

Message From the Pastor



Clovis Chappell, a 19th century minister, once told an interesting story about two paddleboats. The two boats,

powered by coal, left Memphis at the same time, traveling down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. As they traveled side-by-side, sailors from one vessel made some critical remarks and jokes about the snail's pace of the other boat. Heated words were exchanged between the men on the two boats.

Challenges were made. So the race began. The competition was hot and heavy as the two boats roared through the Deep South. Eventually, one boat began falling behind. The problem: it didn't have enough fuel. There had been plenty of coal for the trip, but not enough for a race. As the boat dropped back, an enterprising young sailor took some of the ship's cargo and tossed it into the boat's ovens.

When his fellow sailors saw that the supplies burned as well as coal, they fueled their boat with the material they had been assigned to transport. They ended up winning the race. But they burned their cargo.

The price for that victory was expensive. The boat's cargo, the very reason they were traveling down the river in the first place, was sacrificed. Sometimes we allow ourselves to get so busy that we neglect that which is most important.

We too are trusted with some very precious cargo – the children in our lives. Whether they are our children, our grandchildren, or kids that we are otherwise acquainted with, these little people are the future of the Church of Jesus Christ. It is our responsibility to bring their hearts to Christ when they are young.

Proverbs 22:6 instructs us to *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

God has entrusted you with this vitally important responsibility. Will these children arrive safely to heaven? Are their Spiritual lives being nurtured?

84 percent of people who come to faith in Jesus Christ do so before the age of 18. So how do we make sure that we don't miss this vital window of time to lead them to Christ?

Here are some very doable, but **very important** steps that you can take *today*:

- **Talk to them daily about God.** Allow them to ask questions, and make a point of looking up the answers in the Bible together.
- **If you are a parent,** find an age-appropriate devotional and read it with them every night before bed.
- **If you are a grandparent, caregiver, friend.....** make sure that they have an age-appropriate Bible or Devotional to use. If they don't, give them one as a gift.
- **Pray daily for their salvation.** Last month's Hill 'n' Dale had some prayers for children that you can refer to (you can find a copy online at www.FedChurchWillington.org under "Hill 'n' Dale Newsletters").

Listen to Christian music with them. This is an amazingly simple thing to do – you can play it while you're driving in the car. As you listen to it regularly, they may surprise you with the truths that come out of their mouths!

(continued on next page)

(Pastors Message, continued)

- **Take them to Sunday School.** If you are not their parent and they do not go to a Sunday School of their own, invite them to come with you. It is so very important for them to know about belonging to a Church Community, and that they have support in their Walk with Christ.

Psalm 119:9-11 says "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Help them hide the Word in their hearts so that they can follow in His ways. Can you imagine how much better their world will be if we could reach many hearts for Christ now when they are young?

I urge you in the name of Christ to do these things *today*. God is calling you to step forward, take the initiative and bring your children and grandchildren to Sunday school. Do the things on this list, even if it isn't always the convenient thing to do. Nothing is more important than this!

With Love In Christ,

Pastor Del

A Letter From A Friend:

To all my wonderful friends at the Willington Federated Church:

Thank you for your many prayers, calls, and cards during this difficult time of Ed's illness and subsequent passing on January 24.

You are very special people!

Love,

Harriet (Muska)

Looking Ahead....

The Vacation Bible School Committee is looking for volunteers to help out at this year's Vacation Bible School. Please call or email the Church Office (860-429-9911) or info@FedChurchWillington.org if you are interested in helping out. The dates are to be determined. We will announce them as soon as we have more information. Thank you.

NOTICE OF CANCELLATIONS:

For Cancellation of Worship & Sunday School due to inclement weather watch, WFSB-TV, Channel 3, WTNH-TV, Channel 8, or NBC 30 WVIT on Sunday morning.

Ash Wednesday

**YOU ARE INVITED!
BEGIN THE JOURNEY OF LENT**

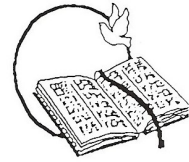
**The Federated Church of Willington
*The Rev. Del Hickson, Pastor***

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

MARCH 9, 2011

7:00 PM, Hill Church

Jct. Rte. 74 & 320 South

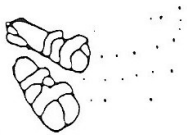


BEGINS SEASON OF LENT – The 40-day period, not counting Sundays, in preparation for Easter. Corresponds to the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness before he began his ministry and it is estimated he was in the tomb for 40 hours. The number 40 is used in the Bible repeatedly signifying “a period of transformation”.

TIME TO REFLECT – Christ died for our redemption. This is a time to recall and renew one’s repentance for sin. A time to recall and renew one’s confession of faith in Jesus as Christ and Lord.

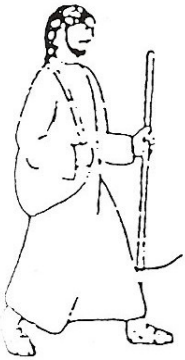
JOIN US for this time of Reflection and Prayer

*“Let us look to Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was waiting
endured the cross...” Hebrews 12:2A*



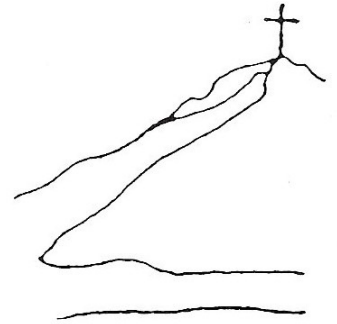
Those who walk daily with Jesus, especially during the weeks of Lent, will experience Easter with renewed joy. Alleluia!

**Come, “EVERYONE”
The Board of Deacons**



THE JOURNEY OF LENT

**FORTY WEEKDAYS AND SIX SUNDAYS
BEGAN ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 9, 2011 to
APRIL 23, 2011**

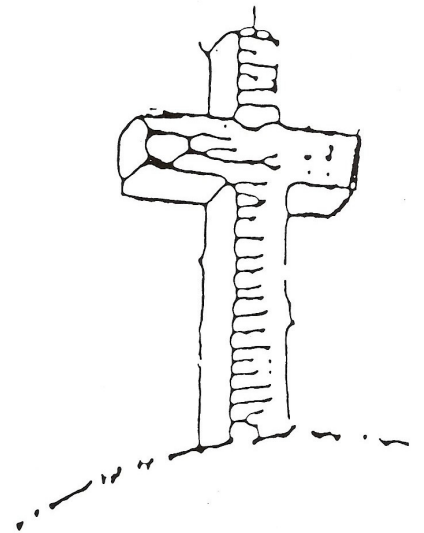


TIME OF PREPARATION FOR EASTER

**A time for self-discipline, fasting,
reflection, reaffirmation of faith
in Jesus as Christ and Lord.**

THE WOODEN CROSS
(On Display in the Fellowship Area)

**As we travel The Journey of Lent,
we hope you will take time to pound
a nail into the Wooden Cross,
representing sins and burdens, and on Easter
Sunday you will be given an opportunity to
replace the nails with flowers as a symbol
of "New life" given through faith in Christ,
our Risen Lord and Savior!**



**"Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the Cross,
so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.
It is by his wounds that you have been healed." 1 Peter 2:24**

What's Your Talent?

Our **Annual Spaghetti Luncheon and Talent Show** will be Sunday, March 13th following Worship. The Sunday School students and teachers work hard every year to prepare and serve a Spaghetti Luncheon for all who attend. (Kids, we need your help!)

Following the Luncheon is a Talent Show - we invite you to showcase your talent.

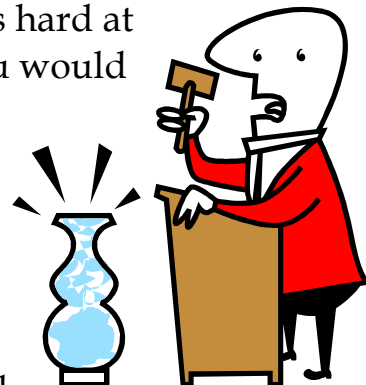
All are welcome - bring a friend!

It's Back!!!

The 2nd Annual Goods and Services Auction

Friday, May 6 6:30-9pm at the Willington Public Library

The evening will include both silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$5 with food and entertainment also being provided. The committee is hard at work collecting auction items. If you have something you would like to donate, please sign up on the sheet located in the Fellowship area of the Hall Memorial Church. If it is easier, call the church office and leave a message of your donated item. Please be sure to leave an estimated value.



A list of auction items can be found on the Church's website at www.fedchurchwillington.org beginning April 1 and will be updated weekly.

Seating is limited to 75, so ticket pre-purchase or reservations are strongly suggested. For more information or to order tickets, please call the church at (860)429-9911 or Alice Cassells (860)429-9394. All proceeds benefit the community wide programs of the Federated Church of Willington.

Month of March - 2011

Worship Leaders, Communion Server, Greeters, Ushers, & Altar Flowers

SUNDAY 6

SUNDAY 13

SUNDAY 20

SUNDAY 27

Daylight Savings Time

Begins

Worship Leader
Dorothy Howlett

Worship Leader
David Ignatowicz

Worship Leader
Tracy Pelletier

Worship Leader
Thomas Smith

Greeter
Nancy Goodell
Ushers

Greeter
Elsie LaBonte
Ushers

Greeter
Alice Cassells
Ushers

Greeter
Laurel Millix
Ushers

David Black
Larry Palmer

Thomas Smith
Eileen Smith

Ronald Kauffman
Elizabeth Robertson

Wilbur Gangaway
Alice Gangaway

Altar Flowers
Betsy Gunn

Altar Flowers
Elsie LaBonte, *In Memory*
of her husband

Altar Flowers
Yen Kauffman

Altar Flowers
Rosanne Parizek

Communion
Edward D'Agata
David Ignatowicz

Note: If you are not able to fulfill your duties on the Sunday you are assigned, please change with someone listed for that particular duty and notify the Church Office (429-9911) of the change prior to Tuesday, contact Eileen Smith (860-429-), Board of Deacons.

