



From the Pastor's Study

Dear Friends,

June brings with it many celebrations in the life of our church. This year, Celebration Sunday (the day we picnic, show appreciation for our Church School teachers, and receive confirmands into church membership) falls on Pentecost. Of course, worship is important every Sunday, but we hope you will make a special effort to be here on June 9, for Celebration Sunday, Pentecost, and the All Church Picnic.

On Pentecost, we read the story found in Acts 2 in which the followers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit. It was the birth of the church. The text describes the Spirit using the imagery of wind and fire. The color red symbolizes the Holy Spirit. It's one of a few Sundays of the year that I get to pull out my red stole.

I gained a new appreciation of Pentecost by reading the book *THE POLITICS of JESUS: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus' Teachings and How They Have Been Corrupted* by Obery M. Hendricks, Jr. In it, he describes the marginalization of Galileans.



Galilee was an agrarian region. Galileans were country folk who experienced derision and condescension from urbanites. Hendricks writes, "Galileans had a distinctively accented pronunciation of Hebrew that caused them to slur their words... This accent sometimes resulted in mispronunciations that made Galileans objects of ridicule." He goes on to say, "Further, the rabbinic writings report that because of their accents, Galileans were actually barred from leading community prayers outside of Galilee."

At Pentecost, which took place in the urban center of Jerusalem, the Spirit gave the Galileans the ability to speak so that those gathered from all the nations could hear them, each in their own language. In other words, the last people that would have been expected to carry God's message were given a miraculous ability to communicate. Those who were accustomed to speaking, listened and were able to hear.

This summer, after the busyness of May, and the graduations in June, we might think about those voices that get our attention. Which voices do we tend to ignore? Might the Holy Spirit entrust a message you need to hear in the person you'd least expect? Are there voices the Church needs to hear in this moment of history?

June is a month for the Spirit! From a biblical perspective, the Holy Spirit tends to move in surprising ways. How is it moving in your life? Again, I hope to see you on Pentecost Sunday, June 9. Don't forget to wear something red!

Blessings,
Eric

For over 280 years, we have gathered as a family of God's children in order to experience His presence, learn Christ's ways, and serve our neighbors – all to make faith a way of life.

Faith and Finance

“They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.”
1 Timothy 6:18-19

The very first time you walked up God’s Acre and crossed the threshold of our church, God blessed you with a priceless heritage that you neither paid for nor earned. Even as you were easing into your pew that first morning, God was pouring out abundance and blessings: a venerable covenant; a historic meeting house; and transformative traditions of spiritual experience, Christian formation, and love of neighbor. Each and every one of these blessings was yours only because God had inspired ten generations of forebears to labor, sacrifice, and share so as to store up a “good foundation for the future.”

Every day, every season, every year brings fresh evidence of God’s blessings on God’s Acre. Every day, we see the foundations being laid for our children through church school, music, and youth programs. Every day, we see adults continuing their faith journeys through pastoral care, adult education, music programs, fellowship, small groups, and missions. Monthly, we welcome our youngest into the family of faith through the sacrament of baptism. Each year, we watch our young people become full members in our body of Christ through confirmation. And so it goes, and so it has gone for 286 years.

Christ came into the world so that we may have abundant life. As we approach the end of our 2019 Stewardship Campaign this month, we ask that you reflect on God’s many blessings and keep Christ’s promise in mind and heart. Trust that our blessings are many. Trust that our foundation is strong. Trust that, together, we can do good, be generous, and ready to share. Together, we can continue to store up a good foundation for the future, that we, and our children, and our children’s children may take hold of the life that really is life.

This piece is a revision of our church’s 2012 stewardship foreword, written by Skip Masback, Chris Delmar and Jonah Bartlett.



Women's Fellowship

StretchLab Session

Thursday, June 6

10:30-11:30am in the Parlor

A Flexologist from the newly opened StretchLab in New Canaan will come and explain the benefits of stretching. We will be taken through a series of stretches that will address all of the major muscle groups including shoulders, core, hips, back, and legs. We will learn proper stretching techniques and have fun!

