walkabout." As he headed off south across our lawn we moved from kitchen window, to bathroom window, to bedroom window, watching him disappear finally off into the cattails at the far edge of the pond. How exciting!! I went back to finishing up the dishes, and five minutes later the next viewing treat was a doe with her two babies who wandered nonchalantly across the window landscape.

THOSE WHOM WE HOLD IN PRAYER

- ~ **Amanda, Neil, William and Charlie Bassett**, on the birth of Temperance Augustine Bassett, born on August 13, 2012. "Temy" is lovingly welcomed into the family, all are doing well and grateful!
- ~ **Lucinda Morse Perrin**, continuing treatments;
- ~ **Paula Dorn**, as she continues her treatments, alternating with rest at home;
- ~ **Pam and Ken Osinski**, continuing to recover from a motorcycle accident;
- ~ **Margaret Hayward**, recently honored as an Ontario County senior volunteer of 2012;
- ~ **Betty Jean Drayn and the entire Jones family** at the death of Doug Jones in Michigan;
- ~ **Logan Sylvia**, son of Kali and Josh, and **Paula Dorn** at their recent baptisms;
- ~ **Julie Gladding Searles, Chris and Noreen Bailey, Fran Staub, and Paula Dorn**, our newest members;
- ~ All young adults seeking their way into next phases of life, most especially two Bristol native sons back in the US after time overseas **Nathan Fletcher and Ryan Lochte**.

THANK YOU

- ~ To **Bob Drayn** for his tireless work on our wonderful refurbished parking lot;
- ~ To our **Community Food Cupboard group**, hard at work meeting local needs all through the year;
- ~ To **all who helped with our 150th celebration**
- ~ To **Catherine Joseph** for her work in constructing our new church web site;
- ~ To **Pam Osinski and Fran Staub**, organizers of our yard sale;
- ~ To **those who contributed to worship with special music** during the choir's well-earned summer break;
- ~ To **Art Cratsley** for caring for the lovely church lilies;

ALTAR FLOWER COORDINATION

Gloria Miles is coordinator for August & September, Diane Bassage is coordinator for October.

If you have a special event or memorial and wish to place an arrangement on the altar; please call Gloria @ 229-2322 the week before the date.

We are looking for one or two volunteers who would like to become part of this committee. If you would like to be responsible for 2 or 3 months per year please call Diane Bassage.

A reminder; as a result of a recent Deacons meeting; the Bible will be on the altar on communion Sundays and a fresh floral arrangement on the other Sundays of the month.

Highlights from Quarterly Meeting and Cabinet

Costs for the parking lot upgrades, including the bumpers, have come in at just under \$6,000, thanks to generosity of contractors and neighbors. Our United Church of Bristol website, still under construction, can be previewed at unitedchurchofbristolucc.org. Please contact Catherine Joseph to offer photographs. Contributions are being received in memory of Esther Burleigh, our long-time member whose graveside service was held in July. Our recent special United Church of Christ "Strengthen the Church" offering contributed \$230 for helping start new congregations. In addition to planning programs for our youngsters, the Christian Ed Committee is organizing adult formation opportunities, including an after-worship prayer circle. Treasurer's Report for first half of the year shows income of some \$33,345 and expenses of \$39,500. Lynn Damaske has been re-appointed to the Stewardship & Finance Committee, and Mary Lynne Parmelee is joining Christian Ed. Cabinet will be reviewing the Committee Handbook with an eye to updates and clarifications. With thanks to many who helped make it happen, income from the very hot July yard sale totals \$1,063. Deacons are creating UCB note cards with the Angel Gabriel, and working on orientation materials for visitors and new members.

In community, Lyle Jenks Moderator

**SAVE THE DATE
SAT, Nov. 3rd FOR THE FALL TURKEY DINNER
BAZAAR AND CANDY SALE
STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO**



Pastor's Letter

A friend recently referred to vacation as a little “breathing space” in life. I have heard the phrase a thousand times before, of course. But it stuck in my mind this time. Sometimes if you say a phrase over and over again it begins to sound silly...and even meaningless. Other times, repeating a phrase seems to deepen its meaning.

I kept rolling the phrase over in my mind, the way I'd roll a piece of taffy over in my mouth. Digesting it. Savoring its taste. Appreciating it. “Breathing space.” “Breathing space.” Lots of images came to mind: discarding items from an over-packed room, so as to have room to live and move...and breathe; people surrounding an accident victim who are asked to withdraw a little so the person can get some air; astronauts taking great pains to insure a nice, large, lasting “breathing space” throughout their mission.

Perhaps you have your own image of “breathing space” – and your own strategies to get it. Some social scientist years ago proposed that in a group of people engaged in conversation there's something known as the “20 minute lull” – that point amidst even the most animated gatherings when everyone seems to take a break...and presumably a breath...at the same time, resulting in a moment of quiet. Such lulls can, of course, be brought on artificially, simply by raising a topic like politics or religion. But that's a different animal. “20 minute lulls” are spontaneous and unrelated to fear. They are little conversational Sabbaths when the ambient oxygen is replenished, throats can be lubricated, and thoughts collected. They are a kind of social “breathing space.”

As we know, “breath” and “spirit” are closely related words – the word for “breath” in Hebrew (“ruach”) also means “spirit.” Given that connection, doesn't it make sense that “breathing space” is “spirit space” (or “holy space”?) And isn't that what we are about...as a part of the Body of Christ – creating “spirit space” in a world all too inclined to crowd it out.

Before most meals, I like to offer a Moravian prayer: “Come dear Jesus, our guest to be, and bless these gifts bestowed by thee.” Sometimes I stumble over the 400 year old English. But I like the message. I am inviting Jesus to pull up a chair...even if I'd plum forgotten about him since the last meal! At the very least, the blessing shoe-horns a bit of contemplation between dishing out the grub and feeding my face. A moment's attention. A brief acknowledgment of whence it comes...whose it is...whose I am.

It's easy to recite the Moravian prayer at home. It's much harder out at a restaurant. “Mommy, those people over there are closing their eyes before they eat. Don't they like their food?” Or...”Howard, look! A couple of religious fanatics. Don't make eye contact. They might hand you a pamphlet.” That sort of “breathing space” – a pause to honor God – is such a simple act. Simple, but not easy. In them, we reveal our deepest convictions.

Some of our Muslim sisters and brothers kneel 5 times a day in prayer. My knees would seriously squawk if I adopted that practice. But I have to admire a tradition in which a physical gesture of faith is built into the fabric of the day.

To paraphrase Brooke Shields' anti-smoking public service announcement from years ago: “Breathing is an important part of living.” Couldn't have said it better. My hope is that we, as the Body of Christ, can help each other pry open spaces in our days...and in our lives...to honor and thank God for the gifts of breath...spirit...and life.

Blessings...and breathing space to all!

Tim