

# The Messenger

## June 2011



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

He makes me lie down  
in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters ...

Psalm 23:2, NRSV





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## FROM THE PASTOR

Our trip to Haiti at the beginning of May was filled with mixed emotions, especially for those who had never been before. I am sure you have heard from some of our members who made the trip and we will most likely have a time when we can show some of our pictures and reflect on the experience in

more detail. I think all of us were amazed at how much remains to be done to clean up collapsed buildings and help people get out of tents into some better type of shelter.

While there is much to yet be done, I had the advantage of having been to Haiti with our first Conference team last June. I was able to see some progress, fewer tents lining the streets and less in some of the fields on our drive out to Petit Gouve. The biggest difference I saw was the church in Fond Doux. Last June we were passing five gallon buckets filled with concrete to pour the foundation. When we arrived this time, I saw an almost completed structure! The local workers were applying a final coat of concrete to the outside walls and putting in the metal work in the windows. The building was completely enclosed and they were talking about how they were going to finish the inside of the sanctuary. There was much enthusiasm by members of that community that they could anticipate the church once again being open.

Of course, we all know the church is more than a building. It is the community of the faithful gathered and involved in ministry together, sharing their discipleship with one another and the wider community. We saw glimpses of what the church meant to the people of Fond Doux and experienced what the Methodist Church in Haiti was doing.

Many of the churches run schools. There is no free public education in Haiti, so the church is a leader in educating the children. It is a difficult task, even more-so since the earthquake because many people do not have the money to send their children to school. But many sacrifice so that the children might have a better chance as they

grow older. One of the biggest problems the churches face with the schools is that with the loss of revenue, teachers have not been paid on time, or in some cases at all.

A number of the churches also have health clinics. We brought a large duffle bag of medications along with us and took them to another church and had an opportunity to visit with the nurse who staffs the clinic. Her biggest wish was that there was money enough to have a doctor visit at least one or two days a week to treat some of the more serious cases she sees. But the good news is that the church's clinic is able to help a number of people in the more rural area – a real blessing.

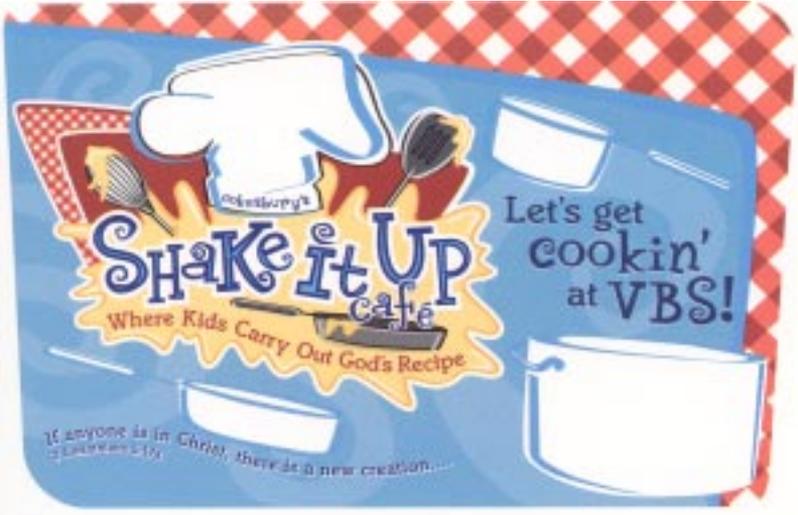
As I think about the month of June, I think about how the church at large and in particular our church in Clinton is reflecting the love of Christ in all we do, each and every day. This month we will be reminded of our connectional system as Annual Conference takes place at Hofstra University. Everyone is invited to attend on Saturday for the mission celebration which will include a recognition of those who have volunteered in Haiti. The day after is Pentecost and we will be celebrating confirmation and the reception of new members. It is a very special day as our young people confirm their baptismal vows and others make a formal commitment to be members of our church and with all others support it with their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service and their witness. This signifies the central reason for being: making disciples of Jesus Christ.

The following week we will celebrate our children and our youth as they lead us in worship and let us know some of the things they have learned in Sunday School. Later in the month they and others will be taking part in Vacation Bible School, a time of fun and learning and outreach to other children in our community.

These are just some of the ways we respond to our calling to be in ministry. As we saw in Haiti and as well as in Clinton, the church can and does make a difference in people's lives. By the grace of God we can continue to reach out and share the gospel in word and deed wherever the Spirit may lead us. Thanks be to God.

Shalom,

*Craig*



## **Come, eat at the *Shake It Up Cafe***

Vacation Bible School will be every morning from June 27 to July 1. Children from 3 to 13 will become chefs-in-training at the Shake It Up Cafe as they discover God's recipe for living.

