

# The Messenger

## August 2011



The United Methodist Church, Clinton, CT  
Pastor M. Craig Fitzsimmons

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What a delight it was to accompany ten members of our Youth Group (and three other adults) to Youth 2011 at Purdue University in Indiana. I was getting a little worried the day before our departure since my flight from Detroit to Syracuse was cancelled (I was coming back from moving my daughter Martha out to Arizona). Fortunately I was able to get a late flight and arrived back in Clinton at 4:30 a.m. in plenty of time for our 7 a.m. departure! After an overnight stay in Ohio, we arrived at Purdue to check in and begin what was to be a fantastic four days with over 3500 United Methodist youth and adult leaders. This was one of two events scheduled, the second, two weeks later in Sacramento, CA. The theme for Youth 2011 was “More Than,” such as this was more than worship, or more than a concert, or more than a gathering. It was a time to explore and deepen one’s faith, to expand one’s horizons and renew one’s commitment to serving Christ.

Our youth fully participated in the activities which began early in the morning and went to around midnight. The days were packed full with small group LAB (one of which was led by Ally), Bible study, two workshops, worship, evening activities and group time. Meals were at the dorm which was seven-tenths of a mile away from the meeting halls but we didn’t complain too much because we were in one of the few air-conditioned dorms! During the brief breaks we had the opportunity to wander through the exhibit halls and find out more about various ministries that were available for youth. Some even stopped by the college displays to learn more about some United Methodist Schools as well as loans and scholarships.

We met many people from around the country but were surprised that we were the only church represented from the New York Conference. We were also the only people from Connecticut. But one thing we learned was that we were not alone! We joined with thousands of other Christians in celebrating our call to discipleship as youth in the United Methodist Church. We were not the smallest or the largest group there but it did not matter, we felt that we belonged to one big fellowship in Christ.

Watching the group interact with one another and with other participants reminded me of just how special this group is. They are

accepting of each other, open to new people, caring, playful, thoughtful, spiritual and a real joy to be around. We will miss those who are going off to college but are looking forward to the contributions of the newest members. I am so grateful for the leadership of Jill and Carolyn Hale who made this all happen. Their continued commitment to providing a program and a space for our youth in our congregation makes a huge difference.

I hope we will have an opportunity to share personal reflections and some pictures from Youth 2011 with the congregation soon. I know you will enjoy it!

Shalom,

*Craig*



Pictured are our Youth Group members (minus Kaitlin Luft) at Purdue University in Indiana with two of the band members from “Philmont.” The band was one of the performers during the concert. Our group was in front of the stage so Amanda was able to see from her wheelchair. During the concert the lead singer (in black) knelt down on the stage and reached out to Amanda while singing. It was a special moment for all our youth and after the concert they happened to see them outside. The band members spent a few moments talking us and graciously agreed to have their picture taken with the group.

There were over 3,700 people at Youth 2011 in Purdue and another 1,500 two weeks later in Sacramento, CA. This event takes place every four years and is sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Discipleship, Office of Young People’s Ministries. The youth hope to have a supper and give a report of what they experienced. Needless to say, it was a great trip!

## **Sunday School for ages 3 to 103**

Our church school will open on September 11 at 9 AM with the traditional pancake breakfast and introduction of teachers. Until class numbers increase we are using the One Room Sunday School material in two rooms of the Kathy Fell Building for ages 3 to 12! This curriculum provides a comprehensive two-year Bible overview with everyday applications of Bible stories and a variety of age-appropriate activities.

Grades K through 2 are in Room 203

Grades 3,4, and 5 meet in the Craft Room 205.

Middle and High School students meet in Room 201.

Adults meet on the first floor in Room 103 and will be studying the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Esther and Matthew this fall. Lyle Cubberly is the class leader.

If you are interested in teaching or helping at any age level, please contact Glenna Bishop, 860-663-1325. Thank you.

## **Habitat for Humanity - New Haven**

Our church will be working on a home on Wednesday, August 24 and would like many volunteers to go along. Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall and Sally Cotter will let you know regarding carpooling arrangements.

## **Starvation in refugee camp**

If you would like to contribute to efforts to provide food and life to those suffering in the Horn of Africa, please just write "Africa" in the memo portion of your check and Carol, our treasurer will see that it is sent to the correct Advance # at the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

It is the children and the elderly who die first, not having the physical resources to carry them through. We, who have abundant food, can be a part of the rescue and relief at this refugee camp.

