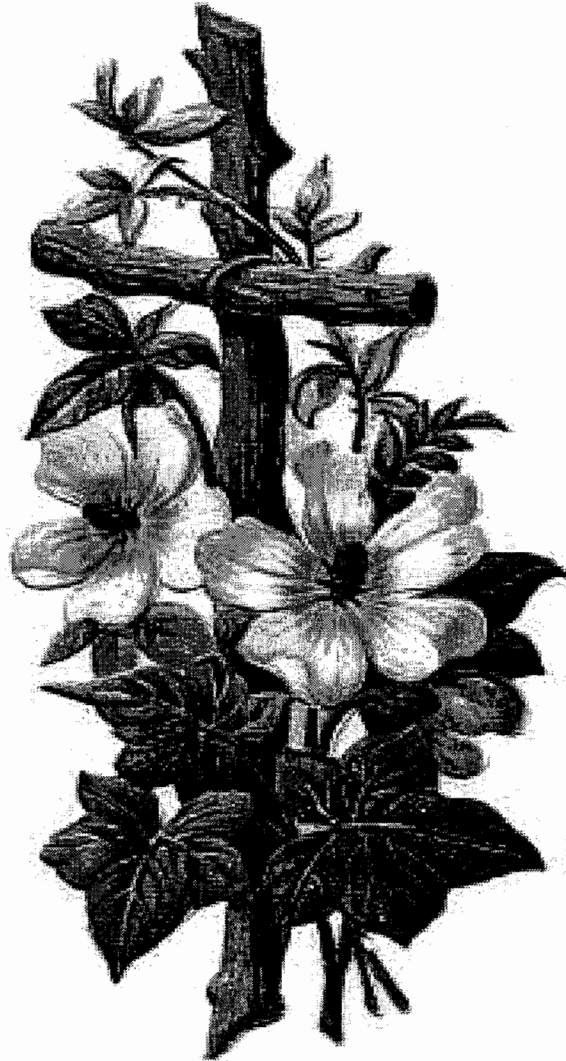


# ***THE CORNERSTONE***



*Celebration of Life in the Lord*

*May, 2010*

# MAY, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 Church Tag Sale 12:00 Confirmation Retreat to Boston Departs
2 7:00 Confirmation Retreat Boston Returns 8:30 Worship, Chapel 8:45 Small Grp. Study, Amazing Grace 10:00 Worship, Sanctuary 10:00 Church School 10:00 Youth Sunday School 7-12 Gr. 11:15 Senior Youth Choir	3 1:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 4:15 Junior Choir (3rd-6th Gr.) 7:30 Executive Council meeting, Parsons' Study	4 3:00 Tutoring through Hands on Hartford, Betances School, Hartford 7:00 Jr. High Fellowship Advisors Mtg 7:30 Simsbury Chamber Music Festival	5 6:00 a.m. Painting of the Narthex 9:30 Haystack 12:00 South Park meal prep 4:00 Women's Praise Choir 5:00 Scout Merit Badge Mtg 7:30 Farmington Valley Chorus	6 6:00 a.m. Painting of the Narthex 6:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scout Troup #76 Mg 6:30 Occasional Choir 7:00 Troop 76 Mtg., Palmer Hall 7:30 AA, Rm 28 7:30 Chancel Choir	7 6:00 a.m. Painting of the Narthex 2:15 Jr. High Fellowship	8 6:00 a.m. Painting of the Narthex 6:30 ABC House Annual dinner
9 8:30 Worship, Chapel 8:15 Small Grp. Study, Amazing Grace 10:00 Worship, Sanctuary (New Members) 10:00 Church School 10:00 Youth Sunday School 7-12 Gr 11:15 Sr. Youth Choir 1:00 South Park Inn meal prep 7:00 Sr. High Fellowship	10 6:00 a.m. Painting of the Narthex 4:15 Junior Choir (3rd-6th Gr.) 7:15 All Boards meeting	11 6:00 a.m. Painting Narthex 12:00 Retired Men's Luncheon 3:00 PF Tutoring through Hands on Hartford, Betances School, Hartford 4:00 Farmington Valley Assoc. Committee on Ministry 6:30 Sr. High Youth Confirmation Plng. Mtg. 7:00 Mentoring group 7:00 Committee of Deacons Mtg	12 6:00 a.m. Painting of the Narthex 10:00 Cornerstone Information Submission Deadline for June issue 4:00 Women's Praise Choir 7:30 Farmington Valley Chorus	13 6:00 a.m. Painting of the Narthex 3:00 Confirmation Lg Grp Serv. Planning 6:00 Scout Troup #76 Mtg 6:30 Occasional Choir 7:00 Troop 76 Mtgl 7:30 AA, Rm 28 7:30 Chancel Choir	14 2010 Women's Retreat, Silver Lake Conf. Ctr 6:00 a.m. Painting of the Narthex 10:30 Farmington Valley Transition Academy lunch 5:30 Father's Night Out	15 2010 Women's Retreat, Silver Lake Conf. Ctr. 6:00 a.m. Painting of the Narthex
16 9:45-12:00 Church School Roman Marketplace 8:15 Small Grp. Study, Amazing Grace 9:30 Worship, Sanctuary 10:30 Annual Mtg., Sanctuary 7:00 Sr. High Fellowship	17 1:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 4:15 Junior Choir (3rd-6th gr.)	18 9:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Rm 28 3:00 PF Tutoring through Hands on Hartford, Betances School, Hartford 7:00 Sr. High Fellowship Advisors Mtg. 7:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Rm 28 7:30 Simsbury Chamber Music	19 8:30 Sarah Circle, Parlor 11:00 Volunteer Tea, Parsons' Study 4:00 Women's Praise Choir 7:30 Farmington Valley Chorus	20 6:00 Scout Troup #76 Mtg. 6:30 Occasional Choir 7:00 Troop 76 Mtg. 7:30 AA, Rm 28 7:30 Chancel Choir	21 2:00 First Church Friends, Parson's 2:15 Jr. High Fellowship 6:30 Supper Club	22 9:30 Confirmation Rehearsal
23 8:15 Small Grp. Study, Amazing Grace Confirmation Sunday - Sanctuary 9:30 Worship, Sanctuary 12:00 Lunch Bunch at Apollo's 7:00 Sr. High Fellowship	24 4:15 Junior Choir (3rd-6th gr.) 6:00 FMHCC Board of Directors Mtg, Parson's Study	25 10:00 Card Making Grp., Rm 28 10:00 Retired Mens lunch planning Mtg., Parsons' Study 3:00 PF Tutoring through Hands on Hartford, Betances School, Hartford 6:00 Cub Scouts, Palmer Hall 6:30 Sr. High Youth Leadership mtg.	26 9:30 Cornerstone Collators, Parson's Study 12:00 Fourth Wednesday Study Grp. 4:00 Women's Praise Choir 7:30 Farmington Valley Chorus	27 6:00 Scout Troup #76 Mtg., Parsons' Study 6:30 Occasional Choir 7:00 Troop 76 Mtg., Palmer Hall 7:30 AA, Rm 28 7:30 Chancel Choir	28 11:00 HNS Year-end celebration 12:00 4th Wednesday Study Group - Rm 28	29
30 9:30 Worship, Sanctuary Geranium Sunday and Mary & John Society	31 Memorial Day - Office Closed					

