

# The Springboard

#### November 2016

### Overheard at Spring Glen Church

Your friends might ask what it's like at Spring Glen Church. And those of you who haven't been able to make it to church in a while may wonder what's been happening. Well, here are a few choice moments that give you a taste of what SGC is all about:

#### **SCRIPTURE** we've read:

+ For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace!

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so, some have entertained angels without knowing it.

#### **PRAYER** we've said:

+Though we may put on a face everywhere else, we come to church so that we can be our true selves in Your house, O God.

#### **CHILDREN'S TIME** we've enjoyed:

Pastor Clare: Has anyone travelled outside the US before?

Child: I have!

Pastor Clare: Where?

Child: Mexico and New Jersey.

#### SERMON QUOTES we've Amen-ed:

- +For me, **God** is the amalgamation of all of things. God is the forces of nature, the laws of physics, and the experience of love. God is everything that is was and will be. God is all of Creation and all that has yet to be Created. God is infused in every atom of this world and God transcends every level of this world.
- + When I say we are a "Church Family," it's not a family destined by DNA, but a family found in love; not a family made in birth, but a family formed through effort and time; not a family that stays static, but a family with a never-ending call for new cast members; not a family bound by geography or language or race, because our love is greater than even the oceans.
- + I find that **easy answers** to life's big questions only really work in Holiday Specials and Predatory Cults.
- + Wouldn't it be nice if angels just went around wearing **name tags**?
- + I've also seen churches that stand up for what they believe in at great consequence. Churches that don't just talk the talk, but walk the walk. Churches that use their faith to heal not to hurt. I have seen churches like Spring Glen Church, a church that feeds the hungry, welcomes the stranger, affirms the outsider, heals the leper, houses the homeless, embraces the outcast, comforts the mourning, stands on the side of the suffering day after day after day. And though I am ashamed that Christ's name has been misused to cause so much suffering throughout history, I am proud to have grown up in the United Church of Christ, proud to now be the Senior Pastor of Spring Glen Church, proud to be part of a congregation that is on the side of the persecuted whatever the cost. (cont. on pg. 2)



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#### Overheard at SGC (cont.)



- + This is God.
  Disappointing our every expectation.
  Subverting our every image.
  Offering mercy and affirmation when we want vengeance. This is God. Loving the people we cannot love.
- + As **author Anne Lammont** says, "You can safely assume that you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do."
- + For me, it's not so much the words but **the search for meaning**, not so much the answers but the exploration. God isn't in the literal word, but in the ability to connect to people across any boundary, even people who lived thousands of years ago on the other side of the planet speaking a language that no longer exists.

- + It's not the Word, it's the meaning we bring to the Word. And if we limit the meaning to a single interpretation, if we only read these stories literally, then when it says the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in bodily form *like* a dove, reading that literally does that means a dove literally slammed into Jesus's face? No. It means something happened that was so beautiful it was beyond our linguistic abilities to describe it.
- + I won't be reading the Bible literally, but I will most certainly be taking it seriously.
- + I wish Church were easier. But I also know that it's the struggle that gives it meaning. It's the struggle that proves it's important. Church shouldn't be a place of easy answers. Church should be difficult and inconvenient. Church should stretch you outside your comfort zone, make your mind race, your heart pound, make you wrestle with yourself and with your God and with your neighbor. Church should keep you up at night. Because it is in that struggle, through the frustrating search, the long journey home, the process of trial and error that we learn to differentiate between a sign from God and a mundane coincidence. And if you're going to err in your trial and error, it's usually a good idea to err on the side of angels.

#### Planning for the Women's Retreat

March 10-12, 2017 Incarnation Center, Deep River, CT

It may seem a bit early but now is a great time to begin the planning process of our Women's Retreat. Please consider joining the leadership team, so that we can again create a retreat which renews our spirits and helps us deepen our relationships with God and with each other.

Helping to plan and lead the retreat is an opportunity to offer your gifts to the larger community of women of Spring Glen Church, and a great way to get to know others.

