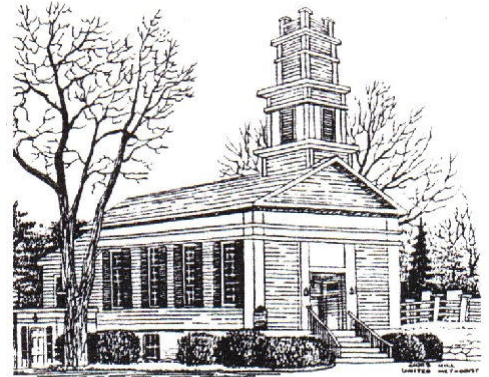


**Zion's Hill United Methodist Church**  
**470 Danbury Road \* Wilton, CT 06897**

Telephone (203) 762 -9890 \* Fax: (203) 834-8883

**The Rev. Lori Miller, Pastor**

Website: [www.zionhillmethodist.org](http://www.zionhillmethodist.org)



# THE CANON

**FEBRUARY 2009**

I just wanted to say “Thanks” for the very generous gift from the congregation that miraculously appeared beneath our Christmas tree! We trust that you each had a wonderful holiday and have started the New Year with hope and confidence born not of circumstances but of faith in our wonderful God.

I also want to say “Thanks” for your response to our Christmas offering which allowed us to pay off our smaller mission apportionments and make a sizeable contribution towards our commitment to the Khairallas (see article on page 5). And, I want to say “Thanks” for your faithful giving throughout the year which has made our ministry possible.

But most of all I want to say “Thanks” in advance for your giving this year. You’ve received the letter from the Finance Committee so you know that we have decided not to use the Johnson Fund automatically to cover the deficit. That means that each of us is going to get practice in these coming months both in greater stewardship and in greater trust of our wonderful God.

I have thought several times in the last few weeks about the story of David and Goliath. Boy, did people laugh when they saw David the young shepherd come out to fight the huge Goliath with a sling shot. “How’s he going to do it?” a lot of them must have wondered. But David was clear about how he was going to do it. He wasn’t there to prove anything or put on a show. He was there as God’s servant and God was going to help him. “This battle is the Lord’s,” David announced to the incredulous bystanders—right before he took down Goliath.

I know that it would be natural for people to look at Zion’s Hill’s financial circumstances and wonder, “How are we going to do it?” But remember whose battle this really is. We will do it by being faithful to ministry first and foremost—by committing ourselves to spiritual growth, to pray, to worship, to serve, to help, to put Christ center in our lives and our congregational life. When we do this, we are not alone, and the One who protected David, the One who has provided for us all along will not fail us now.

In the coming year, please keep your church, its leaders and its members in prayer and please commit yourself without reservation to worship and service of our wonderful God.

In Christ,  
Lori

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*The following is excerpted from a letter sent to the congregation by the Finance Committee:*

For the past several years, Zion's Hill has relied on an investment account known as the Johnson Fund to balance the budget because annual income from the congregation and building use has not matched annual expenses. Due to repeated withdrawals and the market downturn, the Johnson Fund, which at inception was worth about \$200,000 is now worth less than \$70,000. We believe it is no longer good stewardship to access these funds to balance our budget, since they represent our only cushion in case of an emergency. However, this decision leaves us with at least a \$23,000 deficit in the 2009 budget—more if pledges do not meet expectations. While we are confident that this deficit can be closed, we are concerned that if it is not, difficult decisions about reducing expenses will need to be made, negatively impacting our ministry.

Therefore we come to you who share our love for this church with three requests:

- Please pray—for God's provision, for our ability to trust that provision, for the continued strength of our ministry and for the ability to be wise stewards.
- Please assist with cash flow in January and February. Due to a large number of bills early in the year (snow plowing, insurance premiums, etc.) we need approximately \$5,000 in additional cash by the end of the month. Please consider an early payment on your 2009 pledge in January to relieve this problem.
- Please consider increasing your giving for the year. We understand that the difficult economy makes this impossible for some of you and we are in fact grateful for the response to our stewardship program this year. However, if God has blessed you materially, please increase your pledge or if you are not able to pledge, please consider a special gift to help cover the short fall. Arrangements for either can be made through Dee Dee Fleitz, Financial Secretary, at the church office.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact any member of the Finance Committee. Thank you so much!

Sharon Kittel, Chair  
George Ehinger  
Jim Lewis  
Diane Strickrodt

Peter Adams  
Dee Dee Fleitz  
Don McKinnon

David Dephtereos  
Mike Greer  
Pastor Lori Miller



## **“BOLD LEADERSHIP IN CHALLENGING TIMES”**

This is the theme of the annual training event for committee members and church officers sponsored by the New York Connecticut district.

It will be held on Sunday, February 8 from 3 to 6 PM at Jesse Lee Memorial UMC in Ridgefield. (Snow date is Sunday, February 22)

Rev. Scott Summerville, pastor of Asbury Crestwood UMC in Yonkers and trained church consultant, will lead us in a workshop on Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times.

You are invited to come and explore questions or gain new information regarding the committee you chair or serve on. This is a time to become informed and empowered!

### **Workshops:**

Trustees—led by Rev. Dave Johnson, pastor of the Pound Ridge UMC and former conference trustee.

Finance—led by Mr. Ernest Swiggett, conference treasurer.

Staff Parish Relations—led by Rev. Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii, district superintendent and Rev. Scott Summerville.

Lay Leadership—led by Mr. Henry McCarter, district lay leader and Rev. Evy McDonald, pastor of Grace UMC Newburgh.

Dinner will be served at 6 PM at no charge.

Healing Prayer will be available in the chapel throughout the afternoon for anyone who desires it.

Jesse Lee is located at 207 Main Street in Ridgefield, at the intersection of routes 35 and 102. Phone number is 203-438-8791.

**REGISTRATION** is through Chan in the district office. Please call or email before February 1 to let them know you are coming! Phone: 203-348-9181 Email: nyctnyac@aol.com Also contact Chan if you would like more information.



## **NEED FOR CLOTHES, WINTER GEAR**

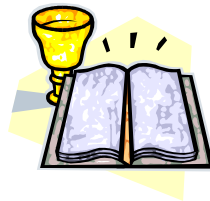
1. The New Canaan UMC is looking for men's clothing, casual, and if used in good condition, for distribution on their March Midnight Run. They need jeans, pants, sweaters, jackets and socks. If you have any, please notify Pastor Lori and then bring to the church office.
2. The High School Mission Trip is looking for mittens, gloves and hats to bring to Washington DC the week of February 16. Items should be new or if used, clean and in good condition, and can be men's, women's or children's. These items can also be dropped off at the church office from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM Tuesday to Thursday, or at the WEPCO complex, 48 New Canaan Road from 9:00 to 5:00 weekdays. These items need to be in by February 11.

Thank you!



## **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP—FEBRUARY 25**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25. That evening at 7:30 PM, there will be a service of worship in the sanctuary. It will include Scripture, prayers, music and for all who desire it the imposition of ashes.





## **UPDATE ON THE KHAIRALLA FAMILY**

The Iraqi family has now been in Wilton for three months. The apartment in Georgetown has proved to be good space for them, and Husam and Noorhan and their children continue the challenging work of making a new life for themselves in a new culture.

For Husam, the biggest priorities have been improvement of his English, passing a driving test and finding employment. He has been attending ESL lessons at the library twice a week and also having private lessons. When he passes his driving test, there is a vehicle that has been donated for their use which will make transportation much easier. (Right now, rides are provided by a cadre of volunteers from all of the sponsoring congregations.) Husam has been offered part time jobs by a few local concerns, so the current challenge is piecing them together for an employment package that provides a livable wage.

Noorhan is also taking ESL classes and will attend a Conversational English group in the library one evening a week. For both Husam and Noorhan, these English classes count towards the mandatory hours of employment/job searching/job preparation that are required for public assistance such as Husky Insurance and food stamps. Several local physicians and dentists have also been providing their services pro bono for the family, and the local Lions group offered free eye exams and glasses for the adults in the family. If you've met the children you know they are beautiful. Haneen is in kindergarten at the Miller Driscoll School and loves it. Saif, who is two and a half, is still at home busy being a toddler.

Zion's Hill involvement with the Khairallas continues. We raised over \$1,500 towards our financial commitment to the family through our Christmas offering. Recently, Dawn Malkin has taken over the scheduling task for the Resettlement Committee—no easy task given the busyness of the family's schedule some weeks! But this is invaluable to those who do transportation and need to know when they have to be someplace. Pastor Lori continues as the co-coordinator of the transportation detail. Don McKinnon has been the Tuesday ESL driver for Husam and Noorhan since the beginning and George Ehinger has also provided rides.

We much appreciate the commitment that Zion's Hill has made to this important outreach!

# **SODA CAN SUNDAY**

## **SUNDAY, March 29, 2009**



As a congregation, we are invited by the NY/CT District Mission Committee to collect refundable soda cans and bottles at our church on Sunday, March 29, 2009 to raise money for a mission opportunity of our choice!

Here's how it works:

- All of us should save our bottles and cans during the month of March and bring them to our church on Sunday, March 29th.
- We will take the bottles and cans and turn them in for cash.
- We will donate the proceeds to a mission opportunity in our community, district, or conference.
- We will report back to the NY/CT District Mission Committee by April 19th. We will tell them how much we collected and what cause it was donated to.
- The NY/CT District Mission Committee will compile the results and communicate them to us so we can see how our District did with this challenge!

Thank You!



## **YOUTH NEWS-FEBRUARY, 2009**

Sunday, February 8

*3:00pm—Mandatory DC Mission Trip Orientation Meeting*

*4:30-6:00pm-High School "Faith In Action" Group (Topic: Darfur)*

Wednesday, February 11

*6:00-7:30pm-7th & 8th Grade Youth Group (Activity: Labyrinth)*

Thursday, February 12

*5:00-6:30pm-Sixers 6th Grade Youth Group (Topic: Love!)*

Monday, February 17-Saturday, February 21

*High School Mission Trip to Washington DC*

Zion's Hill is a partner in the Joint Youth Ministries Program, a cooperative venture with Wilton Presbyterian and St. Matthew's Episcopal Churches. Unless otherwise noted, youth groups meet at the WEPCO complex, 48 New Canaan Road. Please contact Youth Minister, Jane Field, [jane@field.net](mailto:jane@field.net) or 762-5514 if you have any questions or concerns. If your family includes a 6th-12th grader and you have not been receiving our regular email reminders or "snail-mail" postcards, please let Jane know and we'll add you to the list right away!

### **HIGH SCHOOL DC MISSION TEAM IS COLLECTING MITTENS, GLOVES AND HATS**

Members of the high school youth group, along with Zion's Hill own Lori Miller, Holly Gorenbergh and Jane Field are preparing for the annual mission trip to Washington DC, where they will spend a week serving the hungry and homeless. As in years past, they are collecting new (or clean and very gently used) mittens, gloves and hats to distribute to the men, women and children living on the streets of our nation's capital. If you would like to donate, please be sure to get those items to Lori, Holly or Jane by Wednesday, February 11. There will also be a collection box at the WEPCO complex, 48 New Canaan Road, where items can be dropped off weekdays between 9am and 5pm.

