



## Yalesville United Methodist Church

Anne Bracket, Pastor

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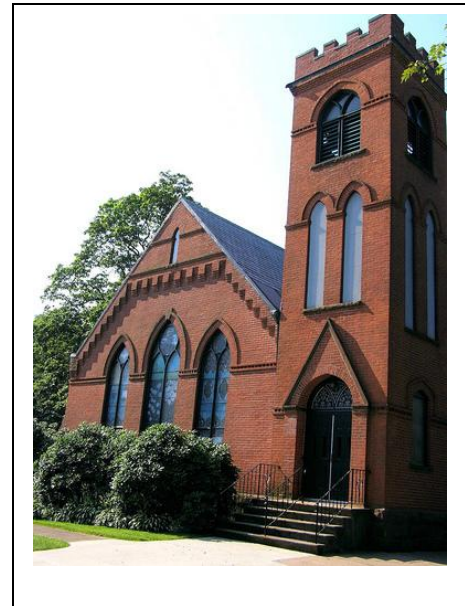
Web Page: [Yalesvilleumc.org](http://Yalesvilleumc.org)

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

### From the Pastor

Not much room, for words this month! If anyone wonders who we are as a congregation, they just need to read our newsletter. This small group of Christians is busy reaching out to others, caring for one another and growing in Christ. May we continue to do so in 2012!

Pastor Anne



### United Methodist Women

Thank you to Laura Clementson and Gail DeBoer for a wonderful Christmas program. We enjoyed singing and hearing about some of the less familiar Christmas carols. Refreshments were provided by Vickie Thulin and Barbara Nitchke.

The CT District UMW Winter Gathering and Luncheon will be held Sat. Feb. 11 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Meriden First United Methodist Church. The program is "Love in Action:" Advocating for All God's children" with a theme of Immigration. Registration deadline is Feb. 4. Let Virginia Towle or Laura Clementson know if you are interested in attending.

### Thank You

I want to thank the congregation so much for the Christmas gift of cash that I received on Christmas Eve. What a wonderful and generous gift! Thank you it was a blessing! It meant so much this year that I was in your thoughts and to receive such a nice gift!

Thanks again.....Pastor Anne

## OUTREACH

Holiday Giving - Thank you to all who participated and so generously gave to "Adopt-A Family." We were able to help make Christmas time a little more festive for two Church families through our donations of toys and various gift cards. A special thank you to the UMW who donated \$200 for the cause. We also collected new under garments and personal care items for Masters Manna. Many received the items and there was even a surplus for future needs. Donations collected for Heifer International ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)) in December totaled \$740.

The Outreach Committee looks forward to having a very busy 2012. We will continue to support Heifer and World Church Service (with banks, letter writing campaign, blanket Sunday, tools, and community cereal drive). If you have any ideas or suggestions relating to community causes that we might get involved with in our Outreach Ministry, please submit them to Pastor Anne or Maria Joy. We are always open to new ideas. Anyone is welcome to join us at our next committee meeting in February (date to be determined). Maria Joy.

## TRUSTEES

The main concern of the Trustees at this time is what might come, snow! With Al currently recovering at home, the clearing of the entries and sidewalks is a concern. Especially a challenge is the walk in front of the church along Route 68 which by regulation must be cleared in a timely fashion. It usually is, only to be filled in again by the State plows! The walk along 68 adjacent to the parking lot is cleared by school maintenance.

If you would be available to come and assist with snow clearing, please let Dolores, Pastor Anne or Nancy Lindsay know and we'll make up a contact list or just show up and check things out.

Finally damaged trees and downed limbs at the parsonage have been cleared.

Our next meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup>, should you have any concerns you wish the Trustees to consider please let us know!

Nancy Lindsay

*Editor's note: Special thanks to Nancy for the effort and time to acquire two grants for our new heating system in the sanctuary. The grants totaled over \$5000.*

## A Word of Thanks

Thank you to my church family who has supported us through this difficult time. Your gifts of prayers, food, flowers, cards, hugs, and in general caring have meant so much to us.

