

## In the Interim:

In Gilbert Rendle's book *Leading Change in the Congregation*, he recounts that Frederick the Great (1712 – 1786) lost the battle of Jena in 1806. How is this possible? Apparently, for twenty years after his death, his Prussian army didn't change anything. They continued as he had organized them instead of adapting to meet changes in technology and strategy. The result was that an army which had been formidable was easily defeated.

Gil Rendle is a church consultant and he asks us to think about this as a metaphor for church life. He asks what practices in your congregation that have been successful in the past are limiting your congregation's future?

We are talking about change at Cornerstone. The historical timeline in the sanctuary recounts enormous changes through the years. Between the 224 years of history of the Moosup church, and 142 years of the Danielson church, combined we've got 366 years of history behind us. A lot has changed. What changes have you seen? And what changes are coming? We want to make the best use of this transitional period to give the congregation a chance to articulate the ministry focus you want to maintain and move into without the personality of your settled Pastor as part of the mix yet. Shortly after these conversations, the Search Committee will be getting underway.

As an Intentional Interim Minister, I work with change all the time – and to be truthful, I'll admit that I don't always like it myself. If I'm unprepared for change, or if things are changing and nothing is improving, change can be discouraging and even isolating. Instead, we would like to work on important change — that our people can get behind. Elders should not underestimate how important their hard won wisdom is to the coming generations, both in your own family, as well as here at church. Young people often have their own ideas, yet need to hold them in tension with the past, so that as they move forward their choices are informed. In many ways, this church has a great history to build on and from which to draw inspiration. We are working together to make good choices, and good future ministry successful here.

The Transition Team and I are working to create a process for this church which will help us to give voice to our experience, as well as to prepare us for the ministry that God is calling us to do next.

I hope you will consider the invitation to host or join a small group. The Transition Team is still looking for people to host small groups, to facilitate the dialogue, and to write down what needs to be shared.

In Ministry with You,

The Reverend Erica Wimber Avena



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### In Worship This Month

**Sunday, October 2**  
10:30 am—Worship & Communion

**Sunday, October 9**  
10:30 am—Worship

**Sunday, October 16**  
10:30 am—Worship/  
Skype with Ghana church

**Sunday, October 23**  
10:30 am—Worship

**Sunday, October 30**  
10:30 am—Worship  
with the Rev. Dr. Ken Williams

### October BIRTHDAYS

- Al Corey
- Warren Scholl
- Caroll Marston
- Bruno Gilbert
- James Hilow
- James Lamoureux
- Amanda Mills
- Michael Marcheterre (younger)
- Cheryl DeFoer
- Rev. Norman Bardsley
- John William Richmond
- Cindy Marcheterre

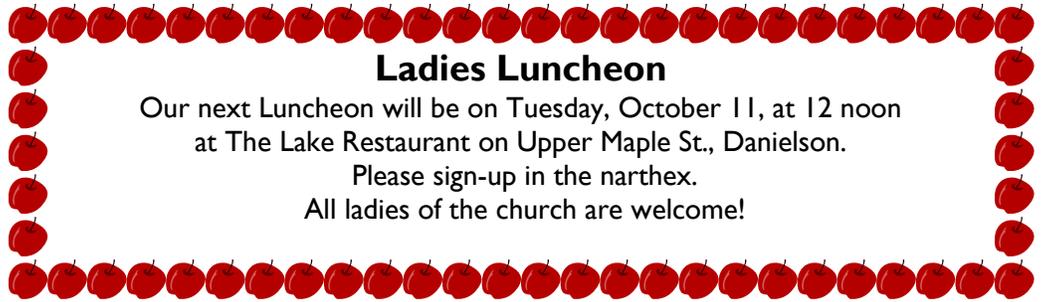


Interim Pastor:  
Rev. Erica Wimber Avena

Organist/Choir Director:  
Howard W. Curry

Director of Christian Education:  
Cindy Marcheterre

Administrative Secretary:  
Kris Useted



**Ladies Luncheon**

Our next Luncheon will be on Tuesday, October 11, at 12 noon  
at The Lake Restaurant on Upper Maple St., Danielson.  
Please sign-up in the narthex.  
All ladies of the church are welcome!



**GET ON BOARD  
THE GOOD SHIP  
STEWARD SHIP!**  
(get it?!)

Our church is supported by the generosity of our members. We encourage everyone to give, and to learn to be a giver.

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10)*

You'll be a lifesaver! 

-  Learn about CBC Missions work in our community and around the world.
-  Learn how our giving dollars are used at CBC.
-  Learn to be a good steward of your resources.



So set your compass for a Thanks Giving commitment, make a pledge this year — and get on board!

Remember: the last person to leave the church building should be sure that all doors and windows are closed/locked. The Academy Street door into Fellowship Hall is kept locked during the Sunday worship service. Thank you for helping us take care of our facilities.

Connections is published 11 times a year at the Cornerstone Baptist Church, and is put together by a host of valuable volunteers. Please send next month's articles and information to the office by the 15th of the month, no later than the 20th. If you no longer want to receive this newsletter via U.S. mail, please notify the church office. The newsletter is available online at [www.cbccct.us](http://www.cbccct.us)

## Sunday School!

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**October 2**—Volunteer Emergency Services Appreciation Breakfast—Students arrive at 7:30 am. Breakfast is from 8:00—9:00. Then we will visit the Danielson Fire Dept.

**October 16**—October Family Sunday—Please stay and earn points toward your 2017 campership

### **2016 Sunday School Mission Project—Feed the Hungry**

Our very own food bank organized and sponsored by the youth of the church. We will collect non-perishable food and keep a stocked shelving unit for Pastor Erica to offer in emergencies.



## Youth Group News

**October 16** Meet 11:30-3:30 Totally Twisted Priorities & Game time with Woodstock Youth

**November 20** Meet 11:30– 2:30 Loving the Unlovely

**December 10** Caroling & Showing off your musical talents at Pierce Baptist TBD

**December 11** Game time with Woodstock Youth

**December 23** Overnight Fundraiser Friday 6:00pm– Saturday 10:00am

***Check out this new app for the Bible we will use this year:***

[www.deepbluekids.com](http://www.deepbluekids.com)

Your child can hear a Bible lesson Sunday morning and then at home can log onto a digital virtual world where the lessons taught are reinforced and brought to life in 3D.

## Homecoming Membership Anniversaries - 2016

### **Joined in 1976—Members for 40 years**

Beverly Benoir  
Elaine Harrigan  
Carolyn Picciano  
Deborah Sanderson

### **Joined in 1981—Members for 35 years**

Leonard Bernier  
Rose Bertorelli  
Robert Brier  
Joyce Chandler  
Susan Cochran  
Kathy Hexter  
Michael Lagerberg  
Cindy Marcheterre  
Marilee Morse  
Pat Rocheleau

### **Joined in 1986—Members for 30 years**

Bonnie Achtermeier  
Greg Davis  
Grace Lakotta

### **Joined in 1991 - Member for 25 years**

Lynn Blanchard

### **Joined in 1996—Members for 20 years**

Bonita Byars  
Jennifer Dombkowski  
Bethany Duval  
Lisa Pagan  
Miguel Pagan

### **Joined in 2001—Members for 15 years**

Lisa Bernardino  
Bruno Gilbert  
Donna Gilbert  
Debra Grandelski  
Ella-May Lamoureux  
James Lamoureux

### **Joined in 2006—Members for 10 years**

Kay Blain  
Cassie Guerin  
Gina Mills  
Scott Mills  
Erin Noren  
David Rickey  
Kathy Rickey

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## **CAMP WIGHTMAN**

Celebrating 60 years of life-changing ministry

Let us welcome you home!

### **60th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration**

**October 8-9, 2016**

Family Day at Camp includes campivities for all ages:

Hiking, boating, crafts, outdoor cooking, campfire, dance, and more!

Help build a CW Timeline, attend a Rededication Service and take part in a CW Scavenger Hunt!

Weekend lodging/meal packages available.

860.376.2179 register online at [www.CampWightman.org](http://www.CampWightman.org)

The Outdoor Ministry of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut

## Homecoming Conversations

We had an enjoyable breakfast together on Homecoming Sunday. Small group conversations were around the tables. Here are the results from our conversations that were shared in the large group:

### What brought you to Cornerstone Church?

Family members  
That it is a Baptist Church  
A healthy and vibrant church  
Full time Pastor  
Open and inviting  
The Pastor at the time  
Vibrant Sunday School  
Music and the choir ministry here

### What keeps you at Cornerstone Church?

Sunday School  
Fellowship and compassion for one another  
The people here  
We are involved  
Family history is here  
The faith of the church  
The preaching  
The unbreakable family (of God)  
Welcoming, Love, warmth  
Youth group  
Food!  
Commitment of the people here  
This church involves people and meets their needs  
Air-conditioning and heating; A good environment

### How do you describe CBC to your friends and family?

Warm and inviting  
Friendly  
Community outreach programs  
The worship service is accessible  
Theologically it is progressive/liberal  
A teaching church that focuses on God  
Supports people in need  
Bible based  
Community Church (like "Cheers")  
Practice what we preach

### What has CBC been known for in this community?

Money (which allows for) a fulltime Pastor  
Generous  
Nice  
Public dinners, affordable  
We go to a church which doesn't look like a church  
kindness

### What do others say about us here at CBC?

Kindness  
They will "rook" you into every job they have available  
Acceptance  
Resources here for people in need

A big thank you to Jordan and Lea for being our scribes for the large group part of the session. Thank you also to our facilitators and scribes at the tables. Thanks to Debra and Cindy for preparing the very delicious breakfast.

### Quick Summary:

***This is a family centered church, intentionally welcoming to everyone, strong on good programs and community outreach. People join this church primarily for reasons of faith, they are motivated to be involved in mission and outreach in this community, and these connections happen in more than one way. This church has a history of strong stewardship, meaningful contributions to the larger community, and brings Christian witness to bear by putting people first.***

Our next step will be to organize small group meetings to allow for more focused conversation on our ministries and identity. If you would like to host a small group, be a facilitator for one, or to help out by being a scribe, please sign up in the narthex.

Questions? Members of the Transition Team are: Bob Hardy, Bethany Duval, Diane Spratley, Rose Bertorelli, and Erica Wimber Avena



A spiritual awakening is happening in Baptist churches in Cuba right now!

Since 1990, the number of churches in Cuba has grown by 450%. The number of baptisms has risen by over 500%. And the number of prayer groups and total church memberships have climbed in equally high numbers. After decades of harsh restrictions, “the church of God has risen from the ashes,” says a retired Cuban church leader who witnessed the remarkable change firsthand. “In God’s time, the hearts of so many people have been opened up to the goodness of the gospel.”

The World Mission Offering (WMO) supports the growth of the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention through financial and global worker support and through International Ministries (IM)-sponsored pastor conferences. Cuba’s spiritual awakening is one of many thriving ministries run by IM partners and more than 1,800 long- and short-term global workers in more than 70 countries around the world.

IM’s vision is “on earth as in heaven,” which is God’s invitation to participate in God’s work in the world.

Your gifts to the WMO help to:

- raise up, place, and send new global servants and volunteers to reach and touch lives for Jesus around the world.
- fill gaps for those workers who haven’t yet reached their support goals, enabling crucial ministries to continue.
- support IM’s more than 240 global partners who are actively sharing God’s message of hope, love and healing with a lost and hurting world.
- recruit and train new global workers,
- open up new global mission fields,
- respond to global disasters with relief and development funds through One Great Hour of Sharing and much more.

Whether God is calling you to GO as a short- or long-term global servant or to GIVE financial support, let us join together to touch as many lives as possible in more than 70 countries around the globe.

Is God is calling you to learn more about how you or your church can volunteer with Baptist partners in Cuba?

Please contact:

[mary.weaver@internationalministries.org](mailto:mary.weaver@internationalministries.org) for general information or

[angela.sudermann@internationalministries.org](mailto:angela.sudermann@internationalministries.org) for volunteer information.

**The Cornerstone Baptist Church**  
**Minutes of Advisory Council Meeting, edited for this newsletter**  
**August 9, 2016**

Meeting was called to order by moderator Jim Hilow at 6:33 p.m.

Opening prayer by Pastor Erica.

Devotional by Pat Rocheleau.

What Have You Heard? Great comments about the Blueberry Festival, but a number of guests were surprised by the date change.

Clerks Report: Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: Mary said contributions are slightly up, as are expenses. Missions giving is down, however.

VBS has a balance remaining to use for next year

Mary will do a quarterly report for September

Investment Committee: Larry gave a report.

He will be reviewing individual funds. Conversation followed regarding several matters.

Audit Report: Discussed

Pastor's Report:

Matters relating to the Deacon's fund for assistance were discussed.

Cindy announced a new mission project for Sunday School that she had talked over with Erica. It will be to supply food for families in need during school vacations. Cindy will have Sunday School kids set up a Food Shelf as their project, and they will bring in food for the Shelf. She also wants recipients to sign a simple Thank You card as feedback for the kids. Pastor Erica would like the project to be small - not like the Food Pantry.

Pastor Erica is meeting with new members.

Angie Henrichon is a member of this church and is a student in ministry in the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts' School of Ministry. She preached here on August 28, several people were chosen from the Council to provide feedback for her sermon.

Deacons' Reports:

Education and Discipleship: Cindy does not think we need to renew the copyright licenses for music in the Sunday School programs.

Sunday School starts on September 11 at 9 a.m. and has a full complement of teachers.

Rose said Hannah wants to keep doing nursery during church.

Rose mentioned Homecoming Sunday, September 25. The Transition Team will have a breakfast that morning during Sunday School time and have small table discussions about directions for the church.

The scholarship fund has three applicants, and the \$1000 in the fund will be divided among them. All three recipients are members.

Events and PR: Dana reports that VBS went well and KBIC wants to do it again here next year, July 10-14 (tentatively). They had 30 children and about 30 volunteers.

Profit from the Blueberry Festival was \$622.05. We served 41 and 38 people at the two seating's. There was discussion about possibly doing it as just desserts and coffee, or as having an option for people to get only desserts.

Bike Night on August 18: Melissa and Desiree will be doing face painting. There had been a lot of advertising and a very large crowd is expected. Debra is handling the event. Jim Milliard will make sure we have electricity.

Mission and Outreach: Deacon's Fund contributions are up.

The World Mission Offering hasn't been promoted recently, though it supports over 1800 missionaries. We have promotional material for it. Anne will do a mission moment for it on September 25, and the offering will be received through October.

Property and Finance: Frank put a grid over a vent in boiler room to keep mice out.

The fence is up, and the deacons' sink is fixed.

It was moved that we re-key the parsonage; the motion passed.

No further information on the property line.

The top of the chimney needs to be repointed.

Jim Milliard is working with the painter on the exterior painting job

Safe Church: Kathy is getting a key returned.

Sexton and Worship and Membership: Debra may have only two communion servers if we don't get more volunteers.

Labor Day, September 4: we still need someone to do music.

Outdoor worship August 14 at Debra's house.

Old Business: The elevator is fixed.

Next meeting will be September 13 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Holloway  
Church Clerk

Attendees: Jim Milliard, Anne Milliard, Larry Southam, Debra Grandelski, Mary Grandelski, Dana Thayer, Barbara Holloway, Cindy Marcheterre, Jim Hilow, Erica Avena, Pat Rocheleau, Frank Brush, Rose Bertorelli, Kathy Hexter.

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## Highlights in worship in October:

October 16 Skype joint worship service with New Life Baptist Church in Sunyani-Abesim, Ghana

We will adjust our worship service so that we can share together in worship, scripture, prayer and music

- Sing with your friends at church in Ghana
- Share choir anthems
- Pastor Erica and Pastor Kennedy AFFI AMEYAW will both be preaching on the same text: 1 Corinthians 3:16—17  
*"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple."*

October 23, family Sunday

October 30, Interim Executive Minister the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Williams, preaching

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Williams has been called as ABCCONN's Interim Executive Minister. He will begin to serve early in October. Ken was the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Rochester, NY before retiring in 2013. He was Executive Minister of the ABC of Rochester/Genesee region from 1995-2000. He also served as Senior Pastor of two churches— one in Rochester, NY for almost 11 years and one in Chicago, IL for 3 years— and as Associate Pastor in Waukesha, WI for almost 4 years. He was ordained at the church in Waukesha.

Ken received his DMin from McCormick Theological Seminary, did post graduate work at Emory University and received his MDiv from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and his BS from Campbell University. He is from Buies Creek, NC and is married to the Rev. Peg Jones Williams.



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## The Connection October 2016



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