



Covenant Church of Easton

# The Salt Shaker

## Saying Goodbye

The Scriptures are filled with “goodbyes” –

Jacob to his sons (**Genesis 49**);

Moses to the Hebrew nation (**Deuteronomy 1-33**);

Samson to the Philistines (**Judges 16:23-30** - this was a rather abrupt, permanent and deadly “goodbye”);

Paul to the church at Ephesus (**Acts 20:13-38**);

Paul at the close of every letter in the New Testament.

But there is no “good-bye” like that of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In His final words to His disciples He said some astounding and hopeful things:

Matthew writes . . .

<sup>18</sup> *Jesus came to the disciples and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

**Matthew 28:18-20** (TNIV)

Jesus reminds them who is in charge —

**He is!**

Jesus reveals their mission —

**Go and make fully devoted disciples!**

Jesus promises His presence —

**I’ll always be with you!**

Dr. Luke reports . . .

<sup>6</sup> *So when the disciples met together, they asked Him, “Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”*

<sup>7</sup> *He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

<sup>9</sup> *After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.*

<sup>10</sup> *They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.*

<sup>11</sup> *“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”*

**Acts 1:6-11** (TNIV)

Jesus reveals God’s timing —

**They will not be told!**

Jesus emboldens them —

**You will receive power to be My witnesses everywhere!**

Jesus promises them —

**He will come back for them!**

Jesus makes it so wonderfully clear that while we as His followers may separate from each other for a time, it is ONLY for awhile. Because of

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Meet Our Interim Pastor

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Lars Wilhelmsson has been adjunct professor at Alliance Theological Seminary in Nyack, New York since January. He moved to Danbury last year from California where he served as both interim and permanent pastor at Alliance Bible Church in Redlands. Lars was the interim pastor at Norwich Alliance Church in Norwich, Connecticut from 2004 to 2006 and before that he was pastor at Hillside Church in Armonk, New York for 16 years. Ordained by the Christian and Missionary Alliance, Lars received his BA in Philosophy at Crown College, and his Master in Divinity and Doctorate in Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Born in Edsbyn, Sweden, Lars was raised in the Covenant church. He has been on over 16 missionary trips to Peru since 1991, and has



**Interim Pastor Lars Wilhelmsson and wife Nancy**

even performed street evangelism in Cuba! Lars was a part-time Westchester County Jail Chaplain from 1999 until 2004 and was also involved in launching a Scandinavian mission agency called "MISSION SOS" and served as chairman of the board and is a founding board member of "Heaven For You", a mis-

sionary agency which focuses on reaching Muslims. He adds his gifts of Mercy and Encouragement and a passion for Evangelism to our church.

Lars has published eight books since 1981, most recently Divine Healing and Spiritual Warfare which were released in 2006. Lars has appeared on several radio and television stations in both California and New York. He maintains his own website at [www.vitalchristianity.org](http://www.vitalchristianity.org).

Lars and his wife Nancy have five children and four grandchildren.

We feel that God has called Lars to serve with us during this interim period and we hope that everyone will welcome him and his wife Nancy as he begins his ministry in Easton on July 2.

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## Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit

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The Summit is a two-day conference simulcast around the globe to 170,000 participants sponsored by the Willow Creek Association. It exists to transform Christian leaders around the world with an infection of vision, skill development and inspiration for the sake of the local church.

Speakers this next year will include such notables as John Ortberg, Craig Groeschel, Condeleeza Rice, Jim Collins, plus many more. They are leaders in the church, community, political arena and business, all speaking into the leadership of the

church. You will laugh, cry and be inspired like no other time in your life.

Locally the conference is held at Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel. This year the dates will be Thursday and Friday, August 9 & 10. The cost is approximately \$150, but the church may be in a position to subsidize some of that, if necessary.

Contact Paul Veerman or Chuck Forstrom or go to <http://www.willowcreek.com/events/leadership/> for more information.