Ginny Towle, Elise and Justin Snow

**Bereavement Support Group** - Working through grief and loss can be a difficult task alone. But sharing with others who know exactly how you feel makes the journey easier. A bereavement support group is for anyone who is experiencing the loss of a loved one. This eight-week conversation group will include both support and grief education, facilitated by pastor, Rev. David Piscatelli and others. There will be two groups, including one specifically for parents grieving the death of a child. This group will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. on Mondays beginning January 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 19<sup>th</sup> and is open to anyone regardless of religious affiliation. **Due to the limited capacity of the groups, registration is required.** The group will meet at Faith United Methodist Church 81 Clintonville Rd. North Haven CT. Please e-mail or call the church office to register or for more information. (E-mail: [faithumc1955@sbcglobal.net](mailto:faithumc1955@sbcglobal.net) )

The next **Wednesday luncheon** is February the 1st at 11:45. We welcome all. The cost is \$5. This covers the food cost most of time and often leaves a little extra. We have contributed from those funds to the Trustees for snow plowing and also to Current Expenses which is frequently in need. At the February lunch we plan to feature casseroles. Should there be a question about the weather vs. the lunch, please call the church in the morning. Come and join us for fellowship and good food.

**Food pantry donation for:**

**February Toiletries and Toilet Paper**

**The Nurture Committee** is planning a family movie night on Friday, January 20th, at 7:00 PM (snow date of January 27th). "Movie refreshments" will be served, and a "free will" offering will be taken. We hope that everyone, young and "not so young", will join us for a "fun" evening. Dress comfortably!  
**The movie is Dolphin Tale!**

Due to The Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) which does many things including protecting the privacy of our medical conditions Pastor Anne is not informed when parishioners enter the hospital. So it is important if a loved one or if you are ill to please contact Pastor Anne or the Church office so that we may pray for you and so that you may receive a visit. Also please fill out the prayer cards in worship so that we may get names spelled correctly etc. Thanks!

## Celebration of Black History Month

On Sunday, January 29 we will celebrate the beginning of Black History Month with the 10 o'clock service dedicated to the Negro Spiritual. There will be special music and readings. Those attending the early service will have an abbreviated version.

Here's a bit of background. Starting in the late 1700's slavers went to Africa to capture the free people living there. Healthy men, women and children were overpowered and marched in chains to port cities where they were put in holding pens until a ship came to bring them to America. In the ships they were crammed together below the decks for 7 or 8 days until there was no sign of land which might encourage diving overboard to swim home despite the dangers of armed sailors and predator sharks.

Arriving in America families were separated and people sold and auctioned to those white people who needed cheap workers. Thus life as a "slave" began. From the first to the last glimmer of the sun, the slave were expected to work. Somehow the people were able to adapt. Somehow America became a home. But dreams of freedom and a better life in their new home simmered.

Music, chants, rhythm and dance were much a part of the life of an African. Thus it is easy to imagine that it became part of life here, too, even though many came from different tribes and spoke very little of the new language shouted at them, English. Songs were calming and sorrowful; others rhythmic for working. Preachers were eventually allowed to meet with plantation slaves and told the slaves, many of them Muslims, or those who practiced their tribal religions, about the Bible and Christianity. The white man's religion became accepted but perhaps interpreted a bit differently than intended. Slaves heard the wonderful Old Testament stories and heard about Jesus and how he loved and accepted everybody; didn't matter their color or place. Redemption, bravery, faith, miracles, hope, God's love, and heaven became topics of songs.

Slaves were expected to attend Sunday services and, of course, sit only in a special section. After a while they were allowed to have their own services, or "camp meetings", in the evenings in addition to Sunday morning. Slave owners could see no harm in allowing them these hours to pray and sing. Little did they know of the messages passed along during these hours. The choir, select soloists and the congregation will sing some of these spirituals. You will hear some of the music stories during this special service. **The full program is on January 29th at the 10 a.m. service.**

Nancy Lindsay

**On behalf of the Yalesville United Methodist Church and the Staff Parish Relations Committee, it is both my pleasure and honor to express gratitude to Al Eddy for his many years of service. Al is retiring after 22 years of service due to an unexpected health concern. Al's presence throughout the workweek is already missed.**

