

**United
Congregational
Church**

The Commons
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Little Compton, RI 02837
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Office Hours:
Tues – Fri, 9 AM – 3 PM

**Worship Service:
Sundays at 10 AM**

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MARCH 2014

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Chiming in...

On my first day here, emptying boxes in the office, I was overjoyed to find that I would have a pristine view of the church building with its beautiful entrance and tall spire. As I sat there by the office window meditating a bit about the beginning of my ministry among you, the church bell began to ring. It was delightful to hear. I paused there for a moment and focused on the ministry here. It was a special pause in an otherwise hectic morning. Now when I hear the church bell, I pause to think about the people of this church and community. I say a short prayer of gratitude and a longer prayer for you. The bell causes me to pause.

Another Bell that has caused me to pause, has been your monthly newsletters. What tremendous ministry here! So, in order to offer better communication and perhaps to help us all to pause once in a while to think about the church, we are starting up the Church Bell (the monthly newsletter) again. It is our hope that by sharing the news and stories of ministry here, you will come to know more about what is going on at the United Congregational Church of Little Compton.

We also hope that this newsletter will bring you

information and inspiration, old history and new insights, stories and testimonies, and perhaps some laughter and even tears as we mention our celebrations and pray for our concerns. We hope it will give you pause.

So take a peek at this month's edition. It is not meant to duplicate our weekly announcements or be a list of opportunities for volunteering. Rather it is meant to be a newsletter with news of what is going on with the various committees and boards, what the children are learning, or the youth are experiencing, and will be filled with history and narrative. It is just a beginning but it will get better each month! If you have a personal quote or story to submit, please send it along. I cannot promise you we will have room for every article of faith but we will try.

We would like to move towards sending this out electronically wherever possible to save on postage and paper but will of course, send it out in the mail to any who request it. If you know of someone who would like to receive the BELL, please contact the office. If you can save us postage and paper, contact us with your email.

I am looking forward to pausing with you both in gratitude and prayer.

Rev. Sue

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY: April 13th.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m. with
distribution of palms and the
joining of new members.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE:
April 17th: We will gather in the
church sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. for
our traditional candlelight
service.

GOOD FRIDAY: April 18th

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE:
April 20th: On Easter morning
there will be a Sunrise Service
held at the Town Landing (time
to be announced). This will be an
ecumenical service with St.
Andrew's By-the-Sea. Please
dress warmly.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE:
April 20th at 10:00 a.m.: This is a
celebration of New Life.
Everyone is welcome. Childcare
will be available in the nursery
for children up to age 5. An
Easter activity packet will be
available for older children to
use during the Worship service.

COMMITTEE NEWS

*For more information on any of
the following committees, please
contact the church office at
635-8472 or email Dawn at
dawn@ucc.necoxmail.com*

Flower Committee

*Holly Billings,
Chair*



The Flower
Committee is
composed of
monthly chairs who see to it that
there are donated flowers in
church every Sunday, except for
Communion Sunday (this may
vary). Other members of the
Flower Committee work on
special things, i.e. caring for the
urns outside church, arranging
poinsettias for Christmas Eve,
etc.. The overall chair tries to
keep the monthly chairs filled,
field requests for specific dates
for flowers to be donated, refers
to monthly chairs new requests,
and reminds monthly chairs who
donated last year (in their
month).



Health & Wellness Ministry

Wendy Merriman, Chair

We formed in 2005 and are
accountable to the Board of
Deacons. We seek to become
partners with one another
engaging in a continuum of
physical, social and spiritual
wellbeing.

We began with a shawl as a
“point of connection” in reaching
out to one another. In the past,
we have had classes in
meditation, services of comfort
and healing, family systems,
clearing clutter, yoga, end of life

issues, and a class in transitions
and loss to mention a few.

We are currently continuing with
our shawl ministry, library cart,
nutrition, and acting as a support
to the congregation in health
and wellness issues.

We welcome new members
realizing that we are only as
effective as we are in
relationship with one another.
We also welcome new ideas.

We currently meet monthly
before church or at the
discretion of the ministry.

Memorial Garden

*Trina Sherer,
Anne Tillinghast,
Co-Chairs*



The Memorial Garden
Committee is a small group that
works in the garden spring
through fall. We maintain the
garden by doing periodic clean
ups, deadheading, planting,
weeding and watering the
garden throughout the growing
season. In addition, we are
responsible for the ordering of
bricks for the garden. This is
done twice during the calendar
year, once around Memorial
Day, and once around Labor Day.



Visiting Committee

*Kit Lawrence,
Chair*

The Visiting Committee
members call on church
members and friends in the
hospital, rehabilitation facilities,
or at home. We try to bring a

little cheer and to extend the caring wishes of the Minister and the congregation. We'd love to talk to you if you would be able to help us out from time to time. Contact Dawn in the church office for more info.