# Treasurer's Report

The financial results of the Unified Operating Fund for five months ending May 31, 2012 were as follows:

## **INCOME**

Unified Receipts	\$222,932
Investment & Other Income	36
Total Income	\$222,968
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$215,244</b>
Excess of Income over Expenses	<u>\$7,724</u>

Unified Receipts continue to be well ahead of last year, but about \$5,500 short of the Financial Plan adopted for this year. Fortunately, expense savings have substantially exceeded the shortage in receipts with the happy result that there is a surplus for the first five months. Some of the larger cost reductions are in the

Properties and Maintenance area, largely due to the mild winter weather which allowed us to avoid snow plowing costs and produced savings in electricity. In addition, there has been some savings in insurance costs and nothing has been spent on the pastoral search so far.

There was some drop-off in receipts in May as compared to the previous four months. This tends

to be normal at this time of year, but expenses, particularly those related to staff compensation costs, continue on through the summer at the same rate as other seasons of the year. So please remember to keep up with your giving throughout the summer months. If you are going to be away for more than a week, please consider prepaying your normal contribution before going away. Another option is signing up for electronic giving through the Financial Secretary (forms are available in the Welcome Center). Both of these techniques should help you to manage your financial situation while you're away.

*Best wishes for a great summer,*  
**Bob Fiscus**, Treasurer



## **SENIOR LUNCHEONS**

Volunteers are needed to host Senior Luncheons in July and August. If you can help or would like more information, please contact Melissa Otten ([beechbums6@optonline.net](mailto:beechbums6@optonline.net)).

## **SHOWER OF CARDS for Alice Hallstrom**

Alice Hallstrom will turn the young age of \*100\* on Monday, July 23, and her family would like to honor her with a "Shower of Cards". Please mail your cards to Alice Hallstrom — 180 Missionary Road, Cromwell, CT 06417.



## **Children's Ministry WATER DAY**

### **Wednesday, August 8**

Don't miss out on the fun! Join us for our Annual Water Day from 10 AM to 12 PM. Water slide, giant slip 'n slide, water balloons, games, sprinklers, cool treats & more! Wear your suits and sunscreen! For more information, contact Roseann Slater ([roseann@coveaston.org](mailto:roseann@coveaston.org))

# CHIC 2012



Left to Right: Leanne Austin, Ginnila Perez, Luke Gibbs, Bethany Lingl, Becca Swindon, Mikayla Lingl, Kayla Brito, Gabby Swindon, Aaron Logan, Emily Monroe, Jessica Crasilli, Nate Nobile, Sammi Meyer, Emma Varco, Kaitlyn Carruthers, Cory Sharp, Kourtney Soderholm, Ashley Austin, RJ Gerte, Sam Nobile, Shawn Gerte, and Nick DelBuono.

# CHIC 2012



Pray for all of our students and leaders as they attend CHIC 2012 — for their protection, their faith to be strengthened, friendships made, and they'll be moved to serve the Lord as He directs.

Left to Right: Andrew DeCastro, Kristina Meyers, Billy Kattler, Grace Price, Jeremy Soderholm, Kristina Meyers, Peter Anderson, Thomas Meyers, John Hunter, Matt Rieger, Tim Herrmann (Leader), Mark Hatfield (Leader), Melissa Otten (Leader), Christine Austin (Leader), Dave Gibbs (Leader), Brenda Adriani (Leader), Evan Soderholm (Leader), Kyla Trinklein (Leader), and Pastor Cary Slater.

# Summer Worship Schedule

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**JULY 8 - SEPTEMBER 2**  
**WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM**

## Vacation Bible School

The theme for our Vacation Bible School this year is **NATIONAL PARKS**. We are looking for the following items to enhance the Welcome Center and stage. If you can help, please contact Diana Swanson.

Small Canoe — Park Ranger Gear: Hat, Vest, etc. — An Eagle (large stuffed animal)  
Large Bear, Fox, Raccoon — Large Artificial Trees / Plants



July 30—August 3

am—12:15 pm

Cost: \$25 (\$15 sibling, \$50 max/family)

### Closing Program

Friday, August 3 at 7 pm

Everyone is invited to come meet the community families  
and see what the kids learned at VBS!