## **Church Council meeting**

The Council is a gathering of representative persons who discuss, decide and vote on the right thing to do and the right way to do it and to make vision-based decisions for the future of the church. The August 10 meeting in Fellowship Hall at 7 pm has planned our fall activities and ministries. Karin Thelin chaired the meeting as Chair Beverly Jones had just returned from vacation!

Other members of the Council are: M. Craig Fitzsimmons, Pastor; Evelyn Scaglione, Secretary; Bob and Jill Hale, Mickey Brown, Becky Hale Templeton, Dennis Dollahite, John Pope, Carol Bell, Sue Alexander, Lyle Cubberly, Vera and Jack Smith, Tom Symmes, Glenna Bishop, Debbie Anderson, Sharon Minick, Rich Desrosiers and Laurie Bell.

When these are unable to attend, they may send another member of their board or committee to represent them. All church members are invited to attend the meetings on the second Wednesday evening of each month, but will have no voting privileges.

## **Church directory**

There have been so many address changes, etc. this summer that we will probably print a new directory before the usual month of October. If you have any changes or corrections including email addresses, please call the office at 860-669-8396. Thank you very much.

## **August book discussion**

*The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery, is a moving, witty and redemptive novel, that exalts the quiet victories of the inconspicuous persons among us. It is set in an elegant Parisian hotel with a cantankerous concierge and a precocious 12-year-old resident as the heroines.

The group meets in Fellowship Hall at 7 pm, Monday, August 29. Corinne Brown will guide the conversation and provide refreshments. Please join us.

## Month of Sundays

### August 7

### Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeters	Ron and Cynthia Bechtle
Ushers	Sally Cotter, Ginny Burr, David Moore, Lyle Cubberly, Drew Dupre
Infant/toddler care	Linda Symmes
Sound coordinator	Ally Gates
Camera operator	Lisa Sutherland
Worship leader	Mickey Brown
Lectionary scriptures	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
Sermon	Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons
Communion steward	Dot Sprague
Fellowship hosts	The Hale Family

### August 14

### Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter	Bev Bowen
Ushers	Dennis Scaglione, Bob McLeod, John Pope, Gerald Cotter, Alan Anderson
Infant/toddler care	Linda Symmes
Sound coordinator	Jonas Thelin
Camera operator	Mickey Brown
Worship leader	Bob Hale
Lectionary scriptures	Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28
Sermon	Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons
Fellowship hosts	The Hale Family

## What happened?

Rick Clare gave us this item of Higganum history:

“The Methodist Church of Haddam centre originated in the “class” at Chapman’s ferry, Shailerville, in 1815. The services have been many year discontinued, its last pastor, the Rev. Henry Burton, being the grandfather of Connecticut’s true poet, Richard Burton. At Haddam Neck, Ponset and Higganum, the denomination has buildings and is well represented.”

**August 21****Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeter	Ellen Hoyt
Ushers	Rachel Benisvy, Haley Parent, Jonas Thelin, Megan Lohutko
Infant/toddler care	Linda Symmes
Sound coordinator	Alex Attanasio
Camera operator	Dan Attanasio
Worship leader	Deb Anderson
Lectionary scriptures	Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
Sermon	Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons
Fellowship host	Ellen Hoyt

**August 28****Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeters	Tommie Peterson, Jesse Ryan
Ushers	Evelyn Scaglione, Sharon Minick, Gay McPhee, Ellen Hoyt, Lynda Larson
Infant/toddler care	Linda Symmes
Sound coordinator	Lisa Sutherland
Camera operator	Mickey Brown
Worship leader	Jill Hale
Lectionary scriptures	Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28
Sermon	Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons
Fellowship host	Jackie Blomberg

**Do you have a calling to communicate?**

Since Don Shogren moved away, our church only has two Lay Speakers. The district will be offering training this year and if you think you could be a teacher, visitor, preacher for the church, please talk it over with Pastor Craig. We will let you know when the course will be scheduled.

## Church reopening - 1949

Palm Sunday, April 10, will mark the reopening of the sanctuary of the Clinton Methodist Church, after five months, during which time extensive redecoration has taken place. There will be both a morning and an evening service.

The morning service at 11 will include dedication of memorial gifts, baptism of infants and children, and reception of the 1949 Confirmation Class. The sermon will be by Bishop Lewis O. Hartman, LL.D., of Boston and former editor of The Zion Herald, New England Methodist weekly and oldest church publication in America. Bishop Hartman will confirm the class and lay on hands in baptism.