Make art projects at Tangy & Tart Arts; sing Wok & Roll Hits. explore science activities at the Foodology Factory, exercise at Spork Sports and enjoy the snacks at the Takeout Treatory.

Register during Fellowship Time any Sunday or by calling the Church Office, 860-669-8396..



## **New members to be received June 12**

Please wear some of the celebration color of red on Pentecost Sunday when the church will receive the Confirmation Class and others into membership of this congregation.

The Day of Pentecost is the fiftieth and last day of the Easter Season, when the Church received the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2).

If you wish to become a member, please tell Pastor Craig (860-669-8452).

## Month of Sundays

### June 5

### Seventh Sunday of Easter

Greeter

Rick Clare

Ushers

Rachel Benisvy, Haley Parent,  
Jonas Thelin, Alex Attanasio,  
Megan Lohutko

Infant/toddler care

Linda Symmes

Sound coordinator

Jonas Thelin

Camera operator

Lisa Sutherland

Worship leader

Mickey Brown

Lectionary scriptures

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68;  
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

Sermon

Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons

Communion steward

Dot Sprague

Fellowship hosts

Johnna Sternberg, Sally Cotter

### June 12

### Day of Pentecost - WEAR RED Confirmation Sunday

Greeter

Ray Silvernale

Ushers

Evelyn Scaglione, Sharon Minick,  
Gay McPhee, Ellen Hoyt,  
Lynda Larson

Infant/toddler care

Linda Symmes

Sound coordinator

Tammy Drena

Camera operator

Mickey Brown

Worship leader

Lectionary scriptures

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104;  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13;  
John 7:37-39

Sermon

Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons

Reception

Carol Bell and others

**June 19****Trinity Sunday  
Children's Day & Fathers Day  
Peace with Justice Sunday\***

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Greeters              | Sunday School children  |
| Ushers                | Sally Cotter, Ginny Burr, David Moore,<br>Lyle Cubberly, Drew Dupre       |
| Infant/toddler care   | Linda Symmes  |
| Sound coordinator     | Ally Gates  |
| Camera operator       | Dan Attanasio   |
| Worship leader        | Sunday School children  |
| Lectionary scriptures | Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8;<br>2 Corinthians 13:11-13;<br>Matthew 28:16-20 |
| Sermon                | Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons  |
| Fellowship hosts      | United Methodist Youth  |

\*On June 19 an offering will be received and used to work for peace, love and compassion for God's children everywhere.

In a world where 250,000 children are forced to be fighters or sex slaves, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the largest violator of human rights. Compounding the problem is the country's wealth of copper, tungsten, tin and other minerals; children as young as eight years are forced to work in the mines.

With your offering, you support ministries in the DRC, the U.S. and worldwide to remove unjust systems and save the victimized.

**June 26****Second Sunday after Pentecost**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Greeters              |   |
| Ushers                | Dennis Scaglione, Bob McLeod,<br>John Pope, Gerald Cotter,<br>Alan Anderson |
| Infant/toddler care   | Linda Symmes  |
| Sound coordinator     | Jonas Thelin  |
| Camera operator       | Mickey Brown  |
| Worship leader        | Tammy Drena   |
| Lectionary scriptures | Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13;<br>Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42              |
| Sermon                | Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons  |
| Fellowship hosts      |   |

## Heifer, International

On May 22, the children decided how to spend the \$2,100 they have contributed through the year. This is enough money to buy:



**ENOUGH TO HELP FOURTEEN FAMILIES !**

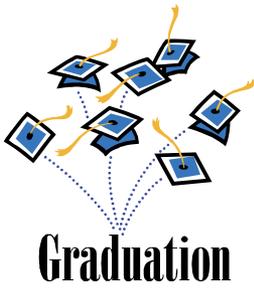
### Come to Hofstra on Saturday, June 11

Bishop Park has invited everyone to give witness that “We Are Heart-warmed United Methodists in Mission.” Please plan to arrive at the Annual Conference by 11:30 for lunch (\$5) and entertainment. A banner parade will begin at 12:30. Featured speakers will be Bishop Violet L. Fisher and Mr. Thomas Kemper, General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries. The event will end by 4:00 pm.

Churches who have paid their fair share apportionments will be recognized and the Bishop is asking for one dollar for missions for each of his push-ups - last year he did 120!

Mildred Clements recently shared a March, 1958 *Messenger* with the church office. George Hoyt was the Lay Leader then and Joe Valvano presided over the Men’s Club.

