

# **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](mailto:churchofbristol@gmail.com)**

**God is still speaking**

**December 2012 – January 2013**

**SAINTS OF GOD**

**Lyrics by Tim Hamlin, first offered during worship on All Saints Sunday, October 2012**

Saints in one unending stream help us keep alive the dream  
Consecrated hearts and hands living out Christ's great command  
Their example spurs us on stones for us to build upon  
Selfless giving, steady prayer countless acts that show they care

In this moment we recall those who heard God's holy call  
Sacrificing worldly gain God's eternal realm to claim  
Young and old and frail and strong singing out that sacred song  
Voices join and hearts unite "I will bring abundant life!"

Even as the seasons pass one thing that will surely last  
God will in our midst abide as the saints stand by our side  
Saints in one unending stream help us keep alive the Dream  
Consecrated hearts and hands living out Christ's great command!

*Saints in one unending stream help us keep alive the Dream*  
Consecrated hearts and hands living out Christ great command!

*Day by day and year by year Christ's ambassadors appear*  
Common folks like you and me foretastes of eternity

**Rev. Thomas (Tim) Hamlin, Pastor**

**E-mail: [redcedar58@gmail.com](mailto:redcedar58@gmail.com) Phone: - 585-657-7030**

**Sunday worship – 10:00 am**

**Fellowship Hour – 11:00 am**

**Church Phone - 585-657-7030**

**Website - [UnitedChurchofBristolUCC.org](http://UnitedChurchofBristolUCC.org)**

**To receive Bristoletter by e-mail, contact [jschrader57@hotmail.com](mailto:jschrader57@hotmail.com)**

## Meetings/Events

**Choir rehearses at 8:30 each Sunday - all are welcome**

<b>December 2</b>	<b>Children's Holiday Craft Bazaar @ 8:30am</b> Potluck Deacons meeting
<b>December 9</b>	<b>Marie Bennett's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration!</b> Trustees meeting
<b>December 16</b>	<b>Birthday Cake Sunday</b> <b>Cabinet Meeting</b> after service Tentative date for <b>Community Caroling</b> – watch for details
December 19	<b>Blue Christmas Service @ 7pm</b>
<b>December 23</b>	<b>Angel Tree gifts/cookies due</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 5pm – UCC Christmas</b> <b>Fund offering during service</b>
<b>December 30</b>	<b>Communion</b>
<b>January 6</b>	Potluck
<b>January 13</b>	Deacons and Trustees meetings
<b>January 15</b>	<b>Bristoletter deadline</b> - text to Jan Schrader
<b>January 20</b>	<b>Cabinet Meeting</b> All Committee reports due to Lyle Jenks: <a href="mailto:churchofbristol@gmail.com">churchofbristol@gmail.com</a>
<b>January 27</b>	Distribution of Annual Report

### Happy Birthday in December to:

Don S. – 12/6  
Carolyn J.O. – 12/7  
Ethan T-D. – 12/7  
Evelyn W. – 12/8  
Marie B. – 12/9  
Joe S. – 12/15  
Kevin R. – 12/16  
Tom E. – 12/17  
Carlyn C. – 12/30

### Happy Birthday in January to:

Priscilla C. – 1/2  
Jack F. – 1/3  
Wendy W. – 1/7  
Jenna Rose B. – 1/24

Nancy G. – 1/28  
Peter F. – 1/31  
Elizabeth S. – 1/31

## Liturgist, Greeters, & Fellowship Hour – December 2012 & January 2013

DATE	LITURGIST	GREET & FAREWELL	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
Dec. 2	Lynn D.	John & Rena F.	Bill & Joan H.
Dec. 9	Dianne M.	Sheila H. & Ann W.	Ellie B. & Lynn D.
Dec. 16	LaRue F.	Lance & Diane B.	<b>**Bob &amp; Dianne M.**</b>
Dec. 23	Ellie B.	Sally E. & Pat P.	Bob & Stephanie D.
Dec. 30	Lance B.	CC B. & Catherine J.	Faye B. & Mary Lynne P.
Jan. 6	Bob D.	Helen F. & Margaret H.	Babcock Family
Jan. 13	Pat P.	Faye B. & Mary Lynne P.	Lance & Diane B.
Jan. 20	Bob M.	Richard & Norma L.	<b>**Don &amp; Pat S.**</b>
Jan. 27	Diane B.	Babcock Family	Sally E. & Pat P.
Feb. 3	Jan S.	Art C. & Deb F.	VanStralen Family

**>“Greeters”:** Please try to remember to have one or both of you be a “fareweller” 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 are to be at the door by 9:20, remember to wear your name tag, have 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, take up the collection when called by the Pastor. Headsets are on the table or in the drawer if needed by anyone.

**>**Those who are assigned to “fellowship hour”, you will need to provide juice for children and non-coffee drinkers. Pick up the cake, if it is **\*\*cake Sunday\*\***, Pat and Sally order it.