You may be wondering what is involved and the time commitment:

We will meet later this fall to come up with an initial agenda.

Two meetings, one in January and February to work out a detailed plan.

During the retreat, help with some of the logistics

Planning and helping to lead can be an enjoyable and creative process, through the give and take of discussions, brain -storming and seeing where the Spirit leads us.

The retreat is open to all women of the church and everyone is welcome, to help plan and attend. Please let me know of your interest.

Pastor Clare clare@springglenchurch.org

#### **Thanksgiving Food Collection**

Our church's Christian Action Committee (CAC) is busy making plans to provide Thanksgiving food to our neighbors in need. Members of the church will be able to sign up to purchase nonperishable food items and gift cards and place them in a reusable bag for people in our community. Last year we were able to help over 30 families to have a Happy Thanksgiving! CAC Committee members will be at Coffee Hour on November 6th with a list of local families to help and a list of recommended

foods. We thank you for your continued support! This has been a long standing tradition of Spring Glen Church. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Lucker (203) 605-6022 (cell), or via email: slucker1@comcast.com. Food donations will be collected on Sunday, November 13th before church. (please see below for additional details)



YOUR DONATIONS
of boxed and canned
food items
will assist—
Hamden School children
and their families
by providing
FOOD

>>>>to over >>>> 30 households in the Hamden area.

## Thanksgiving Food Bag SHOPPING LIST

Canned Vegetables: corn, green beans, & peas - 2-15oz cans each Canned sweet potatoes (2 -15oz cans)

Canned cranberry sauce (2- 15oz cans)

Canned gravy (2 -15oz cans or jars)

Stuffing mix (1 box or bag)
Canned fruit or applesauce (2 cans or jars)

Cookies (1 box or bag)
Instant Mashed potatoes (1 box)
Corn relish, pickles, or olives (1 jar)

Corn bread or Sweet bread mix (pumpkin or cranberry) Evaporated milk (2 cans) Pumpkin pie filling (2- 15oz cans) Pie crust mix

#### **Thanksgiving Food Bag Instructions**

PLEASE PLACE ALL FOOD IN A NEW, CLEAN, REUSEABLE GROCERY BAG. INSTRUCTIONS: Purchase items on list. Bags need to be at church by Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. They can be dropped off during the week to the church office or on Sundays.

**THANKSGIVING FOOD BAG DONATION TAG:** Attach a tag with YOUR NAME, CHILD'S NAME, and FAMILY SIZE on it. Please indicate how many bags there are: "1 of 1", "1 of 2", or "2 of 2"

We will be personalizing bags with cards, a gift card, and message:

"Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving from the Spring Glen Church."

Families will also receive a \$25 gift card to purchase a turkey and any other food they may want.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY PERISHABLES SHUCH AS FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (EVEN POTATOES), BAKED GOODS, EGGS, MEATS, ETC.

**Questions?** Please call Scott Lucker at 203-281-1226 or slucker1@comcast.net

## "You Are Called" Stewardship 2016

By Mike Palmieri

As you know, the Stewardship Season is underway. And, as Pastor Jack noted, the theme for this year's campaign is the word "Called". I have been asked to share my story as to why I feel called to be a part of Spring Glen Church. While there are many reasons why my family and I come to Spring Glen that I could talk about, when I hear the word "Called", I think of the spiritual reasons why I am a part of this Church.

Basically, I am called to Spring Glen Church because of what "I don't know" and what "I do know". I am one who has more questions than answers when it comes to faith and I continue to struggle with a number of doubts. When Lee Anne and I first started coming to Spring Glen, all of that was fine, as I would primarily sit in the back pews and listen to and learn from Pastor Andy's sermons. But then I became more involved in the life of the Church – two years as a confirmation mentor; four years as a Deacon, where we responsible for making worship decisions; and most recently, two years on the Search Committee, where we had to make the most important worship decision of all. In each case, there were times that I said to myself, "What am I doing here? Someone with all of my faith struggles has no business being a mentor, a Deacon or having any say as to who our next Senior Pastor will be." However, in each case, I had to remind myself that, in this Church, facing these struggles is actually a positive, not a negative, thing. As Pastor Jack noted in his sermon last Sunday, Church isn't easy, nor is it supposed to be. In this Church, most of us struggle at various times as we progress at various stages on our faith journeys, and we all may end up in different places, but, here, that is something to be celebrated, not something to be overcome.