## THE CORNERSTONE

### Sundays in May, 2010

**May 2:** 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Worship—Communion Sunday  
“When our Achieving Leaves No Room for Just Being”  
—Reflection by Jonathan Morgan

**May 9:** 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Worship  
“Faith of Our Mothers”  
The Acts 16, vs. 9:15  
Guest Speaker—Rev. Tom Speer

**(PLEASE NOTE: This will be our last 8:30 worship until fall)**

**May 16:** 9:30 a.m. Worship (Our first Summer Worship service)  
“Our Community of Faith – What makes us Tick and What  
Makes us Different” —Reflection by Jonathan Morgan  
**ANNUAL MEETING** immediately following the 9:30 worship

**May 23:** 9:30 a.m. Worship – Confirmation Sunday  
“Gathered and Scattered” - Reflection by Kevin Weikel

**May 30:** 9:30 a.m. Worship  
**Geranium Sunday:** We remember those who have passed  
away in the last year, **and**  
**Mary and John Sunday:** We honor 50 year First Church  
members

“Recognizing Wisdom” on Proverbs 8  
– Reflection by Alison Buttrick Patton

## *From the Senior Minister's Desk*



Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know, Mission and Outreach are critical components of our ministry here at First Church. We make prayerful and intentional efforts to bring relief and justice to our world through our denomination and through our emphasis on reaching out locally, nationally and globally. Our efforts to help build the Heath Clinic in Masooli, Uganda and our work with Back Bay Mission in Biloxi MS are some of the most obvious ways that we extend our helping hands and hearts both globally and nationally. You no doubt have heard of the many ways that we also work for justice and relief in Hartford. I would like to lift up two ways that we bring hope and help to our community of Simsbury.

As you may have read in a recent edition of a local paper, First Church is about to embark on an exciting new partnership with the town of Simsbury. About two months ago, I had lunch with our First Selectwoman, Mary Glassman, and at lunch we discussed ways we could bring our resources to bear on perceived needs within our town. We both agreed that providing more affordable housing to our community was a very worthwhile goal. Ms Glassman shared that the town had two small homes up by the Apple Barn that used to be rented to families of more limited means but had been abandoned of late and now were only used for storage. After examination with a team from First Church, it was determined that a renovation effort was indeed possible. Last month, the Board of Mission and Outreach enthusiastically endorsed the rebuilding effort and are presently making plans to organize teams to work on the house over the next couple of months. Stay tuned!

I would also like to lift up the ministry of the Deacons of First Church. Our Deacons have at their disposal special funds that are made available through a separate endowment that was set up to help families and individuals in the town of Simsbury. Over the years, our Deacons have provided relief and help to many people in town through rental assistance, payments towards overdue utility bills, and even funding for medical treatment or counseling. Their work has been a vital lifeline to the many people we have served behind the scenes.

We are indeed blessed as a community of faith as we do our best to be a blessing to our community!

In the Joy of Christ's service,

*Jonathan*

## **“So how DO you become a minister?”**

### **Steps on the Journey for Members in Discernment**

It is a common question: *“What exactly do you have to do to get ordained?”* Most of us have some sense that there are studies involved, and probably a lot of prayer! But for those who haven’t been through it, it can be a bit mysterious. So here’s a sketch – call it “Becoming a Minister 101.”

**Discernment:** A person (let’s call her Leslie) feels a call to ministry, or a tug to study theology, or a push by someone who says, “Have you ever thought about being a pastor?” Sometimes it’s described as a *stirring*, a hunger, or a compelling desire to serve God and God’s people. However it emerges, the first – and natural – response is often denial! “Who, me? I couldn’t possibly be a minister!” Leslie is in good company: Moses, Jonah and Jeremiah all said something similar!

**Stepping Out:** When that tugging won’t go away, Leslie may start talking to others about her emerging interest: to a friend, mentor, pastor or seminary admissions director. If she wants to be ordained in the United Church of Christ (UCC), she learns that there are two parts to this process: the academic and the ‘ecclesial’ (or church-related).

**Study:** To be ordained in the UCC, Leslie needs to earn a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree – a three-year degree (if she goes full time) with courses in theology, history, Bible, worship, preaching and pastoral care (not to mention electives as wide ranging as inter-faith study, ancient languages, sociology, and cross-cultural study). An M.Div. also includes a field-study placement (often in a local church) and a unit of “Clinical Pastoral Education” – which introduces students to hospital chaplaincy.