**+Please find your own substitute if you are unable to fulfill your appointed task. THANKS!**

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

## Christian Education News

The annual **Children's Holiday Craft Bazaar** will be held on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30am through Sunday service. Anyone who can coordinate a craft - that includes planning, buying supplies and 'man or womaning' the table during the bazaar should contact Jan Schrader. Watch for details of our annual community caroling, tentatively set for the afternoon of December 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Newsy Notes from "The Church on the Hill"

### MISSIONS UPDATE

Our Joy Jar offering of \$100 to UNICEF qualified for a matching grant, for a total contribution of \$200.

### GOBBLING GOOD NEWS!

The annual turkey dinner-bazaar-candy sale was held on Nov. 3 and was gobblin' good! A whopping 320 dinners were consumed; 235 eaten in and 85 taken out. There wasn't one piece of pie left. Along with bazaar and bake sale items and homemade candy with the dinners, a total of over \$2700 was made for the church and its programs.

Many thanks to **ALL** who lent a hand to help make this dinner so successful and to those who made donations of apples, eggs, potatoes, squash, applesauce, take-out containers, and money. Thank you all for coming! See you in the spring for our next dinner!

### THOSE WHOM WE HOLD IN PRAYER

- ~ The **Brocklebank family**, as they deal with the loss of baby Ian;
- ~ **Paula Dorn**, as she continues treatment;
- ~ **Marie Bennett**, as she approaches her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday;
- ~ **Greg and Dianne Case** as they make their move to Florida;

### THANK YOU

- ~ To **Pat and Sally**; for their tireless work on the Fall Dinner – we couldn't do it without them!
- ~ To all who contributed in any way in support of our successful annual Fall Dinner and bazaar (see Gobbling Good News);
- ~ To those who contributed to and/or shopped, packed, and delivered Thanksgiving baskets to area friends;
- ~ To those who are already working hard on flowers, decorations, music and drama to enhance our worship throughout the Advent Season;
- ~ To members of our **Ensemble** who spread cheer and goodwill at the Continuing Care Center and benefit themselves from the feedback they receive from the audience and their fellow singers;

### CHRISTMAS IN THE SANCTUARY

There is still time to order your poinsettia plants for our services during Advent. In order to enjoy them on 12/16 & 12/ 23 as well as at the Christmas Eve Service the last day to order is Sunday 12/9. You will have a choice of white, pink, or red at \$7.75 per plant. Please call Diane Bassage @ 657-6609 to order if you will not be in church. We are looking forward to our usual lovely display during the Holiday Season!! Thank-you in advance for your order.

### **ANGEL TREE**

We will once again support the **Angel Tree Mission**, providing gifts and support to the children of incarcerated individuals and their caregivers. The angels will be on a tree in the social hall on November 25<sup>th</sup>, details as to the child's name, requested gift; clothing size, etc will be listed. **Wrapped gifts with their angel tag attached are due back to church on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

Also requested are cookies and candies for goodie trays. These are due on the 23<sup>rd</sup> as well. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach during the Holiday Season!

### **A CHRISTMAS PRAYER** [with our warmest Aloha Rev. Nars and Patti Palomar 1982]

Dear Lord.... Those receiving this are very close to our hearts. Bless them this Christmas. Guide them. Keep them in health, for you have the Power which we have not. Pass on our love to them, through you.

## **Pastor's Letter**

I have a tenant living in my house. He's a reputable tenant, by most measures: fully employed, self-sufficient, generally very discreet, and from a large and well-known family. He works the night shift, so our paths rarely cross. My few encounters with him have been amicable enough, although he has, on occasion, kicked up quite a ruckus as he prepares a late night snack. It's a short-coming which I can usually overlook, because I appreciate the nocturnal needs of the American (24/7) labor force. Somebody has to keep the country going through the wee hours of the night.

If you haven't already guessed, my diminutive friend – standing scarcely 3 inches tall and weighing in at about a whisper and a half – is a field mouse. What he lacks in stature, he more than makes up for in pluck and diligence. In fact, there are times when I want to encourage him to lay back, relax, and not labor as though there's no tomorrow. Apparently, he, like me, struggles with embracing a deep sense of Sabbath.

It may come as a surprise to some, but I find comfort in the fact that someone is alive and active even in the dark times of the night. Of course, these days, there's a lot more dark time in which to be active! Sometimes I wonder if the late autumn sun is tapering to such a point that we'll have just enough light to eat lunch, and that's about it. So with such abundance of dark, I find a strange reassurance that my little field marshal...uh, excuse me, field mouse, steps forward to oversee nighttime operations.

This Advent season is about preparing for the coming of the One who oversees all operations, light and dark - the One to whom we turn, in whom we live, throughout every cycle of season, every turn of event. The good news is that as we journey toward winter, the Christmas miracle bursts upon us with the sort of blinding light that is only known when light pierces the deepest darkness - a light that came into the world, which the world could not overcome.

My little friend is a regular presence in the night hours. He scans my home, ever attentive to sources of nutrition and shelter. I welcome him, even if I find him occasionally disturbing or disruptive. But is he so different from the Holy One? Tirelessly, ceaselessly engaged in the world – disruptive at times, discernable only in fits and spurts, and dwelling so very near to each one of us – perhaps nearer than we think?

I wish everyone the grace to hear God's footsteps even in the darkest times, and a feeling of God's steadfast presence as the Christmas hope grows within us. May the gift of Christmas continue to unravel and deepen throughout the year.

Yours in faith,

Tim