While I still have big questions about God, what I do know is that God isn't like the figure portrayed on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel – God is not a humanlike being with long flowing white hair and beard. So when the Book of Genesis says that we are created in God's image that, of course, doesn't mean that we physically look like God. To me, that means we each start out with a tiny spark of the divine within us. And I have experienced times in this Church, whether it be the Deacons coming together to lead worship on Laity Sunday, or at moments during the many hours the Search Committee sat around the table in the Fellowship Room, when I could almost feel the warmth from a number of those sparks coming together in pursuit of a greater purpose. To me, that's what it means to experience the presence of God in this special place.

So, it is for these reasons that I am called to be a part of Spring Glen Church and to continue to devote time, effort and resources to this wonderful community.

As a reminder, pledge cards for 2017 are *due November 13<sup>th</sup>*. You can bring your pledge card to worship, drop them off in the office, or e-mail Stewardship@SpringGlenChurch.org on or before November 13<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to increase pledging this year by \$12,000. So I hope you'll join me in supporting Spring Glen Church both in your pledge for 2017 and in your weekly offering now as this morning's offering will now be given and received.

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# The Sunday School Needs Your HelpPlanning Ahead

Winter trimester is
November 30- February 26.
During this slice of time, you are invited to share your faith with our children. The curriculum is teacherfriendly and Barb provides training and resources as needed. Since each class must have two adults at all times, teacher, teacher assistants and substitutes are needed.

If you can help, email Barb Frey

barb@springglenchurch.org

#### <u>Sunday School</u> <u>Marketplace</u> November 6

During fellowship time after worship, all our classes will be selling homemade food and crafts to benefit IRIS, an organization that works with refugees and is based in New Haven. The children are learning about refugees in their Bible lessons, and about refugees in today's world. The Marketplace on Nov 6 is all about missions and how we, as Christians, reach out to help others. Please come and support our children's efforts on behalf of IRIS.

#### "Bible Funshops!"

NEW to Spring Glen are Bible
Funshops. On Oct 16 and 23, a
parent (or grandparent) was
asked to come to Sunday School
with their 4th or 5th grader
after the Children's Message.
Together they had many handson experiences with activities,
games and puzzles and creating
bookmarks. The purpose of the
Bible Fun Shop is for the 4th
and 5th graders to gain more
confidence and skill in using the
Bible. At the Fun Shop the
parent is the partner for their

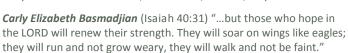
child. Our pictures reflect the fun and meaningful experience of parent and child partners.



"I am the Church, You are the Church, We are the Church, Together"

#### **Bible Recipients 2016**

Oct 23, 4th and 5th graders received a personal Bible. An honored Spring Glen tradition is that parents choose a Bible verse for their child to be included on the bookplate. A special thank you to Nick Appleby for preparing the bookplates. With the recommendation of the ministers and the Christian Education Committee, the presentation Bible is the New Revised Standard Version which is the same version as the Bibles in the pews. However, this will also be a Bible with kids in mind. They will encounter factoids, book intros, stickers, maps and more.





Paras Nikhil Dodd (Psalm 119:105) "Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."

**Evan Cooper Heath** (Romans 15:13) "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."



Jace Matthew (Isaiah 40:31) "...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Nathaniel Hayes McCleery (Mark 12:29-31) Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

*Allison Lee Palmieri* (Colossians 3:12) "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

#### **November Calendar:**

#### Tuesday, November 1

11:00am, FR Staff Meeting

7:00pm, CR House Committee

7:00pm, FR Deacon's Meeting (Split w/ Trust)

#### Wednesday, November 2

2:00pm, FR: Pastor's Bible Study

7:30pm, CR Adult Choir

#### Thursday, November 3

9:00am, FR Committee on Ministry (NH As-

soc)

#### Friday, November 4-6

5:00pm, OS Youth Gr. Retreat Silver Lake

#### Sunday, November 6

10:00am, S Worship

10:00am, S Communion

11:00am, GH School Marketplace

11:30am, BR Bell Choir Practice

1:00pm, CR Soul Singers Rehearsal

#### Monday, November 7

7:00pm, FR Deacon's Meeting

7:15pm, FR Contemplative Prayer (New Gr.)