**Although we are still yet to adapt to working without him, we are comforted that Al will remain a part of our church family. Please be certain to extend your warm regards. Additionally, the SPRC will collect donations toward a thank you gift, please see me if you would like to contribute towards this gift. Sincerely, Jeff Joy, Chair SPRC**

# Quilts for Children

The beautiful quilts for children that were blessed in December were given to three area Centers that serve children in crisis. Chrysalis of Meriden and Wallingford which provides domestic violence services, Wheeler Clinic which provides 24-hour, home-like care for children throughout Connecticut and The Cove located in Meriden which provides services for grieving children. There are letters of thanks on the kiosk from each of these places. These quilts, each individual and sewn together with care and love will be a meaningful comfort for each child who receives one. This new ministry has certainly reached out to the community and we appreciate their efforts!

The group will meet again beginning the first Tuesday in February at 9:30 and meet every first and third Tuesday.

## Shopping Cards

Don't forget to pick up your cards! We have many on hand and you can special order any we don't have. Don't forget presents as holidays and birthdays come around and grocery, Walmart, Target, CVS, etc. really make a difference. This is a major fundraiser! We hope to raise \$10,000 this year, with your help we can do it. Remember it doesn't cost you anything extra just what you were planning on spending. Also, you can pay your bill at Kohl's (did you spend a lot at Christmas?) with our fundraiser gift cards.



## Christmas Memories!



## UPCOMING EVENTS!!

- January 16, Monday Bible Study on Ruth and Jonah at Masonic 10 am
- January 18, Wednesday, Bible Study on Ruth and Jonah at church 7:30 pm
- January 20, Friday, Family Movie Night 7 pm
- January 22, Sunday, 11:30 Confirmation Lunch with sponsors
- January 23, Monday, Bible Study at Masonic 10 am
- January 25, Wednesday, Pastor Anne at meeting for "Call to Action" in Waterbury
- January 25, Wednesday, Bible Study at Church 7:30 pm
- January 29, Sunday Black History Month celebration at worship.  
Confirmation class meets at 11:30  
Concert at Faith UMC in North Haven (see poster in Gathering Area) at 7pm Free will offering
- January 30, Monday Bible Study at Masonic 10 am  
SPRC Meeting @ 7pm
- January 31, Tuesday Church Conference at 7pm
- February 1, Wednesday, First Wednesday Lunch (All invited)  
Bible Study 7:30 at church
- February 5, Sunday SouperBowl Luncheon Sign-up available January 22
- February 6, Monday Bible Study at Masonic 10 am  
Witness Team Meeting @ 1pm  
Trustees Meeting @7:15 pm
- February 7, Tuesday, Quilt Group 9:30 am
- February 8, Wednesday, Bible Study 7:30 pm at Church
- February 12, Sunday, Outreach Meeting after worship
- February 13, Monday, Bible Study 10 am at Masonic  
United Methodist Women 7 pm
- February 14 Tuesday 10-4 Pastor Anne at Asbury UMC for training for Call to Action

## Upcoming Events Continued:

February 19, Shrove Tuesday on Sunday Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for UMARMY (details to follow!)

LENT STUDY: 4-5:30 pm Final Words From the Cross

February 20, Monday, Bible Study at Masonic 10 am

February 21, Tuesday, Quilt Group 9:30 am

February 22, ASH WEDNESDAY Service at 11:30 and 7pm, Bible Study following 7pm service

February 26, Sunday, Healing Service with Prayer Team from Jesse Lee in Ridgefield at 10 am. Service.

Confirmation Class @ 11:30

4pm Lent Bible Study

February 27, Monday, Bible Study at Masonic 10am

February 29 Bible Study at 7:30

Dates in March to put on your Calendar!!

March 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, Corned Beef Dinner Fundraiser

March 18<sup>th</sup>, Sunday D.S. Rev Ken Kieffer will preach.

On March 7<sup>th</sup> we will begin a prayer study on Wednesday morning's beginning at 9am. This will lead us into an intercessory prayer group that will meet regularly.

"Prayer is where the action is." John Wesley



