

July/  
August  
2016

# The Connection

## **In the Interim:**

How many people is enough to make a church? How many is not enough, and how many is too much? And who, precisely, are you counting?

I'm not sure how much other people think about those questions, but I'm interested in them, because the answers I hear keep surprising me. Sometimes during the Interim season people will look around and start talking about how the numbers have gone down or up over the years. I've also heard stories in more than one church about long inactive members suddenly materializing for an important vote. Many years ago, I did pulpit supply for a church which had about 12 members in attendance. When I observed to the Deacon after the service that their numbers seemed low, he looked aghast and challenged my thinking. He stated that with the exception of one family who he knew were away on a trip, everyone was present and accounted for – from his perspective it had been a fine and well attended service. Oh!... my bias was exposed. That's when I recognized that one person's low number is another person's high. And I further suspect that God thinks about numbers in attendance differently than any of us.

Jesus called twelve. The four gospels refer to the same individuals by different names, and apostles mentioned in one gospel are not mentioned in another. Jesus also drew crowds, and he at times complained about them – following him around for healing or for food, not because they understood his work or what he really offered them. In Judaism you need 10 Jewish men for a “minyan” that means enough to hold a Sabbath prayer service. I learned a few years ago that the Archbishop in Hartford will likely close a Roman Catholic church if it dips below 50 families in membership. Baptist churches usually begin with far fewer people, and up until recent history they would form a “daughter church” when their numbers became large. Most Baptist Churches in Connecticut were generally begun by a handful of people who were meeting in someone's living room or parlor, and only building and calling a minister when the logistics could be worked out. The Moosup Church counts its beginning date as 1792 when 19 people organized “The Baptist Church of Plainfield;” 82 years later The Baptist Church of Danielson was organized when 23 people joined together in 1874. By 1909 they baptized their 496<sup>th</sup> member. So how many members *do* make a church? You can answer by how many it took to found it, or by how many ever took part in it.

At the churches in Connecticut that I have served, founding members were men and women together, and at a good number of churches, persons of color were included in their number even back in the 1700s. So while women and persons of color did not win the right to vote until years later, for generations they had been full voting members of their churches. These people took their voting privileges seriously -- because they would at times vote to “tax” their membership to raise funds to build a church building, or to provide money to hire a Pastor, etc. And after they took these votes, they often helped one another to raise and pay their portion.

So how many people does it take to make a church? Look around, God is answering that question all the time!

Blessings,  
Pastor Erica



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**THE  
CORNERSTONE  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**In Worship  
This Summer**

**Sunday, July 17**  
10:00 am—Worship  
Music by Dixie Devils

**Sunday, July 24**  
10:00 am—Worship  
Music by Rich Prario

**Sunday, July 31**  
**10:00 am**—Worship  
Music by Rich Prario

**Sunday, August 7**  
**10:00 am**—Worship  
Music by Cassie Guerin

**Sunday, August 14**  
**10:00 am**—Outdoor  
Worship—Grandelski's  
Music by Cassie Guerin

**Sunday, August 21**  
**10:00 am**—Worship  
Music by Rich Prario

**Sunday, August 28**  
**10:00 am**—Worship  
Guest Preacher -  
Angie Henrichon  
Music by Todd Marston

**JULY  
BIRTHDAYS**

Mary Grandelski  
Austin Gilbert  
Todd Marston  
Cole Davagian  
Judy Morse  
Kelsey Heon  
Phoebe Corey  
Missi Hilow  
Ella Bousquet  
Warren Smith



**AUGUST  
BIRTHDAYS**

Ruth Wernicki  
Michael Grandelski  
Joel Lenoir  
Will Baxter  
Mackenzie Davis  
Ruth Hochstetter  
Raymond LaRose (younger)  
David Rickey  
Jeff Taranto  
Stephen Joly  
Jennifer Dombkowski  
Diane Smith  
Fred White  
Madaline Adams  
Michael Lagerberg  
Marilee Morse

**Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic**

The date is Sunday, August 14th!



We begin our worship service at 10:00 AM,  
followed by a picnic!

All are welcome!

Look for food assignments and other information in your Sunday bulletin in the preceding weeks. Directions to the Grandelski's home may be found in the narthex. ....