**The Church:** Earning that degree does not make Leslie a minister yet. She might get all A’s, but does she have other gifts for ministry in the UCC: devotion to the Church, emotional intelligence and an understanding of UCC history and practice, for example? *That’s the point of becoming a Member-in-Discernment:* for Leslie and the UCC to figure out whether she is a good fit for ministry. It is also to support, equip and listen together for God’s intentions. Hopefully, this process concludes with a resounding, *“Yes! We believe Leslie is called by God to be a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the UCC!”*

**Bringing it all together:** That final decision is made by the churches of an association (First Church, Simsbury belongs to the Farmington Valley Association). After Leslie gets her M.Div, *and* writes an ‘ordination paper’ *and* gets an actual job offer *and* is approved by the Church and Ministry Committee, *then* representatives from the Farmington Valley churches gather. They read her paper, ask her questions about her faith and theology, and vote. The process concludes with a service of ordination in which Leslie promises to serve the church faithfully and we lay hands on her to bless her on her way.

Grace and Peace,

*Alison*

## \$2.5 Million Gift Received

This gift spelled good fortune for St. Francis Hospital. If only the recipient would have been First Church Simsbury!

A few weeks ago, this item hit the front page of the Hartford Courant. In fact, officials at New England's largest Catholic hospital say that this is the latest of several multi-million dollar gifts to the facility in recent years.

If the recipient would have been First Church, it would have doubled the value of our endowment. In point of fact, First Church's current endowment is well below where we would like it to be. We are working to change that.

An easy way for you to help is to make a charitable bequest. Several church families have recently done so. It is not at all difficult. Your gift can be included in your will as either a specific amount or a percentage of your estate. There are four steps to consider in making a charitable bequest.

- 1) Consider if you would like to leave First Church a certain asset, specific amount or a percentage of your estate.
- 2) Decide whether you want the funds to be used for a specific purpose or leave your money for our most pressing needs.
- 3) Determine if you need to update your will or revocable living trust. See your attorney to include your legacy gift in your will or trust.
- 4) If you choose, please notify First Church of your intention so we may thank you by including you as a member of the Andrew Robe Society.

Please feel free to contact any member of First Church's Endowment Development Committee to learn more about this simple, powerful way to support our mission in the future. Committee members are Bob Lyle, Leigh King, Tim Patterson, and Bruce Powell.

### MAY 2010 FELLOWSHIP HOURS:

5/2/10	Memorial Garden Committee
5/9/10	New Members and Father's & Children (in honor of Mother's Day)
5/16/10	<b>9:30 Worship</b> (No Fellowship), <b>Annual Meeting</b> directly after worship in the Sanctuary, and Roman Market Place in Palmer Hall after Children's message, 9:45-12:00
5/23/10	<b>9:30 Worship</b> —Confirmation Sunday
5/30/10	<b>9:30 Worship</b> —Memorial Day Mary and John Society

## MEMORIAL GARDEN



In the late eighties, a committee was named to explore possible locations for a memorial garden on church property.

After considering several different sites, the pine ridge west of the upper parking area was chosen.

A master plan was approved and construction of the garden carried out. Concurrently, guidelines for First Church Memorial Garden were published along with a *Book of Remembrance* to be kept as a permanent record of each interment.

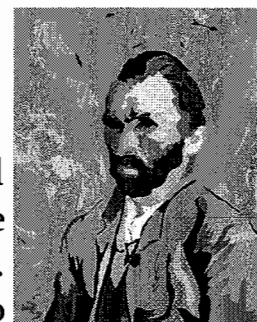
Since annual maintenance and upkeep costs are separate from the church budget, funds for those expenses are dependent on interment fees and memorial gifts, which vary from year to year.

To insure future and proper care of the Memorial Garden, the **Memorial Garden Endowment** has been established. Memorial gifts can be designated for this fund with the eventual goal of producing annual income for perpetual maintenance.

With spring here, take a walk from church to the lower parking area through the Memorial Garden.

## PICTURES OF UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORICAL FIGURES

Who were Horace Bushnell, Lyman Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Sarah Margru Kinson? And why are their pictures hanging in the Parson's Study? Look for their pictures and brief biographic summary. Their pictures will be rotated with another set of historical figures who have had an impact on the United Church of Christ in Connecticut.



## *Fellowship Hour Hosting*

*First Church is looking for groups or families to host Fellowship hour in July. Please contact Bill Clark at 860-379-8553 or email him at [william.h.clark@snet.net](mailto:william.h.clark@snet.net).*

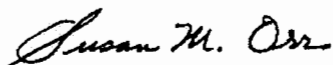
## *WELCOME CONFIRMANDS!*

I had the wonderful pleasure of teaching confirmation class this year, and found that my students taught me just as much as I taught them. Here are some things that I hope they've learned this year and can carry with them through the confirmation process and throughout their lives:

- Jesus has something to teach all of us, not only about love, but also about tolerance, forgiveness, authenticity, priorities, self-control, anger, challenging authority, stewardship of the environment, teamwork and miracles
- There are many disciples, many ministers and many saints in our midst, and each of us can be each of these
- It must have been scary to be Mary or Joseph or John the Baptist or Judas, but God can help calm our fears
- The fruits of the Spirit make a nutritious and well-balanced diet!
- Each of us has a story to share and something to give
- The Holy Spirit is a powerful and wonderful force in our lives if we allow ourselves to receive it
- The Bible is the best self-help book there is!
- Church membership is about service and friendship and spiritual growth and outreach and mission and fellowship and fun and support and healing and loving others, all in the name of God

First Church is blessed to have each of you in our midst!

On behalf of the entire membership of First Church, I'd like to welcome all of our confirmands into church membership. The Lord bless you and keep you!



