



# The Scroll



Volume 47, Issue 11 • November 2018

## OUR WORDS

A Message from Pastor Linda

AS A YOUNG PERSON,

I often blurted out comments before I had

thought them through. Words would fly out of my mouth with no warning. It made for many embarrassing moments. I have had so many occasions in which I wound up eating a lot of my words, sticking my foot in my mouth, or having to backtrack to make things right with others. Sadly, there were moments it was too late. The damage had been done, and no amount of apology or remorse was going to make it right again. My words were there to stay.

These are painful memories. I learned the hard way that words have power and most certainly consequences – for good or bad. This difficult truth compels me today, to be more mindful of my choice of words, and to be slow to speak. It is frustrating when I still find myself slipping back into the habit of speaking before thinking, or not thoughtfully weighing the measure of my words.

Words matter; they matter to God. We have only to look at the very first verses of our Bible, or the first sentence in the Gospel of John to see the gravity and potency of a spoken Word.

- God with *a word*, spoke the world into being.
- Christ, our Savior is described as *the Word*.
- Followers of Christ look for sustenance, wisdom, hope, encouragement, and promise in His *Word*.
- Jesus Himself tells us: *“It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”* (Matthew 4:4)

The power in words is unfathomable. In God’s Word. And yes, in our words.

They pack a punch.

We can fuel them with rage.

Or temper them with grace.

Words can bring healing.

They can initiate change.

They can tear down and destroy ... for good or for evil. Proverbs 12:18 wisely informs us: *“There is death and life in the power of the tongue...”*

Ask any person who has grown up in a verbally abusive home or relationship. They will tell you how terribly

corrosive words can be, how they eat away at one’s spirit. Ask any encouraging teacher or inspiring coach. They will attest, words can build up another’s confidence; they can motivate. Talk to any poet or songwriter. They will passionately confide words speak from one’s soul to another’s.

Words matter – *how* we say them and *when* we say them.

It’s why we get so frustrated when our words are taken out of context. Or aggravated when reading instructions don’t make any sense.

It’s why writers tediously labor to find just the ‘right’ word whether it is for a manual, a speech, or a novel. It’s why people wrestle for words when they compose a sympathy card, a love letter, or a eulogy for a friend.

It’s even why so many oppressive governments around the world seek to silence people’s voices - they grasp the power and strength found in words.

Jesus himself speaks to the importance of the words that come from our mouths. In fact, He goes so far as to say what comes out of our mouths lies in our hearts.

(Matthew 5:18) This is all the more reason to guard our hearts and tether our tongues.

To be sure, there is intense debate today in our current day over rhetoric, meaning, metaphors and the like. I expect it will continue to be hotly debated.

As for us - people who are of *the Word* – we are called to be mindful of God’s Word, and responsible for our own words.

What are our words conveying? Do they bring healing or harm?

Are they building bridges or shredding relationships? Are they seasoned with kindness, or fraught with anger and frustration? Do they convey the love and grace of Christ and hope we have in Him? Or do they seek to have their own way?

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to Thee, O LORD.

*“There is death and life in the power of the tongue...”*

Proverbs 12:18



## OPEN HOUSE AT ORIGINAL CHURCH BUILDING

On a bright fall day, (October 7) Gaylinn Fast invited the church and others in the community for an open house in her new home: Salem's original church building. She wore a traditional Swedish outfit and provided a lavish array of tasty hors d'oeuvres. For many, entering Gaylinn's home was a trip down memory lane. People were amazed at how the interior space has been transformed from a place of worship to a private home. Robin McHan and Gaylinn also had many photos and pieces of memorabilia from Salem's history to browse through as well. Thank you Gaylinn for your warm hospitality!



"I waited forty years to see the inside of the old church. When we moved to the Depot in 1978 I stood on the bridge every morning for the bus and wondered what it was like inside in the old days and what it looked like now that it was a house. What joy it was to finally walk through the doors as a 53 year old! Gaylinn has done such a beautiful job with her home and the visit was entirely worth the long wait. - Lisa Sundell Olsen



## ANNUAL WOMEN'S GATHERING DRAWS MANY



This year's 6<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Gathering continued to show strong attendance. On a blustery day, more than 55 women from around New England came to share in story, laughter, and breaking bread around the table of friendship. Our speakers: Eamon Anderson, Roxi Bergfalk, Sandi Lee and Marissa Rapoza spoke to what it means to be 'overflowing with hope.' Eamon began the day talking candidly and compellingly about her experience of finding hope through difficult disappointment and a period of barrenness. Marissa and Sandi also shared from personal experiences while Roxi taught more pointedly from the Word, offering ways to draw on hope or understand it more deeply in the Christian context. Dianne DeMarco led the women in singing a blend of classic hymns and contemporary songs – all centered upon the theme of hope.



