

JUNE 2011



# *the Lifeline*

NORWICH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Welcome our New Members!



*Back row: Mark and Ann Beams, Heidi Webster, Crissy Megli with her son Clay.  
Front row: Yoon Jang with her sons Eric, Eddie and Ethan.*

# NORWICH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Mary Brownlow . . . . . Pastor  
 Kathleen Sherlock-Green. . . . . Choir Director  
 Jane Chase Helms. . . . . Organist Emerita  
 Tacy Colaiacomo. . . . . Organist

Danielle Taylor . . . . . Sunday School Coord.  
 Carol Jackson . . . . . Office Manager  
 Joni Latuch-Lyman . . . . . Bookkeeper  
 Dan Goulet. . . . . Sexton

## Adult Education for June

Kenneth Cracknell will lead a Second Hour Book Discussion in June on the 5th, 12th, 19th, and the 26th.

The book is by Marcus J. Borg, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith*, published by Harper One.

Plenty of copies on Amazon for a dollar plus postage  
 – or order new from Norwich Bookstore.

## Pastoral Evaluation

Over the next month the Deacons will be preparing for the required annual evaluation of our minister, Mary Brownlow. A randomly selected portion of the Congregation will be asked to complete a questionnaire regarding Mary's performance. If you do not receive a questionnaire but would like to provide feedback, please contact either of the senior deacons, Willemien Miller ([wdmiller@stebbinsbradley.com](mailto:wdmiller@stebbinsbradley.com)) or Gary Brooks ([gbrooks@stebbinsbradley.com](mailto:gbrooks@stebbinsbradley.com)). You may also obtain a questionnaire from the Church office and submit your feedback in that form.



### IF YOU WANT TO DONATE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP...

please contact Deb Van Arman at (802) 649-1723 for help, information, or to sign up. You may also sign up on the "Flowers" sheet posted at the back of the church.

## 2011 LEADERSHIP

### CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Council Chair . . . Dick Broussard  
 Church Council Vice-chair . . . Susan White  
 Moderator . . . . . Brooke Mohr  
 Vice Moderator . . . John Severinghaus  
 Clerk . . . . . Joanne Egner  
 Ass't Clerk. . . . . Katy Gerke  
 Treasurer . . . . . Christopher Ashley  
 Ass't Treasurer. . . . James Hourdequin  
 Collector . . . . . Judy Pond  
 Ass't Collector. . . . .  
 Auditor . . . . .

### BOARD OF DEACONS

Senior Deacons . . . . . Willemien Miller  
 . . . . . Gary Brooks  
 Paul Gerke, Sharon Corrigan  
 Christopher Ashley  
 Rita Severinghaus

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair . . . . . Tom Evans  
 Carolyn Mertz, Doug James  
 Stan Williams, Daniel Van Dorn

### BOARD OF MISSION

Chairs . . . . . Jenny Williams  
 . . . . . Mary Brown  
 Deborah Berryman, Jeff Nielsen  
 Doug Britton, Kathy Grant

### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair . . . . . Laura Beliveau  
 Harry Higgs, Marty James  
 Mary Sachsse

### COMMITTEES

#### Flowers

Katherine Broussard  
 Ryan Adams, Deborah Van Arman

#### Hospitality

Evelyn Gick, Anne Egner  
 Joan Wanner, Susan McGrew  
 Stephanie Smith

#### Investment

Mark Beliveau, Peter Mertz

#### Music

Anne Broussard  
 Sarah Reeves

#### Nominating

Vicky Fish, Barbara Duncan  
 Ann Waterfall

#### Stewardship

Gretchen Maynard, Priscilla Vincent

#### Woodworth Fund

Avery Post, Doug James, Judy Hobbs  
 Mimi Simpson, Kenneth Cracknell

#### Other

At-Large Church Council . . . Bob Miller  
 Head Usher: . . . . . Marianne Spalding  
 Historian: . . . . . Susan White  
 Delegates: . . . . . Susan White  
 . . . . . Kenneth Cracknell  
 Alt. Delegates . . . . .



# From the Minister

*“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”*

**I Thessalonians 5:11**

The King James Version of the verse above says, “edify one another.” Edify is an old word, as is an “edifice,” a building. The church is both an edifice and a community of mutual edification. I witnessed a demonstration of this last Sunday.

I attended the Spring Meeting of the Windsor-Orange Association. This is a group of 24 United Church on Christ congregations in our area, a sub-group of the Vermont Conference of the UCC. We met in the Ascutney Union Church, our southernmost member, to hear reports and elect officers. But at this particular meeting, we also decided to encourage one another and build each other up. Each church was asked to bring two things for discussion: one thing that was going well at their church and one area with which they needed help.