Month of March

5 James Linares	21 Bridget Weisner
11 Tom Kelly	27 Linda Knight
Greg Bailey	30 Michael Ennis
14 Mi Cha Sarachek	31 Taylor Vonasek
20 Gail Eldredge	



Don't see your birthday on the list? Submit your birthday to the Church office and we will make sure that it appears in the newsletter! Birthdays can be emailed to Info@FedChurchWilmington.org.

March 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Choir Rehearsal 7PM – Hall Memorial Church	3	4	5 Men's Breakfast, 9 AM Track Nine Diner
6 <i>Communion Sunday</i>	7	8 Prudential Board 7 PM – Hill Church	9 Ash Wednesday Service - 7 PM, Hill Church	10 Choir Rehearsal 7PM – Hall Memorial Church	11	12
Board of Christian Ed Meeting, following Sunday School						
13 Daylight Savings Time Begins!	14	15 Board of Deacons 7 PM – Hill Church	16 Choir Rehearsal 7PM – Hall Memorial Church	17	18	19
Spaghetti Luncheon & Talent Show						
20	21 Church Council Meeting, 7PM, Hall Memorial Church	22	23 Choir Rehearsal 7PM – Hall Memorial Church	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Choir Rehearsal 7PM – Hall Memorial Church	31		

April Newsletter Deadline: Please turn in all articles/announcements to the church office by Monday, March 21st. Thank you.

IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH

OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS

reach out to our Brothers and Sisters who have various needs and struggles: *David Cushman; Lee Goodell* (husband of Nancy Goodell);

Rosanne Parizek, Gloria & Judson Hunter; John & Marjorie Carpenter (mentioned by Dorothy Howlett); *Lydia* (David Fraser's sister) *Richard Giannini; John Smith; Ronald Kauffman; Alice Gangaway; Jerry Gaspar* (Holly's husband); *Sylvia Pokorny* (Betty Marks' aunt); *Bill* (Resident of Lyon Manor); *Marlene & Roger Wilson; Christine & Brian* (daughter & son-in-law of Betsy Gunn); *Lori Drake* (relative of Wilbur Gangaway); *Jacob Mayberry* (son-in-law of Pat and David Dobbyn) People dealing with collapsed roofs caused by the weight of the snow; with wishes & prayers that *Spring* will be early this year; for the *People in Egypt* & for all the *Servicemen & Women* overseas.



TRAVEL MERCIES: For *Tom & Sue Gledhill* & children, *Alivia & Emma*, as they traveled to the US from England (Julia Cartabiano's brother and family).

CONDOLENCES: To the *Family & Friends Of Lydia O'neal Stewart Fraser* upon her loss (2/19) (David Fraser's sister); and to the *Family & Friends Of Gail H. Eldredge* upon her loss (02/20).

May God's healing touch also be with the many others not mentioned who have hurts and struggles.

THANKSGIVINGS: In praise and thanksgiving that *Lee Goodell's* surgery went well, for *Everyone's* prayers and the visits by *Pastor Del & Rubi*; that *Alice Gangaway's* surgery went well (02/18) and she was at worship (02/20).

CELEBRATIONS: Birthdays mentioned in worship: *Tyler Millix*, 3RD Birthday (02/21) (son of Tyler & Tricia Millix & grandson of Laurel Millix); & *Laurel Millix* (02/24) and *Tish Ignatowicz* (03/03).

CONGRATULATIONS & BLESSINGS to *Sarah & Jacob Mayberry* (Daughter & Son-in-law of David & Pat Dobbyn) on the birth of their second son, and to *Nicholas and Holly Dobbyn* (Son and Daughter-in-law of David & Pat Dobbyn) who are expecting their first child.

Jacob was recently deployed to Afghanistan, and Nicholas recently returned home from serving in Afghanistan. Many thanks to you and your families for the great service you are doing for our country!

SEASON OF LENT BEGINS with Ash Wednesday, March 9, the 40-day period in preparation for Easter. A time of self-discipline, fasting, reflection, reaffirmation of faith in Jesus as Christ and Lord.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, March 9, 7:00 PM, at the Hill Church. Join us for this time of reflection and prayer.

"Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross..." Hebrews 12:2a

THIS YEAR, "2011," WE WILL CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERATED CHURCH OF WILLINGTON AND THE DEDICATION OF THE CLARA HALL ELLIOTT MEMORIAL CHURCH! (1911 - 2011)

It was on June 12, 1911 the Articles of Federation were presented to the church and unanimously accepted. The first clause in the Articles read: "The Congregational and Baptist Churches of Willington feeling that they can work to better advantage by combining their resources than by maintaining separate services, agree to unite in common work and worship, each church maintaining its own organization for business purposes."

(Ref. "A History of the Baptist Church of Willington, Connecticut 1828-1928" by Edwin E. Sundt, Th.M., Pastor of the Federated Churches of Willington 1924-1929).