Left to right: Roxi Bergfalk, Marissa Rapoza, Dianne DeMarco, Eamon Anderson and Sandi Lee.

Robin McHan and Julie Fredlund, with the assistance of Patti Anderson and Cathy Greiner provided a delicious lunch and several snack breaks. Because the door prizes of homemade gifts was so popular last year, it was repeated again. A dozen plus people from within Salem donated handcrafted items, home-baked goods, or small gifts to add to the festivity of the day. This special event closed with Communion, prayer, and a special offering of over \$400 was received for two agencies (AVA and Susan B Anthony Project) that help women recovering from domestic violence. Women, mark your calendars now for next year's Gathering on November 2. We have our speakers already lined up, including our own Amy Hoeniger!

**GUEST PREACHER, REV. MARLON SIMPKINS**

Once again, Salem welcomed back Rev. Marlon Simpkins and his family on October 14. Pastor Marlon serves as the full-time Chaplain at Regional Hospice in Danbury, CT and as Pastor of Congregational Care at New York Covenant Church. Regional Hospice and NYCC alike appreciate his pastoral heart and compassion. It's easy to understand why - his deep love for Jesus and his sincere heart of mercy toward others is evident in his words and actions. Pastor Marlon is becoming a beloved guest preacher at our church; he will be back this summer to preach while Pastor Linda is on sabbatical.



Top photo: Lillian Ames, Will and Kiersten Marich at the Red Ticket Table  
Bottom photo: People waiting for the drawing

**PENNY AUCTION**

Many may not know exactly what a Penny Auction is, but for those in this region who do, the 'word on the streets' is this is *THE BEST* Penny Auction around. One doesn't have to look hard to see why. Throughout the months leading up to this day, many people donate small, new or gently used household items and trinkets that may be 'treasure' for someone else. Then in the few weeks leading up to the day of the event, Starr Evans, (who learned the Penny Auction "business" from Dolly Whitney), shifts her organizational skills into overdrive. Many visits are made by Helga Hershey and Starr to area businesses asking if they would be willing to donate something toward the Red Ticket Raffle. We are grateful for the generosity of our local merchants.

The final week before the Auction, Starr, along with Diane Locke, Iona Douskey, and Lillian Ames, group the assortment of items into separate packages to put a ticket (or two, three or more!) in to win. The fellowship room is adorned with signs reminding our guests of the raffles available and that 10 % of our proceeds go to the Susan B. Anthony Project. Salem's congregants volunteer food items/goods for the luncheon to make healthy lunches and snacks available for the hungry participants.

*This year, on the day of the event,* our guests were welcomed by Dolly Whitney and Ann Dahl who happily sold them the Penny Envelopes and the 50/50 Raffle tickets. Holly Camp led the Kitchen Crew (Robin McHan, Iona Douskey, and Caroline and Will Marich), making sure everyone was served their lunch with a smile. Lillian Ames and Kiersten Marich sold the Red Tickets, and were busy from 11:30 to 1, when the drawing began.

This year, despite the nor'easter weather, many still came. At the end of the day, \$1311.55 was raised, with 10% being donated to the Susan B Anthony Project. All this with the combined efforts of our volunteers made for a great day!

Our additional thanks go to:

- Starr Evans for her many hours spearheading the event

- Jane and Owen Light, Caroline Marich and Jean Monteleone for being the “runners” delivering the items to the winners
- John and Pam Quist and Taylor Cannavaro for clearing the fellowship hall in preparation of the event.
- Noel Evans and Ron Smith for taking down the tables and vacuuming after the event.



A good day for all! Not pictured: Kiersten Marich

### GOOD TIMES AT BOUNCE!

Salem has a renewed commitment to serve our youth and provide them activities and learning opportunities for growing in their faith and supportive community. In addition to Confirmation and our Break-Out sessions (a discussion time tailored for this age group during sermon), Salem is also working to host quarterly outings and fun events throughout the year.

This past Sunday, our youth and their friends gathered all its energy and expended it at Bounce! in Danbury.

The middle-schoolers spent nearly 90 minutes

bouncing on the trampolines, playing basketball, volleyball, and jumping into padded pits – talk about burning calories! By the end of the afternoon, they were sweaty, flushed, and happy – not to mention a tad tired. Thanks to Deb Andrews and Kiersten Marich for serving as drivers/chaperones. Watch for our next outing for the Youth!



Left: Caroline, Mikey, and Haleigh perched on top of one of the trampolines.  
Right: Penny and Deb Becker pausing for a photo op.

### CHURCH PROPERTY

After completing several major projects (re-paving the parking lot and renovating the Lydia room), October was quite calm as church maintenance and repairs go. The Narthex heater was repaired and should make for a much warmer greeting area this winter! Our Trustee, Mark Showalter, has several other projects in progress – one of the more notable ones is re-imagining our Worship space in the Sanctuary to accommodate a wheelchair or two. It involves modifying one of our pew benches to make space available.



