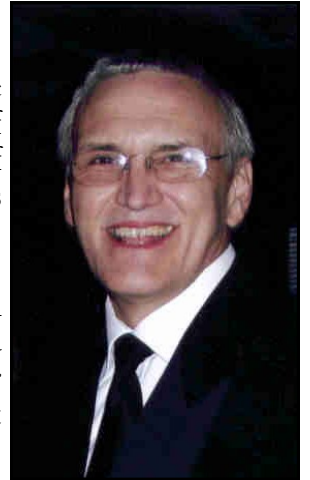




MUSINGS

The letter you received this week about our budget concerns, ultimately resulting in the decision to eliminate the position of Minister of Education and Missions at the end of the year, identifies a difficult issue to be addressed. Indeed, we value the seven years of ministry Mike Daly has had among us, and we regret that our current situation has come to this.

But contributions and pledges haven't kept up with the costs of funding this position and, after many long hours of discussing options, the Cabinet, the Finance Board, and the Pastoral and Personnel Committee, decided there was no other way to balance our budget. We have been teetering on the edge for several years, balancing the budget from money in our Reserve Accounts. But we can't continue to do that.



Funding churches, social service agencies, and other philanthropic organizations is difficult these days. And yet now, more than ever, they are needed. With the state and national governments defunding services to those most vulnerable, organizations such as local churches and agencies that provide assistance to those in the margins, is of vital importance. But these organizations must be funded by people whose financial resources are being stretched, and the high cost of medical insurance tips the scales in the wrong direction.

At New England Church, the decision will of necessity require volunteers or modestly-subsidized members who are willing and able to offer leadership to continue the high-quality programs we have enjoyed. I am working with the Pastoral and Personnel Committee to find ways and people to carry forward the education, mission, and community life ministry, the three areas for which Mike has been responsible these past years. We'll keep you posted.

We offer our thanks to Mike and Suzy for their involvement in the church, their leadership, and their generosity in giving themselves to these programs. We wish them all the best as they discern the next phase of their professional lives. Please keep them in your prayers.

And please keep the leadership of the church in your prayers as well, as they strive to carry on the programs that the members of the church have come to value and appreciate. It won't be easy, with one less full-time person, but by faith we can stay strong, welcoming, and inclusive of all who come here on their faith journey.

Gary



New England Church
FALL FESTIVAL on
September 10 from
11:00 to noon.

Lunch served in
Friendship Hall and
yard games in the
church garden area.

Looking Ahead
Keep Saturday,
November 4 open on
your calendar for a
fun evening eating
homemade pies, table
games, and live music.
More details later.



Patty Garrity
250 Lineas Ln
Geneva, IL. 60134

Jennifer Glaser
942 Garys Mill Rd
Apt 16
West Chicago, IL.
60185

Please Note:
Gary McCann's
contact phone
number is
630.643.4925.
He no longer has a
land line.

NECC'S FUNDRAISER NIGHT AT LUIGI'S FOR THE AURORA AREA INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

Bring your families and friends for a night of fun, fellowship, and raffle prizes at the Mission Board's annual Luigi's Pizza Fundraiser for the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry on Monday August 28 from 5:00-7:00pm. Tickets for the all you can eat pizza/pasta/salad buffet are \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for kids ages 2-12. They will be available to purchase in the marketplace on August 13, 20, and 27 or at the door. Please come out to help us support this important local organization!



KANE COUNTY COUGARS GAME



Baseball at the Kane County Cougars FAITH AND FAMILY Night. Monday, July 31, in Geneva on Kirk Road. Gates open at 5:30 pm, 6:30 pm start. Excellent seats together behind home plate. Tickets only \$5 and will be on sale in the church Marketplace or see Ron Vavrinek.

NECC GOLF EVENT

On Saturday, July 15 for an 18 hole scramble at Blackberry Oaks in Bristol. A "scramble" round is a really fun way to play golf because it is a group effort. Everyone tees off and then the group plays from the best fairway lie and green lie to get the lowest score. Cost is \$39, which includes a cart and range balls (\$49 with lunch). Tee times start at 1pm. Please stay for dinner after. If your spouse or partner isn't playing golf that day, have them join us after the round. Contact Jason Buckley at 0409jbuckley@gmail.com or signup in the church office. If you are unable to fill a foursome, we'll pair you up with others.