#### **Tuesday, November 8**

11:00am, Staff Meeting

7:00pm, FR Trustee Mtg.

#### Wednesday, November 9

2:00pm, FR: Pastor's Bible Study

7:30pm, CR Adult Choir

#### Sunday, November 13

9:00am, FR Bible Study

10:00am, Pledge Sunday

10:00am, S Worship

11:30am, BR Bell Choir Practice

1:00pm, CR Soul Singers Rehearsal

4:00pm, OS - Simply Smiles Benefit Concert

5:00pm, OS Skyzone Youth Gr. Trip

#### Tuesday, November 15

#### Tuesday, November 15

11:00am, Staff Meeting

7:00pm, FR CE Meeting 7pm

7:30pm, FR CAC Meeting

#### Wednesday, November 16

2:00pm, FR: Pastor's Bible

Study

7:30pm, CR Adult Choir

#### Thursday, November 17

7:00pm, FR Council

Meeting 7pm

7:00pm, Knitting Group

#### Saturday, November 19

1:45pm, OC: Ella Scantle-

bury visit

#### Sunday, November 20

9:00am, FR Bible Study

10:00am, S Worship

11:00am, GH Bake Sale

11:30am, OS Youth Led Luncheon

11:30am, BR Bell Choir Practice

1:00pm, CR Soul Singers Rehearsal

#### Monday, November 21

7:15pm, FR Contemplative Prayer

(Continuing)

#### Tuesday, November 22

11:00am, Staff Meeting

#### Wednesday, November 23

2:00pm, FR: Pastor's Bible Study

7:30pm, CR Adult Choir

#### Sunday, November 27

9:00am, FR Bible Study

10:00am, S Worship

11:30am, BR Bell Choir Practice

1:00pm, CR Soul Singers Rehearsal

#### Monday, November 28

7:30pm, FR Benevolence 7:30pm

#### Tuesday, November 29

11:00am, Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 30

7:30pm, CR Adult Choir

Calendar is subject to change.

Please refer to the SGC website

For the most up-to-date calendar.



(photo courtesy of Kelly Backuskellyanneoriginals.com



#### Fellowship Hour Hosting Schedule

Below is the Fellowship Hour hosting schedule for November 2016. If you are not able to host on your assigned date, we ask that you try to help find a replacement, perhaps swapping with an

individual/family scheduled later in the months ahead. Please notify <u>Debby</u> <u>Jagielow</u> of any changes. She will update the master calendar and the church office. To find the phone numbers or email addresses of other members, be sure to log in as a member on this website, and then you may access a downloadable church directory from the right hand navigation menu.

<u>Date</u> 11/6/16	Host Nancy Dittes	Family 1 Debbie Carpenter	Family 2
11/13/16	Katharine Healy	Shelia Brantley & Jim Maturo	
11/20/16	Liz Wootton	Bethany & Nick Appleby	Ellen & John Schowalter
11/27/16	Stefanie Summerer	Diane & Jay Hirsch	Kathi Reid & Everado Zarate

#### **Save the Date:**

<u>PLEDGE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13</u>: Our Stewardship Campaign has kicked into gear. We hope you will use this month to ask yourself what calls you to Spring Glen Church and what kind of church is Spring Glen Church called to be? Help us answer that question by answering the call to pledge. Bring your pledge card in before or on November 13. You can also e-mail your pledge or request a pledge card through Stewardship@SpringGlenChurch.org

"NEWTOWN - What Remains After All is Lost?" Friday, November 18: the documentary film is at 7:15 p.m. at the Social Hall, Unitarian Society, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden (6:30 p.m. potluck optional). Open to the public; film length 85 minutes. "An elegant, devastating portrait of a town in mourning... Beyond the numbing statistics and the legislative stalemates and debates over Constitutional intent, this is what gun violence looks like... this is what it does." Sundance Film Festival 2016: "The film [has] brilliance and hope."