### **YOUTH MINISTER TAKES ON NEW RESPONSIBILITIES**

Zion's Hill Youth Minister, Rev. Jane Field, has been working part-time as the Co-Director of the Joint Youth Ministries program (see above) for the past 5 years. Beginning on January 1, Jane will begin additional duties at one of the partner churches in that program, Wilton Presbyterian Church, as their new Director of Spiritual Formation. In addition to continuing as the co-director of the Joint Youth Ministries program, and as the youth minister for Zion's Hill, Jane will also be responsible for small group ministries at WPC, as well as providing administrative support for their newly formed children's choir (but NOT her singing voice, since she can't carry a tune in a bucket!), and providing 2 or 3 Sundays a year of pulpit supply preaching when their pastor is away. Occasionally these new duties may require

(Youth News Continued)

Jane to spend a few more Sunday morning worship hours at WPC. She and Lori are working closely to ensure that her connection to Zion's Hill remains strong, both through worshipping regularly with the congregation and through participation in other groups and activities throughout the week. This new job is a cause for joyful celebration in Jane's ministry and personal life. She seeks your prayers as she begins this new adventure, and continues to give thanks for her ongoing ministry with the youth and members of Zion's Hill.

Jane Field  
Director of Youth Ministries



## **MUSIC NOTES-FEBRUARY, 2009**

We had a busy Christmas season (as always!) of preparing music for the Christmas Eve Services. This year, not only did the adult choir sing, but our newly formed Chimers made an appearance at the 7:00 service. At the 9:00, special music was presented by Karen Prescott playing "What Child is This?" on her flute. We are so lucky to have Karen and her musical skills and enthusiasm in our congregation. In addition, many thanks to the entire Prescott family for their support and involvement in the music programs here at Zion's Hill. Jennifer and Jeffrey joined their parents at the 9:00 service to provide our choral introit.

As the calendar year closed, I'd like to thank all our choir members for their commitment and hard work. Warren, Jonathan, Bob, Jon, Caitlin, Barbara, Karen, Lynn, Diane and Holly....Many thanks!

I hope you had an opportunity to be at our January 25th service. Guest artists Adrienne Reedy and Rollo Dilworth joined us. You may remember Ms. Reedy from our Choir Fest last June, both a wonderful singer and person. Mr. Dilworth is the composer of *Shine on Me*, an anthem we sang at that fundraiser in June, and our choir sang it for him at this Sunday service. We hope you enjoyed these terrific artists.

Susan Isherwood,  
Music Director



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES-FEBRUARY, 2009**

I hope everyone is keeping warm this winter and enjoying some of the mid-winter slow down. During the month of February the Sunday School curriculum will continue to focus on the early ministry of Jesus and the New Testament. There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, February 15 and Sunday, February 22nd due to the winter school break.

Thank you.

Colleen Adams  
Sunday School Superintendent



### **ON THE HILL**

Wilton High School recently released their honor roll for the 1st quarter which included the following students from ZHUMC:

**Grade 9:** High Honors: *Paige Lyons*; Honors: *Devin Quirk*  
**Grade 10:** High Honors: *Eric Glass*; Honors: *Amy Fleitz*  
**Grade 11:** High Honors: *Sarah Quirk*; Honors: *Carl Rohde*  
**Grade 12:** High Honors: *Sarah Dephtereos*; Honors: *Mary Luse*

Congratulations to Lynn Strickrodt Who was accepted and now enrolled in the Police Academy in Orange, Connecticut.

We welcome Phil Antedomenico, Karen Tell and Gigi Maljanian as new members of Zion's Hill.

Congratulations to Priscilla Lightccap on the birth of her grandson Ian Grey Lightcap who was born on December 18th.

## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** **JANUARY, 2009**

2 Bob & Mary Smyres (A)  
4 Jennifer Thoele  
10 Sinclaire Higgins, Jim Lewis  
11 Bruce Kostic  
12 Alycia Johnston, Melissa Luse  
19 Janet Davis, Gena Greer  
20 Gregory Halbrook  
24 Nikki Saglimbene  
25 Peter Everson  
28 Peter Bickford; Howard & Barbara Martin (A)  
30 Nancy Johnson



## **FEBRUARY, 2009**

2 Lisa Quirk  
6 Logan Forsyth  
7 Jeannine Lambert  
13 Jay Lewis  
14 Dale Minske & Bruce Stevenson (A)  
15 Erin (Malkin) Theodor  
19 Mike Greer  
21 Brian Strickrodt  
24 Jan Everson  
26 George Ehinger