THE CHALICE AWARD



The recipients of the Chalice Award are recognized as servants of Christ and the Church, who have demonstrated exemplary leadership, extending self to others and making a significant impact on the ministry and witness of the Illinois Conference of the UCC, as an extension of God's love in Christ Jesus. Among the 2017 honorees at the Illinois conference 53rd annual celebration in June were New England Church members, Rev. Bob and Joyce Dell. Congratulations and thank you for all you do for the wider church and New England Church!

Mike Daly's Summer Sabbatical

Join us at Ballydoyle Irish Pub in downtown Aurora for conversations on the subjects you wish to discuss. Everyone buys their own food and drink.

LUNCHTIME at 11:30 am:

Monday, July 3

Tuesday, July 11

Wednesday, July 20

EVENING at 7:00 pm:

Thursday, July 13

Tuesday, August 15

Wednesday, August 23

Thursday, August 31



Mike Daly's Summer Sabbatical



This summer I will be on Sabbatical from June 19 to August 21. I am so grateful to the congregation for this opportunity of rest and renewal. I plan to use this time in several productive ways. On most Sundays, I will attend worship services of other UCC churches that are similar in size to New England Church. I want to visit active, dynamic churches to see what they are doing well. I also plan to meet with clergy and staff to ask questions and take the full tour. I especially want to pursue the question, "How is your church connecting with the 'millennial generation?'" I will also see up-close how these churches are structuring youth group programs and Confirmation classes. I have visits lined-up in places like Nebraska, Iowa, Ohio, and Connecticut. I also plan on catching up on my reading list and doing a little writing. Any improvements to my golf game will be purely coincidental. I look forward to sharing what I learn with everyone when I get back. And again, thank you very much.

Mike Daly

A CRUISE AT TULIP TIME?

If anyone is interested in a river cruise through Holland and Belgium in April 2019, during tulip blossom time, please let Gary know. If there's enough interest, we'll start planning! Windmills and tulips seem like a fun cruise.



New England On-Tap Summer Social! Join us on Saturday, July 15 at Kennedy Pointe for a fun summer social with church friends. We'll be there from 6:30-9:00 pm.

Enjoy great food and beverages along with great company!

If you are new to the church this is a great way to get to know other members.

Invite your friends!
2245 Kennedy Point Rd., Bristol.

No signup, just join us if you can anytime that evening.



July/August, 2017
Vol.7

Tiny Tidings

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

JULY 2	Independence Day	AUGUST 6	Hanukkah
JULY 9	Diwali (Hindu Festival of Lights)	AUGUST 13	Ringing the Bells
JULY 16	Kwanzaa	AUGUST 20	Chinese New Year
JULY 23	Day of the Dead	AUGUST 27	Labor Day
JULY 30	Musical Sing Along		

TIME UNDER THE TENT 2017 - HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD



The summer program has begun and the church school children have already been exposed to some fun and creative activities. Throughout the remainder of the summer, the children will be participating in a variety of crafts, games, and activities focusing on the various holidays celebrated around the world. This really is the perfect setting for all the church school children (PreK-4th Grade) to bond with each other all in one room. As a reminder, all children stay in church until "Time with Children" is completed and then they will be dismissed to the narthex where their teacher will escort them into the church school classroom.



BIG THANKS



Chris Kierstead for volunteering your amazing face painting talents with the children at the Third Annual Church School family picnic! Although the weather was a little chilly, the children still had a blast and they all looked amazing!

REGISTRATION 2017-2018

Registration Information

Our fall church school registration is right around the corner and to ensure we have every child accounted for our upcoming 2017-2018 church school program, please complete the church school registration form for your child. The forms will be in the church school hallway and can be returned directly to Audra Darche in the church school office. Please remember to register your child/children/grandchildren by Sept. 3rd, so we can have rosters and name tags ready for each child.

CHURCH SCHOOL DONATIONS

The church school needs glue-sticks for the fall. Please drop off any donations to Audra Darche in the church school hallway.

THANK YOU!



FUN AT THE 3RD ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC



YOUTH TIDINGS

JULY/AUGUST, 2017

82ND EDITION

KANE COUNTY COUGARS BASEBALL



Monday night, July 31st a 6:30 p.m. first pitch, but come early. Great seats behind home plate again this year. Fun for the whole family!



POP TOP TABS FOR RONALD McDONALD HOUSE



This year's collection is pretty large, but we can still take more. Pop top tabs can be dropped off outside the church office. We'll deliver to RMH in the fall.



