



news @ GOD'S ACRE

February 2018



**The YG Mission Trip to San Antonio is February 16-24!
Follow the trip at [facebook.com/CCNC1733](https://www.facebook.com/CCNC1733) / pg5**

From the Pastor's Study

"It is the Spirit of God in us who gives us eyes and ears to hear God in every person we serve...true ministers, true missionaries are always also contemplatives. Seeing God in the world and making [the Divine] visible to each other is the core of ministry as well as the core of the contemplative life." -Henri Nouwen



Dear Members and Friends,
Since I arrived on God's Acre, I've had some awesome experiences

with the various youth groups in the church. The goal of the Wednesday night Quest group, for example, is to provide an opportunity for youth to take a deeper dive into the life of faith. Part of that deeper dive means engaging in different prayer forms and meditation styles. I'm preparing to fully embarrass myself with yoga exercises during our next meeting. The activities we experi-

ence in Quest help the youth both to cope with the stresses of life and to form their faith.

On numerous occasions, I've experienced an activity with the youth and thought, "This is something from which the adults would really benefit!" Therefore, for the season of Lent, we will offer "Lent-en Quest."

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"...Lent is a time of taking on spiritual disciplines in preparation for Easter. Many people of faith look forward to Lent with anticipation because it is a season in which we intentionally take a 'deeper dive.'"

From the Pastor's Study
Continued from page 1

...This will be a Quest experience for adults. The 40 days of Lent reflect the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness prior to beginning his ministry. Therefore, Lent is a time of taking on spiritual disciplines in preparation for Easter. Many people of faith look forward to Lent with anticipation because it is a season in which we intentionally take a "deeper dive."

Each Wednesday night during Lent we will engage in a different spiritual practice: prayer, meditation, yoga with a Christian slant, etc. As the above quote from Henri Nouwen indicates, true ministers and mission-minded people are also contemplatives. During Lent, we will develop our contemplative side and explore how it enhances and sustains our work and activity.

This year we are trying something a little different. We invite you to join us for a pre-Lent event. On Wednesday, February 7, we invite you to join us from 7:00-8:00pm for a potluck meal in the Parlor, at which time we will begin our "Lenten Quest" experiences with a Lenten Love Feast. The Love Feast is a spiritual practice within the Christian tradition that dates back to the 1700s. We will have a short liturgy and time of prayer followed by fellowship and a meal. Please come and bring something to share: a main course, salad, or dessert.

The intent of the Lenten Love Feast is to prime us for engaging the season of Lent in a deep way. On Wednesday, February 14, join us for the 8:00pm Ash Wednesday service. Each following Wednesday during Lent, we will offer Lenten Quest from 7:00-8:00pm. There will also be short deacon-led communion services each Wednesday in Lent at 9:00am and 8:00pm in the Chapel. These are open to everyone. So, the Lent offerings in February look like this:

February 7: Love Feast & Potluck Supper, 7:00pm
 February 14: Ash Wednesday Service, 8:00pm
 February 21 & 28: Deacon Service, 9:00am;
 Lenten Quest, 7:00-8:00pm;
 Deacon Service, 8:00pm

Together, let's make this Lent a deep dive!

Blessings

Eric

Mark your calendar!



Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14

Begin Lent@God's Acre with an 8:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service in the Meeting House. The service will include scripture, music, prayer, and a sermon.

Save the Date!

Annual Congregational Meeting: March 4, 2018

Participate in a congregational tradition - the all church Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 4 immediately following the 10:00am worship service.

This is an important congregational conversation regarding our 2018 budget and the nominations of church officers. All members are encouraged to participate

As a reminder, 2018 stewardship pledges are due! We have had tremendous response to date, but there are still approximately 175 members/households that have not yet pledged. The Board of Trustees will be meeting on February 4 to prepare a budget for presentation at the Annual Meeting. Please submit your pledge today to express your thanks to God and if possible, consider "stepping-up" your pledge to help us properly prepare for the year ahead. Pledges may be made online at www.godsacre.org/pledge.



On Wednesday, February 7, join us from 7:00-8:00pm for a potluck meal in the Parlor, at which time will begin our “Lenten Quest” experiences with a Lenten Love Feast. (Learn more about the Lenten Quest on page 1.)

The Love Feast is a spiritual practice within the Christian tradition that dates back to the 1700’s. We will have a short liturgy and time of prayer followed by fellowship and a meal. Please come and bring something to share: a main course, salad, or dessert.

RSVP by visiting www.godsacre.org/calendar.