Susan M. Orr

## *What's up with the Chapel?*

Many people are talking about plans for renovating the Chapel. As part of the evaluation of the 8:30 worship service it was decided that a space needed to be identified that did not conflict with other church ministries to become the services permanent home. The Ellsworth Chapel was an obvious choice. While there was some concern that the worship space was not appropriate to the type of service, it was agreed that with some modifications it could become more compatible, as well as be used for other events and purposes. So after reviewing the room with the staff, the 8:30 Worship Evaluation Committee made the following recommendations:

### **Phase I**

- A. Remove the two pews most proximate to the communion table to create more space for the Worship leaders and musicians.\*
- B. Remove the platform in front of chapel and reinstall existing carpet. Remove the podium and rail.\*

\* Item "A" is complete and item "B" in underway using volunteers at no cost.

### **Phase II**

- A. Replace the current light fixtures. This would update the space, reduce glare, and possibly save money as more efficient lighting could be installed. We would suggest that the six hanging fixtures be removed and replaced by four light fixtures, possibly up-light pendants, centered in the room two to a side. The wall sconces would be replaced with complementary fixtures in the current location. All the new lighting would be rheostat controlled.
- B. Repair ceiling from lighting change and paint all surfaces and trim. The paint color would be comparable to the existing paint colors but updated to complement the new lighting.
- C. Window treatments that would fully diffuse and control light would be installed. This covering can be pulled up to open the windows or closed for room darkening. This feature would work well for Church School when they show video or slides in the Chapel space. Examples would be the Hunter Douglas "Silhouette" window shading.

The timing could be adjusted if there are cost savings to be achieved with the planned renovation of the parlor, but ideally the work would be completed over the summer. The estimated cost of this work is \$4,300 and would be paid for from funds from the Memorial Fund of the church endowment.

### **Phase III**

- A. Remove and then sell the existing pews and replace them with fabric covered, stackable, chairs. This would allow the space to be alternatively configured for Worship or for other purposes including smaller receptions, or larger meetings. Pews comparable to what is installed in the chapel are on sale on EBay for \$200 - \$350 dollars per pew.
- B. Remove and sell the existing pipe organ and use the funds in keeping with the wishes of the donor. Replace existing carpet with carpet tiles. Tiles are easily replaced when soiled or damaged. It is believed that the organ is an underutilized asset that will depreciate and decay further over time through lack of use; it takes up valuable space in this small room.

The net monies from the pews sale should yield \$3,000-\$4,000. While the cost of these chairs can vary, we would seek to purchase a chair for between \$30 and \$40 each so that there would be no cost to the replacement. The estimated cost of the carpet tiles is \$2,180 (720 S.F. at \$2.99 per foot). Funds from the sale of the pews or organ would be used for this carpet and to repay amounts to the Memorial Fund.

At its February meeting the Board of Elders unanimously adopted the proposal. The Board of Trustees at its February meeting approved the Phase I work.

All members of the congregation are invited to provide input into this planned renovation and may contact the church office or email Penny Roskin at [52Roskin@comcast.net](mailto:52Roskin@comcast.net).

8:30 Worship Evaluation Committee: Penny Roskin, Chair, Board of Elders; Jeannie Boehner, Board of Elders; Roger Spears, Board of Elders; Bill Lawry, Board of Elders; Bob Lyle, Ushers; Suzanne Osborn, Board of Music Ministries; Tom Yanik, Board of Trustees

## **REWARD YOURSELF: GET MORE BY GIVING MORE**

Have you heard the rewarding stories of those First Church members who return from a mission trip or outreach activity - whether to Biloxi, the Burns and Betances Schools in Hartford, young adults' trip to Boston, South Park Inn ? They speak of going to help and to give, but report receiving so much more in return.

Similar opportunities exist right here at First Church in Simsbury. There are over one hundred opportunities for you to reward yourself and contribute to the mission of First Church by serving on a Board or Committee. Annually in May, vacancies for about a third of each Board and Committee become available. Depending on your talents, interests, and/or capabilities, opportunities for service exist in the areas of finance, mission and outreach, worship (Elders), care of building and grounds (Trustees), music, Christian education, investment, stewardship, personnel, public relations, memorial garden - to name a few.

For help in exploring where your opportunities exist, please contact Nominating Committee members Dane Woodberry (658-7996) or Jeff Osborne (651-8907). Involvement can surely enrich your faith journey in most meaningful ways.

### **Lay Liturgist Program**

We are excited to announce a new ministry at First Church. We are seeking people to assist the ordained ministers with the Worship Services by leading prayers and offering readings.

If you are, or would like to become, comfortable with public speaking, please consider this opportunity to share your skills, time, and heart with your congregation. You will likely be asked to participate in approximately one service a month, so the obligation should not be overly time consuming, but we hope it will be a wonderful way for you to explore, as well as, express your faith.

As a start, we are planning an introductory training class on **May 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Chris Morkan at [Morkan@comcast.net](mailto:Morkan@comcast.net), 860-651-8280, or leave a message with the church office for a return call.

### **4th Wednesday Study Group**

We will meet **Wednesday, May 26th at 12:00 Noon in Room 28**. We will be discussing the final chapter "Conclusion" of Peter Gomes' book, *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus* and choosing the book we will begin in September. If you think you might be interested in joining our group, please come on the 26th or call Pat Ketchpel at 860-658-9357.