The presentation of the committee of eleven in charge of the redecoration will be made by Evelyn T. Wright, chairman of the committee — Willard E. Bushy, R. H. Dolliver, Emily Herrmann, Charles B. Hull, Helen Hull, Seward Hull, R. L. Hutchinson, W. G. Jones, Charles Schneider and Bertram R. A. Smith.

The choir, under the direction of Seward F. Hull, with Elizabeth Whitman Walker as organist, will sing "The Palms" by Faure and "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" by Garrett. Choral responses have been written by the director, Mr. Hull. Organ music by Mrs. Walker will be "Open the Gates of the Temple" by Knapp, "Nazareth" by Gounod and "O Fairest Church of Christ" by Hans Sachs. Palms will be distributed at the close of the service.

The evening service at 8 will include two choral numbers by the choir augmented by members of the choirs of other churches of Clinton: "Unfold, Ye Portals!" by Gounod, from "The Redemption" and "Fling Wide the Gates" by Stainer, from "The Crucifixion". Organ music will be the Arioso "Dank Sei Dir, Herr" by Handel, "The Palms" by Faure, and "Finale" by Widor from the Fifth Organ Symphony.

The sermon will be by Rev. Dr. Robert H. Elliott, a resident of Clinton and Specialist in Religious Education with the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. The other clergymen of Clinton will take part in the service and members and friends of other churches are especially invited.

Acknowledgments for gifts and services include:

Cotton velour for kneeling cushions, Sidney Blumenthal & Co.

Railings for church porch, Willard E. Bushy

Eight globes and bottoms for brass lamps, First Church of Christ,  
Congregational.

Vacuum, Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Herrmann



Clock, Alvin T. Lane & Lt. Bushy's S.S. class of boys  
Cross, candlesticks, vases and offering plates, Mr. and Mrs.  
Harold Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. Warren A. Pearson, Charles  
K. and Elizabeth J. Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Setchel.  
Pulpit Bible, Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Roberts  
Literature rack and bulletin board, the Men's Club  
Pulpit and balcony pews, the former Westbrook Methodist Ch.  
Carpet, Woman's Society of Christian Service.

The consulting architect is Andrew F. Euston of New Haven and work has been done by Avery, Bruce & Co. (roof & interior staging), Allied Home Service (tower repairs), Herbert Stannard (plastering), Gustave Tresselt (electric lighting), Charles W. Haag (redecorating), Clinton Furniture Company (carpet), E. Gordon Meigs (organ pipes and tuning), Joseph Valvano (cabinet work), John E. Walker (carpentry), R. M. Webster (stenciling and clock face) and Mr. and Mrs. John Sheehan (carpet laying.)

## **The United Methodist Committee on Relief**

In April and May, UMCOR made initial grants to fourteen annual conferences to help them deal with spring storms and flooding.

By June 7, UMCOR Hotline read, "Devastating spring floods have swept across the United States from Alaska to Mississippi to Vermont, causing damage to homes, crops and livestock. Major floods have resulted from high waters in the Mississippi River, Red River and Lake Champlain. Flooding continues in the Midwest.

"In the thirteen years I've worked in United States disaster response, there has never been a series of emergencies as widespread as what we're seeing this year." said the Rev. Tom Hazelwood.

When tornadoes struck Massachusetts on June 1, they hit nineteen cities, left three dead and dozens injured. The Monson-Glensdale UMC prepared more than 2,000 meals in the week after the storm. At Trinity UMC in neighboring Springfield, church members checked affected areas for those they could not reach by phone.

The May 22 tornado in Joplin, Missouri was one of the deadliest in U.S. history. With winds up to 200 mph, it injured more than 900 people and killed 153.

Between April 21 and 28, one super-storm left hundreds dead in Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky and Virginia.

UMCOR and Volunteer in Mission teams are providing hope until recovery is complete. What can you do? See Page 14.

## A letter from Bishop Park

July 20, 2011

Dear Rev. Dr. Fitzsimmons and the Members of Clinton UMC,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer, the Prince of shalom, Healer of our brokenness, and Hope of the world!

Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$120 for the Bishop's Partners in Mission in response to the push-up challenge. As of June 30<sup>th</sup> we have received nearly \$50,000. I give all praise and thanks to God for this wonderful response.

It was a wonderful sight to behold all the churches and banners in the procession on Saturday afternoon at Hofstra witnessing to the presence of Jesus Christ in our churches and our mission to love the world in Christ's name! Indeed, it was no doubt this excitement that enabled me to do even more push ups than I had planned! What an unforgettable day! To be very sure, we could not be what we are nor could we do what we are doing without you and others who are heart warmed United Methodists in mission. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the privilege of ministering side by side with you, my partners in mission.

Because of the churches and people like you who believe in mission, the Bishop's Partners in Mission Fund will continue to support missions in our communities and in the world through Volunteers in Mission, Youth Ambassadors, local outreach programs for ministry with the poor, disaster relief and rebuilding projects and many other ways. Together we will continue to touch and transform lives in the name and love of Jesus Christ.

Once again, please accept my appreciation from the bottom of my heart for your partnership in mission. As I write this letter, the words that come to mind are: "How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?" (1 Thessalonians 3:9)

It is indeed my joy and privilege to serve the Church of Jesus Christ with partners in mission like you. May God continue to richly bless and honor you and your ministry!

In Christ,

*Jeremiah J. Park*



*Eating in the Shake-it-up Cafe with Chef Basil (Alex Attanasio)*



*Cindy Marsella leading on Green Day (Tuesday)*



Friday was water day!

## August Birthdays

Ashley Cotter	1	Donald Merry	15
Steven Clark	4	Emma Boey	18
Don Shogren	10	Lisa Benisvy	20
Gary Hawes	11	Robert McLeod, Jr.	21
Austin Remetta	12	Jeffrey McKinnon, Jr.	22
Makenna Clark	13	Linda Thelin	22
Paula McPhee	13	Cynthia Harding	24
Dorothy Sprague	14	Elaine Bascom	30

### The church-owned Lively House - 18 Commerce St.



The floors of the living and dining room are works of art!



The Almaawi Family moved in August 1!

## Youth 2011



Arrival at Purdue; waiting for advisors to register us.



## Be hope for storm survivors

**Pray** for the survivors to rebuild lives and homes in the wake of the storms.

**Pray** for pastors and local disaster responders, Volunteers in Mission and others who will be on hand for the long-term recovery.

**Give** to UMCOR Advance #3021326 - U.S. Spring Storms. 100% of your gift will assist with rebuilding, training conference volunteers and long-term recovery.

**Join** a Volunteer in Mission team to help rebuild.

**Send** cleaning buckets to any of the depots in the UMCOR relief supply network.

**Subscribe** to the UMCOR Hotline ([new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/hotline](http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/hotline)).

### Office visitor

While Evelyn Scaglione was working in the office, she had a visitor returning from forty-two years ago!

During 1967-69, Virginia and Cornell Read and their three children, Mary, Cathy and Eddie, were active in the church family. They moved to Iowa when Cathy was in the third grade. Cathy Addison is now living in Connecticut and we hope she can visit the congregation again.

### Local singer/song writer to appear in Ivoryton

Carl Suiter of Clinton, will be performing at 7 PM, August 12 with the band, *Out of Thin Air* at the Ivoryton Congregational Church, 57 Main Street. A free will offering for the Church's Music Fund will be received.

Carl's style is similar to that of Jim Croce and Harry Chapin with a country flavor. Music is his passion.

### A Parable of membership

A couple told a pastor that they wanted to join the church. But, they explained, they didn't want to worship every week, study the Bible, visit the sick, witness to non-Christians, or serve on any committees. The pastor commended them for their desire to join a church, but told them that the church they wanted was in another part of town. They carefully took down the directions and went to look at the other building. There they found the logical result of their apathetic attitude. It was an abandoned church, boarded up, ready for demolition.

## Where am I?

I may be a complete stranger to you,  
but I would like to talk with you  
because I can help you be a better Christian.  
I like to go to worship on Sunday  
and I am very small  
but I am the keystone of your church program.  
I am a weekly reminder of your daily blessings.  
I dare you to be as good to God as God has been to you.  
I am only paper,  
but I carry the full gift of a generous heart.  
I am the only thing you need to bring on Sunday,  
and I promise not to be a burden.  
I am your turn to preach,  
for I am a silent sermon of your devotion.  
My guide for 2011 could be with the Stewardship Committee  
or lost on your desk at home...  
I am your offering envelope. *(author unknown)*  
*Vera Smith, for the Stewardship Committee*

## Praying twice

According to legend, the early Christian theologian St. Augustine of Hippo, said, “He who sings prays twice.” The Latin wording is actually “He who sings *well* prays twice,” but more on that in a moment.)