# Summer Birthdays & Anniversaries



7/1 Trish Meyers  
 7/3 Claire Forstrom  
 7/4 Kallie Sebestyen  
 Vinnie Valente  
 Layne Hoyt  
 7/5 Ali Lindeberg  
 7/6 Jim Marbury  
 Tom Lent  
 7/7 Roger Wiemer  
 7/8 Larry Adriani  
 7/9 Leanne Erickson  
 7/10 Tim Schaper  
 Joy Mulhall  
 Lucas Brito  
 7/11 John Stetson  
 7/12 John Heitz  
 Kasia Lindeberg  
 Jeff Zager  
 7/13 Geoff Royster  
 Jeremy Soderholm  
 7/14 Jessica Zager  
 Lucille Zima  
 7/15 Amanda Goyette  
 7/16 Christine Austin  
 7/18 Alan Bjork  
 Kimberly Meachen  
 Carl Wiemer  
 7/20 Marc Goyette  
 Erin Munley  
 Alain Munley  
 Carlos Perez  
 7/21 Noah Malewicki  
 7/22 Jim Kearns  
 7/23 Alice Hallstrom  
 Ginnila Perez  
 7/24 Megan Herrmann  
 7/26 Jake Otten  
 7/28 Darian Veerman  
 7/29 Alma Kearns  
 7/29 Kara Sullivan  
 Hannah Lingl  
 7/31 Brenda Adriani  
 Jay Goyette

8/1 Scott Fiscus  
 8/3 Tom Greene  
 Laurie Joy Sharp  
 8/5 Tory Rieger  
 8/6 Dan Wolgemuth  
 Louise Linder  
 David Beardsley  
 Steve Lindeberg  
 Darryl DaCruz  
 Kathryn Blair  
 Maya Gustavson  
 8/7 Paul Veerman  
 Nancy Anderson  
 Adrienne Reedy  
 8/9 Ruth Lewis  
 8/10 Kayla Brito  
 8/12 Thomas Meyers  
 8/13 Cosette Albert  
 8/14 Terry Daniels  
 8/15 Sandi Logan  
 8/16 Jean Chapman  
 Giovanni Perez  
 8/17 Michael Valente  
 Kaitlyn Carruthers  
 Daniel Lingl  
 8/18 Dave Gibbs  
 8/20 Nancy McDonald  
 Annie Forstrom  
 8/21 Dwayne Tomasky  
 8/24 Linda Fiscus  
 Diane DelBuono  
 8/30 Ryan Sullivan  
 8/31 John Monroe

7/1 Carolyn & Leonard Nelson  
 7/9 Leanne & Todd Erickson  
 7/12 Monica & Tim Schaper  
 7/16 Sharon & Mike Testa  
 7/17 Karen & Tony Delfino  
 7/21 Tammy & Bob Spisto  
 7/23 Denise & Bob Fuller  
 7/25 Bobbie & Terry Morgan  
 Terry & Tom Greene  
 7/29 Barb & Jimi Meyer

8/8 Darian & Paul Veerman  
 8/10 Judy & Marc Goyette  
 8/12 Sandi & Chris Logan  
 8/17 Brenda & Larry Adriani  
 8/24 Gail & Tom Lent  
 Kim & Bob Rieger  
 8/27 Missy & Dan White  
 8/30 Cheryl & Doug Pittera  
 Mindy & Mark Hatfield  
 Joyce & Scott Fiscus



# Being a Christian Steward, Part 2

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I was doing some research on the topic of Stewardship for this edition of the Salt Shaker and “stumbled” into some very powerful and profound material written in 1992 by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. In last month’s Salt Shaker we printed Part 1; here is the conclusion of their summary of this material which is as relevant today as it was 20 years ago. I trust it speaks as powerfully to you as it did to me. Their words are reproduced below. May God use them to increase our faith and life in Him.

*A Culture  
of generosity*

**Dave Gibbs**, Chair Stewardship & Finance

## **To Be a Christian Steward A Summary of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, Part 2**

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."  
1 Peter 4:10*

### **Stewards of the Church**

Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others. We are also obliged to be stewards of the Church—collaborators and cooperators in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which is the Church's essential mission. This mission—proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying—is our task. It is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the Church. All members of the Church have their own roles to play in carrying out its mission:

- Parents, who nurture their children in the light of faith;
- Parishioners, who work in concrete ways to make their parishes true communities of faith and vibrant sources of service to the larger community;
- All true disciples, who give generous support—time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances—to parish programs
- and to the universal Body of Christ.

### **Obstacles to Stewardship**

People who want to live as Christian disciples and Christian stewards face serious obstacles. In the United States and other nations, a dominant secular culture often contradicts religious convictions about the meaning of life. This culture frequently encourages us to focus on ourselves and our pleasures.

At times, we can find it far too easy to ignore spiritual realities and to deny Christianity a role in shaping human and social values. As believers who have entered into the mainstream of American society and experienced its advantages, many of us also have been adversely influenced by this secular culture. We know what it is to struggle against selfishness and greed, and we realize that it is harder for many today to accept the challenge of being a Christian steward. It is essential, therefore, that we make a special effort to understand the true meaning of stewardship and live accordingly.

### **A Steward's Way**

The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards. Women and men who seek to live as stewards learn that "all things work for good for those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

We must ask ourselves: Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church? Central to our human and Christian vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine-human workshop, this world and Church of ours.

***The Holy Spirit shows us the way. Stewardship is part of that journey.***

## Catch up with the Boush's in Southeast Asia

Greetings to you from Buka Island in the Autonomous region of Bougainville (still part of PNG).

We arrived back last week after two weeks of meetings at the highlands center located at Ukarumpa. One of the highlights of our stay was to spend some quality time with our four grandchildren (McEvoy's clan). They are indeed growing up very quickly. The two oldest boys are learning to ride horses and Isaac, the oldest at 12, is mowing his parents lawn. Oh for those good old days when our son mowed the lawn (now I have to do it myself!).

We are thankful to be back involved on Bougainville and are pretty much caught up with what has happened over the past two years and are looking forward to what the Lord will do in the next two years.

We have a great bunch of people working with us, i.e. Bougainvilleans (20 are currently here in training in the last of 4 translation modules), and center staff. The Lord is doing a wonderful work in all of our lives enabling us to function as a real team and to be caring and sensitive with one another knowing what our strengths and weaknesses are.

### Thanks for praying! Here are some more items needing prayer:

1. We need more regular rain showers to keep enough water in the tanks around the center. With over 30 people on center, the water demands are high. At the moment our tanks are at one half to two thirds full.
2. There is no temporary center manager available from the end of July to the first of December (at least so far!). We do not want to assume this responsibility in addition to what we are already doing. The last time we were Center managers on top of everything else, it wore us down and nearly burnt us out. So, we are trying to come up with some creative ways of seeing this need met.

Thus far, we haven't had much success. The only other option would be to close down the



Center for these months; if we go that route, much of the training that needs to be done during that time will not happen. For example, we have scheduled a workshop in October that is geared towards the pastors of the translators' village churches; this is a workshop that teaches the pastors the significance of the church's role in world missions and has a major focus on Bible translation. Once the pastors catch the vision, they will be much more in tune with what translation is all about and be able to encourage their churches to be proactive in supporting the translators and the translation work. One of the concerns most of the translators have is that there is little or no support of any kind in their villages. We hope this course will spark an increasing interest that will result in a great support system for their home grown translators. Hence, we need wisdom to know how to keep the Center open so that this course can actually take place.

3. The McEvoy's are back in their village setting with the Migabac people. Please pray for them to have a healthy, safe and profitable time. Steve, Debbie's husband, is working on the village testing of several New Testament books.
4. **Finally, a praise point...**We received word recently that a couple has raised their support and has their visa in hand to come to PNG and ultimately become the Buka Center managers for the next two years. They actually will arrive in Papua New Guinea in August but need to attend a Pacific Orientation Course where they learn the trade language of PNG and other skills needed for living in this country. We could sure use them when they first arrive, but there is no possibility of that happening. We are indeed looking forward to their arrival here in Buka!

Thank you again for your faithful prayers, and also your financial support that enables us to remain here in PNG. We continually thank the Lord for you and your love for the Word to be in indigenous languages around the world. You have been and continue to be an encouragement to us. We give God all the praise!!

**Al and Susan Boush**



# East Coast Conference News

Each week in the conference office we receive word of request for prayer, events taking place within the conference, and news that's cause for celebration — and we want to share all of that with you! If you'd like to petition a prayer request, email Alicia Sturdy ([office@eastcoastconf.org](mailto:office@eastcoastconf.org)).