<u>HOLIDAY BAKE SALE November 20</u> to raise money for the Women's Retreat. The will be held after church in the Great Hall.

<u>ADVENT FESTIVAL December 4</u>: Create wreaths, ornaments, decorations, and enjoy a special Christmas pageant and a shared meal. "A terrific, meaningful, fun way to spiritually center yourself and remember the real meaning of Christmas!" (If you wish to be a reader or have an assigned part for the pageant, email Barb, CE director barb@springglenchurch.org)

#### **Abraham's Tent**

## January 23 through January 29, 2017

"...I was a stranger and you invited Me in"

(Matt 25: verse 35)

Abraham's Tent Overflow

Shelter

Opportunity for Service

Spring Glen Church is one of many churches throughout the New Haven area participating this winter to provide overnight shelter for 12 clients from Columbus House. Spring Glen Church has chosen the week of January 23rd, 2017, to host these men (and possibly women) in our Great Hall. Volunteers are needed for the following: to provide, serve, and share meals with guests; to share after dinner activities, i.e. games, movies, and conversation; and volunteers to stay overnight. Look for sign-up sheets later this year.

Questions:

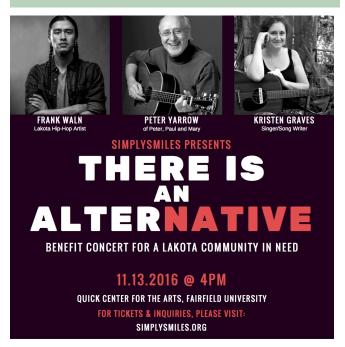
Alice White:

alicemwhite@sbcglobal.net

### BENEFIT FEATURING PETER YARROW (FROM PETER, PAUL, and MARY)

Simply Smiles, one of our partner organizations, is putting on a benefit concert November 13 at 4pm featuring Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul, and Mary), Kristen Graves (former CT State Troubadour), and Frank Waln (an artist from one of the indigenous communities where they work).

Tickets will be sold after church or can be found online at SimplySmiles.org



# Ben Ehrenreich-Book Talk Discussing his book: "The Way to the Spring"



#### **Ben Ehrenreich**

**Book Tal** 

Over the past three years, American writer Ben Ehrenreich has been traveling to and living in the West Bank, staying with Palestinian families in its largest cities and its smallest villages. Along the way he has written major stories for American outlets, including a remarkable New York Times Magazine cover story.

Friday, Nov. 11, 7:30PM First Presbyterian Church 704 Whitney Ave., New Haven

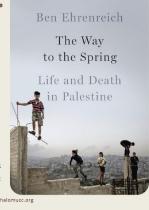
"As heart-breaking as it is, The Way to the Spring is also a strangely joyful book, because Ehrenreich graps the essence of the Palestinian struggle: not Islam, or even nationalism, but the stubborn refusal of injustice, the restless search for 'how it would feel to be free,' as Nina Simone said. The Way to the Spring is more than a work of journalism. It is a freedom song, burning with humanity."—Adam Shatz

"The Way to the Spring is a riveting and powerful work....Readers near and far who seek greater understanding of how Palestinians live — and the violence they endure — are well served by Ehrenreich's book."-Haaretz

For more info, write to <a href="mailto:newhaven@jewishvoiceforpeace.org">newhaven@jewishvoiceforpeace.org</a> Sponsors:

Jewish Voice for Peace New Haven – www.jvpnh.or
Jewish Voice
for Peace
New Haven
Shalom United Church of Christ New Haven - www.