Singing, a common element of worship, is a handy way to help children pray.

My six-year-old, who loves to sing, was surprised and delighted when I told him a praise song he has just learned could also be his bedtime prayer. He sings off-key, forgets some words and doesn’t want help from Mom; he just sings his little heart out.

But what of older churchgoers who stay silent during hymns, fearful that they don’t sing well enough? Forget the Latin translation! Long before Augustine, a psalmist wrote, “Make a joyful *noise* unto the Lord, all ye lands!” (Psalm 100:1; emphasis added).

Why not pray twice today?

*Heidi Mann*

## *Our Sympathy*

to Laurie Bell and family. Laurie visited her mother in Michigan for several weeks. Her stepfather, David Burdett, died in July.

### **Think about a plan !**

Or perhaps we can have lunch at the church on September 18...because the Clinton Fire Department will be hosting an Annual Convention of Firemen and celebrating their 100th anniversary beginning at noon.

A large parade on Main Street will cause its closing from Post Office Square (Commerce & Main) east. We should be able to exit via Library Lane, but the Congregational and Episcopal and Orthodox Churches won't be as fortunate!

### **PET (Personal Energy Transportation) news**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$104.00\* to P.E.T. New York-East Jewett, Inc. and your ongoing support.

To date we have distributed PETs in Honduras, Afghanistan, Borneo, Guinea, Togo and Haiti as well as sent PETs to the Global Aid International Network in Pennsylvania.

Steve Canfield and I are planning our third trip to Benin in October. The PETs to be distributed are currently on a U.S. Navy ship courtesy of a program known as Operation Handshake. In addition we continue to send smaller shipments of PETs where they are needed.

We are presently working on converting an old dairy barn in good condition into "new" P.E.T. quarters while still maintaining current PET production levels. This will give us a large space where all operations are consolidated in one building as well as better access to main roads. We also hope to be able to recruit some new volunteers in the community.

On behalf of the PET recipients - past, present and future - we thank you for the difference your support makes in giving them the Gift of Mobility.

Your partner in mission,

*Donald M. Muth, Jr.*

Director

\* collected at the Clinton Bike Fest in May



## RiConn team visit

We had overnight guests July 15, 16. Five college-age women were bicycling from New Haven to Stonington — one portion of their seven-week internship with *New England Climate Summer*. This is the third year for the program, but the first time to include Connecticut. Sponsored by the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, the ride began in Boston and has made educational stops to educate people to reduce our carbon footprint and greenhouse gases.

Since they were attempting to communicate with Pastor Craig, who was at Youth 2011, the Office Staff didn't hear of the trip until the day before they arrived. They got here after a forty-mile ride and lots of flat tires! We showed them where to park their bikes and gave them a tour of the church Friday afternoon and they left after breakfast Saturday. They were very impressed with the cleanliness of our church (thanks Carol and Dick) and fulfilled our only request - that they finish off the three partial cartons of ice cream in the freezer.

The women, Ellie, Julia, Tara, Louisa and Jackie, attend five separate colleges. You can follow their trip at [newenglandclimatesummer](http://newenglandclimatesummer.wordpress.com), or [climatesummer.wordpress.com](http://climatesummer.wordpress.com)



## Church family notes

Dear Ms. Bell,

My heartfelt thanks to you and the many parishioners of the United Methodist Church who donated money for the Stop and Shop gift cards. Your church is always so generous. The gift cards will be used to help so many needy families. For many years our program has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with your church community.

Thank you for your continued support of our program and families.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Murphy*

Site Manager/Nutritionist

Middlesex Hospital WIC Program

I love you, United Methodist Church. Thank you all for blessings and love and joy. I am happy to light the candles in church.

Love,

*Jess*

I am still recovering from pneumonia and a sprained neck. Thank you all for your cards and prayers.

*Jude Houpert*

July 29

To my Church Family,

Thank you for the get well card and the many messages from all of you. I enjoyed reading all of them - it was cheerful for me and I appreciate your thoughtfulness. I seem to be going from one situation to another but hope that after August things will improve so I may be able to return to church.

Thank you for caring and keeping in touch with me.

Love and prayers to all,

*Marilyn Johnson*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the scholarship toward college! I really appreciate it and it will be put toward good use.

I look forward to coming back to visit!

