



news @ GOD'S ACRE

January 2018

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with each other



grow
in your faith



serve
your neighbor

From the Pastor's Study

Dear Church Family,

The older I get, the more I appreciate what have often been referred to as "the simple pleasures in life." A leisurely walk with Tam-mie, a roaring fire in the fireplace, a good book, time spent in contemplation, study, and prayer. There is beauty in simply enjoying the moment you are in, instead of anxiously angling for what is next.



The Psalm assigned for New Year's Day is one of my favorites,

Psalm 8. The writer of this Psalm gives voice to the beauty and majesty of God's creation. He stands in awe of the simple gift of being alive and being allowed to witness the grandeur of all that God has made: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you

care for them? (vs 3-4)

I think of this Psalm, and its call to behold the extraordinary majesty of creation, nearly every night as Sam and I walk our dogs together from the parsonage on God's Acre to St. Mark's churchyard. We talk. We sometimes take a moment to pray. And on clear nights, we both are able to gaze at the starlit sky.

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“ **As I think about the year that is to come, as I once again consider resolutions and commitments to be made...I find I want to be even more fully resolved and committed to be present to the moment I am in.** ”

From the Pastor's Study
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...The streets of New Canaan are wonderfully quiet at night, so this walk is often a time undisturbed by the normal hustle and bustle of our community. In the silence, we can look up and see Orion, perhaps a crescent moon, and sometimes the branching arm of the Milky Way.

I am mindful that these simple and sacred strolls with my son are winding down. Next year at this time, with Sam in college, I will likely be walking alone. I am sure I will still appreciate the stars and the moon that the Lord has established. I will continue to receive the silence of New Canaan at night for the gift it is. But I will miss the companionship of my boy. However, I find that the fleeting nature of these walks makes this day, and tonight's walk, all the more priceless. It is the beauty and delicacy of life that makes moments like these so very precious.

As I think about the year that is to come, as I once again consider resolutions and commitments to be made...I find I want to be even more fully resolved and committed to be present to the moment I am in. I want to savor the simple pleasures of life that are available to us all. The stars at night. Quiet streets in town. A fire in the fire pit. A walk with the dog. A conversation with a friend or family member. A moment to pause and reflect on God's Acre. It is all so simple and beautiful. It is enough to prompt a person to exclaim in their spirit, "O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth, you have set your glory above the heavens... you have made us a little lower than God, and crowned us with glory and honor." (vs 1 & 5)

Yours in Christ,

Chapin

Growing Through Giving 2018 Stewardship Campaign

We encourage all in our family of faith to embrace a spirit of gratitude for our blessings by joining us for worship, participating in the programs, pastoral care and missions and outreach of the church, and to grow in your faith through giving by submitting a pledge for our 2018 Annual Stewardship Campaign. If you have made a 2018 pledge – THANK YOU!! If you still need to submit your pledge, you can do so with a pledge card via mail or pledge and/or pay online by going to: www.godsacre.org/pledge.

If you have questions or would like to speak with someone in more detail about this year's campaign, please don't hesitate to contact stewardship co-chairs, Peg Davidson at peghome@optonline.net or (203)249-1070, or Laura Doscher at lauradepersis@gmail.com or (203)273-3465.

WE NEED YOU! **Become a Mission Sponsor this year!**

We are sending 92 high school mission fish to San Antonio, Texas this February to work with our partners at Blueprint Ministries. Nearly 1 in 5 people in San Antonio live at or below the poverty level, and Blueprint strives to help those most in need with much needed home repairs to keep their families warm, safe and dry. Join us on Sunday, January 21 as we commission our YG Fish for their mission work!

Our trips would not be possible without the support of our Mission Sponsors. When you donate at any level and become a Mission Sponsor, you will receive two letters from our YG Fish while on their trip, and will be thanked and lifted up at our Mission Sponsor Brunch on Sunday, March 11. **You can give now at: godsacre.org/give.**



January Lifelong Learning

Beginning the week of January 14, there will be new adult classes starting.

Beginners Bible Study

Have you been wanting to learn about the Bible, but have been intimidated to join an existing class? Have you been putting it off for years? Make it your New Year's resolution to join this beginners Bible study. We will approach the Bible assuming participants have no knowledge at all. If you feel embarrassed about your level of biblical knowledge, this is the class for you. It will begin on Sunday, January 14 at 9:00am. Stay tuned for the location.



The Protestant Reformation

2017 marked the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the protestant reformation. The Monday adult class will begin its study on January 15, 2018 from 6:30-7:30am in the Church Library. The Tuesday morning Women's Bible class will begin its study on January 16, 2018 at 9:30am in the Parlor. Both will spend the first two weeks using the Yale Bible Study Creation of the Canon to set the stage for the Reformation study.