Fee: \$10.00 per person

Rides are available

RSVP by June 3

Contact Stephanie Radman,
stephanieradman@aol.com
or (203)952-4554



Women's Fellowship Fall 2019

Stay tuned for dates for these exciting events!

- An evening wine and cheese tasting at Plum Plums
- A talk, tour, and honey tasting at Red Bee Honey
- A cake and coffee series event
- A learning session with a terrific New Canaan nutritionist

Mission

Summer Backpack Drive

We will be collecting new backpacks for local children in need. Please bring a new full size empty backpack to Smith Hall anytime from June 16-August 31, 2019



Filling in the Blanks is a charity that provides weekend meals to over 1600 local children in need who are eligible for the free or reduced lunch program.



Contact Holly Kennedy, hkennedy@optonline.net or (203)223-3025 for more information.

June Mission Opportunities

Pacific House Dinner Service 5/20, 4:30pm
Open Door Lunch Service 6/25, 11:15am

Contact Marianna Kilbride
at marianna@godsacre.org



Staffing Updates

Letter from Debbie Chapman, our outgoing Pastoral Care Coordinator

To my dear church family,

I have been working part-time at the church since July of 2008. In that time, I have had the rewarding experience of being Pastoral Care Coordinator under five different ministers and have also had the great pleasure of assisting Jody Davis. On a personal level, I have felt myself drawing closer to God, I have observed deep faith all around me, and I have made connections and friendships that I will cherish for years to come. I am not planning on moving away any time soon and am counting on having the time to pursue some volunteer opportunities and participate in other church activities. Thank you all for your support and generosity to me in my years here, and I look forward to seeing you as a "civilian" among you.



Please join us in welcoming Marianne Perry as our new Pastoral Care Coordinator.

Marianne has been a member of the church since 2003, when she joined as her daughter, Hannah Guerrero, began her journey in MSYG. Marianne has been an active volunteer at the church for years, where she also sings in the Chancel Choir, helps with the Children's Choirs, serves as a member of The Prayer Shawl Ministry and Stephen Ministry Leadership.

After working as assistant to Rev. Allen Hilton and Rev. Patricia Long in 2005, Marianne is happy and excited to be part of the office staff again. In this full-time role, she will help coordinate, support and lead the pastoral ministry teams and assist Chapin and Eric in organizing their day-to-day responsibilities.

Originally from Arizona, Marianne has been a New Canaan resident since 1979. Her two children, Alexander and Hannah Guerrero, are both professional artists working in the film and television industries. Marianne and her husband, Emad Aziz, own The Apple Cart Food Company and have worked together at Mead Park since 2006. In her spare time, Marianne enjoys spending time with family and friends, cooking, and gardening.



Music News



...to Mrs. Mya Gill, who directed our children's choirs, nativity pageant, and musical this past year. You are loved and will be missed. We send best wishes for your future in the Virginia Beach area.

...to the musicians who sang and played instruments this year in our services. Your talents and time devoted to church music has been an inspiration, blessing, and joy to all.

...to parents who transported their children weekly to Children's Choir rehearsals and to sing on Sundays. The theology of the church is presented through music so children received Biblical stories with God's love each week.

Children's Choirs

Mrs. Mya, Mrs. Jody and Mrs. Marianne sincerely thank all the parents and children for their dedication to this year's children's musical "Bible Top 5." We would also like to thank Anthony Jones for his help with setting up our set and for his support. We couldn't do this without you! Have a wonderful summer!

Chancel Choir Recognition Sunday – June 2

At the 10:00 worship service on Sunday, June 2, the Chancel Choir members will be recognized. The Chancel Choir rehearses weekly over nine months a year and sings nearly every Sunday in the worship services. They are Antonio Abate, Anush Avetisyan, Linda Aygerinos, Diana Benton, Jenny D'Alba, James Doak, Barbara Donaldson, Robin Foley, Caroline Friedland, Margery Gardner, William Gardner, Tammie Garner, Paul Howes, Kathleen Ireland, Dimitrie Lazich, Anne Maguire, Marie-Ange Masters, Ruth Morgan, Tereza Nemessanyi, Marianne Perry, William Picard, Andrea Ritter, Rachel Rodgers, Hans Tashjian, Aram Tchobanian, Pat Thatcher, and Paul Toldalagi.