Sincerely,

*Rachel Benisuy*

## Trustee update

The trustee summer has been very busy either working on 18 Commerce Street or directing contractors who worked there. Some work remains in the basement and a few things inside which will be handled by Dick Bell, who is the church liaison with the Almaawis.

A booklet with history and pictures of 18 Commerce Street has been prepared and may be seen in the Church Office.

Pastor Craig has built a video closet in the hall at the top of the ramp. It is locked, but arrangements may be made with the church office if you would like to use the equipment.

The location was formerly used by groups who meet here weekly. Now their items are all stored in the hall or closet next to the office. The only items of the church to be stored there are the sewing machine and card tables.

Now trustee attention can be focused on the Parsonage chimneys, cellar, etc.

Our gratitude is due the Board. It is not easy to maintain properties with buildings dated from 1845, 1855 and 1863.

## St. Vincent de Paul, Middletown

Each autumn our Mission Committee rallies creative people, who join with other Clinton churches to make Ugly Quilts for the St. Vincent de Paul Community. Founded in 1980 as a ministry of the Diocese of Norwich by Sisters of Mercy Pat McKeon and Caroline Beaudoin, it is a place where people in need can find a meal, groceries, clothing, shelter and financial assistance.

The **Amazing Grace Food Pantry** on Stack Street distributes groceries to 800+ households each month — enough to make more than 200,000 meals a year.

**Community Assistance** serves families facing economic hardship and assists almost 400 households each year with rental assistance, security deposits, utility and fuel bills, clothing and more.

The **Soup Kitchen** located on Main Street, provides breakfast and lunch for up to 150 people

**Supportive Housing**, the fourth core ministry, manages Liberty Commons, a 40-unit apartment building next to the Soup Kitchen. It also provides subsidized apartments in the community and gives the intensive support necessary to help the homeless become successful in housing



Don and I would like to thank our church family for the many cards and warm wishes upon the birth of our daughter. Natalie Lenore Sutherland was born on June 17th and weighed 6 lbs. 4 oz. and was 19.75 inches long.

Everyone is doing well. This is a photo of her first visit on a Sunday morning. She is hoping to make another appearance soon.

Sincerely,  
*Lisa (Minick) Sutherland*

## **Come to church on Monday!**

The Mission Committee will have a workshop Monday, August 29, 2011 from 10 AM to 3 PM to make outer covers (shells) for the Ugly Quilt sleeping bags assemblage in October.

Donations of medium weight fabric are appreciated.

You are invited to join the workshop for measuring, pinning, cutting and sewing. Bring your sewing machine if you wish. Lunch will be provided.

Thank you for your continued support of the church's projects.

*Carol Martens*  
for the Committee

The United States is so large that just traveling 700 miles west brings one to a whole new lifestyle. A place where the churches are small, their parking lots full, but individual homes are suffering just as in the east with many farms abandoned and/or for sale.

*Editor's Office*

Most of the hay and clover fields have been mowed and the corn is in varying heights depending on planting time and whether it is sweet or field corn. On the way to my family's reunion we passed through both Roy's and my hometowns in Connecticut's Western Reserve on the north coast of Ohio.

Our grandson took us in his car so we could enjoy the scenery. He wanted to see the Toledo Zoo and it was the first time we had been there since 1955, when it was a stop on our brief honeymoon. That might sound like an odd destination for a honeymoon but we were about to live in Niagara Falls for four years. The Toledo Zoo is very large and we managed to cover about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of it before it was time to head to the campground in Somerset, Michigan.

It was hot so most of our time we stayed in our air conditioned lodge, playing games, working on two jigsaw puzzles and sharing our lives since last we met. One young man is a chef in Wisconsin and brought cases of regional soda; another was on a three-week break from teaching in Japan and brought raisin cookies and sweet desserts from there. A teenager brought the family logo shaped in Rice Krispies.

It was the centennial year since the first Brichford Reunion and we were each given the group photo from 1911. The youngest child in the picture was my uncle, who recently died at age 102. He was proud of being the first college graduate (OSU) in the family and now nearly everyone has been to or is currently in colleges all over the country.

Twelve states were represented but those from Alabama, North Carolina, Utah and California did not make it this year. Somehow through the years, Roy and I have come to think of Connecticut as our home and it's nice to be back where we belong.

*Sue*

The Messenger est. 1953  
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Web page [www.clintonumc.org](http://www.clintonumc.org)

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Deadline for the September Issue  
Sunday, August 28