Sunday School

*Heather Helger,
Director of Children &
Youth*

Sunday Feb. 23rd, eight Youth Group members along with 3 chaperones participated in Common Cathedral, one of the programs organized by Ecclesia Ministries of Boston for the homeless living there. Common Cathedral is a church congregation of current and past homeless individuals. Their church service is held weekly outside by Brewer Fountain on the Boston Commons. Our group donated the supplies for and hosted coffee hour for the group prior to the worship service. We prepared approximately 150 sandwiches and also brought with us bananas and hard-boiled eggs, hot chocolate and birthday cake. They have a respectful, one per person, per time, per trip through the line policy; it was humbling to see how many times some people got back in line for seconds and thirds, etc. After the coffee hour, we had an opportunity to meet and talk with many members of the congregation before worship. It is apparent that many individuals there were struggling with addiction, mental illness and that this was a congregation of friends and that they were each other's family. Although the service is outside and therefore

very cold (and we were there on a relatively warm day), it followed the flow of any typical church worship, it is just that people flow in and out of the worship space and there is the sometimes distracting sounds of nearby cars, ice skaters and other Bostonians & city visitors. Prior to starting our experience and upon conclusion we met with Ecclesia staff to discuss expectations and our thoughts. Our youth were shy to respond afterwards, but there was much processing going on behind their eyes. The experience reinforced how blessed we are to not spend all our time just trying to survive the brutal winter, to have a bathroom to use whenever needed, a warm roof over our heads while we sleep, and full bellies. Ecclesia Ministries also sponsors a Common Art program (next time you visit Rev. Sue's office, be sure to pay special attention to the paintings on the wall next to her desk, she purchased them there), Common Cinema, and a Street Ministry. Our group also brought donations of supplies for those programs as well. This was our third time participating, and will not be our last.

IMPORTANT: Please inform the church office if you know of anyone who may be in the hospital or if any member or friend has passed away. Also, please let us know if you know of any members who are planning to relocate.



**Bells are
ringing...**

Baptism

A warm welcome from our church family to:

Calvin Daniel Medeiros, son of Daniel and Melissa Medeiros. Baptized on February 23, 2014.

Passings – Members & Friends

Our sympathies to the families of:

Jane E. Demant

January 9, 2014 (M)

Barbara Menard

January 15, 2014 (F)

Francis W. Cordeiro

January 22, 2014 (F)

Deirdre S. Marsters

January 28, 2014 (M)

Frances W. MeVay

March 1, 2014 (F)



**Did you
know?**

...that **only members** can vote on the call of the new pastor? So, if you would like to become a member of UCC, please call the church office or send an email to dawn@ucc.necoxmail.com. We will be holding a **New Member Class on Sunday, April 6th after church.**

Sunday, March 30th is Youth Sunday. This will be a family

service so there will be NO Sunday School.

The amended budget that was presented at the Annual Meeting is available in the Church Office. If you would like a copy, please contact Dawn at 635-8472. We can either email or snail mail you a copy.

If you would like an electronic copy of the 2013 Annual Report, please contact the church office at dawn@ucc.necoxmail.com.

Our deadline for the next newsletter is Tuesday, March 25th.

On Sunday, March 2, the Annual Meeting of the church was held after the Sunday service. There were over 60 members in attendance. Candles were lit in memory of those members and friends who had passed away in 2013. The Annual Report was distributed one week in advance and reviewed at the meeting. The Committee Reports were accepted as written and the Finance Committee reported year-end figures and presented the 2014 budget. The Nominating Committee presented the slate of Trustees and Deacons for the coming year, and the members voted them unanimously. Thanks were given to all who were stepping off Boards and Committees and particular recognition was given to Hiram Emery as Treasurer for ten years; Debby Ladd as Chair of the Finance Committee for ten years with a total of thirteen

years as a member; and to Marjorie Simmons, our Church Historian, who served on the Finance Committee for over fifty years as Treasurer (1962 - 1997) and as a member of the Committee through 2013. Rev. Sue gave an Interim Pastor Report on her first five months with us, her assessment of the church as she finds it, and from information she gathered from the coffees and questionnaires that she has conducted during that time.

THIS IS OUR LAST ISSUE BEING MAILED UNLESS YOU RESPOND.

If you currently receive our weekly announcements, then you are all set to receive our newsletters electronically. After this newsletter, we **WILL NOT BE MAILING** out The Church Bell unless you contact us with a request. If you are not on our weekly announcement list and you would like to receive the weekly announcements and our monthly newsletter, then please reply by returning the yellow postcard enclosed in this newsletter or call or email the church office.

A Blast From the Past!

Marjorie Simmons, Church Historian

In 1961, we had three clubs...The Look-Out Club, The Pilgrim Fellowship, and the Richard Billings Club. Can you tell us what they were about?

Coming in Our Next Issue...

- The Easter Services
- Easter Lily Order Form
- Parent's Night Out
- The Spuds Fundraiser
- Introduction of our new members
- Committee News
- Children's Page
- More Blasts from the Past
- Bulletin Bloopers





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Little Compton, RI 02837

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