Most of the churches of the Windsor Orange Association are smaller than ours. But they face similar issues: busy parents and children, worries about finances and building upkeep, transitions

in pastoral leadership. In spite of these challenges (or maybe because of them), creative and encouraging strategies are being developed. Excitement – about music programs, different ways to teach the children, mission trips, adult education programs, ecumenical cooperation, strong lay ministries – was shared. I spoke of our new Sunday School Coordinator, Danielle Taylor, and the energy she is bringing to our Christian Education program. Then the assembled church representatives began to ask each other questions. How do other churches deal with maintaining their membership lists? How does your church keep from burning out a few dedicated lay leaders? How do you get younger people to join the choir? How does your congregation balance outside use of the church building(s) with the needs of the congregation? I wondered how other churches that were physically central to their towns (like ours) fulfilled their role of hospitality and service, fully utilizing their potential role. Each church is different, but in sharing both excitement and worries, we find common ground.

Within our congregation, edification works the same way. We speak to each other about both successes and failures, about generosity and need, about joy and sorrow. Unless we share both the positive and the negative, we can’t fully understand each other.

In the Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul uses one of his favorites images: the church (the body of church members) as a building under construction. It is God’s building, but we participate in the creative process. Sometimes that involves physical work – if not with stones and mortar, then with cooking, cleaning, moving, sorting. And sometimes it involves conversation, teaching, and companionship. As we move into the future, we consult the architectural plans of our tradition and our mission. Then we can have the same sort of discussions we had at the Windsor-Orange Meeting. Then we can put our voices and hands and hearts to work. How edifying that will be!

*Mary*



## Member Profile

# Mark & Ann Beams

Mark and Ann have recently retired and moved to Hanover. They have a vacation home on a lake in the Northeast Kingdom. Mark has worked for the U. S. Treasury in international tax policy and as an international tax policy counsel for General Electric. Ann is an ordained Presbyterian minister who has served churches in Maryland, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

They met at Dartmouth where they were religion majors. Then Mark went to George Washington Law School in D. C. and Ann went to seminary at Yale Divinity School.

"We both grew up in Ohio as did fellow church members Paul Gerke, Doug James, and Scott Brown. The

first time we visited the Norwich Congregational Church, the heat was off and ushers were handing out prayer shawls. I thought that was very friendly. We found the congregation welcoming and participatory. Mary's sermons are very thoughtful. We've also joined the choir," said Ann.

In retiring to Hanover the Beams, like other Dartmouth alumni, came back to the college or as Mark puts it, "We're like salmon swimming back home."

They have started volunteering already. Ann is working in the Palliative Care program at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. "It is like a pastoral role but different." Mark is tutoring young women in the

Northeast Kingdom studying for their GED.

The Beams have two children. Their son is in medical school in Philadelphia. He is getting married soon. Their daughter teaches English and creative writing at Falmouth Academy on Cape Cod.

Mark is thrilled that we have a Paul Revere bell. (Editor's note: I told him to check out our Hasham clock, too.) Mark is also interested in the Shakers.

A few times in her life Ann has felt the peaceful presence of God. "These experiences helped propel me into the ministry. They have been very reassuring for me to fall back on throughout my life."

## Christian Education Summer Schedule

- June 12:** Children's Sunday and Pentecost Play
- June 27-July 1:** Vacation Bible School Camp 12-3:30 Register Now!
- June 19-Sept 4:** Summer Sunday School — "Saints and Heroes"
- September 11:** Godly Play Curriculum Begins

# New Member Bios



## **CRISSY MEGLI**

Christina (Crissy) Megli is one of those people who wears many hats every day. She comes to the upper valley from Phoenix, Arizona and has been here for the past 5 years working towards her MD/PhD. Crissy is actively involved in the local youth arts community, she teaches dance at two locations and has been involved with musicals in the high school and middle school in Hartford. Crissy's most recent and favorite 'hat' to wear is her mom 'hat'. She and her husband welcomed Clay Leo into their lives 4 months ago.



## **HEIDI WEBSTER**

Heidi Webster is pleased to be back at the Norwich Congregational Church. She lived in Norwich during the 1990s before moving to southern New Hampshire, and spent the last 2 years working in schools in Kuala Lumpur and Abu Dhabi. A retired elementary school principal, Heidi is a part-time librarian at Stockbridge Central School and Lebanon College. She is delighted to be back in the Upper Valley and lives on Poverty Lane in Lebanon. Her grown children Maggie, Graham and Libby are in the area along with son-in-law Ben Gray, grandson Tyler and daughter-in-law Jane LeMasurier. Heidi enjoys travel, gardening and active outdoor pursuits.



## **YOON JANG**

Yoon Jang was born in South Korea, and moved to the Upper Valley from Boston area two years ago. She works at the Hanover Inn and lives in Wilder. Her three sons, Eric (10), Eddie (8), and Ethan (5) enjoy Sunday School and Junior Choir here with us. Yoon has been helping out with hospitality and Sunday School.



## **MARK AND ANN BEAMS**

Mark and Ann were both raised in Ohio, but we met as students at Dartmouth College (Class of 1977). We are delighted to be back in the Upper Valley in our retirement. Our children Clare and Owen are grown and married. They were raised in Arlington, VA and Newtown, CT. Mark's career was as a tax attorney, working at Dewey, Ballentine, the U.S. Treasury Dept., and as international tax counsel for General Electric. Ann served the church for thirty years as a Presbyterian minister, serving both Presbyterian and Congregational churches in her career. Between us our hobbies include music, antiques, hiking, swimming and reading. We greatly enjoy our vacation home at Echo Lake in the Northeast Kingdom. We are grateful for our new affiliation with the Norwich Congregational Church (UCC). The pastor, members and particularly the choir have truly made us feel welcome. We look forward to participating in ministry and worship with you for, hopefully, many years to come.

# May 25, 2011 Church Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Dick Broussard (Chair), Susan White (Vice Chair), Doug James (on behalf of Christian Ed & Trustees), Willemien Miller (Deacons), Bob Miller (At large), Evelyn Gick (Hospitality), Sarah Reeves (Music), Joanne Egner (Clerk), Rev. Mary Brownlow (Pastor)

Opening prayer led by Mary Brownlow.

Mary reported that printed copies of board meeting minutes were not being kept up-to-date in the Church office. It was agreed that all boards should email minutes of their meetings to the Church office and that both a printed copy and an electronic version would be kept on file.

The minutes of the April 27, 2011 Church Council meeting were unanimously approved.

## **Pastor's Report:**

Mary reported her recent activities have included a memorial service for Bud Eaton, attending the annual meeting of the Windsor-Orange Association, and visiting the Dismas House in Rutland. Five new members will be joining the Church this Sunday and there will also be a special recognition of York Peeler in celebration of the 50th anniversary of his ordination. Mary will be attending the upcoming annual meeting of the Vermont Conference and plans are being made for a union service at our Church on July 31st. During the month of August, Church services will be held at 9:00 AM. Mary has been getting the word out in advance to see whether there are any strong objections to this experiment by the Deacons. So far, the reactions have

only been positive.

## **Christian Ed:**

Doug reported that Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 27th and that Children's Sunday will be on June 12th. The adult series on the book of Jonah went well and Ken Cracknell will be leading a 2nd Hour series in June discussing a book by Marcus Borg.

## **Mission:**

No report.

## **Trustees:**

Mary and Doug reported that the Trustees have been sorting out job descriptions and roles for Joni's position and the Collector. Tom Evans has been talking with the Vermont Conference about planned giving. Financially, everything is doing fine. The Stewardship Committee is planning their campaign for four Sundays in October. Dan Van Dorn will be joining the Board of Trustees as the liaison with Stewardship.

## **Deacons:**

Willemien reported that the Deacons are planning to each host a social event for members who have joined in the last few years or who weren't able to make it to a cottage meeting. This is part of the Deacons concerted efforts to reach out to get to know Church members.

Willemien also reported that the Deacons were working on ways to reach out to Church members that are sick by either visiting, writing a note or telephoning. This is different than the Call to Care Program where a person visits with someone every month.

## **Reports on Cottage Meeting Recommendations**

### **Music:**

Sarah reported that the Music Committee was responding to the request to do more by planning the following:

1. Multi-faith celebration of word and music on January 29, 2012 led by Betty and Noel Stookey (Noel is Paul of Peter, Paul and Mary fame.) The date was chosen to coincide with Interfaith Harmony Week February 1 - 7. The Music Committee will apply for a grant from the Woodworth Fund to support this effort.
2. A concert in September to benefit the maintenance fund for musical instruments.
3. Educational program on the spirituality of music.

Doug asked if the current budget wasn't sufficient to cover the maintenance of musical instruments. The feeling was the budget was minimal and there should be a fund to support other unanticipated expenses. It was agreed that the Music Committee should work through the Trustees to establish any fund accounts that were necessary.