Interim Pastor:  
Rev. Erica Wimber Avena

Organist/Choir Director:  
Howard W. Curry

Director of Christian Education:  
Cindy Marcheterre

Administrative Secretary:  
Kris Useted

Remember: the last person to leave the church building should be sure that all doors and windows are closed/locked. In addition, the Academy Street door into Fellowship Hall will be kept locked during the Sunday worship service. Thank you for helping us take care of our facilities.

Connections is published 11 times a year at the Cornerstone Baptist Church, and is put together by a host of valuable volunteers. Please send next month's articles and information to the office by the 15th of the month, no later than the 20th. If you no longer want to receive this newsletter via U.S. mail, please notify the church office. The newsletter is available online at [www.cbccct.us](http://www.cbccct.us)

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**SUMMERTIME MEANS BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL TIME!!!!**

Yes, that's right! It's time again for our annual **Blueberry Festival Dinner**.

This year the date has been set for **Saturday, August 6th** so mark your calendars!

In the weeks to come, look for more details in the bulletin and for sign-up sheets in the narthex with opportunities where you may help.

**Blueberry Festival**  
**Saturday, August 6th**

Supper Seatings—4:30 & 5:45 PM

Call 860-774-3907

Reservations suggested—only a limited number of tickets available at the door.

Menu: Ham, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Tossed Salad, Gelatins, Rolls, Beverages

And TONS of Blueberry Desserts!

Adults: \$12

Seniors & Take-out: \$10

Children ages 5-12: \$7.00

We are handicapped accessible and air-conditioned



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**DON'T  
MISS  
THIS!**

***Cornerstone will be selling chili at Killingly's 2nd Annual Bike Night, August 18th from 5-9 (rain date August 24th).***

***Join us for this family-friendly evening of bikes, bands, and more!***

## History Timeline

Check it out! Your Transition Team has prepared a detailed timeline of our church's history; a history which really includes two histories: that of the Moosup Baptist Church and the Baptist Church of Danielson, as well as the 11 years since the merger. It is on the right side wall inside the sanctuary. On Homecoming Sunday, September 25, we will host a breakfast that gives us an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on this timeline together.

As a preview for the Fall, think about these questions:

What brought you here? And what keeps you here?

What has this church (or these churches) been known for in the community? (What do people say about us?)

How do you describe our church to your friends outside the church?

What ministries have been robust and successful?

What have we tried and failed? And what did we learn in the process?

What was the role of the church in the social and cultural issues of its day?

What made the Pastoral leader a good fit for the church at that time?

For now, we need to give flesh to these bones. During the children's time this summer Pastor Erica will be focusing on the timeline. But she needs your help! We invite everyone to think about your important dates with this church and to add them to our history on sticky notes. Any special worship service, like when you joined, were baptized, were married, etc. are welcome. If a special service or speaker really stands out for you, we'd like to add that too. Additionally, if you have a photograph of your event that you could lend while we have the timeline up, that would help to illustrate it.

Members of the Transition Team are: Bethany Duval, Rose Bertorelli, Bob Hardy, Diane Spratley, and Pastor Erica Wimber Avena.

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### Everyone loves to get mail!

Our students continue to head off to Camp Wightman this summer.

We have included schedules so you could send a note:

Camp Wightman  
207 Coal Pit Hill Rd.  
Griswold, CT 06351



Dangerous & Daring—July 17 to July 22: Olivia Anderson, Cassidey Card, Noelle Avena

Campolodeon—July 24 to 29: Quentin Anderson, Xavier Anderson

Outrageous Tweakers- July 31 to Aug 12: Cole Davagian

LEAD (Leadership Evangelism And Discipleship)—July 31 to Aug 12: Rob Avena

Summer's Last Blast—August 14 to August 19: Scott Davagian

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 10, 2016

Minutes Approved - June 14, 2016, and edited for this newsletter

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by moderator, Jim Hilow. Pastor Erica then led us in prayer.

The devotional this month was "Love Me Tender, Jesus" sung by Diane Spratley.

What have you Heard? -----Pat reported that she had been contacted by Angie Henrichon, and she would like to guest minister for us in the summer for a class she is taking. Molly will contact her.

Cindy moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting as corrected. Mike Lehoux seconded, Passed.

The treasurers' report was reviewed by Mary Grandelski who reported that the contributions were finally up. The expenses for the Sunday school were a little high, as was the insurance for the church. Cindy let us know that she had been using up all old curriculum and this year had to order it again. Mary also reported that the money had finally been transferred to the Ghana Church successfully in the amount of \$1619.05!! The report will be put on file for the auditors.