Shalom United Church of Christ New Haven - www.shalomuc



#### Thank You, Spring Glen Church

A huge, heartfelt thanksgiving from the Nieman, Johnson, Dittes clan for the outpouring of love and support from our Spring Glen Church community which has helped sustain us during the impossible time of Sherry's illness and death. Your cards, visits, hugs and prayers and seeing so many of you at her Memorial Service, strengthened us in ways we shall never forget. We offer our deepest gratitude to all who made the Celebration of Sherry's Life possible and so powerful, including Pastor Clare Robert, and Pastor Jack Perkins Davidson, Dr. Terese Gemme, Ron Offutt and Melissa Parnoff. A very warm thank you to all who contributed to the wonderful Reception which followed, with special thanks and gratitude to Debby Jagielow for coordinating the Reception, and to the very hard-working team working with her: Mary Cameron, Stefanie Summerer, Emily, Amy and Ted Lynn, Betsy Barker, Michele and Carl Backus, Carol Shank, Susie and Doug Hawthorne, Braxton Carrigan, Arnie and Carolyn Cary, Pam Brownell, Laurel Laster, and others! Thank you all!!



On October 19 at their annual meeting, *Aging At Home* offered this certificate of thanks to Spring Glen Church in gratitude for the years of providing support through physical space and financial contributions.

**Aging At Home** is a non-profit dedicated to making sure people who want to stay in their homes as they age can have access to the resources they need to do so.

Pastor Jack accepted this honor on behalf of our congregation. "It probably seems a little odd for a new pastor to receive thanks for work that's been going on for years," Pastor Jack said in accepting the certificate, "but take it as a sign that we are not only accepting your thanks for the past, but also recommitting to continue this work going forward."

#### **New Mormon Temple in Hartford**



Eight members of the Young Adult Group, soon to be GYMM (Generation Y and Millennial Ministries), toured the Hartford Connecticut Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints Saturday, October 22nd. Once Mormon Temples are dedicated, only Mormons in good standing in the LDS are allowed to

enter. Our group was able to take advantage of the brief window of time when the LDS offers tours for the public before the new temple is dedication. Even though it was a cold and rainy day, there was a canvas backdrop of the temple that we were able to pose in front of to take a group photo. We were unable to take pictures of the inside, but all of us were awed by the craftsmanship and attention to details. The inside is complete with a number of rooms each dedicated to a sacred tradition. Most of us found the baptismal room, where Mormons can do baptisms on behalf of the deceased, as the most impressive. It contained a small pool, about the size of a hot tub, seemingly floating above a sunken floor but elevated on the backs of 12 oxen statues, which represented the 12 tribes of Israel. There is also a large room for meditation and prayer which features an impressive crystal chandelier. Our impressions were mixed but the experience certainly led to an interesting conversation on the ride home.

Submitted by Braxton Carrigan

#### **Youth Group Activities for November**

Friday, November 4- Sunday Nov. 6 Retreat to Silver Lake Sunday, November 13 5:00pm, OS Skyzone Youth Gr. Trip Sunday, November 20 11:30am, OS Youth Led

Luncheon



#### Children's Choir

## DO YOU HAVE SOUL????

The Soul Singers, the Spring Glen Church children's choir, have resumed rehearsals and we would love to have some new members! All you need is a love of music and a desire to learn and have a good time! It's a simple and fun way to be part of the music ministry of the church – and vou'll even able to wear one of the brand new children's choir robes!! We meet on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 1:45 in the Choir Room on the upper level of the walkway, and we sing in church during worship on the third Sunday of the month – and a special event this year will be a trip to Quinnipiac University on Monday, January 16, 2017 to sing the National Anthem prior to a Women's basketball game. This group is open to all school-aged children so come and bring a friend. Call or email Sue Wilber with any questions.

## Something Special Every Sunday

November 6 Communion & Sunday School Market Place!

November 13 Pledge Pay! You are Called!

November 20 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY with special musical guests!

November 27 First Sunday in Advent!

Spring Glen Church

Senior Pastor: Jack Perkins Davidson

1825 Whitney Ave.

Hamden, CT 06517

Phone: 203-288-3381

E-mail

communications@springglenchurch.org

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE