

# **Bristoletter**

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

United Church of Bristol  
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**“God is still speaking,”**

**TO:**

**June-July, 2013**



**Mission for One Earth: Planting a Tree for the Future**

Rev. Thomas (Tim) Hamlin, Pastor    E-mail: [redcedar58@gmail.com](mailto:redcedar58@gmail.com)  
Phone: 585-727-2938    Worship -- 10:00 am    Fellowship Hour -- 11:00 am  
to receive Bristoletter by e-mail, contact [jschrader57@hotmail.com](mailto:jschrader57@hotmail.com)

## Meetings/Events

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

May 26 Memorial Sunday Service and Communion  
June 1 Memorial Service and Luncheon for Betty Jean Drayn  
**June 2 Joke Sunday**  
June 8-10 NYS Annual Conference  
June 9 Deacons and Trustees Meetings  
**June 9 Worship in "The Valley" and Bristol Fun Day**  
**June 10 Cabinet Meeting**  
**June 12 Bristolite Luncheon**  
June 14 Wedding rehearsal  
June 15 Wedding  
June 16 Father's Day/Awarding of Gilbert Scholarship/June Birthday Cake  
**June 23 Worship Service at Hamlin cottage**  
**June 26 Ensemble at Mecca**  
June 28 – July 3 General Synod of UCC in Long Beach, CA  
**July 6 End of year Youth Picnic at Joan Halls**  
**July 7 Worship service and picnic at Ontario County Park 11am**  
July 14 Deacons and Trustees Meetings  
**July 15 Cabinet Meeting**  
July 28 Missions/Outreach meeting  
**July 28 Quarterly Meeting**  
**August 4 Progressive Dinner**  
**August 5-19 Pastor Tim on vacation**

### Happy Birthday in June to:

Susan D M – 6/5  
Reagan F – 6/5  
Autumn K – 6/5  
Nick VanS – 6/7  
Nikolle VanS – 6/7  
Andy F – 6/8  
Dave P – 6/10  
Linda E – 6/12  
Bill S – 6/15  
Ana S – 6/19  
Kyle T-DiB – 6/21  
Hazel B – 6/26  
Joan H – 6/26  
Dorothy E – 6/29

### Happy Birthday in July to:

Pam O – 7/3  
Brett F – 7/6  
Sean F – 7/11  
Lucille McK – 7/11  
Richard L – 7/12  
Emily A – 7/16  
Jordyn T-DiB – 7/18  
Ray B – 7/24  
Kali S – 7/27  
Emily F – 7/30  
Shaina B – 7/31

## Liturgist, Greeters, & Fellowship Hour – April & May 2013

| DATE    | LITURGIST      | GREET & FAREWELL              | FELLOWSHIP HOUR                 |
|---------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jun. 2  | LaRue F        | Faye B & MaryLynne P          | Sally E & Pat P                 |
| Jun. 9  | Nick VanS      | <b>“Church in the Valley”</b> | at the Bristol Historical bldg. |
| Jun. 16 | Dianne M       | Sheila H & Ann W              | <b>**John &amp; Rena F**</b>    |
| Jun. 23 | <b>SERVICE</b> | <b>at Tim’s Cottage</b>       | <b>with Picnic to follow</b>    |
| Jun. 30 | Pat Pestle     | Helen F & Margaret H          | Jon & Emily A                   |
| Jul. 7  | MaryAnn S      | <b>SERVICE and Picnic</b>     | <b>at Ontario Co. Park</b>      |
| Jul. 14 | Rena F         | Gloria M & Jan S              | VanS Family                     |
| Jul. 21 | John B         | Richard & Norma L             | <b>** Bob &amp; Dianne M**</b>  |
| Jul. 28 | Neale VanS     | Sally E & Pat P               | Priscilla C & Deb F             |
| Aug. 4  | Jan S          | Bill & Joan H                 | Elaine B & Edie T               |

>“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 wish those people well who may not be staying with us for 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 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.

**+Potluck Sundays** are Apr. 7 and May 5 - not needing as “big” a coffee hour.

+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

Thanks to all for your support of our Christian Education program. Our **Youth Picnic** will be held on **July 6<sup>th</sup> at the Hall residence** – bring a dish to pass, outdoor games and your bathing suit! Watch for announcement of our kick-off for 2013-2014 – it will be fun for the entire UCB family!!!!

## Newsy Notes from “The Church on the Hill”

### THOSE WHOM WE HOLD IN PRAYER

- ~ **Jane Reynolds**, at The Pines for rehab;
- ~ **Gary Pestle**, undergoing cardiac surgery;
- ~ The **Erb/Pestle/Schrader families** on the death of Pauline’s brother Bill Erb;
- ~ **Jeff Savage**, (Barb Deller's brother-in-law) and his daughter, both recovering from separate motor vehicle accidents;
- ~ **Lyle**, as he heads to U.C.C. General Synod in Long Beach, CA from June 28 - July 3;
- ~ **Lucille McKee**, Room 151 at The Pines, Continuing Care Center, recovering from a fall;
- ~ New members **Emily & Jon Angell, Amanda & Neill Bassett, Cc Bodnar, Barb Deller**;
- ~ **Lucinda Morse Perrin and Ed Perrin**, on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary;
- ~ Continued prayers **for Warren Lockwood**;
- ~ Those embroiled in violence and civil strife around the globe;
- ~ Ken and Mary Lynne Parmalee, as Ken continues rehab from a stroke;

### THANK YOU

- ~ effusive appreciation to **Pat and Sally** for leadership in staging the pulled pork dinner, and everyone who pitched in to help figure out how to do something different while maintaining our goals of outreach, hospitality, and fundraising;
- ~ to **Walt Babcock** for smoking the pork for our dinner;
- ~ to the **‘flower box fairy’** for making the outside boxes look so nice for the season;
- ~ to the **Bloomfield Garden Club** for donating the crimson maple tree planted by our Sunday School for Arbor Day;

### ALTAR FLOWER COORDINATORS

Anyone who wishes to place memorial or honor flowers on the altar please let the committee know by calling or emailing Diane Bassage at 585 657-6609 or [ddbassage@frontier.com](mailto:ddbassage@frontier.com).

### NEWS FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

It looks like spring/summer may actually be here. That means our “winter snowbird” is back and joining the choir again and we are grateful for her contribution.

Our piano was tuned prior to Easter and our organ is in need of a little repair. Someone will make those arrangements to have it repaired.

The music committee is looking into other possible Sunday music contributions such as the possibility of having the children perform an instrument or even sing. As we all know, summer time can be tough with vacations but we are looking forward to bringing some new musical options to the congregation.

Just as a reminder, Choir Practice is at 8:45 Sunday mornings in case you would like to join us. Also, if there is a special number that you would like to hear (or better yet, participate in), please let Mary or me know and we will do our best to perform it for you.

The LORD loves to hear our voices and your contribution, no matter where you might be seated, would truly bless us.

GOD Bless.....Rena Faulkner

### FROM THE DEACONS

Deacons are working in updating the current roster and have decided to do a new picture directory this year. We are looking at the possibility of publishing it ourselves. A request was made to have a mitten/scarf tree for Christmas; donated items would decorate the tree and then be given to the needy. Octogenarian recognition is up and running – **Jim Dunne** enjoyed a box of chocolates from Sweet Expressions while Deb Footer had a great history lesson. **Helen Fox** was treated to lunch by Faye Brocklebank for her birthday. Catherine Joseph delivered flowers to **Pauline Pestle** for her birthday. Diane Bassage took **Doris Lochte** to a craft show and lunch.

## **FROM THE MODERATOR**

Convention wisdom is that a volunteer organization is lucky to have 50 percent participation from its overly busy board and committee members. From where I view our life together, the United Church of Bristol stands way apart from that trend! Though we are as busy as anyone else, many of our committees have everyone participating at each and every session, and the table is full at Cabinet meetings -- when someone is away, perhaps visiting family, we all know and send our greetings along. We are blessed! Let us speak our gratitude and let each other know how much we appreciate this shared commitment to our shared goals and mission.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

In addition to our standing committees, which are active year-round, there are several current "project" opportunities that would benefit from volunteer energy and expertise. Might one of these be a right way for you to contribute to our common life?

**\*\*With so many newer attendees at worship, it is important to pay more attention to name tags. As we are all encouraged to wear our name tags, especially during fellowship hour, would you be able to assist in the making of name tags so that we have a complete set available for use?**

**\*\*Deacons** are considering a new photo directory to also help us all with matching names and faces. Might you be able to assist with this ambitious project? Contact **Catherine Joseph** to volunteer assistance with directory updates and **Emily Angell** to volunteer congregation coordination assistance for photo taking.

**\*\*Trustees** will soon be working to spread mulch and otherwise spruce up our outdoor plantings. Budding landscapers, let a Trustee (**Art Babcock, John Babcock, Lance Bassage, Bob Drayn, Jim Dunne, John Faulkner**) know that you can help.

**\*\*Our Constitution and Bylaws Committee (Sally Ess, Helen Fox, Bob Marcellus)** will be working to incorporate new information from our committees into an updated committee handbook, and could use extra help in editing and organizing.

**\*\*If you can assist with our presence at Bristol Day on June 9 talk with Helen Fox; in planning the picnic and worship at the Hamlin cottage on June 23<sup>rd</sup> contact Tim Hamlin or Mary Ann Strasser; to assist with picnic at Ontario County Park on July 7 see Pat Pestle or Sally Ess; to help organize and/or host part of the August 4th progressive dinner contact Diane Bassage.**

**\*\*Do you have an idea for a study group, a social event, a project to help care for our building or nurture our life together? Share your vision and we'll support you in helping to make it happen! --- Lyle Jenks, Moderator**

## **UNITED CHURCH OF BRISTOL**

### **Draft Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held April 21, 2013**

The meeting began at 11:25, and a quorum of membership was ascertained by sign-in. In reflecting on our heritage, Moderator Lyle Jenks made mention of the breakfast held earlier in the day to honor Sunday School teachers and superintendents from past years.

The proposed agenda was reviewed.

Annual Meeting Minutes -- Minutes of the February 3, 2013 annual meeting were reviewed and approved on motion by Diane Bassage and second by Margaret Hayward.

Treasurer's Report -- reviewed by LaRue Fletcher. Pledges are down a little; the Newton Fund has increased. Accepted on motion by Lance Bassage and second by Edie Thomas.

Nominating Committee -- appreciation for many years of service was extended to Stephanie Drayn. Motion made to add Jan Schrader as Assistant Treasurer for rest of 2013 and add Cecilie Bodnar to Christian Education committee to work on adult programs; second by LaRue Fletcher. Approved.

Pastor's Report -- Tim Hamlin reported he is very excited about the directional shift for our church. The past month has seen many presenters and programs at our church, and during the months of June and July we will be venturing from the "church on the hill" for special services at Hamlin cottage, the church in the valley, and Ontario County Park.

Trustees -- Jim Dunne reported he is researching emergency generators, and will be checking all batteries and putting up a new smoke detector. Bob Drayn reported on the recent building inspection -- new bulbs will be placed in exit signs, and fire extinguishers will be labeled as needed. Any suggestions or concerns, please contact the trustees.

Food Cupboard -- Sally Ess reported a large United Way food donation was received. The account is in good shape financially.

Moderator's Reflection -- Lyle Jenks encouraged all to be thinking about outreach -- web site, newspaper articles, Bristoletter, signs at intersections. -- and also to consider ways to welcome new attendees, including a new photo directory being planned by the Deacons. In the interim, Cecilie Bodnar suggested that photos and names be posted in the social hall.

Closing prayer -- offered by Pastor Tim Hamlin; meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Moderator, Lyle Jenks

Clerk, Patricia Pestle

## Pastor's Letter

I find myself expanding this time of year. "Good pastor", you may say, "After a big Spring dinner, assorted graduation feasts, and countless summer picnics...who doesn't!?" But I'm not talking about my girth so much as my "living space." Winter is all about hunkering down, packing in, and buttoning up. Summers, by contrast, mean opening up, dusting off and airing out. It's a season of expansion, when our "functional living space" may double or triple, perhaps simply by the addition of a now-inhabitable back yard!

The tight constraints of colder months give way to a blessed spaciousness. Our behaviors reflect this widening phenomenon: at church, we leave our 4 walls to gather and worship and laugh and pray and eat in other places – down in the valley, up at the park, along the lake. Many of us leave our homes to visit family. And family comes to visit us. We reclaim our yards and gardens, which for long months had been impounded by Old Man Winter. Quite simply, this time of year we "live larger."

Perhaps it's no coincidence that we landed on the moon in July. During a season of maximum expansion, humanity reached its pinnacle of exploration: just over 245,000 miles beyond our backyard. And with that journey to our nearest celestial neighbor came the opportunity to gaze back at ourselves and appreciate both our blue-green beauty and our finiteness.

A recent NPR radio program raised the question of intelligent life in the universe. (Depending on the day, some may question whether we humans qualify!) Scientists remind us that our radio broadcasts have only been emanating from Earth for about 100 years – since the first radio was invented. This mere 100 light years of transmission doesn't make for much of a "calling card" in a universe measured in billions of light-years. But it's a start!

As a race, we once believed that just beyond the horizon lay a dreadful place where we would surely fall off the face of the earth. I wonder if, in all our supposed sophistication, we might still harbor a similar fear about the inner world of the heart: that if we let it range too far and wide it might be lost over the edge, plummeting into relativism and stripping us of our sense of "us" and "home."

Of course, unlike those early maps featuring fearful waterfalls and sea serpents at the "end of the earth", we now know that if we travel far enough, we come back to where we started. It's very difficult to fall off a sphere.

Could this be true spiritually, as well? Could it be that our wanderings into other realms – of people, places, cultures, ideas and even faiths – will lead us home? And perhaps like the Apollo astronauts, lead us home with deeper gratitude, humility and awe?

The universe is God's, and the fullness thereof. "If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me." (Psalm 139)

Many of us may not even cross the border of Ontario County this season. But it doesn't mean our thoughts; our love and our souls can't range far and wide, seeking the face of God in all we see. Happy travels to all!

Tim