### **Hospitality:**

Evelyn reported that the Hospitality Committee had ordered 22 new choir chairs and 6 new arm chairs for Parish Hall. The cost of the chairs will be donated by a member of the congregation. Also in response to the cottage meeting suggestion for more family and intergenerational events, the Hospitality Committee is considering a social gathering at the oven at the

bottom of Bragg Hill Road possibly in August. They are hoping to get some help from King Arthur Flour on making wood-fired pizza and will contact the Town Clerk about the availability and use of the facilities.

**Christian Ed:**

Mary reported that Christian Ed was offering adult programs at different times to accommodate seniors and working parents. A blog was created for the recent adult series on Jonah and they will continue to use this forum to respond to questions and for adult education discussions.

**Deacons:**

Willemien reported that the 9:00 AM services in August and the Deacons planned efforts to reach out to church members are in response to cottage meeting requests.

**Communications Task Force:**

Mary reported that the Communications Task Force consisting

of Teri La Rock, Paul Gerke, and Stephanie Smith has been making recommendations for a new Church web site and Carol Jackson is working on a draft. The group has decided they want a Google Calendar on the web site and also to have a Facebook page.

With regard to cottage meeting outreach suggestions, Mary has been connecting with the Kendall community and making sermons available. Danielle is reaching out to the nursery schools.

**Presentation of Nominees:**

The Church Council approved the nomination of Daniel Van Dorn for Board of Trustees and Mary Sachsse for Board of Christian Ed. Unanimous (S. White moved; B. Miller 2nd)

It was noted that the Board of Trustees still needs an additional member and the Music Committee also needs another member.

**Personnel Policies:**

Mary distributed job descriptions for each of the 7 staff positions. The Council agreed that Mary should begin convening the evaluation teams and proceed with 2011 staff evaluations based on the job descriptions provided. Mary will also track down the Evaluations Policy Statement referred to in the Church Personnel Policy. The Council noted the need for a more uniform format across job descriptions and will rely on the evaluation teams to present updated job descriptions for Council approval.

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 7:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

*Joanne Egner, Clerk*

## May & June Mission Offering: Willing Hands

Every week Willing Hands recovers between 4 and 5 tons of surplus wholesome food and delivers it free of charge to people in need throughout the Upper Valley, from Springfield, VT to Orford, NH. The non-profit organization serves people of all ages; supplying produce to food-shelves, community meals and rehabilitation programs. It also delivers directly to families and seniors in low-income housing.

Willing Hands picks up donations of fruit, vegetables, milk, eggs, bread, and frozen meat from local grocers, farmers and bakers, and delivers it to organizations serving our neighbors in need. Willing Hands coordinates efforts with 28 local food donors. 58 organizations currently receive deliveries at least once per week, all year 'round. All of the food that Willing Hands delivers is donated. All of it is nutritious. All of it would likely have gone to waste.



By providing fruits and vegetables on a regular basis they are reducing the food insecurity of many of our neediest neighbors and encouraging them to make positive changes in their eating habits. Many of their recipients rely on the boxed, non-perishable food typically available at regional food shelves. The fresh fruits and vegetables provided by Willing Hands are an essential and welcome supplement. According to the USDA, "lower income families in the U.S. are twice as likely as higher income families not to buy any fruits or vegetables in a given week." Willing Hands also provides nutrition education through a popular series of hands-on cooking workshops offered to their recipients, free of charge.

The Board of Mission invites you to support this important local nonprofit through a donation, and to find out how you can assist in other ways by going to their website [www.willinghandsinc.org](http://www.willinghandsinc.org).

**NORWICH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Pastor: . . . . . Rev. Mary Brownlow

**AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING  
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SUNDAYS AT 10 AM**

**LIFELINE**

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Designer: . . . . . Douglas Lufkin

Send articles to: . . . nccucc2@myfairpoint.net

**Deadline for next issue: June 30, 2011**

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

If the church does not have your e-mail address, and you would like to be kept abreast of announcements and events at church – by this no cost/no waste option – please send an email to the church office at [nccucc2@myfairpoint.net](mailto:nccucc2@myfairpoint.net).

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I taste a liquor never brewed,  
From tankards scooped in pearl;  
Not all the vats upon the Rhine  
Yield such an alcohol!

Inebriate of air am I,  
And debauchee of dew,  
Reeling, through endless summer days,  
From inns of molten blue.

When landlords turn the drunken bee  
Out of foxglove's door,  
When butterflies renounce their drams,  
I shall but drink the more!

Till seraphs swing their snowy hats,  
And saints to windows run,  
To see the little tippler  
Leaning against the sun!

*Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)  
Selected Poems, Emily Dickinson  
(New York, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1990)*