

Exploring Asylum Hill – Churches Pt 2

As we continue to explore the various faith communities that are or have been here in Asylum Hill, we are finding more and more. For example, while the sign for Mohammed Mosque #14 was up above the door at 248 Farmington Ave for many years, they moved to 2550 Main St about four years ago, and were replaced by Masjid Salam, but more on that in a future article.

This month we'll spend a little more time looking into both the Myanmar Baptist Church of Connecticut and also First Calvary Church Hartford. Both of them share space at Grace Lutheran Church, and they have recently begun a tradition of worshipping together on the 5th Sunday of the month whenever there is one. December 29th was the most recent.

It was an especially lively experience as it seemed that each of the three communities served as host to the other two as well as guest. The music as well as the prayers and even the sermons were given by each of the three pastors.



Pastor Kremer began the service by reminding all present of the biblical command to "take care of the foreigners and the poor" reminding them that all are equal in the eyes of God. Each Pastor had the opportunity speak and pray in the way that they customarily do for their community, and it seemed that all enjoyed the diversity as well as the commonality of their traditions. Pastor Holloway accompanied by his musicians, Ray Brown on piano and Randy Calloway on base, delivers passionate prayers with the music adding emphasis. Dale Eberhardt, Grace's long time organist contributed the majestic accompaniment to several of the hymns, and everyone sang along.

Jesus' often quoted promise "wherever two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst" seemed to apply even more to three communities.

It was especially telling at the time of the offering as each congregation had a separate basket into which those who chose could contribute their offering, many contributed into all of them.

For photos of the service go to <http://bit.ly/grace3comm>