## WASS MUTE SABBATICAL

Wass Mute of the Koyuk Church in Alaska will start his sabbatical year mid June. Bob Curtis will be the interim pastor in Koyuk during Pastor Mute's sabbatical. If you'd like to send Pastor Mute a note, here is his address:

*Wass & Jean Mute  
P.O. Box 2814  
Bethel, Alaska 99559*

## PRAYER REQUEST

### Elements Church - Bronx, NY

Please pray for a member of the Elements Church, **Manny Bandello**, who has been diagnosed with a congenital heart disease.



## SAVE THE DATE!

*September 29, 2012*

*Quarry Ridge Golf Course*

*Portland, Connecticut*

<http://www.pederhedbergfoundation.org/>

The Peer Edberg Foundation Golf Tournament Four Person Scramble and Dinner. More details can be found by visiting the link above.

## A Note from Howard Burgoyne

I teach the "Christian Essentials" course here at Highrock. In it, I cover the...you guessed it... Essentials of the Christian Faith. The core of the class is a survey of redemptive history and how God has been at work to renew and reconcile the world to Himself, literally walking from Genesis 1 to Jesus. Last spring I taught it and after the class was finished, rather than getting baptized along with his classmates on Easter, Jung wanted to wait until the summertime when his non-believing, secular (both mom & dad teach at a public university in Korea), Buddhist family would be visiting. He wanted to wait so that his family could witness his baptism.

Jung also had ulterior motives, however. He also wanted them to hear the same thing I taught him those months earlier. So on Saturday, the day before Jung was about to get baptized, I shared the story of God's redemptive work with this family. When I finally hit the Gospel and the new life we have because of the Resurrection of Jesus, Jung's father literally yelled out, "Hallelujah! I want that!" And I yelled out, "You can!" And he yelled out, "I want to get baptized too!" And I yelled, "You can! Tomorrow even!" And he yelled out, "This is going to be the biggest and most important day of my life!" His mom and sister were crying for joy and his dad was laughing belly laughs of joy. It was the most amazing thing I've ever seen.

And so the next day, Sunday, I baptized the whole family. Straight out of Acts, it was. And when each of the family members came up out of the water, life filled the room as we witnessed and celebrated together the power of the new life we have in Christ. It. Was. Awesome. The Spirit is on the move here in New England. Praise the Lord.

# Saying Goodbye

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(Continued from page 1)

Jesus we not only have a mission, we not only have Jesus' presence and the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the mission, BUT we have the hope of an eternal reunion AND a life together with Him and one another for eternity.

Carolyn and I will greatly miss being with you in the years ahead — but we are overwhelmed with delight that we will be reunited forever in the “not too distant” future. Isn't God great?! Aren't we blessed?!

In the meantime we pray that God will continue to use both you and us to fulfill His mission and lean on His empowerment.

Until we meet again . . . And we will!

**Pastor Craig**

## Tying Up Loose Ends

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**Please note:** beginning on July 2<sup>nd</sup> for any church related business or questions, or for pastoral care, contact the Church Office directly by phone 203.371.8335 or by email [gail.lent@coveaston.org](mailto:gail.lent@coveaston.org).

In case of an emergency contact Interim Pastor Lars Wilhelmsson directly ([pastor.lars@coveaston.org](mailto:pastor.lars@coveaston.org)).

### **Pastor Craig's contact information**

Cell Phone: 203.676.7661  
Email: [pastorcraig46@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcraig46@gmail.com)  
Address: 483 Acorn Lane  
Milford, CT 06461

### **Carolyn's contact information**

Cell Phone: 203.676.6861  
Email: [carcar@optonline.net](mailto:carcar@optonline.net)  
Address: 483 Acorn Lane  
Milford, CT 06461



## Pilgrim Pines Retreats

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### **Fall Foliage**

October 8-11, 2012

### **Mother-Daughter Retreat**

November 16-18, 2012

More information can be found by visiting the website for Pilgrim Pines:

<http://pilgrim-pines.org/>

**Women's Ministries of the  
East Coast Conference**  
September 21-23, 2012

**Men's Retreat**  
***Building Your Core Strength***  
October 5-7, 2012

**JULY / AUGUST**



**Covenant Church of Easton**

1 Sport Hill Road  
Easton, CT 06612



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**SUMMER WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE**

**JULY 8 - SEPTEMBER 2  
WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM**