It was then realized that we needed to choose people to audit the books for 2015. Larry Southam and Oduro Gyamfi will do it.

Investment Committee: Larry Reported that the market is up a little from last month. It was discussed that the seed grant money comes out of the Moosup part of the investments.

Upcoming DATES TO REMEMBER:

Aug 6 Blueberry Supper

Aug 14 Outdoor Worship & Picnic

At this point in the meeting we went out to the front of the church, to see the place where AJ Duval is planning on putting the bench for his Eagle Boy Scout project. It was discussed where the best place to put it would be.

PASTORS REPORT: Pastor Erica attended the ABCONN annual meeting on April 30 and chaired the Program Committee for it. Next year it will be held at Central Baptist Church in Norwich. Would like to have couple people help with a stewardship campaign in the fall. Cindy and Jim volunteered. Pat & P. Erica went through the library, sorting thru Moosup documents etc. Pat will continue working on it with Barbara Marsten. Got rid of a lot of papers not needed. Frank mentioned that there is a glass award cabinet in the barn that came from Moosup. We could bring it in and use it for historical things.

DEACONS REPORTS:

Connections- Diane has supplies refilled from Kris.

Education –The Sunday school is planning children's Sunday. Hannah St. Onge has expressed interest in working in the nursery in the summer. Cindy will look into if there is age restrictions. The Youth Group is planning on doing yard work at the church this Sunday. The Youth Group have been talking about relationships recently. Jenelle Provencher has been helping Sandra lead which allows the group to split up into male and female groups. The campership fund is short about \$1000.00 this year even with the fundraising that has been held. The youth group will sponsor one child with the monies that they raised. There are 15 or 16 going to camp this year! Cindy wanted to say Thank You to Paul Grandelski for the nice shelf he made for the DVD player in the teen classroom.

Minutes, continued from page 5

Events- Dana reported that she will be planning the blueberry festival in August.

Nominating- Debra reported that she had been able to fill most spots except for needing another deacon for worship and one for education. See Attached for List. Cindy moved to approve the slate for vote from the congregation. Seconded by Mary. Motion passed.

Mission & Outreach- Anne stated that she was thankful for people stepping up to help to help out while she was sick. There are new happenings with the international ministries. She will try to get together with Florence.

Transition Team- Still working on the church's history. Hoping to put together a time line, but a very busy time of the year. Looking for photos of past events at church.

Pastoral Relations- Mike reported that the new sign with Pastor Erica's name has been done and it ended up only costing \$55.00.

Property & Finance- Frank was questioning the investment funds- whether there were any available for capital projects such as new roof and the painting of the church building that needs to be done. Larry explained the specifics of the market accounts.

Safe Church- Nothing to report

Sexton- Nothing to report

Worship & Membership- Molly reported that next month's devotion will be given by Pat. She has talked with Kris about tightening up our membership lists. And that the deacon of worship & Membership and the clerk need to make sure the records are kept current for baptisms and new members. The summer music is all set.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Larry Southam has donated a computer for Kris to use in the office. The existing computer will be kept for Mary to still use until the new software is installed and running.

Mary's husband will look into the property lines at the town hall.

Frank Brush is working on getting fire resistant cabinets. Researching it with Kris.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was held on a new copier, it was decided it was not needed at this time.

Seed Money committee chairman, Pat, reported 3 disbursements this year: (1) The youth group with a fundraiser with \$107.52. (2) Tom Hardy (Pat's Son) had fundraiser for clubs. Received \$550.00 and (3) AJ Duval for his Eagle Scout Project \$200.00.

There is no objection to letting Naomi Weiner (Temple) borrow 40 chairs on June 19.

Deacons Fund now has Mary on it to be able to sign checks and Mike Lehoux is in the process of getting his name on also.

Mike Lehoux moved to present the By-Law changes to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting on May 15. Seconded by Pat. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Grandelski, clerk

Members Present: Debra Grandelski, Mary Grandelski, Molly Truesdale, Oduro Gyamfi, Diane Spratley, Anne Milliard, Jim Milliard, Erica Avena, Frank Brush, Pat Rocheleau, Barbara Holloway, Dana Thayer, Mike Lehoux, Sandra Rukstela, Jim Hilow, Cindy Marcheterre.



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