This is a great time to join any of these classes. We always welcome new members!

Unwrap Your Gifts and Talents

Gifts and Talents Workshop:

Friday, January 19 6:00 - 9:00pm

Saturday, January 20 8:30am - 3:00pm

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Have questions? Want to sign up?

Gifts and Talents Ministry Team

Kathy Johnston, Julie Tedford, Tammie Garner, Dick Hyde, Eric Dupee, Philip Sleeman, Lonnie deMarco or Laurel Carr at (203)966-2651 x833 or laurel@godsacre.org

dance, love, sing, live HAPPY Marriage Series: Live!

DANCE
as though no one is watching

LOVE
as though you've never been hurt

SING
as though no one can hear you

LIVE
as if heaven is on earth

Live together in harmony, join us for a Parenting and Marriage class on Sunday, January 28 at 11:15am* in the Chapel. Rev. Heather Wright, Executive Director of the Greenwich Center for Hope and Renewal will be here to lead the conversation.

Topics will include: how to strengthen your connection as parents; how the church community supports each other differently than the models we see around us; and how our faith perspective impacts our parenting. While you are enjoying this informative discussion, your grade-school children will have the opportunity to participate in a service project. Nursery care will also be provided for little ones upon request. Contact Laurel Carr at laurel@godsacre.org or (203)966-2651, x833 with questions or to sign up.

**Please note the date change for this class.*

Women's Fellowship Terrarium Workshop



Please join us for a fun gardening session, no experience necessary! We will learn how to make our own indoor miniature garden that we can enjoy watching grow inside our homes during the cold winter months. Copia Home & Garden will supply everything that we need to create our own terrariums.

January 24, 2018, 11:00am-12:00pm

\$45.00, payable the day of the event

Copia Home & Garden

475 Smith Ridge Road

Pound Ridge, NY 10590

Copia is located on Smith Ridge Road, right around the corner from Grace Farms

Questions? Contact Stephanie Radman at (203)966-4439 or stephanieradman@aol.com

Choirs Resume

Start the New Year by singing in a Church Choir - there is a choir for you!

Resuming Monday, January 8:

Cherubs (ages 4 - K); 4:00 - 4:30pm
Grace Notes (ages 2 & 3); 4:30 - 5:00pm

Resuming Wednesday, January 10:

Spirit Singers (grades 1 - 4); 4:00 - 5:00pm
Joyful Noise (grades 5 - 8); 5:00 - 6:00pm
Sonshine Singers (boys, grades 1 - 8); 6:00 - 6:45pm

Resuming Thursday, January 11:

Chancel Choir (high school - adults); 7:30 - 9:00pm

For more information, please contact Jody Blaine Davis at (203)966-2651, x4 or music@godsacre.org or Noëlle Francis at (203)966-2651, x821 or noelle@godsacre.org.



Thank You!



The Advent and Christmas seasons were especially beautiful because of the music. Thank you to all the singers who worked many hours to present lovely music for our services during the Advent and Christmas seasons. A special thank you goes to the pianists who provided music for the Advent Meditation services. Your talents, time, and devotion to the church are so admired and we are grateful. You inspire us when you lead in worship. Thank you for your gift of sacred music.

Stephen Clark in recital



You are invited to hear Stephen Clark in recital. Stephen is the Choir Scholar in the bass section of the Chancel Choir and will perform his graduate degree recital on Sunday, January 21 at Yale University's, Sprague Hall (435 College Street) in New Haven. He will sing Franz Schubert's Der Winterreise. The concert is at

7:30pm, open to the public, and there is no admission fee.

Weather permitting, a group from the church will attend the concert, contact Jody Blaine Davis at (203)966-2651, x4 or music@godsacre.org for more information.

*Submissions for the February Newsletter are due January 20.
Email submissions to Anne Wilkinson at anne@godsacre.org.*

***“... Who is like you, O LORD, You rescue
the poor from those too strong for them, the
poor and needy from those who rob them...”***

Psalms 35:10



The Lord rescues the poor and needy through your gifts bought for children with none, your food purchased for families without enough, your time spent in

the delivery of those to the agencies we partner with, and your time spent ringing the bells to keep neighbors warm.

Your actions are Glory to God. Thank you!

January Missions and Outreach

January 7 - OG Mission Trip Signups Begin

January 18 - Pacific House Dinner Service, 4:30pm

January 23 - Open Door Shelter Lunch Service,
11:15am

TBD - Pivot or Re-Entry Work Days

More Info:

Marianna Kilbride at marianna@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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