Save the Date: Fellowship Dinner Party

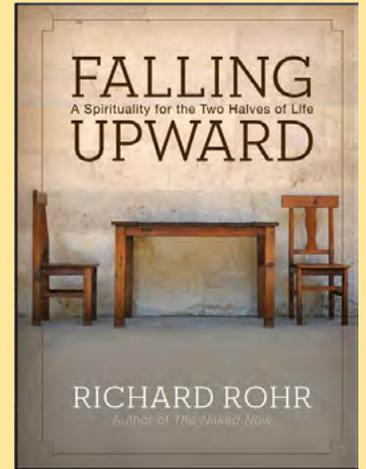


The Fellowship Team invites you to an adult dinner party on Saturday, March 10 from 7:00-10:00pm! There will be several dinner parties taking place simultaneously throughout the town. Each house will have 8-10 people in attendance and each person will be assigned a dish to prepare and asked to bring beverage to share. If you are able to open your home to a group of 6-8 fellow congregants please contact Elizabeth Bliss at Elizabeth.bliss1@gmail.com.

Lifelong Learning

Falling Upward in Lent

Sunday mornings at 9:00am during Lent we will read *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, by Richard Rohr. This book will be a nice compliment to the Lenten Quest activities outlined on the first page of this newsletter. Biblically based and deeply spiritual, this book explores spirituality at the different stages of the spiritual journey. Author Brian MacLaren writes, “In *Falling Upward*, Richard offers a simple but deeply helpful framework for seeing the whole spiritual life – one that will help both beginners on the path as they look ahead and long-term pilgrims as they look back over their journey so far.”



Join us at 9:00am beginning February 18. We will have books for sale at the Church or they can be purchased at Elm Street Books in New Canaan. Please contact Eric at eric@godsacre.org with any questions.

Lifelong Learning Offerings



Each of our adult education classes always welcome new members! Feel free to contact Eric if you have any questions about which class might be right for you.

- Sundays, 9:00-9:50am – *Falling Upward* book study (Library)
- Monday 6:30-7:30am – Reformations Yale Bible Study (Library)
- Tuesday 9:30-11:00am – Reformation Women’s Study (Parlor)
- Wednesday 9:30-11:00am – Bible Study with Chapin (Parlor)

*Did You Forget to Join a Choir?
It's not too late, join in February!*

Mondays

Cherubs 4:00-4:30pm
Grace Notes 4:30-5:00pm

Wednesdays

Spirit Singers 4:00-5:00pm
Joyful Noise 5:00-6:00pm
Sonshine Singers
6:00-6:45pm

Thursdays

Chancel Choir
7:30-9:00pm

For more, contact Jody Blaine Davis at music@godsacre.org or (203)966-2651, x4 or Noëlle Francis at (203)966-2651, x35 or noelle@godsacre.org.

**February is
Black History Month**

In observance of Black History Month, a spiritual will be included each Sunday in February.

**Sing with the Chancel Choir
during Lent and Easter**

If you would like to sing with the Chancel Choir but have limited time, consider singing during the Lenten season and on Easter Day. The Chancel Choir will sing Lenten anthems beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14 and Sundays beginning February 18.



Composer Ola Gjeilo

The special Lenten musical presentation with guest string instrumentalists will be *Sunrise Mass* by Norwegian composer, Ola Gjeilo. This will be during the 10:00am service on Sunday, March 18. Also, you may sing the Palm Sunday service with trumpets on March 25; Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service on March 29; and Easter Day on April 1 with brass and tympani. There's a place for you!

Come Thursday evenings, from 7:30-8:15pm for quick rehearsals for these occasions. You will sit next to a strong singer who will support you along the way. For more information, please contact Jody Blaine Davis at music@godsacre.org or (203)966-2651, x4.

Missions & Outreach

Pivoting in the New Year



Thanks to all who helped provide meals to Pivot while their kitchen is renovated!



On Saturday, February 3 we will meet in the church circle at 9:00am, travel to Bridgeport and, depending on progress to date, either help finish the kitchen or work on the new property, Noble House. No experience necessary, just willing hearts and hands! Wear sloppy clothes, study shoes and bring work gloves and goggles if you have them. Please join us!

LOVE146 Luncheon

Love146 is an international human rights organization working to end child trafficking and exploitation through survivor care and prevention. Join us to learn more about their mission and how we might be a part of it.



LOVE146 Luncheon Sunday, February 25

11:00am in the Parlor



Signups/questions for either event, contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.

Youth Ministries in February: See Christ in others, be Christ to others!

Be a Mission Sponsor! This year, 92 Youth Group Mission Fish will be working with Blueprint Ministries in San Antonio, Texas. Our Mission Fish will continue sharing Christ's love through repairing homes and building relationships with the people of San Antonio.