Three women served on a committee to support the West Haven Home, a predecessor of the Methodist Homes in Shelton. The manager of West Haven Home in 1958 was Elsie Stowe. At the Celebration of Mission on Saturday of the Annual Conference the Archives and History Commission will have a display about Elsie and her life in mission. Please look for it - a bit of our local history.



Congratulations to...

**Jonas Thelin**, who graduates from Daniel Hand High School in Madison on June 23. Jonas will be studying engineering at the University of Rhode Island.

**Rachel Benisvy** graduates from Westbrook High School on June 22. She will attend Appalachian State University,

Boone, North Carolina.

**Haley Parent** will be graduating from Morgan High.

**Diane Scaglione** graduated with a Masters in Business Administration with honors from Albertus Magnus College, New Haven on May 15.

### **The Church Council**

The programming council of the church met May 11. Chairperson Beverly Jones urged us to think about our roles by quoting, *“God’s plan for the church calls for each member of the Body of Christ to play a vital role. Sometimes we think that serving God is an obligation, a duty and that it isn’t meant to be enjoyable. The truth is, though, that God wants us to find joy and fulfillment when we serve. That happens when we serve in a role that matches who God created us to be.”*

The Missions Committee will be giving packets of wildflower seeds - great for roadsides if you don’t have a yard - during June. Fern Pope will be collecting items for welcoming baskets for the homeless in New Haven who are being resettled into apartments.

The trustees are very busy and our properties at 10, 12 and 18 Commerce Street, all constructed in the 19th Century, are getting better all the time.

Dennis Dollahite gave a positive report on the church finances, even though the bookkeeping didn’t yet include Easter! The only fundraising event scheduled is the Holly Fair and it is hoped that someone/s would like to chair an event during the summer or early fall. If you would like to be that someone, please contact Beverly or Dennis or the church office.

The Council decided not to meet during June or July. The August 10 meeting will be chaired by Karin Thelin and will be a fall planning meeting.

## Calling all campers and people who need a place to relax for a spell!

Have you considered a vacation at Kingswood Campsite this summer? Whether it is just for a three day weekend or for a whole week, you will find that the best kept secret of the New York Annual Conference is only about a 3½ hour drive from our church's front door. This 768 acre site located in the Catskill Mountains at Hancock, New York, is perfect for nature lovers, hikers, swimmers, canoeists, home made ice cream lovers, puzzle lovers, and just about everyone else. Kingswood has soooooo much to offer. Please check out their website at [www.kingswoodcampsite.org](http://www.kingswoodcampsite.org). Don Shogren has been involved with Kingswood since 2002 and he and his children give it two thumbs up! Way up!!



### **KINGSWOOD CAMP**

Adult Welding Camp!  
June 27 to July 1





*Beverly Jones, Ginny Burr and Skylar Riley at our booth*



*Gerald Cotter riding  
the P.E.T.*

**Clinton Bike Fest  
May 1, 2011**



*Judy LeVesque and a real pet*

## Haiti one year after the earthquake

Prior to the January 12, 2010 earthquake, the United Methodist Volunteer In Mission network was sending approximately one hundred teams per year to Haiti. The UMC members of Clinton were generous contributors to staffing a hospital in the mountains. At the time of the earthquake persons were there from New York, North Carolina, Florida, Dakotas, Detroit, Texas and New Jersey Conferences. Sam Dixon, the top executive of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Clinton Rabb, head of Mission Volunteers died when their hotel collapsed around them.

A V.I.M. team from the Greater New Jersey Conference is renovating the Methodist Children's Home orphanage and the deaconess' home next door in Port-au-Prince. Teams from the New York Conference have been rebuilding a church in Petit Goave.

UMCOR continues to ask for relief kits (bedding, birthing, cleaning, health, layette, school, and sewing) and contributions to the Haiti Emergency Advance #418325.



Sal Scurto, with shovel in hand, stands before the Petit Goave Church. The V.I.M. team also included Diane Scaglione, Pastor Craig, Bob McLeod, Paul Brown from the United Methodist Church of Clinton and Linda and Steve from other churches.

Watch for an event when they will tell of their experiences.