PLAN AHEAD FOR NEXT FALL

THURSDAYS beginning September 5

Chancel Choir from 7:30 – 9:00pm. All singers high school through adults meet weekly for rehearsals. The Chancel Choir sings Sunday services and special presentations throughout the year, many with orchestral ensembles. Join church members and section leaders in this choral family – there's room for YOU in the choir loft!

MONDAYS beginning September 16

Cherub Choir from 4:00 – 4:30pm for children ages 4-6. Cherub Choir will sing occasionally in the worship services. Weekly rehearsals include an introduction to music theory, singing, and instruments through church music.

Grace Notes from 4:30 – 5:00pm for children ages 2-3 and their parents. Grace Notes will sing occasionally in the worship services. Have fun with music as we sing children's Bible songs and play rhythm instruments.

WEDNESDAYS beginning September 18

Spirit Singers from 4:00 – 5:00pm for children in grades 1-4.

This is a traditional choral group that sings in the worship services regularly throughout the year. The focus of weekly rehearsals is developing a healthy vocal technique, learning musical concepts, beginning dramatic skill, establishing confidence in public performance, and building friendships. The Spirit Singers, Joyful Noise, and Sonshine Singers will present a fully staged and costumed musical each year.

Joyful Noise from 5:00 – 6:00pm for middle schoolers in grades 5-8. This group will sing in worship services regularly throughout the year. The weekly rehearsals will be an extension of Spirit Singers. They will develop a healthy vocal technique, continue developing their musical concepts, develop dramatic skills, establish confidence in public performance, and build friendships. Joyful Noise will be responsible for presentations in Chapel and combined Church School classes. Joyful Noise will join Spirit Singers and Sonshine Singers to present a fully staged and costumed musical.

Celebrate Music!

Benefit Concert for the Mary Bradley Clarke Fund

Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

23 Park Street, New Canaan

free community concert

reception following

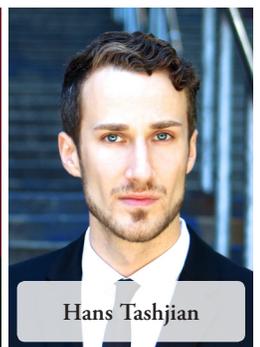
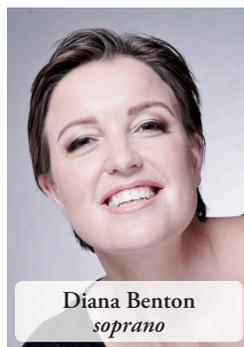
Summer Soloists and Guest Pianists/Organists

- June 9 Anne Maguire
- June 16 Anne Maguire
- June 23 Virginia Leeman, pianist/organist – Anne Maguire
- June 30 Virginia Leeman, pianist/organist – Antonio Abate
- July 7 Antonio Abate
- July 14 Stephanie Polonio
- July 21 Stephanie Polonio
- July 28 Christopher Duvage, pianist/organist – Antonio Abate
- August 4 Christopher Duvage, pianist/organist – Antonio Abate
- August 11 Anne Maguire
- August 18 Anush Avetisyan
- August 25 Matt Cossack
- September 1 Anush Avetisyan



Sonshine Singers, TBA for boys grades 1-8. This group is designed to encourage and keep young males interested in singing. Fun music will be selected specifically to develop a healthy vocal technique, learn musical concepts, begin dramatic skills, establish confidence in public performance, and mostly importantly to build friendships. They will join Spirit Singers and Joyful Noise in the worship services regularly throughout the year and will present a fully staged and costumed musical.

For more information please contact Jody Blaine Davis at music@godsacre.org or (203) 966-2651 x827.



Church School

Celebration Sunday *An All Church Event*

Sunday, June 9, 10:00am

Mark your calendars!

Don't miss this Church School led service that includes Confirmation and songs from our Children's Choirs! After the service, attend our Annual All Church Picnic hosted by the Fellowship Ministry Team.

Enjoy face painting, lawn games, and our Big Kahuna inflatable slide!

Families with last names A-H please bring a dessert for 10.

Families with last names I-Z please bring salad, fruit, or side dish.



Youth Ministries



Thank you YG Advisors for another fantastic year! Youth Ministries would not be what it is today without all of your faithful work and dedication.



Church Emergency Protocol

Do You Know What To Do In Case of Emergency at Church?

Just as we plan for and practice fire drills and evacuations at school and in the workplace, we should all know what to do in the event of an emergency at church. The church has systems in place to notify us about a fire, Active Threat or medical emergency. In the event of any of these situations, call 911 when it is safe to do so and evacuate the building.

Evacuation Plan:

A. In the event of fire: staff should leave the building and gather in the front circle of the church. If there is a fire during a Sunday service, congregants in the Chapel or Meeting House should be instructed by ushers and clergy to leave the building immediately via all available exits and convene in the back parking lot where they will be united with children from Church School classes. Church School evacuates immediately to the back parking lot.

- B. In the event of bomb threat inside the building: staff and/or congregants should leave the building and gather at the Historical Society parking lot.
- C. In the event of a Human-Caused threat: during the work week, the designated staff will notify the proper authorities via our Active Threat alarm system and initiate the evacuation plan as appropriate. On Sunday morning, the minister or ushers will contact the authorities via the Active Threat alarm system and initiate evacuation plan as appropriate.

First Aid and Trauma kits and a Narcan kit are located in the Smith Hall kitchen. Following are some things to keep in mind in the event of a threat:

HOW TO RESPOND

When An Active Threat Is In Your Vicinity

CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO

1. RUN

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Leave your belongings behind
- Keep your hands visible

2. HIDE

- Hide in an area out of the threat's view
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager

3. FIGHT

- As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger
- Attempt to incapacitate the threat
- Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active threat

When Law Enforcement Arrives

- Remain calm and follow instructions
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e. bags, jackets)
- Raise hands and spread fingers
- Keep your hands visible at all times
- Avoid quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating

INFORMATION

Provide to Law Enforcement or 911 Operator

- Location of active threat
- Number of assailants
- Physical description of assailants
- Number and type of weapons
- Number of potential victims

Our Church Community

Ministers

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

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

Staff

Laurel Carr, x833
Program Manager

Debbie Chapman, x831
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Dr. Jo Deen Blaine Davis, x827
Director of Music Ministries

Morgan Flagg, x834
Youth Director

Mya Gill, x821
Director of Children's Music and Drama

Anthony Jones
Sexton

Marianna Kilbride, x832
Director of Missions & Outreach

Caroline Leather, x835
Director of Children's Formation

Kelly Leather, x824
Senior Youth Director

Marie-Ange Masters, x823
Director of Accounting

Marianne Perry, x822
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Beth Picard, x839
Administrative Assistant

Debbie Raymond, x837
Christian Formation Coordinator

Avril Sweeny, x836
Director of Pastoral Care Ministries

Church Lay Leadership

Stephanie Douglas-Parkin
Chair, Board of Trustees

Jill Robey
Chair, Board of Deacons

Janis Hennessy
Chair, Nominating and Governance

Jeff Altman
Chair, Personnel

Newsletter Submissions

If you are planning on contributing to the
September Newsletter, please submit by August 19th.
Email submissions to: laurel@godsacre.org.

my connect corner

Become 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 marie-ange@godsacre.org



The Congregational Church
of New Canaan

23 Park Street
New Canaan, CT 06840
(203)966-2651
www.godsacre.org

We are a Stephen Minister Church