## APRIL 2010 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SUMMARY

Following are the highlights of the April 2010 Executive Council meeting:

- 1) President Susan Orr informed the meeting that prints of twelve CT Conference historical figures have been placed in frames with four stored in each frame. The prints can be rotated periodically to showcase all of them without taking a lot of wall space.
- 2) Alison commented that she has been asked to serve on a Conference Ministry Team for a Sacred Conversation on Race.
- 3) The Council approved recommendations from the By-laws Revision Committee related to the role of the Church Historian; the role of the Vice President; and the deletion of position description roles for the Church Administrator and the Assistant Treasurer. The recommendations will be presented to the Congregation at the May Annual Meeting for adoption.
- 4) A discussion arose regarding the pay for childcare. The topic was assigned to the Board of Personnel and the Board of Christian Education for resolution.
- 5) The Board of Trustees reported that painting of the Narthex and the Parlor will commence in mid April. Draperies and furniture in the Parlor will be replaced and/or recovered.
- 6) Roger Auclair reported that the Growth Initiative subcommittee has established five tracks in the approach to expanding and strengthening Church membership. The focus will be on Parish Life; Young Families; Visitation; New Arrivals; and Marketing.
- 7) Diana Rutherford reported that the Board of Music Ministries plans to clean and paint the Music Room over the summer months.
- 8) Jonathan reported that discussions are underway for a possible change to the theme for the Fall Festival to make it a Fellowship event. Also that there are renewed efforts under discussion to raise the visibility of our Church. It was suggested that we consider reactivation of the Communications Committee to raise our image with realtors, print, and other media sources. Simsbury Celebrates has been notified that First Church will not only be a venue for programs but will also offer some of our own programming.
- 9) Anne Nelson reported that a notebook of all Church Policies has been created and is available in the Church Office.

Bill Ketchabaw, Clerk

# Church School News



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22-25 (Tues-Fri), 9am-noon)

### Come and have fun this summer at Expedition of the High Seas!

Each day the students gather in the Sanctuary to learn the Bible point and new songs. They then rotate to the games, movie, art, and Bible story rooms to learn about the day's Bible story. This VBS is held in conjunction with the Simsbury United Methodist and St Alban's church at SUM.

**Sign up at the table adjacent to the chapel and fill out a registration form.**

Day 1 God's Word is true: God frees Peter from prison

Day 2 God's Word is comforting. God comforts Paul in a storm at Sea.

Day 3 God's Word is surprising: Paul survives a bite by a poisonous snake.

Day 4 God's Word is for everyone. The community of believers share.

Cost: \$35/student; includes craft, t-shirt, snacks, music cd, etc.

## K. I. D. S. @ First Kids Investigating Divine Stories at First Church

### Nursery (ages 3 & under)

The nursery (rm. 20) is available during the service for children ages 3 and under. The children will be learning that God made Spring.

### Pre-K Class (ages 3-4)

The Pre-K class (Rm. 38) will be learning about prayer through activity centers.

### Kindergarten class

Kindergarten class (Rm. 37) will be learning about the church through Bible stories, crafts and games.

### Grades 1-6 Rotation Unit: Paul

God's call turned Paul from a persecutor of Christians to a follower of Jesus. God calls each of us to be followers of Jesus.

Bible Story Reference: Acts 9:1-30

Bible Verse: For you will be a witness for (Jesus) to tell everyone what you have seen and heard. (Acts 22:15)

Rotation Schedule	B.L.A.S.T. Rm.35-Art	Mouse Pad Rm.32-Computers	Creation Station Rm.34-Cooking	Coliseum Rm.29- Games	Matter of Faith Rm.33 Science
Wk. 5/2 K-6 Begin in Church	Gr. 4	Gr. 5 Gr. 6	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3
Wk. 5/9 K-6 Begin in Church	Gr. 5 Gr. 6	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4
Wk. 5/16 K - 6 Begin in Church	<b>Roman Market Place: Begin in Palmer Hall, dismissed to Palmer Hall to meet their shepherds/teachers</b>				
Wk. 5/23 K-6 in Church	<b>Confirmation Students attend church</b>				

### Summer Sunday School 2010 – A Very Veggie Summer

Kids begin in church: 15 minutes. Kids learn about creation and being good stewards of the earth through church grounds maintenance (i.e. planting vegetables, watering, weeding, mulching, dead heading flowers): 15 minutes

Veggie tale movie: 30 minutes

May 30<sup>th</sup>: The Doom Funnel Rescue (helping others)

June 6: Lyle and the Kindly King (sharing)

June 13: Madame Blueberry (thankfulness)

June 20: Where is God when I'm S-Scared (handling fear)

June 27: Are you my Neighbor? (loving your Neighbor)

July 4: God Wants me to Forgive Them? (forgiveness)

July 11: Larry Boy and the Fib from Outer Space (telling the truth)

July 18: Larry Boy and the Rumor Weed (the power of words)

July 25 Trouble on Planet Wait Your Turn (patience)

August 29: Moon Menace on Planet Tell-a-lie

Sept 5: Abe and the Amazing Promise (story of Abraham & Sarah)

### **Fall Teacher/Shepherd Opportunities, Sept 12-Dec 12**

The church school is a co-operative program where parents work together to teach their children about their faith. Please contact cindy.cole@1stchurchsimbury.org

**Pre-K**—Kate Bruno, 1 additional needed.

**Job description:** The teachers lead the class each Sunday in learning the basics about faith: our church, prayer, God, etc. The student using learning center activities, crafts, and read Bible stories in circle time. All the teaching materials and crafts are provided to the teacher.

**Kindergarten**—Patti Scanlon, 1 additional teacher needed.

**Job description:** The teachers use the Hands-on Bible curriculum to teach the students beginner Bible stories along with how to apply the story lessons to their life. The teachers lead the students in games, crafts, and reading the Bible story.

**Grades 1-6 Rotation Program:** Fall units: Abraham & Sarah, Joseph, Christmas

**Workshop Teacher Job description:** Teachers remain in the classroom teaching the same unit lesson to the different grades as they rotate into the room. Two teachers are assigned to each workshop and they decide which teacher is going to teach on a given Sunday.

**Computer room** – 2 teachers needed

**Cooking room** – Charmaine Arena, 1 teacher needed

**Art room** – Ann Marie Prabulos, 1 teacher needed

**Game room** – 2 teachers needed

**Movie room** – 2 teachers needed

**Shepherd job description:** Shepherds meet their students in the chapel each Sunday, take attendance, hand out name tags, etc. They lead the students to class and are in charge of monitoring class room behavior, building relationships, and assisting the teacher as required.

### **Shepherds for Sept 12-Dec. 12**

**1<sup>st</sup> grade shepherd** - Jackie Brooke

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade shepherd** -

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade shepherd** -

**4<sup>th</sup> grade shepherd** – Kim Tawney

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade shepherd** – Bryan Tawney

Teens are welcome to sign up as classroom or shepherd aides.

### **Roman Market Place, May 16, Palmer Hall, 9:45-Noon**

**Come to the Roman market place and wear your toga (single white flat sheet). Strap on your sandals for fun, adventure, and God's love—in Rome!**

Join your kids as they explore a crowded Roman marketplace...tiptoe past Roman guards...encourage Christians in an underground church...and visit Paul for discoveries about God's love! Rome...where the Bible comes to life! Play Olympic games... be a scribe...visit the jewelry shop and make "heart for God bracelets"... wear a toga...make a Roman mosaic...nibble on pizza...and experience the power of Scripture and the courage of the early church! Rome...where the Apostle Paul is your Bible teacher!

## Toga



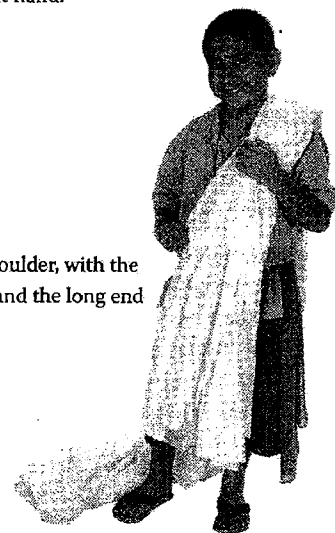
Gather a sheet toward one end with your right hand.

## I



Drape the sheet over your left shoulder, with the shorter end coming to the front and the long end hanging down your back.

## II



Take the section hanging behind your body, and pull it under your right arm and across the front.

## III

## IV

Drape the "tail" back up over the left arm and shoulder.



**Walk. FOODSHARE**  
27th annual  
**against hunger**

***Walk Against Hunger this Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>!***

**THIS Sunday @Coffee Hour:  
Sponsor a member of our walking team!**

**What?** Foodshare's *Walk Against Hunger* is the largest fundraising event in Connecticut to benefit local families and children in need of food. The walk is a three mile walk route that takes you through Hartford's historic West End. This event is family-friendly and fun!

**Why?** **Hunger** is a serious problem in our communities:

- ▷ Over 100,000 people, including 40,000 children, are in need of emergency food assistance in greater Hartford each year.
- ▷ Foodshare distributes more than 16 tons of donated food per day to nearly 350 local programs that serve hungry individuals and families in Hartford and Tolland counties.
- ▷ For every \$30 donated, Foodshare can provide enough food for one person for a month.

**How?** **PLEASE PLEDGE** a dollar amount to support a member of the First Church walking team. Help us to beat our fund-raising goal of \$1000!

**Walkers will have their pledge forms and be receiving donations during coffee hour on Sunday morning, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

***Thank you for helping to fight chronic hunger in our Hartford Region!***

For more information, please contact:

Roger Auclair at 860-651-8643 or [rauclair4@comcast.net](mailto:rauclair4@comcast.net)

OR

Rev. Alison Patton at 860-651-3593 or [alison.patton@1stchurchsimsbury.org](mailto:alison.patton@1stchurchsimsbury.org)

## REV. KEVIN WEIKEL—YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

PLAY, DISCUSS, WORSHIP, GROW, SERVE, LOVE...

*Check <http://tinyurl.com/1stchurchY-YA> for up to the minute youth/young adult information*

### SUMMER MISSION TRIP (for 8th-12th graders)

Each summer, current 8th through 12th graders are invited to participate in a summer mission trip to serve, learn, and grow in God's compassion and love. Over the years, groups have repaired homes and learned of rural poverty in Tennessee and Ohio, worked at soup kitchens and learned of homelessness in Atlanta and New York City. This year our trip will be to Boston. We will depart on Sunday, June 27th and arrive home on Friday, July 2nd. **Download the brochure at <http://tinyurl.com/1stchurchY-YA>**

### PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP YOUTH GROUP (for 9th-12th graders)

Sunday, May 2:	7:00-9:00 p.m., PF Youth Group
Sunday, May 9:	7:00-9:00 p.m., PF Youth Group
Sunday, May 16:	7:00-9:00 p.m., PF Youth Group
Sunday, May 23:	7:00-9:00 p.m., PF Youth Group
Sunday, May 30:	No PF Youth Group (Memorial Day Weekend)

*PF is tutoring at Betances Elem. School in Hartford on Tuesday afternoons. See Kevin for details.*

### CONFIRMATION (for 8th graders)

**Saturday, May 1st at 11:00 a.m. through Sunday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m.:** Confirmation Retreat to Boston. Covenant/Procedures Form, Metro Rock Waiver, and \$65 check made out to "First Church" with "Confirmation Retreat" in the memo due April 28. Contact Rev. Kevin if you have questions.

Tuesday, May 11:	6:00-7:30 p.m., Confirmation Service Planning in Youth Room.
Saturday, May 22:	9:30-10:45 a.m., Mandatory Confirmation Service Rehearsal in Sanctuary.
Sunday, May 23:	9:00 a.m., Report to the Youth Room for Confirmation Sunday (service begins at 9:30 a.m.). A short reception will follow the service in Palmer Hall.

*During May, Kevin will meet with each Small Group to discuss their decisions about being Confirmed.*

### JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP (for 7th and 8th graders)

Friday, May 7:	2:15-4:00 p.m., Fellowship in the Youth Room (hop a ride on the church bus from HJMS).
Friday, May 21:	2:15-4:00 p.m., Fellowship in the Youth Room (hop a ride on the church bus from HJMS).

### YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL (for 7th through 12th graders):

All youth are invited to sit together in the balcony for the beginning of the 10:00 a.m. service before heading down to the youth room after the children's time for discussion. Liz Guidice and Mike Hogan lead this class.



## ***GRAB YOUR PAINTBRUSH!***

### **Simsbury House Rehab Project Coming in May/June**

First Church of Christ and the Town of Simsbury have entered into a partnership to rehabilitate a Town-owned affordable housing unit at 60B Old Farms Road. The Town has already started work on the property to repair damage associated with a flooded basement, kitchen demolition, mold remediation, and roof repairs. Upon completion of the above repairs, First Church members will then begin work on:

Building out a new kitchen, including countertops, cabinets, flooring and appliances, painting (walls and ceilings), sanding and finishing the wood flooring, installing new windows, landscaping.

The Board of Mission & Outreach will contribution funds to purchase the materials to accomplish the above work, but we will need volunteers to complete this project. This local outreach needs your participation to finish the rehabilitation of this housing unit for occupancy by August of this year.

First Church needs your help to make this happen. **We will be planning to organize work project days in late May and June, so please watch/listen for our upcoming announcement. Everyone welcome!**

## **Championing Your Causes**

As a member of First Church, have you wanted to let your fellow members know of a cause you are involved in? Have you wanted a place to let your fellow members know of events taking place for those causes? Well, we finally have a place for you to do just that.

Starting today, one of the large bulletin boards on the second floor has been cleaned and designated as the place where you can put up your fliers, announcements or informational material. A few guidelines will apply:

The maximum size allowed is 17" x 11".

Bring what you want posted into the church office and the office will put it on the bulletin board.

The church office will remove out of date posters or fliers.

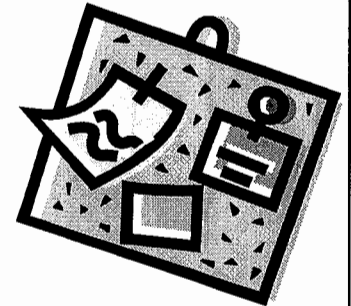
Space is on a first come, first serve basis.

Maximum amount of time allowed on the bulletin board will be one month.

We will also use a small portion of this space to advertise our local church's happenings but for the most part, this is your bulletin board.

So please stop by the bulletin board in the hallway by the church office to see what your friends and fellow members are involved in.

*-Anne Nelson, Church Administrator*



## **FIRST CHURCH MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

*We are pleased to announce that three awards have been granted under the 2010 Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship. As in previous years, this year's recipients are talented young musicians with a deep appreciation for the role of music in worship. The following is a brief introduction to the recipients*

*Jordan Abbasi - \$1250: Jordan is a freshman at Greenwich High School. He began studying the piano at age six and has been studying organ for the past two years. He is an organ scholar at Christ Church in Greenwich where he is also the head chorister of the Christ Church boys choir.*

*Evan Griffith - \$1250: Evan is from New York City and an 11<sup>th</sup> grader at Horace Mann School. He studies organ at the Manhattan School of Music, Precollege Division. He is the organist at Hebrew Tabernacle Congregation and is an intern organist at Congregation Emanu-El on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave where his family worships.*

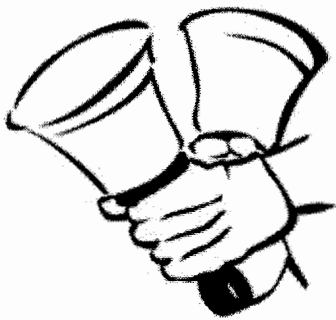
*Griffin McMahon - \$1250: Griffin is also an 11<sup>th</sup> grader at Longmeadow, Massachusetts high school. Once a week he travels to New York to study organ at Juilliard pre-college division. He is the choir director and organist of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Longmeadow.*

*The 2010 Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship competition will be the last competition. On Sunday April 18 during the 10:00am service, a brief ceremony was held to commemorate the contribution of the scholarship to the future of church music, to give thanks for the all who made the scholarship possible and to bless the 32 scholarship recipients.*

*Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship Committee: Diana Rutherford (Chairman), Jim Bagnall, Ruth Edwards, Mark Mercier and Peg Psarakis*

## Farmington Valley Handbell Festival

### *"Ringin' in May"*



Come hear First Church's own Choral Bells play in  
the  
Farmington Valley Handbell Festival, *"Ringin' in May"*

May 2, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Memorial United Methodist Church  
867 West Avon Rd., Avon, CT



## MUSIC Notes...

The Simsbury Chamber Music Festival is once again happening in our sanctuary on Tuesday evenings in May beginning at 7:30 p.m.. In the Sanctuary. These are some top-notch performers playing some extremely interesting music for this series. Here is the roster for this year:

### Tuesday, May 4                      **The Kelet Duo**

This Duo brings together a vast array of musical styles creating a fusion that is unique in chamber music today. Comprised of Taiwanese pianist Pi-Hsun Shih and Hungarian violinist Katalin Vizmeg, both award-winning faculty members at the Hartt School, the Kelet Duo performs a varied repertoire thzt searches for new sounds.

### Tuesday, May 11                      **The Ceili Quartet**

Celtic Music at its best, this quartet brings the folk tradition together with the Irish influence for a chamber concert that is both unusual and exciting.

### Tuesday, May 18                      **James Strauss**

James Strauss is the first Brazilian flutist to ever be conceded a diplomme de concertiste by the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris. One of the few remaining disciples of Jean Pierre Rampal and an international luminary, many composers have dedicated new works to him.

### Tuesday, May 25                      **Les Inegales / Alturas Duo**

This duo is recognized as one of the most engaging ensembles performing in the chamber music world today. The only group of its kind, the Duo was formed with the idea of playing South American and Classical music, bringing together the unusual combination of the viola, charango and guitar, creating passionate music that involves the Baroque, South American folk rhythms and new pieces written especially for them.

Les Inegales specializes in French Baroque Music from the 18th century. With a repertoire that includes masterpieces from other European countries as well as contemporary music, the ensemble has performed and recorded internationally.

For more information, please go to [www.simsburychambermusicfestival.com](http://www.simsburychambermusicfestival.com).

Save the date for our final concert of the season - a **Jazz Cabaret** on Friday, June 11th. At 7:30 p.m. in Palmer Hall. This is a special one we are calling our "**Homecoming Cabaret**" - featuring great players like Doug Maher on guitar, Ken Fischer on piano, our own Dave Baron on bass, (returning home for this show after graduating from Eastman and before attending Julliard), and Simsbury's own Grammy award winner Jake Golbas on drums.

Additionally, we are having some great and familiar friends sit in, including Sam Petitti and Kara Auclair. Tickets will go on sale shortly.

We are scheduling musicians for our summer services. If you are interested in doing a solo, duet, trio, or would like to join our summer choir for a service, please get in touch and let me know!

- Mark Mercier



### ***Join our Mission Board!***

The Board of Mission & Outreach is looking for people curious about the world and passionate about justice and service to serve on our Board. Our mission board works with mission partners in the Hartford Region, Biloxi, Uganda...and beyond. We determine benevolent giving, identify hands-on mission opportunities, lift up our mission partners in prayer and plan educational events for our First Church community. Help us to live out our First Church commitment to be a "Mission Church." We would love to have you.

Questions? Curious? Please contact Dane Woodberry (860-658-7996) or Roger Auclair (860-651-8643) for more information."

### **South Park Inn**

The people of South Park Inn absolutely love it when we come work with them to help meet the many needs of the people there who are homeless and in transition.

*And, I must say, the blessings are always ours.*

#### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME ALONG WITH US OR WORK "BEHIND THE SCENES" PREPARING THE DELICIOUS FOOD?**

Each of the opportunities below are great experiences to bring a family together, for reconnecting with friends, to extend your Women's Circle experience, to share with your Bible Study friends, to add a new dimension to your Men's group involvement, to develop relationships with Board members.

Look for sign ups outside Palmer Hall or EMAIL Denise Bell [sopherbell@aol.com](mailto:sopherbell@aol.com) if you would like to help with any of the following.

- ⇒ Cooking and serving a meal (dates below—*Times tentatively set from 1:00-5:00 p.m.*)
- ⇒ Girls (of all ages) night out to cook the desserts (date to come)
- ⇒ Sharing your nursing knowledge with young mothers once a month
- ⇒ Doing a Bingo Night at South Park Inn or Plimpton House
- ⇒ Sharing your nutritional knowledge with folks at Plimpton House
- ⇒ Helping young men in transition learn personal budgeting skills

#### **Cooking & Serving Dates for 2010**

Sunday, 5/9/10; Friday, 6/25/10;  
Saturday, 7/24/10; Sunday 8/15/10; Sunday, 9/12/10; Sunday, 10/ 17/10;  
Sunday, 11/14/10; Sunday, 12/12/10

## Card-Making Ministry adds Color to First Church Care-Giving

For over a year, a group of women has been meeting once a month to create cards for members of First Church who would appreciate a birthday greeting, condolence, or a get well sentiment. We also make cards for holidays and for special church occasions such as confirmation, the joining of new members and Mary and John Society. The Card Making Ministry coordinates with First Church Friends to send notes to members and friends on the weekly prayer list. We design and create 60 to 70 cards each month.

Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:00a.m. in Room 28. If you would like to learn more or join us, please contact Sue Trimble at (860-651-9027). All are welcome! No artistic talent is required as we do learn techniques together and let our creative juices flow.



## Gift Sustains Card-Making Ministry

The Card Making Ministry extends a special word of gratitude to members and friends who contributed to Barbara Behrens' Memorial Fund. A portion of those funds has been donated to purchase card-making supplies.

## SUPPER CLUB IN MAY

Mark your calendars and make reservations for **FRIDAY, May 21st at 6:30 p.m. in Palmer Hall.**

## New Adult Study: *What's So Amazing About Grace?*

**Sunday mornings, 8:45-10:00 a.m. May 2nd and 9th. 8:15-9:30 a.m. beginning May 16th thru May 23rd. Everyone welcome!** It is not too late to join. Please join us on Sundays at 8:15 a.m. in the Parsons' Study. For further information, contact Mark Scully at (860) 217-3638 or [mark.scully@allianz.com](mailto:mark.scully@allianz.com).

## Geranium Sunday is May 30<sup>th</sup>

On this day, we will honor church members and immediate relatives of church members who have passed away in the last year. We will have a geranium at the front of the church to honor each individual. After the service, the family may take the geranium or we will plant it on the church grounds. Their names will be listed in the church bulletin. Please notify the office (860-651-3593) **by May 14<sup>th</sup>** if you have lost an immediate member of your family since last Memorial Day (2009) and would like to have them included in this remembrance.

## Mary and John Society – May 30, 2010

This recognition occurs every two years. Membership in this society consists of church members who have belonged to First Church for at least 50 years. Individual's names are listed in the church bulletin and new members of the society receive a certificate of recognition. If you or anyone you know qualifies for this honor, please call the office (860-651-3593) **by May 14**.



First Church of Christ  
689 Hopmeadow St  
Simsbury CT 06070

860-651-3593  
Fax 408-9229  
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#### STAFF

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1stchurchsimsbury.org

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Summer Office Hours**—The church office will be going to summer hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, **June 1, 2010.**

**First Church Annual meeting—May 16, 2010.** The Annual Meeting of First Church of Christ is scheduled to be held on Sunday, May 16th, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. The Agenda will include Board, Committee and program reports, election of officers and board/committee members, and any other business to come before the meeting.