Grubby Sunday has been scheduled for November 18 before worship. There’s plenty to be done to get prepared for the coming winter. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

### LOVE MERCY, DO JUSTICE

*From our inception the Covenant has been concerned with helping hurting people (love mercy), and addressing the causes of that hurt (do justice). The mission of Love Mercy Do Justice (LMDJ) is to “Join God in making things right in our broken world.”*

Covenant World Relief (CWR) works through local partners around the world to reduce human suffering for the most vulnerable people and support healthy communities.

**Covenant World Relief** develops partnerships in three ways:

**We partner with God** in God’s transforming mission. We join God in loving, serving, and working together with the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized.

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We partner with local Covenant-connected organizations and churches around the world who are experts in their communities. These local partners initiate projects and run programs to transform and bring hope to their communities. CWR partners provide regular reports to CWR for evaluation about the progress of projects.

We partner with Covenant churches and individual donors who support these programs around the world. Your gifts make a difference.

For more than 60 years, CWR has been the Evangelical Covenant Church's response to human suffering and injustice in the world.

On Sunday, November 18 we will receive a Thanksgiving Offering for Covenant World Relief.

### UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS



**stewardship**  
SUNDAY, November 18

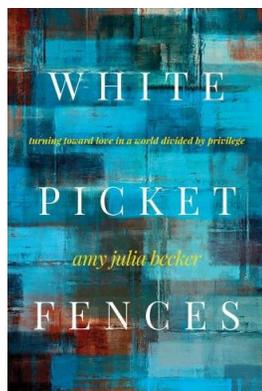
All-Church Dinner

**Let's Eat!** 

Sunday, November 18 5:30 pm

Join your church family, giving thanks to God for all our blessings this past year over a home-cooked meal (prepared by our in-house chef, Taylor Cannavaro!). Come with an appetizer or a pie to share, and we'll provide the rest!

RSVP the church office, no later than November 15.



### WHITE PICKET FENCES BOOK DISCUSSION

With author, Amy Julia Becker  
December 3, 7:30 PM

For those who have the opportunity to read *White Picket Fences*, you are invited to come meet, and engage in conversation with the author, Amy Julia Becker, about her book on December 3, 7:30 pm at Salem. (The book is available for sale at the History Stick Book Store or on-line at Barnes & Noble, Amazon and other vendors.)

## Thank you!

Dear Salem Church family and friends,  
I want to thank you all for the Reiger begonias, the color was pink. Very pretty.  
I appreciate all the cards and prayers everyone sent to me. As you know, I'm getting better.  
Hope to see you all soon,  
Mary Ann Lundberg

Dear All,  
First, I am so sorry for confusing the date of the baby shower.  
As always your kindness can not be outdone. The gifts were beautiful.  
Love and Prayers,  
Ellen  
Executive Director, Carolyn's Place

Dear Friends,

Your support is so important to Ädelbrook! Thank you for your recent donation of \$348.95. Small victories are celebrated daily at Ädelbrook. Through innovative methods, patience, and repetition, our youth are becoming more able and secure in their abilities. Personalization is the key to our success, approaching each youth as a unique individual with significant potential. We are blessed to have witnessed many satisfying moments when the concept finally clicks, a formally difficult task becomes rote, or a previously non-communicative youth expresses an opinion among friends. I hope in reading this you can also share in our collective joy, because without your support, their personal victories would likely remain struggles....On behalf of our staff, our youth and their families I'd like to thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and supporting our programs.

With gratitude,  
Garrell S. Mullaney  
President and CEO, Ädelbrook

(edited for length)

## November Birthdays

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Gustavo Griesbach  | 2  |
| Cheryl Rutz        | 5  |
| Lilly Hoeniger     | 7  |
| Lindsay Guptill    | 10 |
| Sebastian Taylor   | 11 |
| Ken Williamson     | 14 |
| Eric Quist         | 22 |
| Mark Showalter     | 26 |
| Kristin Zabroski   | 27 |
| Charlotte Johnson  | 28 |
| Sue Rowe           | 28 |
| Dolly Varley       | 29 |
| Russell Williamson | 30 |

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR

November 2 – Loaves & Fishes, 3:30 pm  
November 4 – All Saints Sunday &  
Communion Sunday,  
- Family & Fellowship  
November 7 – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm  
November 11-14 – Pastors' Retreat at Pilgrim  
Pines  
November 18 – Grubby Sunday  
- Covenant World Relief  
- Stewardship Sunday  
- Rev. Barbara Ettinger, guest preaching  
November 25 – Rev. Rob Satterburg  
preaching