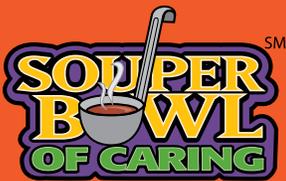


The work that will be done together will be life-changing for the homeowners and for our YG mission fish, and we invite you to join in this effort by making a Mission Sponsor

contribution at godsacre.org/mission-sponsor. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to support the outreach efforts of our youth. Mission Sponsors receive handwritten letters sent from the mission fish on-site, describing their day-to-day experiences. Sponsors are also invited to meet and celebrate with the mission fish at the Mission Sponsor Brunch on Youth Sunday, March 11.

Join Church School for Souper Bowl Sunday!

On Sunday, February 4, Church School will be welcoming our older brothers and sisters from MSYG and YG for a special Bible Bowl Chapel service! **Please bring a can of soup to contribute to our SOUPER collection for New Canaan Food Pantry!** Be sure to bring all your Bible knowledge from Church School for this exciting event!



And - don't forget to join us for a fun-filled combined class on February 18 and 25 in Room 7 with Chris & Caroline.

In January, our Guppies participated in our Good Samaritan Service Project during which they baked ziti and cookies that were later served by JYG to the men of Pacific House. Join us for programming this month as we begin to learn even more about the miracle man – Jesus Christ!



Our JYGers are getting in the Mission Sponsor action by packing and sending off the YG Missionaries with care package bags on February 8. After the trip some of our high schoolers will visit JYG to thank them and share more deeply about their mission to San Antonio, Texas. Join the effort to love and support our YG Mission Fish by becoming a Mission Sponsor today!

MSYG and YG will join forces with Church School on Sunday, February 4 for our 2nd Annual Biblebowl! As part of this SOUPER Bowl Sunday we ask that all youth bring cans of soup to support local partners who serve our communities. See you at 10:00am on February 4 in the Chapel!



MSYG had a great time at Camp Jewell on their recent Winter Weekend!

*Submissions for the March Newsletter are due February 14.
Email submissions to Anne Wilkinson at anne@godsacre.org.*

myconnect corner

***Become a part of myConnect,
our online church community!***

Within myConnect you can:

- view an online directory
- interact with groups
- set up and manage your online giving
- view giving statements
- register for events
- find ways to volunteer

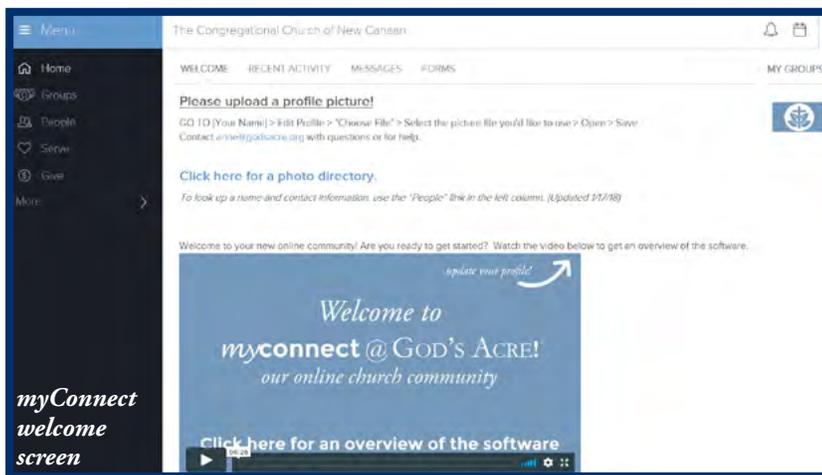
Two ways to login:

1. Visit www.godsacre.org/myconnect
2. Go to www.godsacre.org and click “myConnect @ God’s Acre” in the upper left corner.

Need an Account?

Click “Sign Up Here” on the login page, enter your info, and look for our email to get started!

Questions? Contact anne@godsacre.org



Our Church Community

Ministers

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner, x1
Senior Minister

The Rev. Eric M. Dupee, x2
Minister of Christian Formation

The Rev. Chris Tate, x829
Transitional Director of Children’s Formation

Staff

Laurel Carr, x833
Christian Formation Coordinator

Debbie Chapman, x831
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Dr. Jo Deen Blaine Davis, x4
Director of Music Ministries

Morgan Flagg, x834
Youth Director

Joellen Ford, x839
Christian Education Coordinator

Noëlle Francis, x821
Director of Children’s Music and Drama

Anthony Jones
Sexton

Marianna Kilbride, x832
Director of Missions & Outreach

Caroline Leather, x835
Assistant Director of Children’s Formation

Kelly Leather, x824
Senior Youth Director

Marie-Ange Masters, x823
Director of Accounting

Kelly Morrissey, x822
Chief Administrative Officer

Anne Wilkinson, x836
Director of Communications

Church Lay Leadership

Tom Robey
Chair, Board of Trustees

Mark Tedford
Chair, Board of Deacons

Ally Dunlap
Chair, Nominating and Governance

Debbie Simpson
Chair, Personnel



The Congregational Church
of New Canaan

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WE ARE A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH