

# The Clerical Caller

A monthly publication of Covenant Congregational Church of West Hartford

JANUARY 2018

## *“Where Have All The Gentlemen Gone?”*

Isn't it true that men used to treat women with respect and gentleness? Maybe I am just imagining this, but it seems to me that there were more gentle men in days gone by. Where have all the gentlemen gone?

Harvey Weinstein, Charlie Rose, Bill Cosby, Louis C.K., Roy Moore, Donald Trump, Al Franken, Matt Lauer, Garrison Keillor, and the list goes on and on. All these men and many more have been accused of sexual harassment and abuse. A recent Quinnipiac Poll found 60 percent of women say they've experienced sexual harassment, and it happens most often in the workplace. What is going on in our country?

I believe we have become an extremely selfish society. We think only about our own wants and desires. If that's all we think about then we fail to think about how our actions can hurt others. The men who sexually harass women don't think about the shame and the pain that these women will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

We also live in a hyper-sexed society. The Biblical standards for sexual relationships have been thrown out the window by most people. The Bible makes it very clear that God wants us to have sex only within a marriage relationship. Sex is only meant for a husband and wife bound in holy matrimony. It is meant to be the highest and most intimate expression of love between a husband and a wife. Today sex is freely given in casual relationships, and I think many men see sex as something they have a right to demand.

This opens up our society to all kinds of sexual abuse including the human trafficking of millions of girls and boys who are often no more than children. Sexual abuse is rampant in our world, and only a return to God's standards will begin to alleviate the problem.

The sexual harassment of women is primarily an abuse of power. All of the men cited above were in a position of power over the women they allegedly harassed. When a man has power over a woman horrible things can happen and—what is worse—

they know that they can get away with it. Women have been afraid, and rightly so, to speak out about the harassment they have endured. Their careers could be ruined and their reputations forever tainted.

Thank God that this situation seems to be changing. I am so thankful for the #MeToo movement. Women are finding the courage to speak up and bring evil into the light of truth. Only when that happens can we begin to find solutions to this systemic problem. I think it's wonderful that *Time Magazine* named the silence breakers as its “Person of the Year.” When women begin to speak truth to power then good can be brought out of their painful and shame-filled experiences, and I believe our society will be changed for the better.

The Bible makes it very clear that our God loves to bring good out of difficult, painful experiences. I'm sure He can do that in this situation. There is good in this situation that we already can see: Women now have the courage to speak out about the abuse they have experienced, and they are being listened to.

I am also encouraged that more women are seeking positions of power in our society. More women are running for public office. More women are becoming educated at the highest levels and finding leadership positions in the corporate world. As more women enter power positions the dynamic in our society will change dramatically.

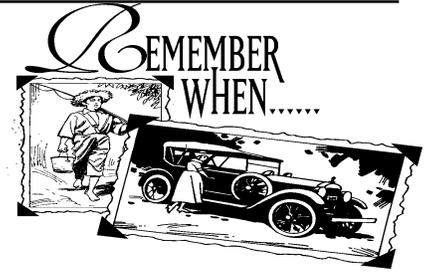
I would be remiss if I didn't identify one other cause for the sexual harassment our women are enduring. This is a spiritual matter. Only God can change the hearts and minds of people and make us better people. We need to pray for a spiritual revival in our nation. When people come to saving faith in Jesus and are filled with the Holy Spirit—then and only then will they treat others with gentleness and respect, control their sexual desires, and reject the temptations that power brings.

May God bless the men in America with hearts of faith, love, and self-control.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Tom

**TIME CAPSULE**

This is part one of a series that looks at the various organizations that have been a part of our church down through its history.



Many of us remember when Covenant Women were active in the church. Although not active anymore, it was by far the longest continually functioning group that our church had. Covenant Women began in 1885 as a sewing group that made articles of clothing and other items to be sold by auctions to raise money for the church. In 1905 Pastor and Mrs. Eggan brought about some changes where the group became a "Sister Society" with a program each month with a spiritual and service emphasis. In 1914 they took the name "Lydia Society" but were also known as "Ladies Aid." In 1967 the Lydia Society changed their name to Covenant Women affiliating with Covenant Women of America through our denomination. Besides the monthly programs, the women held many fundraising activities including rummage sales, dinners, and concerts.

From its very beginning, Covenant Women have given generously to the church, whether it was money, items that were needed, or time spent on projects (especially the kitchen). This group did even more for missions both here and in other countries. For example, missionaries were supported, items were made or bought and sent to Africa, and they gave generously to the Children's Home of Cromwell. During World War II, the Lydia Society did a lot of work for the Red Cross. More recently, the women looked forward to the annual fall retreat at Pilgrim Pines.

The work and activities of Covenant Women seems to have gradually come to an end in the 1990s. Much more could have been written about the 100 plus years of Covenant Women and its predecessors and all they did for the church and others.



**Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 28th**  
 after church



January

- 5 Natasha Chandler
- Ellia Lin
- 6 Tanya Chandler

**Breakfast and Fellowship**  
**Saturday, January 13th, 8 am**

Please join us for good food and fellowship on Jan. 13th. Peter Spungin will cook for us, and Pastor Tom will share a devotion.  
 All are invited!

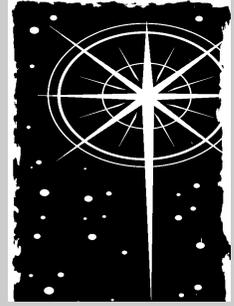


Items can be placed in the wicker basket near the back entrance or on the table in the narthex. The following are suggested for January though any donations are appreciated.

- Sun Jan 7 Cereal
- Sun Jan 14 Fruit Juice
- Sun Jan 21 Canned Fruit
- Sun Jan 28 Tea and Coffee



# January 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> Bible Study 7:00 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Vitality Mtg.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Bible Study 7:00 PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Breakfast and Fellowship 8:00 AM
<b>14</b> Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Bible Study 7:00 PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Executive Board Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Bible Study 7:00 PM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Annual Mtg. Brunch!	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Bible Study 7:00 PM	<b>31</b>			