## June Birthdays

|                    |    |                      |    |
|--------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| John Pope          | 3  | Chase Pendleton      | 21 |
| Casey Krutz        | 6  | Christopher McKinnon | 22 |
| Cynthia Stevens    | 6  | Ellen Fairfax        | 23 |
| Thomas Symmes      | 8  | Carolyn Hale         | 24 |
| Susan Leslie       | 14 | Katie Desrosiers     | 27 |
| Kevin Benisvy      | 18 | Nan Hawes            | 27 |
| Amanda Johns-Ahern | 20 | Kevin Gilcher        | 28 |
| Winnie Milnes      | 20 | Shawn Gilcher        | 28 |
| Beverly Bowen      | 21 | Laurie Bell          | 30 |
| Duane Gates        | 21 | Bill Stuart          | 30 |

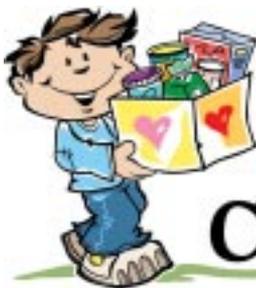


## The History of Fans

Vera Smith captured the attention of the women and girls at the May 7 Mother/Daughter Dinner sponsored by the United Methodist Women.

The United Methodist Men served a tasty pork dinner to approximately seventy persons.





# Food Collection

**Thank you** for your generosity and faithfulness in filling the food basket in Fellowship Hall - not just on holidays or during special food drives, but every week throughout the year! It is all put to good use either in our Food Closet to be used on Wednesday evenings or at the Food Distribution at Holy Advent Church or through Clinton Social Services. Sometimes food comes to us from Social Services or others in the community who have an overabundance and know the hungry are fed in our Fellowship Hall.

Our special Food Closet needs for June are any kind of canned fruit and spaghetti sauce.

*Carol Bell & Roy Alexander*

## Historic June dates

Philip Otterbein and Martin Boehm were the first bishops of the United Brethren in Christ. That's where the "United" in our church name comes from. Otterbein was born on **June 3, 1726** in Nassau, Germany.

On **June 7, 1844**, the General Conference meeting in New York, adopted a plan of separation for the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, was born in an Anglican Rectory in Epworth, England on **June 17, 1703**.

Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States on **June 19, 1865**. Although Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, it wasn't until Union General Gordon Granger and some 2,000 troops reached Galveston, Texas that all slaves were liberated. What began as a celebration of the event in Texas in 1866 has now spread throughout the United States.

## CROP Walk 2011



We collected an awesome \$670 this year and the walkers had a great time. Our thanks to Jill Hale, Carolyn Hale and her puppy Maggie, Jonas Thelin, Allison Gates, Jessica Ryan, Raegen Riley, Skylar Riley, Christian Silvernale, Ginny Burr and Beverly Jones for this mission to help feed the hungry. They joined the 240 walkers in the event which collected a grand total of \$7,916.20.



Our CROP walkers leaving the Congregational Church in Old Saybrook for their 2 ½ mile trek.

## MBR, BYOB

All Methodist Book Readers are invited to join this group, which reads a book each month; then talks about it and its author while enjoying refreshments. Please join us on Monday, June 27 at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. This will be an excellent time to join the group as June is BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) evening when we come with book or books that we are currently reading or those we intend to read as soon as we have time!



### The Cat's Meow villages

I don't know if any other buildings in town have been made by the Cat's Meow company, but we still have some miniatures of our church that you may purchase for \$10 each.

Please see the church office if you would like some. Hopefully our next miniature can be of the bell gazebo!

### Get married on a Sunday

Larry and Connie were the surprised ones at their wedding in March at Meadows Chapel United Methodist Church in Prairieville, Louisiana. Wanting a United Methodist church for their wedding, they picked the first one in the phone book. When the pastor suggested the wedding be included as part of the worship service, they agreed although they knew no one in the church.

Knowing the couple couldn't afford an elaborate wedding, the congregation of less than forty members went into Matthew 25 mode and made the two strangers a wedding to remember. They organized a reception and used decorations from a previous wedding. One woman made a wedding cake.

"The people at the church were so great," Connie said, "I didn't know any of them, but I never, never in my life felt so much love in one room, not even in my own family. They were so kind and generous. I told Larry that the bonus is that we found us a church home."

—from the May/June Interpreter



## Are you a veteran?

We began to identify veterans of the U.S. Armed Services just before Armed Forces Day and know that there are still those of whom we are unaware or we do not know in which branch they served. Please call the office, 860-669-8396, to help us complete this list:

**Air Force:** Lyle Cubberly, Bob Hawes, David Moore

**Army:** Mickey Brown, Neal Sorensen, Jack Smith, Ray Lenda

**Coast Guard:** Jack Harding,  
Dick Bell, Dennis Dollahite

**Civil Air Patrol:** Joel Fairfax

**Marines:** Don Hauser, Bill Berlepsch, John Pope, Tom Symmes

**Navy:** Joe Valvano, Jean Leca,  
Don Shogren, Frank Milnes,  
George Hoyt

**Waves:** Priscilla Valvano



## UMCOR health kits

With the disastrous weather in the country this spring there is a need for more and more health kits -

Please bring your contributions to church by June 5 so the kits may be assembled and taken to the New York Annual Conference. A truck will be loaded there to take them to the United Methodist Committee on Relief warehouse. Lists of needed items are in Fellowship Hall by the collection box.