Mike Daly will be on Sabbatical this summer. For pastoral assistance please contact Gary.

YOUTH HELPERS NEEDED

Youth Helpers need church school year. High school youth wishing to assist in the church school please contact Mike Daly or Audra Darche

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, and to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Mark your calendars:

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Volunteer Opportunity coming up!

Sept. 15th: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

on Exchange Ct., in Aurora.

Sign-up sheet will be in the office in late August.



SUMMER WORK TOUR REPORT

Back Bay Mission Biloxi, MS

THANK YOU to New England Church for all your support! Your generosity makes a huge difference and we really appreciate it!

THANK YOU to Annette Burkeen, Kathy Kokkinos, Jordan & Riley Anderson Bush, Nate & Zach Lundquist, Roman Medrano, Allysa Burkeen, Nick Kierstead, and Mike Daly for serving at Back Bay Mission UCC. You made us proud and we are proud of you!

ABOUT BACK BAY MISSION: Back Bay Mission has been a lasting source of hope and help for thousands of children, adults and families along the Mississippi Gulf Coast since 1922. As one of the oldest and most highly respected organizations within the United Church of Christ and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Back Bay Mission continues its journey of providing innovative solutions and compassionate responses to those suffering at the hands of social injustice and economic hardship. Thanks to bold advancements by leaders, generous nationwide support and the strength and resilience that come from weathering the storms of life, today Back Bay Mission is poised to accelerate services to those in need of homes, stability and opportunity.

A STORY FROM BBM: One of our "home restoration" job sites was at the home of "Ms. Kitty." An elderly lady with a heart of gold. In getting to know her we learned that she offered her very humble home over the years as an "unofficial" hospice to 14 different families who could not otherwise have afford such care. And, even though she only had meager means, she always put others first. For example, she needed to repair a leak in the roof of her home so she saved for that expense. But then the time came for the repair, she learned that her nephew needed a money for a medical procedure so she gave him the money and lived with the leaky roof a little longer. And was happy and thankful she could do it. **AMAZING LADY!**

PICTURES FROM THE SUMMER WORK TOUR AT BACK BAY MISSION IN BILOXI, MS



The youth worked on homes, like the one above, and prepared food for the soup kitchen, Loaves and Fishes.

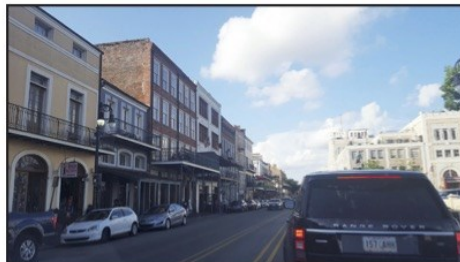
THANK YOU
Annette and Kathy
for being our
adult leaders.

They also had time to enjoy themselves.

Biloxi Lighthouse



French
Quarter
in New
Orleans



One of the adult leaders,
Annette Burkeen,
received a special
recognition
Proclamation from
the City of New Orleans

Beautiful
sunset



Swimming in the Gulf of Mexico



Joys & Concerns

Visit us on the web
at
www.newenglandchurch.org

Hospitalized:
Pat Warren, Steve Svendsen

Deaths:
We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of
Don Kelly.



OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

New England Congregational
Church-UCC
406 W. Galena Blvd. Aurora, IL. 60506
Phone: 630.897.8721
Fax: 630.897.8744
Email: office@newenglandchurch.org
A Caring Church for Thinking People

*“God
Is Still
Speaking”*



Senior Minister: Gary L. McCann
Assistant Minister: Joe Dunham
Minister of Education & Mission: Mike Daly
Office Administrator: Shelley Lund
Preschool Director: Jacquie May
Director of Children’s Ministry: Audra Darché
Chancel Choir Director: Jon Warfel
Children’s Choir Director: AnDréa James
Children’s Choir Accompanist: Beth Ann Miller
Organists/Pianists: Marilyn Parolini, Arlene Thurow
Handbell Director: Cathy Canfield-Jepson
Wedding Coordinator: Nancy Richmond
Nursery Care: Jenni Moses, Susan Kleinwachter
Custodian: John Hett
Building Maintenance: Todd Jones

Moderator: Cheryl Vonhoff
Moderator-elect: Scott Voris
Treasurer: Andy Sprau
Clerk: Judy Lopez