**Betty Hughes**, April 18, 2011

Betty and her husband, Robert, joined the church in 1967. She immediately became involved with the church school and in 1969 reported an enrollment of 155 and an average attendance on 100 each Sunday. She enlisted her parents, Helen and Jake McKinster to staff the Crib Room. Betty was a teacher in the Madison school system.

She is survived by her husband and three children - Beth, Barbara and Robert.

**George Heasman**, June 21, 2010.

George was never a member of this church, but after the death of his wife, he became a frequent donor of chancel flowers in her memory.

**Bertha Hawes**, May 11, 2011

Bertha was the mother of Sharon Minick and Gary Hawes as well as two other children, Patty Gengler of Cromwell and Danny Hawes of Wallingford. Services were held at the Covenant Church in Cromwell on May 16.

**Betty Anderson**, May 4, 2011

Betty was a long time Clinton resident and the mother of Alan, his brother and two sisters. Services were held in Clinton on May 10.

## **Soul concert on June 5**

There will be spectacular music in Andrews Memorial Town Hall, Route 1, Clinton at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, June 5. The Shoreline Soul Chorus will be performing gospel songs under the direction of Angela Clemmons, a well-known Madison choir director. Look for Karin Thelin as well. The concert is free.



### **Colette**

Arline Johnson shares this photo of Colette Stopka, daughter of the Rev. Christine Kim and Walter Stopka. They will be moving this July so that Christine can begin a new ministry at the Jesse Lee United Methodist Church in Easton, Connecticut.

### **DVDs available**

If you know of anyone who is unable to come to church and might like to worship at home with a DVD from the United Methodist Church, please contact the church office, 860-669-8396. You may obtain the DVDs after the service on Sunday or in the office during the week, Monday through Friday 9:00 to 11:45 and 12:30 to 3:00.

### **Our mission statement**

**We celebrate the presence  
of the Holy Spirit;  
being and making disciples of Christ  
by sharing God's gifts  
through word and deed.**

## Church family notes

Dear Church Family,

May, 2011

Phil and I enjoyed the get well cards sent to us with our church family picture on the front and all the good wishes. Thank you for thinking of us.

Phil has managed to have only one hospital visit this year—he has great difficulty breathing but is holding his own. I am going for another procedure this month and I pray this one works.

Our thanks, love and prayers to all!

With love,

*Phil & Marilyn Johnson*

May 9, 2011

Dear United Methodist Church of Clinton,

The Bike and Pedestrian Alliance of Clinton would like to thank you for your support of our First Annual Clinton Bike Fest, held on Sunday, May 1st. Whether you contributed a raffle item, your time and talent, storage space or needed supplies, we couldn't have carried this out without your help! We plan to make this event bigger and better next year, and we hope to see you again at the Clinton Bike Fest 2012.

Thanks so much for your generous support of our event by loaning us tables and chairs and helping with publicity, not to mention sponsoring a booth for a great cause (P.E.T.) which fits right in with our “people-powered” goal. Your support was greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

*Debbie Lundgren*

**Editor's corner** *Continued from page 23*



In the evening we were entertained by the Asbury United Methodist Church choirs from Washington, D.C.

The Brethren Conference Center includes the SERRV store and warehouse, so of course, we shopped for gifts, nuts and chocolate. All this is not far from the busy I-95 corridor and only about forty-five minutes from Baltimore, but it's very scenic and restful and worth a stop. There are other things for which we did not have time, i.e. a peace center and a nice restaurant. However the place where we had a quick lunch in New Windsor served French-fried green beans! *SAA*

Roy and I went to the Northeastern Jurisdiction Archives and History meeting in Maryland during the first week of May while Evelyn Scaglione staffed the office. We stayed at the Brethren Conference Center in New Windsor.

*Editor's Corner*

The tour this year took us to renamed McDaniel College. It had been Western Maryland, so named by the president of the railroad that runs through town. He was a generous benefactor, but since the school wasn't in western Maryland, it caused a bit of confusion. McDaniel was a long-time favorite professor there.



We visited the Strawbridge Shrine, which consists of the Strawbridge's home (above), the Evans home, moved next door and, in between, a replica of their original log meeting house. Robert Strawbridge was a very early Methodist lay preacher, who didn't agree with Bishop Francis Asbury's leadership of the church. Therefore he gets little mention in church histories - except in Maryland!

*Continued on Page 22*

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Deadline for the July Issue

Sunday, June 19